

Plant Heritage

Plant
Heritage



CONSERVING THE DIVERSITY
OF GARDEN PLANTS

Devon Group
Newsletter Summer 2019

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Single	£36
Joint	£56
Student	£10
UK Garden Club	£60
Organisation	£90
Friend	£160

EDITOR

Malcolm Pharoah
e-mail: malcolmpharoah@gmail.com

LAYOUT & PRINTING

Tuddenham Press Ltd
Unit 6, Hill Farm Barns,
Ashbrocking Road,
Henley, Ipswich,
Suffolk. IP6 0SA
e-mail: info@tuddenhampress.co.uk

Plant Heritage is the new title for the former National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) Reg. Charity Nos. 1004009/SC041785. Plant Heritage is a Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in Cardiff. No. 2222953.

All articles are Copyright and should not be reproduced without permission.

Opinions expressed by Authors and services offered by Advertisers are not specifically endorsed by Plant Heritage.

Photographs used have been taken and sent by the authors except where stated and should not be reproduced without permission.

Contents

Chairman's Letter	2
<i>Jonathan Webster, Photo RHS Oliver Kite</i>	
Fortieth Celebration!	3
<i>A Diary Date: Saturday, 24th November 2019</i>	
Calling for more Email Addresses!	3
Random Recollections of an old Nurseryman	4-6
<i>John Carter</i>	
Confessions of a Jobbing Gardener	6-7
<i>Gill Heavens</i>	
For the Love of Wingnuts	8
<i>Julian Sutton</i>	
Guernsey Plant Heritage and the Nerine Festival ...	9-10
<i>Caroline Stone</i>	
Plant Fairs 2019	10
Magnolia Zenii	11
<i>Devon Plant Heritage Member</i>	
Rosemoor Flower Show	11
Memories of Tenerife	12-15
<i>Terry Underhill</i>	
Area Events Programme 2019	12-15
National Collection of Tulbaghias	19
<i>Malcolm Pharoah and Lin Collins</i>	
Sternbergia Lutea	20
In Praise of Agapanthus Inapertus	21-24
<i>Dick Fulcher</i>	
Fuchsia 'Hawkshead'	24
<i>Trevor Cope</i>	
2019 Devon National Collection Holders' Day	25
<i>Edna Squires</i>	
Advertisements	26-27
Plant Heritage Devon Group Contacts	28-30

COPY DEADLINE: 1ST SEPTEMBER 2019 FOR PUBLICATION IN THE AUTUMN 2019 ISSUE.

Please send all copy to the Editor, at
malcolmpharoah@gmail.com

Chairman's Letter

Jonathan Webster



Welcome to the Summer 2019 Devon Plant Heritage Newsletter. Whilst writing this we have a spell of the Devon mist but let's hope the predicted long term forecast of sun on the horizon prevails but, unlike last year's challenging hot weather, we have a good mix this year with the occasional downpour to help our plants and gardens flourish!

The Newsletter is full of interesting articles about our regional collections and events which are organised for you which we hope you will be able to attend and have time to talk to other members. We are a large group both in numbers and area and this does help us all to keep in contact with each other, whilst helping to support the Group and work of Plant Heritage as a whole.

The Group's committee meets three times a year but there are lots of discussions in-between to keep everything running smoothly and communication flowing. At our February meeting we reviewed our financial status and agreed to forego the capitation refund for the current financial year. This is a sum per member each group can ask for from the national charity. As we are currently in a positive financial position this sum, which amounts to just over £2k, will act as our Group's donation to help support the wider costs of the charity. However, it is the balance to be made between supporting the national charity and ensuring the well-being of the Devon Group from its 40th year into the future, as we are finding that membership is slowly declining along with other income streams but some costs are increasing.

Hopefully you have noticed that our Devon Group website is being updated. Jenny Evans has taken on this challenge, and hopefully this will help engage you, our membership, and be our 'shop window' showcasing what we do to others to help bring in new members. The national website is also currently being updated for this same purpose. Using the new branding the site, it is being developed to have a greater focus on our conservation programmes, new sections for each Group and beautiful, strong plant images. A full search of events will also be available, so Group events should be much easier to find either on the national site or from the Local Group pages, which are also in development. It is aimed to go live later this summer.

Jenny is also leading on updating our Collection posters which are used at our various events to help publicise the Group's work, as these have become outdated with the introduction of new branding and also with changes in Collections within Devon.

Under the national Chairmanship of Cecilia Bufton, I now attend a new Groups' Chairs meeting twice a year. This gives us an opportunity to be updated about the national charity and we can feed in any items from the Group. The first such meeting was last November and it was good to see that, following a rather unsettled 2018, business is all getting back on track, along with a planned future business plan.

At our last meeting I was pleased to welcome Shirley Tamblin as a new Committee member: it is good to have her on board. This brings me onto the usual plea for anyone who would be able to help the Group to come forward; we have several key vacancies now or coming up at our AGM in November. Please do contact me if you are willing and able to support your Group!

Wishing you a great summer of gardening!

Fortieth Celebration!

A Diary Date: Saturday, 24th November 2019

DEVON GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Willand Village Hall, near Cullompton.

We hope to see as many members as can make it at this special event to mark 40 years of our Group's work to promote plant conservation. The Committee has invited two speakers to highlight the occasion:

Carlos Magdalena, Botanical Horticulturalist, is based at Kew Gardens. His mission is to rescue the world's most incredible, rare and endangered species – usually from very remote and dangerous places: Indian Ocean islands, the mountains of Peru, the Australian outback. Back at Kew, he uses pioneering techniques to help in their propagation and conservation. Carlos has become known as “the perfect spokesman for the plants of the world!”

Delicious and varied Buffet Lunch provided by Richard Forster Catering

Neil Lucas, Founder of the Knoll Gardens Foundation, is the UK's leading Ornamental Grass specialist. He has achieved 10 consecutive Chelsea Gold Medals and is an RHS Council Member. Many members know Neil who, whilst living in Devon some 30 years ago, was a founder member of our Group. His lectures are given with humour and passion, demonstrating his commitment to promoting adventurous horticulture.

Details and Booking Form for the AGM will appear in the Autumn issue of this Newsletter

Meantime: If you are able to prepare plants to bring to the Donations Table, that would be very helpful.

Devon Group Committee

Calling for more Email Addresses!

Central Office (CO) is requesting email addresses from those Members who may not have sent them in yet. Also, some email addresses may have changed but not been forwarded. In Devon, only about 50 percent of Members have already registered.

There are several advantages to individual Members and to the Charity:

- Financial savings for local Groups and CO, in paper use and postage.
- Members receive the regular National Electronic Newsletter which is popular, giving news of local and national events and Collections.
- Invitations will be sent to vote (or appoint a proxy) on Trustee appointments and other matters, following the recent change to the “one member one vote” system.

Email addresses are held securely at CO and by Devon Co-Membership Secretaries (Malcolm Pharoah and Sally Dean) and will not be shared with other Members.

PH's Privacy Statement is on the National Website.

Please send your Email Addresses to: membership@plantheritage.org.uk who will forward them on a quarterly basis to the Devon Membership Secretaries.

Note that the printed Devon Newsletter will continue.

Thank you from the Devon Group Committee!

April 2019

It is always good to start the newsletter with a heart warming story. Nurseries up and down the country are closing usually because the owner is retiring or it is being run as a mail order business. So it is good to report the reopening of a famous and much liked nursery here in Devon. Most members know our wonderful and inimitable President Emeritus, John Carter, and were sad when he finally closed his nursery but the nursery reopens with the help of Emma Robertson at the helm.

Random Recollections of an old Nurseryman

John Carter

When I look back over some thirty years of slaving away in the nursery I am vividly struck by memories of events past and how much the business has changed. When we started here at Rowden there was no Internet, no Plant Finder and no Hampton Court Flower Show. This meant that we all had to have catalogues printed for a start, which we hopefully handed out at the Shows we had to attend. These last were the life blood of most of us - even though charging fifty pence for one shocked a large part of the public who reckoned they should get one free. Getting to the Shows made it vital to have a van, quite an expense that many of us cut down by getting vehicles that in most cases should have been gracing an exhibition in a transport museum. This led to unexpected happenings. One nurseryman on his way up to London from Wales was stopped by the police on the motorway. They asked him what was in his van. On being told "plants" the police had their worst suspicions aroused, and insisted that the nurseryman unloaded the lot. This took up valuable time as the plants were of two main kinds: wonderful cosseted Show Plants to make a good stand and sale plants to earn a living. Repacking them all safely was onerous in the extreme but the cops found it difficult to hide their disappointment that no cannabis plants emerged. However the nurseryman just managed to get to the Show site in time to put his stand together. For a small nursery this would usually take a day, though prestigious venues like the RHS Halls or latterly Hampton Court took maybe up to three days of lugging and arranging and watering. Our first large Show was the one at Paignton where we met a lovely old lady on the first day who told us cheerfully that on the previous year the marquee had been blown away into the sea by the wind. Luckily our apprehensions were somewhat alleviated by the award of a gold medal.

This was to lead, rather incongruously, to our being invited to the first Hampton Court Show. The entrepreneur who started it had naturally asked all the great and the good who as one man turned him down. As people at the peak of the haughticultural business, they held to the opinion that as they had all been to Chelsea in the May there was no point in going back up to London in July. The consequence was that the poor man had no exhibitors. Arming a nice-sounding girl with our phone numbers and a long handled spoon they scraped around at the bottom of the barrel and came up, amongst others, with the name of Rowden Gardens. It so happened that I answered the phone having had a glass or two of "strengtheners". The young lady asked me if I would like to attend the Hampton Show. I said yes and promptly forgot about it. Some weeks later we began to get expensive looking advertising material and the Show appeared on TV as being sponsored by British Rail. My wife and I were filled with trepidation but decided to press on. We got a wonderful piece of embroidery that proclaimed that we had won a silver medal. However what made us both feel very smug was that on popping into the Exhibitors' Bar to celebrate we met the Haughties who had only got a bronze

equivalent. It was great fun offering words of comfort where appropriate. It transpired that the entrepreneur had told the judges that whilst he didn't wish to influence their opinion in any way, he did think it would be nice if those exhibitors who had come when asked the first time should be accorded some recognition.

It is worth recalling how The Plant Finder started! It was begun as an idea hatched by a chap who lived in, I think Worcestershire, where he and his partner had retired. They watched all the gardening programmes and assiduously wrote down the names of plants they liked. After a couple of years they marched into a neighbouring Plant Centre and handed the list over. The Centre couldn't cope and so the couple went home and decided to publish a directory listing the plants and the nurseries they came from. We got in due to a visit they paid to Rowden and a nice lunch we had together in Lydford, where I remember learning that one fellow had worked for years for the BBC and the other was a manufacturer of fireworks. The first few editions of the Plant Funder were not much more than half an inch thick. Today, having been taken over by the RHS, it is three inches thick! I would comment that there is certainly a PhD if not a knighthood waiting for the person who sorts out how many plants are duplicated under different names!! It is quite impossible for the RHS to visit every Nursery to see who is telling the truth and who is pulling a fast one due to either ignorance or just commercial necessity.

I will conclude with a suggestion for any reader who has plenty of time on their hands. We are all dedicated to the cause of Plant Conservation. We need a courageous person to get hold of copies of old plant paintings from the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to see how many of the wonderful plants grown here, and on the continent, have survived into the gardens of today. I do know of one! A double Marsh Marigold, but there could be hundreds more.

Tor Garden Plants

Emma Robertson



I can honestly say if it wasn't for the Plant Heritage Newsletter we wouldn't be opening Tor Garden Plants. In 2016 I was reading the Newsletter when I saw an article about Rowden Gardens being for sale. As soon as I read the words 'Iris' and 'nursery' I was immediately excited as it was something we had wanted for a long time. I actually rang John and Galen Carter that morning and went to visit them in the afternoon. We were blown away with the wonderful mature water garden and the collection of plants. Now three years on from our first viewing,

we have built our house and are reopening the nursery for its first season, now called Tor Garden Plants due to the impressive setting of the nursery with views up to Brentor church.

Luckily for us, we have John and Galen as our neighbours and they have been so generous with their time and knowledge. It is great to offer succession to the garden after all the hard work they have put in over the years. Many gardens and plant collections often get lost as there is nobody able to take them on. I always find it really sad that important plants and their history disappears. Having spent the last 9 years managing gardens and conserving plant collections for the National Trust, it is great to finally have a garden of my own, one packed with exciting plants and provenance.

RHS Rosemoor are currently registering the National Collection of Rowden Irises which is a great place for the future of the Collection. I am hoping that one day we will have our own collection of 'Rowden' plants as John and Galen introduced many other genera with the Rowden name.

On the nursery we are hoping to concentrate on water, marginal and moisture loving plants. Irises have always been a passion of mine so I am sure that side of the business will grow. I am also really keen to stock and reintroduce plants that are no longer in circulation. I would be really interested in talking to any collection holders of water, marginal or moisture loving plants that have something that they feel is simply a great plant of which people should be more aware. Fashionable plants can be very limiting and there is such a wealth of plants not readily available that deserve to be in people's back gardens.

www.torgardenplants.co.uk

Confessions of a Jobbing Gardener

Gill Heavens

Something that cannot be denied is that it is an interesting life being a professional gardener. I'm not talking about being an employee of a grand estate, or working for the Corporation, although I am sure they have their moments. I mean being a jobbing gardener, self-employed player of the dark art of horticulture who roams the land bringing colour and succour wherever they might go. Something like that anyway.

Many of my clients have fallen out of love with their gardens. The kitchen curtains are stapled closed so as not to have to look out onto the mocking, anarchic wilderness that has sprung up, seemingly in a matter of weeks. In these cases my job has been that of garden counsellor, reintroducing them, gaining a smidgeon of control (I am not an advocate of too much control, as those who know me will undoubtedly confirm) until they are once more enjoying each other's company. On the way to harmony there are occasional failures but, I am pleased to report, many more successes.



Buddleja Colvillei

I confess to being a bit of a garden hussy. When I am with a client they are my one and only. I coo words of encouragement, offering undying attention and promises of an Eden unlike any other. Then I move onto the next job and say the very same. If I mention another client, I see a flicker of green in their eyes and I blush and mutter something distracting and change the subject. To alleviate this I have set up a plant dating agency, to link them to each

other. Those with too many cannas on their plot can donate to someone with a big gap in their hot border, and in turn will receive a divided *Leucanthemum* for their white garden. This works well, and they learn that this is the kind of thing that friendly gardeners do.

A highlight for me is gardening with my employers. It is after all their garden and not mine and it is important that the result is a reflection of them not me. Some are fair weather gardeners, others “teeth of a storm” stalwarts. Both are fine. The last thing I want is for my clients to think “oh no, it's Wednesday, Gill's coming to bully us into composting properly whilst standing in the pouring rain.” They come with a range of skills, from the complete novice who thought it appropriate to punch a plant into the ground, to the informed but less able. Some are reluctant and others eager, often in the same household. I have stood between many marital disputes over whether a plant should stay or go. Smiling and nodding appropriately helps in these instances.



Aquilegia clematiflora

The gardens range from well planted but overgrown, to post-apocalyptic wasteland (after the builders have left). In them I have met new and exciting plants including *Ilicium simonsii*, *Albizia julibrissin* and *Aquilegia clematiflora*. Old favourites have popped up such as *Buddleja colvilei*, *Eucryphia* and *Echium wildpretii*. I have also dug up a variety of buried treasure, such as rags and broken bricks and bits of rusty metal. Although I have been intent not to impose my taste on others, this has

been challenging and I have winced at certain choices of plant and design. Sometimes I have found it necessary to gently guide people down a route away from straight lines, or particularly invasive or unpractical specimens. I must admit that on occasion I have been swayed. Who would have imagined that I would grow to love *Alstroemeria*, but when I spied the dusky beauty *Alstroemeria* 'Indian Summer' I was smitten. There have been recurrent battles. Accurate labelling is always an issue. A favourite puts labels everywhere; they are sometimes blank, sometimes totally random, but are as instructed, a label! It is a start I suppose, although I have my suspicions she is being mischievous. My most challenging must be “But Monty said” I bite my tongue.

A great delight has been my many canine associates. Admittedly they have not proved to be of much horticultural use, but all the same have been great companions. Unless they steal the cucumber I've just had as a gift, which was taking our friendship a little too far.

I have been lucky, I have met and still hope to meet, some wonderful people who have enriched my life. Just like a box of chocolates, each one is equally as scrumptious, and there is not an orange cream among them. Hopefully I have done a little to help them enjoy their gardens and have some fun along the way. I certainly have!



For the Love of Wingnuts

Pterocarya macroptera var. *Insignis*

Julian Sutton

When giving a talk to a gardening audience, there's a moment you hope for and plan for, a moment which - if it happens - makes all the preparation worthwhile. You click the next slide up and hear a collective intake of breath. 'We've never seen *that* before,' it seems to say, 'and we want it.' I experienced the satisfaction of such a moment with Devon Plant Heritage recently. The plant in question was *Pterocarya macroptera* var. *insignis*.

Wingnuts in general have pros and cons as garden trees. On the plus side are the splendid pinnate leaves, like their relatives the walnuts. Unlike walnuts, their flowers are in catkins; short, short-lived male ones on little side shoots, and terminal female catkins. These latter are much longer and thicker, persisting right through summer until seed fall in autumn, and are for me the chief attraction. On the minus side, the most familiar species throw suckers from the roots, sometimes quite madly, and can grow too big for all but the largest gardens remarkably quickly.

The hybrid *P. x rehderiana* was the first to grab my attention. Old trees (the oldest anywhere as it happens) at Boston's Arnold Arboretum, dripping with yellow-green 30cm-long fruiting catkins could not be ignored as we walked under them. Even the kids, fractious and thirsty on an unseasonably hot October day with all the water fountains turned off, were impressed.

P. x rehderiana suckers freely, as do its parent species. *P. stenoptera*, distributed widely in East Asia, is widely grown as a street tree in China, and suits warm temperate climates. Specimens are occasionally seen in the south of England, as at Rosemoor, where it is eclipsed in size and beauty by a neighbouring example of the hybrid's hardier and more familiar parent, *P. fraxinifolia*. The Rosemoor staff regularly remove suckers growing up under this West Asian tree. Failure to do so can result in a quite horrifying thicket, as in Silk Wood at Westonbirt.

The remaining species have much more restricted ranges in East Asia and are rarely grown. One of them, *P. macroptera* var. *insignis*, has been forced upon my consciousness by August visits to Howick Hall on the Northumberland coast. (You haven't been? Go there. Expect your visit to take all day, and be warned that the plants get more, not less interesting as you move into the outer, wilder reaches of the garden.) These Chinese wingnuts at Howick are still quite young, clearly fast growing, making shapely, rather broad, single-trunked specimens, with no evidence of suckering. Their catkins are immensely long, some well over 50cm. And so many of them! Each year we visit, these trees get more impressive.

I want to grow this plant, but I can't. Or rather, I shouldn't. With the relatively luxury of one and a half medium-sized town gardens, we just about have room for a big wingnut, but not for much else. And Sarah has at least as much say in these things as I do. So I've become an evangelist for this tree. There must be people in the Devon Group with a suitably moist, not-too-exposed valley bottom site just waiting for a tree as beautiful as this. I admit to having included the slide in my talk as part of a campaign to persuade the guys at Rosemoor that they can't live without *P. macroptera* var. *insignis*. And whoever takes up the challenge, maybe you'll be good enough to let me visit one of these years, once I'm too old to make it up to Northumberland.



Guernsey Plant Heritage and the Nerine Festival

Caroline Stone

In the Autumn members of the Nerine and Amaryllid Society paid a visit to Guernsey largely to visit the Nerine Festival mounted every year by the Guernsey group of Plant Heritage. We had a lovely visit helped by the most fantastic weather. Guernsey Plant Heritage were very hospitable, and it was an extremely interesting visit.

But first to the Nerine Festival - *Nerine sarniensis* has a long history on Guernsey which has earned it the common name of Guernsey Lily. Indeed, the Latin name too refers to Guernsey, Sarnia being the Latin for Guernsey. There is a romantic myth that the bulbs were washed up on the shore from a shipwreck but this has now been robustly refuted, and it is believed that the Nerines were brought to the Island by Sir John Lambert in the late 1600s. At one time it was grown commercially as a cut flower. Now Plant Heritage Guernsey has a large collection of the hybrid varieties and has recently been awarded National Collection status.

The group puts on the Nerine Festival every year in the glasshouses at Candie Gardens. It has been running for around ten years now and is a major feature in advertising promoting Guernsey to tourists. The Festival is a big undertaking with the pots for display needing to be transported to and from the Candie Gardens, plants prepared for sale to visitors, and the display is manned too during peak times. The greenhouses are the oldest known heated glasshouses in the United Kingdom dating to 1792/3 and provide a perfect backdrop for the flowers. When cruise ships are in port there can be a lot of visitors to the Nerine Festival and I was told that sometimes substantial sales of bulbs are made.

The National Collection itself is housed in commercial glasshouses that the Group had recently been able to get a lease on. It had previously been in facilities at Guernsey Clematis owned by Raymond Evison, a former Chairman of the Group. We were taken to visit the new location. A lot of work had been done to level the ground and put down stone chippings for a good surface and get all the benches set up and equipment in place. It was all very impressive, and apparently there are a number of members who work on repotting and looking after the Collection. A point of interest was that the Group have been collecting bulbs from former commercial growers, who had often been growing on quite a small scale, and the flowers show quite a degree of variation.



Since Christmas I have been told that, despite all the hard work setting up the glasshouse for the



National Collection, the lease has been terminated because the site has been sold to someone who is going to grow cannabis for medicinal purposes. This presented a huge headache. It had been quite a search to find space in the first place, so very disheartening to need to do that again. Luckily the Collection will move to the premises of a groundwork company, so although that will entail a lot of effort all over again at least it has found another home.

The Guernsey Group has just under 300 members but is extremely active. Because of the special legal status of the Island, the Group is a Guernsey-registered charity and therefore an affiliate of the main Plant Heritage organisation. The Group has a number of projects underway that members participate in aside from their plant sales, led by project leaders. Historic Clematis, Camelias especially those linked to the former local grower, Caledonia Nursery, and Irises bred by Guernsey resident and artist William Caparne are the key current projects underway, aside from the National Collection of *Nerine sarniensis*. In the past the Group were offered the narcissus from a field about to be developed for housing and were able to relocate them to safe spaces around the Island including Government House. Recently too a *Jovibarba* collection has been moved from Jersey into safe keeping on Guernsey and the Group hopes that it will soon be re-awarded its National Collection status.

It was extremely interesting to see the different approach taken by the Group, especially the projects they have undertaken. But also that the National Collection is cared for by the Group as a whole rather than an individual as is usually the case with National Collections here – for example the National Collection of *Nerine sarniensis* held by Steve Eyre just outside Exeter. Inspirational too to see how much can be achieved by an enthusiastic Group like this to promote conservation of historic plants.

Plant Fairs 2019

SUNDAY JULY 7TH

South Molton Pannier Market

10:00am to 3:00pm

Contact: Hannah Wade 01271 861461

hannahplantheritage@outlook.com

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH

Tavistock Pannier Market

10:00am to 3:00pm

Contact: Tim Ellis, 07973 771338

info@timellislandscaping.com

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22ND

RHS Rosemoor, Great Torrington

10:00am to 3:00pm

Contact: Hannah Wade 01271 861461

hannahplantheritage@outlook.com

Magnolia Zenii

Devon Plant Heritage Member

Magnolia zenii (Magnoliaceae) is one of the many plants that are included in the red data critically endangered list. A native of West Central China, situated West of Changzhou and South of Yangzhou, it is found growing on hillsides in mixed terrestrial woodland. There are now only eighteen individual natural specimens found in the wild, and there have been no observations of any regeneration due to the density of forest growth - hence its decline in numbers. Numerous conservation projects are in hand, fifteen of them in China and others worldwide.



Magnolia zenii, sometimes known as the 'Baohua Yulan', was first recorded in the early 1930s. It was introduced into North America in 1980 by Stephen Spongberg at the Arnold Arboretum where it flowered in 1988. The species has since made its way to the British Isles and can be found in arboreta. A deciduous tree, in the wild, of between eight to eleven metres tall and a spread of up to five metres. The plant referred to in this article is grown in the open and has a slender habit of growth up to six metres and two metres across which could make it an ideal plant for a small garden. The obovate dark green foliage up to 10cm long appears after flowering.



The neat, slightly fragrant flowers are produced in late February early March with six/seven white tepals tinted with a shaded rose-purple streak that narrowly tapers from the base at 1cm to a narrow point at the end the 6/8cm long tepal. As a small tree with fine slender shoots it is best grown away from direct sun in light shade and will withstand -15C.

A seedling selection, *Magnolia zenii* 'Pink Parchment' is now available commercially.

photos by Lena Hickson

Rosemoor Flower Show

The third Rosemoor Flower show takes place on Friday 16th August and continues on Saturday and Sunday 17th and 18th August.

Devon Plant Heritage will again be there and, like last year, our marquee will be full of plants and information about the National Collections in the county. There will also be fliers about the important and popular Plant Guardian Scheme.

If you are planning to go to the Show, please do call in and say hello! Several members came last year and it would be good to see many more of you. More Nurseries are attending this year so a visit to the Show and the Garden would be a splendid day out.

Memories of Tenerife

Terry Underhill

At supper time after 'surviving' a miserable wet 2015 December day my wife, Dot, suggested that we went for a week to somewhere warm and sunny. Before bedtime I had arranged a flight to Tenerife from Gatwick in February, with a night at El Medano just outside the Tenerife airport, then on to Puerto de la Cruz, with a hired car for the week. We had a couple of months to research

places to visit and the flora. We arrived at El Medano late and very hungry (lengthy formalities over the hire car) but fortunately the hotel had a small restaurant where a dish of fabada (Spanish bean stew) followed by a local speciality of fried meats and chips was much appreciated.

After a quick breakfast we set off on a planned route, using the old road to Santa Cruz and not the coastal Autopista. Our road twisted and turned, passing through many small villages and negotiating numerous gorges (arroyos). The area was basically arid, and dominated by succulents particularly *Euphorbia canariensis* in various sizes. *Euphorbia lamarkii* was more like a bush than cactus-like. *Rumex versicarius* was covered in large purple pink bladders. *Lavandula canariensis* bore long blue spikes and *Cistus monspeliensis* was well covered in white blooms. Outstanding were a number of clumps of *Aloe vera* bearing large spikes of yellow. *Aloe attenuata* is fascinating with its very long flower spike bending over to nearly touch the ground. As we drove past Santa Cruz and La Laguna we were moving from the dry to wet side of the island. While admiring the blue cineraria-like *Senecio heritieri* it started to rain. At Puerto de la Cruz we found our hotel, located by a park with ample car parking and close to the Botanic Gardens only to find that we were being transferred to a sister hotel in the town centre next to the bus station with very limited parking. I was not a happy bunny despite the replacement hotel being high quality and providing good food with free wine at supper time.

We woke to clouds which turned into frequent heavy squalls. At San Juan de Ramba we admired the black lava beach and coastal gardens with a wide mixture of cacti and succulents, palms and colourful exotics, especially the Flame Vine, *Pyrostegia venusta*, a Brazilian endemic with clusters of orange tubular flowers, and our first of many Echiums, the white flowered *Echium giganteum*. At Playa de Santa Marcos we treated ourselves to hot chocolate and admired the sea crashing on the rocks until a very heavy squall made us race to the car for



Euphorbia Atropurpurea



Aloe Vera

protection. The sky out at sea was dark and threatening as we made our way to the most westerly Point Teno. The rock face and slope below it was a botanist's paradise with lots of succulents, *Lavandula buchii* with very divided stunning white leaves, large pale mauve *Lavatera acerifolia*, *Sideritis macrostachys*, with large grey green leaves and spikes of green flowers, *Erysimum bicolor* and our first *Sonchus* of which there are a number of species of these tall sow thistles on the island. A squall suddenly hit us; Dot retreated at speed back to the car but I foolishly thought I would 'ride it out'. I have never been battered so forcibly by the wind and rain as I was for nearly an hour. Eventually, wet through from top to bottom and dangerously cold I made my way back, and then we negotiated a lot of water and debris on all roads, main and lesser, eventually reaching the warmth of our hotel.



Eucharis Amazonica

We looked out from our window in the morning and decided that despite the dull weather and rain we would still go out. We would visit the Jardin de Aclimatacion de Isa Orotava - the Botanic Garden. A few other holiday makers, also covered in waterproofs, had the same idea. The warm and moist climate allowed a wide range of exotics to not only survive but to make healthy specimens. Huge swathes of Spanish moss, *Tillandsia usneoides*, hung from many trees. Numerous bromeliads clothed the ground. Outstanding was the golden red bulbous Paintbrush Lily, *Scadoxus puniceus*, from Southern and East Africa. *Strelitzia reginae* and the much larger *Strelitzia nicolai* looked spectacular with various tropical trees and palms towering above them. *Calliandra haematocephala* was clothed in red balls of stamens, *Petraea volubilis* made strips of blue flowers. I have seen bulbs of *Eucharis amazonica* from Peru on sale in UK garden centres but never seen drifts of the scapes topped with large, scented white flowers. I have grown the Golden Shrimp plant, *Pachystachys lutea*, as a small pot plant but never realised it makes a shrub 1.5 metres high and 2 metres across. In places the Red-hot Cat's-tail, *Acalypha hispida*, was grown as a low hedge lining the neat crushed lava paths. *Coffee arabica* covered in red berries reminded us that it was lunch time. Ironically the sun made a brief appearance while we were dining. After a further couple of hours in the Botanic Gardens, where everything was well labelled, we decided to research the best route to El Tiede, the volcanic mountain that dominates the centre of the island. Despite the rain I still



Senecio Heritieri

checked out and photographed various *Sonchus* and *Argyranthemums*. Dot said she had never known rain to be as heavy and for as long as we endured that day particularly in the Botanic Gardens.

The sun was shining into our room the next morning so we planned to just potter westward following the bonnet of the car! We found ourselves gently climbing into the hills, leading to Masca below Point Teno. Junipers, *Sonchus*, *Artemisias* and an attractive Fennel, *Ferula linkii*,



Echium Virescens

were admired before we reached an area dominated by Eucalyptus and *Erica arborea*. Driving through a very shady area there were lots of orange red bell flowers trailing among the shrubs and tumbling down the bank. We had stumbled across the 'creme de la creme' of Tenerife flowers, the Canary Bellflower, *Canarina canariensis*. We admired more pink Echiums and a large shrub with big white jasmine-like flowers, *Spartocytisus supranubius*. We were now on a road that twisted and climbed through dramatic scenery. So many people were visiting Masca that

we could not park so with Aesop's fable in mind we decided we didn't want to stop there. At the crest of one hill a café was built into the hillside, but before indulging in a drink and a Snicker-flavoured ice cream we did a little botanising among more Sonchus, and found a very attractive *Euphorbia atropurpurea* with *Scilla haemochoidalis* poking up through the ground. We then continued with the road going up and down, round loop after loop and offering fantastic views, but nothing prepared us for the incredible view of El Teide as we reached the brow of a hill. So many drivers stopped to admire the breathtaking view of it covered in glistening white snow, that the police were controlling the traffic and assisting parking. We realised that all the rare succulents that grow high up would be hidden under a thick blanket of snow, something rare for El Teide. We found a quiet route of side roads back to our hotel, stopping at a lichen covered lava field where under *Pinus canariensis* the Hare's Foot Fern, *Davalia canariensis* flourished. Most of the route was traffic free but was covered in debris with water gushing from roadside banks making lake-like puddles.

After a sumptuous breakfast we made our way towards El Teide, aware that with what we thought was just the summit covered in snow we would only be able to botanise on the lower slopes. There were a lot of vehicles on the road but we couldn't understand why so many were coming back from our destination. We made one stop to admire the rare blue chaffinch. A short distance further on we reached a traffic jam: the road and adjoining woods were covered in snow (an exceptional heavy fall) so the police had set up road barriers, turning everyone back. We turned around and made our way eastwards to La Laguna, taking minor roads, but because of few or no road signs we got hopelessly lost. We eventually reached the laurel, *Laurus azorica*, forest of Las Montanas de Anaga, but the forest appeared too dense to penetrate and without a roadside verge where we could safely park. However nothing was going to stop me from parking on the road when we came across a superb bush of the Canary Island Foxglove, *Digitalis (Isoplexis) canariensis*, bearing numerous spikes of orange yellow flowers. Nearby was a shrub that looked from afar similar to Pieris, *Gesnouinia arborea*, with red panicles, but it is in the nettle (Urticaceae) family. We did add *Geranium canariensis* which is similar to *Geranium maderense* with large panicles of pale purple flowers, a large flowered buttercup and *Ranunculus cortusifolius* to our list.

As the next morning was sunny we decided to attempt to get close to the area on the dry side of El Teide. After a spell of main roads with tunnels made for the numerous tourist coaches we found side roads where we could stop and botanise. We were confused with the wide range of Echiums, Aeoniums not in flower and many other plants that were not in any of my Canary Island Flora books, or the keys were confusing... On one quiet straight road lined with spiky succulents, Almond bushes in full bloom and numerous Echiums, I wandered off

about 100m down the road having locked my day bag in the car boot. Dot was less than 50m away when she heard what sounded like the click from a car when you use the key fob zapper. She thought it was me by the car. Returning she found an elderly man behind the car looking at the details of a cactus, then he crossed the road and drove off. Our car appeared perfectly OK. 30 minutes later when I stopped again, and opened the boot to get a replacement camera battery, my day bag was missing. Despite the car and boot being locked the old man had managed to zap open the boot. When Dot saw him he must have hidden the day bag in the bushes, returning for it when we had driven off. I had now lost my cheap phone, compact camera, waterproofs, botany books and many other bits making a loss of nearly £800. The rest of the day was spent trying to find which of the three police forces would deal with the theft, and then having my statement translated. The police said that this sophisticated theft had occurred before but was rare. I always keep my passport and money safely on my person and my best camera and binoculars were around my neck. I had only lost a few photographs as I download them every evening onto my ipad, which was safely locked in my suit case back at the hotel.



Geranium Canariensis

It was home the next day. Our trip to escape the British weather had turned out like the curate's egg: "Good in some parts, bad in others." Dot vowed never to return, despite there being a wide range of interesting plants on the island, and some of the scenery is superb...

Area Events Programme 2019

All events are open to members and members' guests, and will take place whatever the weather, unless the garden owner judges that the conditions are too hazardous.

When booking is required, you can book your place at an event with the Event Contact person, and if a cost is involved, we appreciate payment in advance. Please make cheques payable to Plant Heritage Devon Group.

When attending the Event, may we ask you to respect the owners' privacy and not to enter the garden before the time specified.

EAST DEVON AREA EVENTS

Organiser **VACANT**

NORTH DEVON AREA EVENTS

Organiser:	Malcolm Pharoah Tel: 01271 379001 Email: malcolmpharoah@gmail.com	Lower Tithe Barn, Marwood, Barnstaple EX31 4EB
------------	--	--

SOUTH AND WEST DEVON AREA EVENTS

Organiser:	Sally Dean Tel: 01548 821714 Email: sallymdean@gmail.com	The Cottage, Curtisknowle House, Diptford, TQ9 7JX
------------	---	--

WED 12TH JUN STONELANDS HOUSE, DAWLISH EX7 9BQ

Contact	Richard Pitts , richard.pitts@btinternet.com or 01803 732769
Booking	Essential
Cost	Members and guests £7 to include tea or coffee and cake.
2.15 for 2.30	By kind permission of Mr Kerim Derhalli. The 18th century Nash house has formal planting around it which was designed by Arabella Lennox Boyd. The colours are soft pinks, lavender and white. Beautifully trained roses and a white Wisteria clothe the walls. Further away from the house is a colourful wildflower meadow, a profusion of flowering shrubs, large lawns and mature trees. A river runs along one side of the garden in a deep channel with a woodland walk beside it. There is an immaculate vegetable garden and glasshouse. The well-tended state of the garden is thanks to the dedication of Head Gardener Saul Walker who will kindly give us a full tour.
Directions	From the A380 take the junction for the B3192 and follow signs for Teignmouth. After 2 miles turn right at crossroads onto Luscombe Hill, after 2 miles the gates to Stonelands are on your left. Follow NCCPG signs. Park outside the gates.

TUES 16TH JUL AM BROOK MEADOW, TORBRYAN, IPPLEPEN, NEWTON ABBOT TQ12 5UP

Contact	Sally Dean , sallymdean@gmail.com or 01548 821714
Booking	Essential
Cost	Members £5 guests £6 to include tea and coffee and cake.
2.30	By kind permission of Jennie and Jethro Marles. We visited Am Brook in 2013. It is a garden of ponds, wild flowers, luxuriant perennials and a profusion of wild life. Jennie is always looking for solutions to gardening questions such as what is the perfect mix of wild flower seed, how to stop something eating herbaceous plants, how to deal with rampant water plants, what to do with a redundant farm building. We will see how she has solved her problems and created new areas of interest in the garden. Jethro is very practical and makes good use of earth-moving machinery, both in and out of the water. Together they make a very creative team. Jennie will give us an introduction to the garden.
Directions	From Totnes take the A381 towards Newton Abbot. In 2.5 miles turn left onto the Broadhempston road. Take the first right after going under the railway. Am Brook Meadow is a mile from here on your right. Follow NCCPG signs.

WED 21ST AUG TWO BOVEY TRACEY GARDENS: PARKE VIEW & WISTERIA BARN

Contact **Sally Dean**, sallymdean@gmail.com or 01548 821714
Booking Essential
Cost Members £5, guests £6 to include tea or coffee and cake.
2.15 for 2.30 **Parke View, Fore Street, TQ13 9AD**

By kind permission of Peter and Judy Hall.

Parke View was built in 1840 as the dower house for Parke. The garden then was much bigger than the current one acre. In the 1970s part of the garden was sold for housing, leaving an old orchard, a pony paddock and a small acre of garden. The Halls bought the house in 1993 and proceeded to create a fascinating plants-person's garden with lots of shrub roses, colour themed beds, a pond, vegetables and some very productive fruit trees. Digging reveals a lot of hard core, foundations, culverts and pottery shards, suggesting that there was once a pottery on the site. There are lots of old walls and outbuildings, some of which have been incorporated into the garden. The large conservatory houses some rare plants, evidence of Judy's love of plant collecting. There will be plants for sale.



WISTERIA BARN, FIVE WYCHES FARM, HAYTOR ROAD TQ13 9LE

By kind permission of Georgina Craig. Teas will be served here.

In 2006 the garden at Wisteria Barn was very overgrown and planted right up against the North wall of the derelict barn. It was christened 'The lost gardens of Bovey Tracey' by the present owner. There were many trees and shrubs planted too close together. Magnolias, lilacs and other specimen trees were stretching for light. Some have been rescued but others were cut down to make room for a programme of further planting.

The garden is now a wild life haven with 3 small ponds, a small wild flower meadow, vegetable and cut-flower raised beds, a rockery and gravel garden. Georgie is a plants-woman with a good eye for design. She has created a harmonious and beautifully maintained garden.

Directions

Take the Bovey Tracey road off the A38, turn right into the town at the Fire Station roundabout. Park in the car park on the right before the Devon Guild of Craftsmen and just before the river bridge. Walk across the bridge past Parklands Road and you will find Parke View on your left. Car sharing is strongly recommended. A shuttle service will be used to get to Wisteria Barn.

TUES10TH SEPT COACH TRIP TO PIET OUDOLF GARDEN, BRUTON, AND FORDE ABBEY.

Contact **Sally Dean** on 01548 821714 or sallymdean@gmail.com

Cost £25 for travel and entry to the gardens.

Booking Essential, by no later than **Monday 12th August**

Cheques payable to Plant Heritage Devon Group. Please send to: Sally Dean, The Cottage, Curtisknowle House, Diptford, TQ9 7JX

8.30am prompt Leave Steamer Quay Car Park, Totnes. Returning by 6.30pm. Our first stop will be at the Hauser and Wirth Gallery, Bruton, where we will have time for a cup of coffee before visiting the garden This is a one and a half acre garden created by Dutch designer, Piet Oudolf out of damp agricultural land. It was completed in 2014. There are 17 curving beds filled with a rich selection of herbaceous perennials and grasses. Plants have been chosen as much for height, flowering time and texture as for colour. Flowers that are interesting as they age remain to give structure to the garden in winter. We hope to have an introduction from the head gardener.

We will leave the garden at 12.30 pm and drive to Forde Abbey where we can have lunch in the cafe or picnic in the garden, then look round the gardens, admire the vegetable garden and visit the excellent nursery. It is very hard to leave the nursery empty-handed.

Forde Abbey is a family home in what was a monastery built in the 12th century. It flourished for 400 years until Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of the monasteries. Then the Abbey passed to various absentee landlords. In 1649 the Prideaux family purchased the Abbey and it was gradually transformed into the magnificent private residence we see today.

All that remains today of the original monastery garden is the Great Pond. In the 18th century further ponds were created and the lawns laid out and the great yews planted. The vegetable garden was developed in Victorian times and today supplies the house and cafe with vegetables and flowers. The current owners, the Roper family have continued to develop the garden, and in 2005, to celebrate 100 years of family ownership, installed the Centenary Fountain, the tallest powered fountain in England.

We will leave Forde Abbey at 4.30pm to be back in Totnes by 6.30pm.

National Collection of Tulbaghias

Malcolm Pharoah and Lin Collins

We have had the Collection at Marwood Hill Gardens near Barnstaple for nearly 30 years now. To begin with the plants were in the garden. The soil was mixed with a lot of sand and grit as Tulbaghias need good drainage and hate wet cold soils in winter. As the years have gone by, several of the species deteriorated due to these wet Devon winters and we reached a point where we had to lift many, pot them, and keep them in a greenhouse.



For the last seven or eight years they were kept in two small greenhouses behind the house so that they were not accessible to the public - access being one of the key features of having a National Collection. We recently received a grant from Devon Plant Heritage towards the cost of a fine new greenhouse which is now situated in our walled garden and open to the public every day that the gardens are open (March to October).

We have filled one side of the greenhouse with the Tulbaghias; the other side has Pelargoniums and cool greenhouse plants. As can be seen from the photos, the plants are doing very well.

Tulbaghias are a genus of deciduous and evergreen perennial rhizomes or bulbs with fleshy, white roots. They closely resemble Alliums (Onions). They were named by Linnaeus in 1771 to honour Rijk van Tulbagh, then Governor of Cape Province of South



Africa, who sent many plant specimens, bulbs and seeds to Europe. All of the now accepted 22 species are native to the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

Marwood Hill Gardens would like to thank Devon Plant Heritage for its help in part-funding this greenhouse so bringing these exquisite plants back for members and the general public to see again.

Sternbergia Lutea

Terry Underhill

Sternbergia is a bulbous genus in the Daffodil family, Amaryllidaceae, and is named in honour of Count Kasper Moritz von Sternberg of Prague (1761 - 1838) a botanist and author of a treatise on Saxifragaceae printed in 1810.

Depending on one's preference of classification there are 6-8 species, the most common being *Sternbergia lutea*, which is Autumn flowering, with bright yellow, crocus-like blooms which are usually produced



solitary, rarely in pairs, are 2-4cm across and tall on 4-6cm stems/scape. *Sternbergia lutea* is listed as a September flowering bulbous plant, although they usually flower during the month of October, whether grown in the open or under glass, and may also have some or all of its strap-like leaves showing at flowering time. It is a native of Mediterranean areas from Spain to Turkey, also Iran and even parts of Russia, where the soil is exceptionally well drained, calcareous and where they can enjoy hot dry summers. They detest cold, wet soils, especially stagnant wet during winter. This is why they are often cultivated in pans under glass or in bulb frames. The most floriferous display I have seen in the UK was growing in a bulb-frame in Essex, where protection was given during very cold weather.

I have a little clump outdoors in a narrow slightly raised bed near the patio doors, partly under a *Euphorbia characias* and a short-lived *Abutilon vitifolium*. They do receive a couple of waterings of weak liquid feed during the spring. The bulbs were buried about 3cm deep and have not been disturbed for the last 30 years. July is the best time to lift and divide them, but do not be surprised if they sulk for at least a year. When grown in pans or bulb frames, stop watering when the foliage has died down, and when planting or potting, use moist soil and do not water until there are signs of good growth.

On a Greentours trip to the Peloponnese district of Southern Greece in October 2008, which was only weeks after one of their devastating fires, there were vast drifts of *Sternbergia lutea*, many flowering through blackened soil and around charcoal-like stumps of woody plants, which normally hide them from view. The combination of yellow on black was outstanding. These have been listed as *Sternbergia sicula* as their tepals were sharply pointed, however according to Kew's World Checklist they are just a slight variant of *S. lutea*, *S sicula* being a synonym, as is *S. greuteriana* with slightly smaller flowers and tepals rounded at their tip. Having looked at numerous drifts of *Sternbergia* growing on hillsides, rocky fields and even on the top and sides of dry stone wall in the Peloponnese, it is possible to find plants with varying size of flowers, the tepals of varying width and with different ends, as well as different width leaves - all variants of *Sternbergia lutea*.

In Praise of *Agapanthus Inapertus*

- some observations on this species in the wild and in cultivation.

Dick Fulcher

In 2005 Lorna and I together with Maureen Bayly visited South Africa with the objective of finding and observing in the wild as many species of *Agapanthus* as possible in a three-week period between January and February. You can read a full account of what we found in back numbers of the Plant Heritage Journals. Having already established contacts in two of the three main areas we planned to visit, the itinerary soon fell into place and bed & breakfast accommodation was booked. We put the nursery “to bed,” covering all our *Agapanthus* and other plant collections with cosy grow (fleece), packed our bags and jumped on a plane bound for South Africa: what a great experience! Travelling between our main stay locations meant restricted botanising on or near the road, but on the days we were able to get into the hills the rewards were very worthwhile. The timing for most of the *Agapanthus* seemed just perfect. As we approached



Agapanthus Inapertus Icicle

Sabie, our first destination, the roadside verges were swathed in the lovely *Lilium formosanum*. At first glance one would think it was the Regal Lily but has fewer flowers to a stem, each with a longer more slender trumpet. This is an introduced species from Taiwan that has found its niche where the soil and climate combine to make growing conditions just right. However, we were looking for *Agapanthus* and so it turned out we were not disappointed. Here and there we found a number of the drooping *Agapanthus*. *A. inapertus* subsp. *pendulus*, so called because of its pendulous flowers. They were growing in differing habitats and locations, on forest margins, in grasslands, in mountains and among rocks and on cliffs. By the roads we spotted individual clumps in varying shades of blue and just at their peak of flowering perfection. Out with the cameras and the notebooks to record these and any other plants of interest. After many specimens were seen it soon became evident that *A. inapertus* is a hugely variable species in height, colour and flower shape.

The most interesting observation we recorded was near the township of Graskop, in the Mpumalanga region. Stopping by the roadside several specimens were observed, then across the road in what can only be described as a water meadow or something akin to a paddy field, to our great surprise, were several drifts of different coloured forms of *A. inapertus*. This is the species that interests me more than others, given its more unusual flower shape and the great

colour variations in the flowers, taking in white through many shades of blue to the deepest indigo/violet. Another observation was the often-contrasting conspicuous stamens in various colours and pedicels and peduncles in varying shades of green and even grey/green. On closer inspection, after wading into the meadow with water levels well above our boots at times, it could be seen that individual plants had colonised patches of ground being all connected by spreading rhizomes, showing vegetative spread rather having grown from seed. Each of these patches was evidently a single clone and it is possible that the water levels had reduced the chances of seedlings. Was the amount of seasonal flooding typical due to it being a summer rainfall area? Or had the field drainage systems changed? Certainly the water would have been well oxygenated, as it was evidently flowing through the area quite swiftly and definitely not stagnant, as in a bog situation. Should I conclude that this is typical and that all *A. inapertus* require such conditions? No, other specimens we spotted were on the open hillside in very well drained conditions and some on steep banks on the edge of woodland. I can only conclude that this was untypical and it was raining here at the time of our visit. The rainfall in this part of South Africa around Graskop is on average 177mm for the month of January while in June (their winter) it is only 5mm on average. Moving on through the dramatic scenery of the Northern Drakensburg with its mountains and precipitous gorges clad with indigenous forest we spotted many more *Agapanthus*.

Agapanthus inapertus is a deciduous species having leaves up to 70cm long and 5cm broad forming a stem at the base arising from distinct tuberous rhizomes. The inflorescence has numerous drooping flowers: each is 3-5cm or more long, and tubular in shape. The length of the tube, which is half to two thirds the full length of the perianth, and shape of the segment (tepals) are the main characters which differentiate the sub-species. Frances Leighton in her monograph describes five: *A. inapertus* subsp. *inapertus*, *A. inapertus* subsp. *pendulus*, *A. inapertus* subsp. *hollandii*, *A. napertus* subsp. *intermedius* and *A. inapertus* subsp. *parviflorus*. I am sure we saw most of these and everything in between on our holiday. *A. inapertus* subsp. *pendulus* is the most extreme in having such a long tube and narrow shape to the flower and, to me, the most characteristic when talking about this species. It was in cultivation in Europe by the end of the nineteenth century, since which time a number of different forms and sub-species have been introduced. I first encountered *A. inapertus* while working at Inverewe Garden in Wester Ross, there being a very fine navy blue form of the sub-species *A. pendulus* which only just survived the hard frosts of February 1978 when minus 10°C was recorded in the garden (see RHS Journal, Vol. 104 Part 2, Feb. 1979, page 45). Several clumps were turned to mush but the surviving plants were propagated by division. I still grow it in my garden today. This clone I believe was purchased from the Slieve Donard Nursery in Northern Ireland in the 1960s. My next acquisitions were a number of clones sent by John Winter through official channels from Kirstenbosch in 1999, these included *A. inapertus* subsp. *hollandii* 'Lydenberg', *A. inapertus* subsp. *hollandii* 'Sky', *A. inapertus* subsp. *intermedius* 'Wolkberg' and an unnamed white clone labelled *A. inapertus* subsp. *inapertus* 'White.' A similar white clone was eventually named 'Long Tom' by Richard Jamieson, a well-known grower of *Agapanthus* in Capetown. (I suspect it was collected somewhere on the Long Tom Pass near the road over to Lydenburg. We saw some fine specimens there). Also included was *A. inapertus* subsp. *pendulus* 'Graskop'. There is a full account of this famous *Agapanthus*, in cultivation at Kirstenbosch since 1937, by Graham Duncan in *The Plantsman* in September 2003. It has certainly aroused much interest over the years especially from customers having seen it in the garden at Kirstenbosch. *A.*



Agapanthus Inapertus Avalanche

'Graskop' is a relatively short form with inflorescences up to 60cm. It appeared on sale at Hampton Court around 2005 under the name "Velvet Night". These plants were raised by tissue culture in South Africa and exported to Belgium where they were grown on and released as mature flowering specimens in 5 litre pots. I guess the owner felt that 'Graskop' was not a good sales name and in order to maximise sales invented a new one. All our stock - many hundreds - went out under the name 'Graskop'. The subspecies *A. parviflorus* seems to be the poor relation and hardly worth a mention with its shorter florets in small heads. Richard Jamieson also collected the very fine *Agapanthus dyeri* from Mozambique, although this species has been sunk under *A. inapertus* subsp. *intermedius* and has been used to good effect by Richard to create some stunning hybrids.

From our own nursery over a period of 20 years a number of selections were made. Some remain unnamed but a few were named and added to our list. These included *A. 'Tubular Bells'*, *A. 'Silver Fountain'*, *A. 'Purple Fountain'*, *A. 'Crystal Fountain'*, *A. 'Celebration'* and *A. 'Purple Heart'* - a more evergreen hybrid, while two tall cultivars were selected at Bicton in 1994. I named these *A. 'Tall Boy'* and *A. 'Sky Rocket'* although growing up to 2 metres tall, they are not as tall as one seen in the wild.

Other nurseries have introduced some nice selections. In 1998 we obtained 'Crystal Drop' from a grower who had imported it from New Zealand where many other good agapanthus have been raised and found their way into this country through Duncan and Davies nursery. Mention should be made of *A. 'Quink Drops'*, a nice dark violet blue from Graham Gough at Marchants Nursery, while Sandy Worth at Water Meadow nursery introduced *A. 'Midnight Cascade'* one of the darkest *A. inapertus* subsp. *pendulus* forms which, I believe, she obtained from South Africa. Here also Richard Jamieson collected what I consider the darkest, almost black form of this species from a cliff in the Blyde

River Canyon area. He named the clone *A. 'Black Magic'* and having bulked it up by tissue culture he then shipped a batch to me at Eggesford. These we continued to propagate and made available to the public. Meanwhile Michael Wickenden was also growing and selling a number of *Agapanthus* one of which he named *A. 'Icicle'*, a wild collected form of *A. inapertus* with pale blue/white flowers.

From experience it seems that most people are not as attracted to the flowers of *A. inapertus*, perhaps because they may appear smaller and rather insignificant in comparison to the large heads of *A. praecox*. To me however, though hardiness can be a problem in cold areas, they are very garden worthy, with all the charm and refinement of the natural species. Having such variation in size, colour and being late flowering they help to extend the season.

In the 2014 - 2018 *Agapanthus* trial, only two *A. inapertus* received Award of Garden Merit, 'Sky' see above, and 'Avalanche'. This more recent cultivar appears to be a white form of the sub-species *hollandii* and makes a real statement with its glaucous, upright stems to a metre or more with flowers larger than most *A. inapertus* but not a pure white.

Fuchsia 'Hawkshead'

Trevor Cope

Featured as the Guardian Plant as far back as 1st March 2014, *Fuchsia 'Hawkshead'* is a really tough cookie, being one of the Hardy Fuchsia. This plant is *truly* hardy. It does not care where it grows and seems to flourish wherever planted. This in itself should be enough for you to want one.



Fuchsia 'Hawkshead' - one of my favourites - was introduced as late as 1973 by James Travis. It is said to spread 45cm to 70cm and can reach the height of 60cm to 90cms. By the by, it takes 5 years to grow that big, but I can wait, looking forward to more of those white flowers! I am told that it will make a hedge (eventually). Mine, pictured, has a long way to go, but I can be sure that this is not one I will lose from the 'Beast From the East' or any other cold snap.

In winter there's not a lot to see but a few 'dead' (no they are not!) twigs. They grow back in the spring and then that fabulous white flower covers the plant again from July to October. It does have another fantastic reason for you growing it though. It is apparently a great food source for a truly amazing moth caterpillar which partly shares its name. The Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillar thinks the leaves are delicious but beware: too many caterpillars means too few leaves for the plant to ever get to flower.

All-in-all then, 'Hawkshead' is the perfect hardy white Fuchsia. There are other names such as 'Alba', but Hawkshead is snow-white and has a huge number of flowers - as long as the caterpillars don't get the baby shoots!

2019 Devon National Collection Holders' Day

Edna Squires

The 2019 event was held at Escot House in East Devon.

It was a good day. Vicki Cooke (new Conservation Manager) and Lucy Pitman (one of the Plant Conservation officers) attended from Central Office, updating everyone on the work being done nationally on conservation, especially in relation to the National Collections. Jane Lindsay of Tynings Nursery in Somerset then talked on her National Collections of climbing plants including Lathyrus and Mandevilla.



Escot House in East Devon

Escot is an old estate, the home of generations of Sir John Kennaways. The grounds benefitted from the Nurseries of Lucombe & Pince and Veitch of Exeter plus some of Sir John's collected plants. However, no paperwork in relation to any of the plantings remains. Back in the 1980s Devon Group (with the aid of the old Manpower Services teams) organised a clearance of the undergrowth. At the first recce Michael and I went through the wood on a February morning with a machete as no path was visible! Once partially cleared, we called in the experts on trees and rhododendrons; one Rhododendron had three labels – could be 'this, that or the other' as the experts could not agree! There was a good stand of Ghent Azaleas which had been throttled with Japanese Knotweed. Once we could see them, it was found that some were not in the National Collection so the following year cuttings were sent off.

After lunch Andy, the Head Gardener, took us around the woodlands area which is now a wildlife park with red squirrels, wolves and lynx. As this is now a very public space, it is possible to walk freely through the wooded area but it has meant that some of the trees we saw in the 1980s are no longer there.

However a lot of the trees, including an original Lucombe Oak and many Rhododendrons remain although none are named. The Azaleas had not yet come into leaf but looked all right and Andy says only stray bits of Japanese Knotweed appear each year.

We have sent Andy a copy of an article on the Lucombe & Pince Nursery from NCCPG Devon Autumn 1984 Newsletter so that he has information as to where the Lucombe Oak originates.

Advertisements

DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS, FULL COLOUR

	One Issue	Three Issues
Quarter page	£15	£45
Half page	£30	£85
Full page	£50	£140
50% Discount for National Collection Holders		

The Plant Heritage Devon Group Newsletter is published three times a year, and circulated to around 500 dedicated gardeners, nurserymen and plant lovers throughout the county of Devon. It is the ideal medium for promoting products, services and events to this specialist and enthusiastic audience.

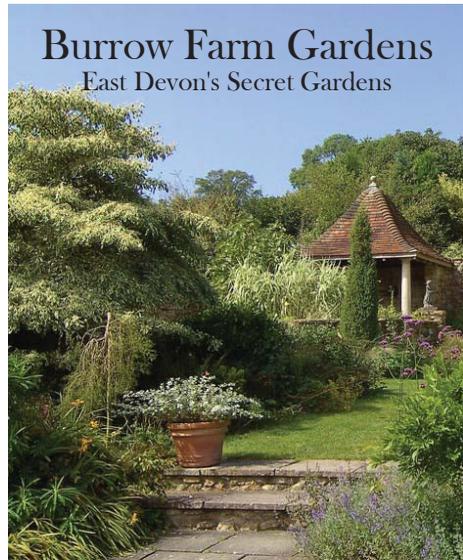
For further information and to place an advertisement, contact the Newsletter Editor, Malcolm Pharoah on 01271 379001 or e-mail to malcolmpharoah@gmail.com

PLANT HERITAGE IN DEVON

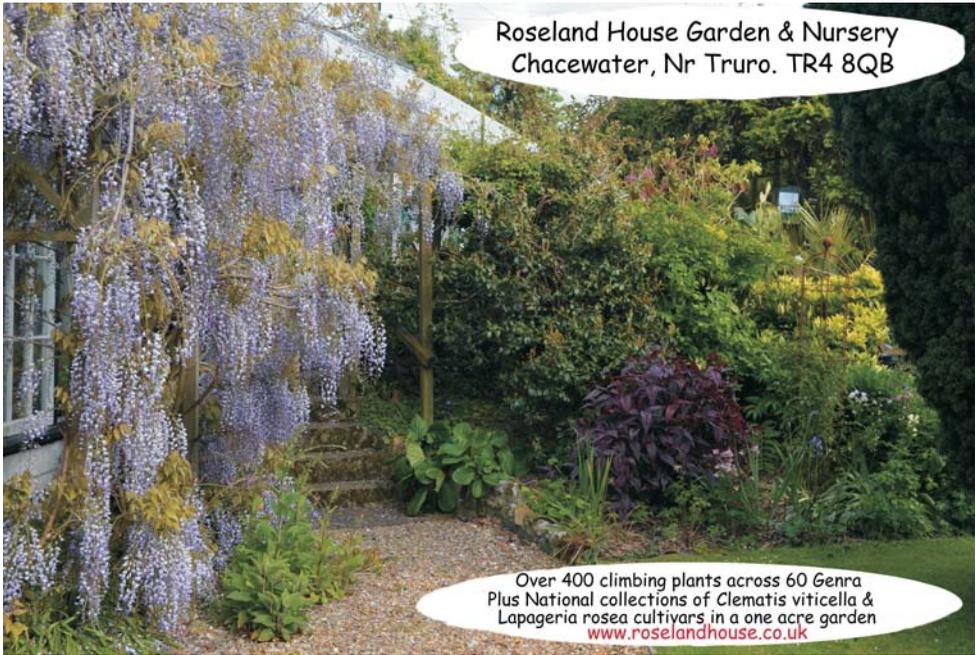
We are the Devon Group of the national Plant Heritage charity, which seeks to conserve, document, promote and make available Britain and Ireland's rich biodiversity of garden plants for the benefit of everyone. We do this through the creation, documentation and support of National Plant Collections, living libraries with over 80,000 different plants in conservation.

These activities are supported by our members' fees; in return members have the opportunity to join in a wide range of local and national plant related events, including garden visits, talks and rare plant fairs.

If you are interested in joining us, contact Central Office: membership@plantheritage.org.uk or phone 01483 447540 or talk to our Secretary who can give more information.



Beautiful 10 Acre Landscape Garden
Dalwood, Axminster
Open Daily from 1st April to 31st October 10am - 7pm
Nursery, Gift Shop, Lunches and Teas
www.burrowfarmgardens.co.uk



Roseland House Garden & Nursery
Chacewater, Nr Truro. TR4 8QB

Over 400 climbing plants across 60 Genra
Plus National collections of Clematis viticella &
Lapageria rosea cultivars in a one acre garden
www.roselandhouse.co.uk

Discover Marwood Hill Gardens

Discover the stunning views at Marwood Hill Gardens, 20 acres of private gardens with lakes in North Devon.

The gardens are a wonderful haven in which to relax and enjoy the impressive collections of plants, shrubs and trees and experience the views and peaceful atmosphere.

Award-Winning Tea Room & Gift Shop

Our award-winning Garden Tea Room & Gift Shop offers seasonal menus of homemade, locally-sourced and gluten-free delights.

Specialist Plant Sales

At Marwood, we aim to provide something a little bit different, something which you can take home.

Tel: 01271 342528 | www.marwoodhillgarden.co.uk | Marwood Hill Gardens, North Devon EX31 4EA

Plant Heritage Devon Group Contacts

PATRON

Lady Anne Berry

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Tel:	John Carter 01822810275	Rowden Gardens, Brentor,
e-mail:	john@rowdengardens.com	Tavistock, PL19 0NG

PRESIDENT

e-mail:	Chris Bailes bailes.christopher@yahoo.com
---------	---

VICE PRESIDENTS

Tel:	Diane Rowe 01884 840545	Orchard House, Parsonage Farm,
e-mail:	diane70.30@gmail.com	Uffculme, EX15 3DR

Tel:	Michael Hickson 01884 255544	Bolham Orchard, Tiverton, EX16 7RH
e-mail:	Michael@topmejsen.co.uk	

CHAIRMAN

Tel:	Jonathan Webster 01805 624067	RHS Garden, Rosemoor, Great Torrington,
e-mail:	jonathanwebster@rhs.org.uk	EX38 8PH

VICE CHAIRMAN

Tel:	Diane Rowe 01884 840545	Orchard House, Parsonage Farm,
e-mail:	diane70.30@gmail.com	Uffculme, EX15 3DR

TREASURER

Tel:	Melvyn Jones	Staddon Farm, Staddon Road,
e-mail:	melvyn@mpjstaddon.co.uk	Holsworthy, EX22 6NH

SECRETARY

Tel:	Beth Smith 01271 871182	Foamlea, Mortehoe,
e-mail:	bethmortepoint@fmail.co.uk	EX34 7DZ

NATIONAL COLLECTIONS CO-ORDINATOR EAST

Tel:	Felicity Dudbridge 01392 811647	Cotley House, Dunsford,
e-mail	felicitydudbridge@gmail.com	Exeter, EX6 7BH

NATIONAL COLLECTIONS CO-ORDINATOR NORTH

Tel:	Jenny Evans 01837 871163	Domans Lodge, Bratton Clovelley,
e-mail	jennifer.evans@lineone.net	Oakhampton, EX20 4LD

NATIONAL COLLECTIONS CO-ORDINATOR SOUTH AND WEST

Tel:	Beverley Sugden 01548 821666	Moorcott, Mill Lane, Diptford,
e-mail	beverley.sugden@btinternet.com	Totnes, TQ9 7NX

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR EAST

Vacant

If you might be interested in taking up this role, please contact us for details of what is involved.

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR NORTH

Tel:	Malcolm Pharoah 01271 379001	Lower Tithe Barn, Marwood,
e-mail	malcolmpharoah@gmail.com	Barnstaple, EX31 4EB

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR SOUTH AND WEST

Tel:	Sally Dean 01548 821714	The Cottage, Curtisknowle House,
e-mail	sallymdean@gmail.com	Diptford, TQ9 7JX

MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT

Sally Dean and Malcolm Pharoah

PLANT FAIRS ORGANISER NORTH

Tel:	Hannah Wade 01271 821714	Gardeners Delight Nursery, Old Bideford Road,
e-mail	hannahplantheritage@outlook.com	Barnstaple, EX31 2PA

PLANT FAIRS ORGANISER SOUTH

Tel:	Sally Dean 01548 821714	The Cottage, Curtisknowle House,
e-mail	sallymdean@gmail.com	Diptford, TQ9 7JX

PLANT FAIRS ORGANISER WEST

	Tim Ellis	10 Forestry Houses,
Tel:	07973 771338	Bellever, Postbridge,
e-mail	info@timellislandscaping.com	Yelverton, PL20 6TP

PLANT FAIRS ORGANISER EAST

Vacant

PLANT EXCHANGE

	Edna Squires	1 Feebers Cottage,
Tel:	01404 822118	Westwood,
e-mail	feebers@btinternet.com	Broadclyst, EX5 3DQ

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

	Malcolm Pharoah	Lower Tithe Barn,
Tel:	01271 379001	Marwood,
e-mail	malcolmpharoah@gmail.com	Barnstaple, EX31 4EB

RHS REPRESENTATIVE

	Jonathan Hutchinson	RHS Garden, Rosemoor,
Tel:	01805 624067	Great Torrington,
e-mail	jonathan.hutchinson@talktalk.net	EX38 8PH

PUBLICATIONS ORGANISER

Vacant

If you might be interested in taking up this role, please contact us, for details of what is involved.



THE MISSION

Plant Heritage seeks to conserve, document, promote and make available Britain and Ireland's rich biodiversity of garden plants for the benefit of everyone through horticulture, education and science.



Front cover:
Alstroemeria 'Indian Summer'

Back cover:
National Collection Holders get tour of Escot.