



CONSERVING THE DIVERSITY OF GARDEN PLANTS

Cornwall Group Newsletter. August 2018

Summer seems to have rolled past us on the wind. Hopefully autumn will produce some magnificent golden days that will shine forever in the memory. I'm hoping for September 9th, more of that later.

It has been a spectacular summer, a little too dry in parts perhaps, but memorable for all the best reasons. Where it broke records, they were nice comfortable records rather than the sort that lead to water restrictions and melting tarmac. We have also been lucky with events through the summer, the sun has shone just enough and we have been able to visit some fascinating collections (if I can be forgiven for saying so - one of them was mine).

In July Plant Heritage held an EGM to complete the transformation of management that has been underway for the last two years. The organisation is now run by the Board of Trustees advised by three management panels. The members now have a vote at the AGM and control the direction of the organisation.

It was agreed in a vote to make a formal change of name from the old NCCPG to 'Plant Heritage', which has been the effective name for the last few years. At a practical level, finances are being taken in hand (we overspent nationally in the last year) to keep the organisation on a sound footing. At a local level we depend on the income raised at the annual plant sale and the time and effort of our members and volunteers. Thank you all for keeping practical plant conservation at the heart of our activities.

As I write this the committee have yet to consider a program of events for next year. If you have suggestions we would love to hear from you. Personally I am hoping to focus on practical issues like propagation and spreading plants more widely through cultivation. Any suggestions on how to do that are very welcome.



Dahlia coccinea .



**National Collection of
Dahlia.**



Varfell Farm, Penzance.

A stage magician had "vanished" St Michael's Mount on the afternoon of the National Collection of Dahlia open day. Either that or the mist had rolled in. A surprisingly large number of people had turned out to see the flowers glistening but the ground was

still dry underfoot. The collection is open every day until October and free. Well worth a visit if you like Dahlias, bright colours, plants, spiky shapes or views of St Michaels Mount!

Varfell Farm, Penzance, TR20 8AQ.

Last Meetings.

Hardy Plant Society Sale. 5th May 2018.



The HPS sale, Truro.



Plant Heritage stand.



Lamprocapnos spectabilis.

The Hardy Plant Society sale in May every year is an essential fund-raiser for our group. It is difficult to express the magnitude of my gratitude to the members who bring us plants to sell on the day. I'm not going to get all mushy about it, just thank you all.

We didn't know at the time that the sale would come at the start of a long sunny period. Instead we were delighted at the cool but sunny weather and the absence of wind which can whip across the site mercilessly on a bad day.

A decent crowd turned out, wallets at the ready, readies in their hands, hands full to capacity. It couldn't have gone better. Takings were substantially up on the previous year (when it rained) and we met a lot of new people and introduced them to the activities of Plant Heritage.

The most striking display of the day came from Barracott Plants who produced a groups of different forms of *Lamprocapnos (Dicentra) spectabilis* in perfect condition. They caught the low morning sunlight and it was no surprise that they sold almost immediately. You have to be quick!

The Eden Project - National Collection of *Kniphofia*. 13th June 2018.



Kniphofia on the slopes.



The Mediterranean Biome.



Astonishing *Anigozanthus*.

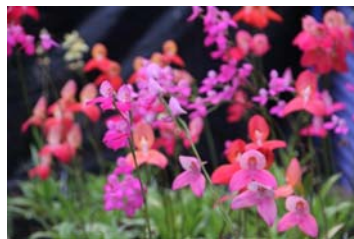
We heard about the new National Collection of *Kniphofia* at our annual meeting, so we were all looking forward to seeing the plants in the green. It couldn't be less appropriate to say that we saw them in-the-pink, but I'm going to anyway. Green,

orange, vigorous, healthy, they are doing a magnificent job. Special thanks to Fern Carroll-Smith for explaining the development of the collection to us. The plants are all housed on the slope outside the education centre, the intention is that they should provide a distinctive splash of bright colour through the summer.

Fern and the team at Eden are sorting out the proper nomenclature for the hybrids, many of which have become confused over the years.

Eden develops every year, the plant displays focussed on the connections between people and plants, both their economic and cultural significance. We spent the second half of the afternoon looking around at the new developments. The two biomes were looking better than I have seen them before, the Mediterranean biome was particularly colourful with a striking display of plants from the mediterranean regions of Australia. In particular there were more *Anigozanthus* cultivars on display than I have ever seen gathered together in one place (... National Collection anyone?).

Chairman's Open Evening and *Sarracenia* collection . 14th July 2018.



Disa orchids.



Members in the
greenhouse.



Sarracenia.

By the time of my Open Evening it had become clear that the summer was an exceptional one. Days of comfortable indolence that linger in the memory long after the details have been lost.

Thanks to all of those who came, it was delightful to see you and have time to chat over a cup of tea.

The cold weather in March had condensed the flowering of the *Disa* into a shorter season than usual and they were at their peak in the middle of July. The pink and red flowers make a very bright show. During the winter they were moved onto a new bench, so I was particularly pleased that a new location seems to have suited them. It is always a worry when things get moved that they might object to the disturbance and all drop dead!

The *Sarracenia* are also benefitting from a move. Extra room has allowed me to space the plants out a bit and eventually they will all be repotted to take advantage of the new conditions. I have been working on it as time allows for a year now, I'm about half way through.

Coming Events.

Sunday September 9th, 10am - 2pm. Plant Nannies Event at Tremenheere, Penzance TR20 8YL.

Our Plant Nannies event is coming up at Tremenheere on the second Sunday in September. As before, we will have plants available that need looking after, we will be looking for new nannies, hopefully catching up with others, and promoting Plant Heritage.

We need volunteers to help in many ways. On the day we need people to help run the stand, talk to people and promote the Plant Nannies project. Please let me know if you are able to help, I will be there all day but I'm half-manning another stand as well so I'm only half a man. I'm not sure that came out right but no matter. Please let me know if you can help.

The Plant Nannies project tries to spread unusual plants to other gardeners and so protect them in cultivation. The more plants we have to spread about the more good we can do. If you can spare something that you feel is uncommon and in need of help, please bring it along and we will look for a good home for it!

Saturday October 20th, 2.00pm. Visit to the National Collection of *Lapageria* at Roseland House and talk on "Madeira".

Our last meeting of the year will be a visit to the National Collection of *Lapageria* at Roseland House, Chacewater TR4 8QB. There will also be an illustrated talk on the plants and gardens of Madiera. Please let me know in advance if you are hoping to come - nothing sinister, it just allows us to plan cakes and seats (and in my view, both are essential)!

General Data Protection Regulation.

New Data Protection Regulations came into force on 25th May. If the Cornwall Group of Plant Heritage hold your address, e-mail address or other data we use it communicate matters relating to Plant Heritage or the Cornwall Group of Plant Heritage. We will only use it for this purpose and will not provide it to other organisations.

If you wish your data to be deleted from Cornwall Plant Heritage Group records now or at any time in the future, please let the group secretary know.

This notice is issued in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

Cornwall Plant Heritage Website.

Many of you will have noticed that we now have a new website, accessible through a link on the national website or directly at :

www.cornwallplantheritage.co.uk

I would like to ensure that there are records of significant plants and plant collections in Cornwall that are freely and easily available. If collection holders would like to add more than the links in their entries any submissions are very welcome. Let me know about any errors and I will correct them.

Programme for 2018.

Tuesday 30th January. Annual Meeting. Roseland House, Chacewater TR4 8QB.

Tuesday 13th March. Visit to Trewidden to see the new "Wilson 50" Azalea collection.

Tuesday 3rd April, 2.30pm. Devon Plant Heritage visit to Ince Castle, Cornish members welcome.

Tuesday 17th April, 2.00pm. Visit to Caerhays.

Saturday May 5th, 10.00am - 2.00pm. HPS Plant Sale, Truro.

Wednesday 13th June, 2.00pm. Visit to Eden and the National Collection of Kniphofia.

Saturday July 14th, from 6.00pm. Chairmans Open Evening.

Sunday September 9th, 10am - 2pm. Plant Nannies Event at Tremenheere, Penzance TR20 8YL.

Saturday October 20th, 2.00pm. Visit to the National Collection of Lapageria at Roseland House and talk on "Madeira".

Plant Nannies.

The Plant Nannies exist to encourage the cultivation, propagation and dissemination of uncommon, poorly known or endangered garden plants in Cornwall.

They are organised by the Cornwall group of Plant Heritage, a national charity that seeks to encourage the conservation of garden plants through cultivation.

Who can take part?

Anyone with an interest who would like to grow a plant and assist in the Cornish conservation effort.

What does it involve?

We have a few plants available that we think deserve some care to keep them in cultivation. We give them to the Plant Nannies to look after and enjoy in their own gardens. When the plant grows and they feel able to divide or propagate a small section then they return a young plant to us and keep the original. The young plants are either given out to a new Plant Nanny or we sell them to raise money for Plant Heritage.

What does it cost?

Nothing. We hope to raise money by selling surplus plants through regular Rare Plant sales in the region.

What do we ask?

We ask for an e-mail address so that we can send you Cornwall Plant Heritage Newsletters that will inform you of coming events and plant sales.

What do we get?

With your help we can keep plants in cultivation in gardens that are in danger of disappearing. Together we can raise the profile of plants that were once better known but are now endangered and we can raise some money to support the national charity.

Hope to see you soon.

John Sirkett.

cornwallplantheritage@gmail.com