



Plant Heritage

CONSERVING THE DIVERSITY OF GARDEN PLANTS

Cornwall Group Newsletter. December 2018

I am looking out of the window with the rain pouring down and the sky filled with black clouds. A thin silver line marks the horizon and it feels like the distant promise of spring. In the garden the first daffodil buds have appeared above the ground, the early Camellias are flowering and I have just seen the first Hellebore. As a friend said yesterday, just get Christmas out of the way and we can start having fun again!



**Azalea growing on at
Trewidden .**



**Mature Magnolias at
Caerhays.**



**Hardy Plant Society sale,
Truro Cattle Market.**

We have had a busy year in the Cornwall group of Plant Heritage. On a sunny afternoon in March we visited the collection of "Wilson 50" azaleas at Trewidden near Penzance. It was great to see the progress that Richard Morton was making in building up the collection and preparing the garden for them.

In April we visited Caerhays Castle at the peak of the spring flowering spectacle. The collection of magnolias is quite breathtaking and it is very useful to see what some of these trees can look like in maturity. As well as the National Collections the garden is full of specimens of historical importance that chart the involvement of the Williams family in horticulture over several generations.

May brought the Hardy Plant Society sale in Truro. Boundless thanks to those volunteers who helped to make it a great success. This is our major fund-raiser of the year and without it we would be unable to function effectively so thank you all. A bright, sunny day is always a good sign, trade was brisk and our resulting income was up on last year.



Kniphofia at Eden. .



Colour in the temperate biome at Eden.



Sarracenia in the chairmans greenhouse.

In June we visited the National Collection of *Kniphofia* at the Eden Project. Many thanks to Fern Carroll-Smith for showing us around and explaining the way the collection was developing. The team at Eden are doing a very useful job in sorting out the correct nomenclature for the plants in cultivation and as they mature the display of plants on the slopes beside the Education Centre should be remarkable.

In July members visited my garden and greenhouse. It was a delight to welcome you all, the *Sarracenia* were at their best and the *Disa* had started early and were looking good. Little did we know that we were in the middle of one of the longest and warmest summers for decades!

Last Meetings.

Tremenheere Plant Sale - Plant Nannies Event. 9th September 2018.



Tremenheere Rare Plant Sale.



Plant Heritage stand.



View of the gardens at Tremenheere.

For the second year we were very grateful to be invited to hold a Plant Nannies event at the Tremenheere Rare Plant Sale. Tremenheere is a very remarkable garden and it is fascinating to see the developments as they unfold year by year. The sale attracts plant enthusiasts from across the country and is a perfect opportunity for spreading the Plant Heritage message. It was also a beautifully sunny day to hold a Plant Nannies event. The day went very well and I am delighted we were able to welcome 23 new Plant Nannies into the fold. Thank you all for having plants, I hope that they all prosper for you, bring you some delight and we look forward to seeing you again in the future. It was especially pleasing to welcome some divisions of plants from earlier Plant Nannies - you are all heroes. The Plant Heritage message is "Conservation through Cultivation" and you are all bringing that bold aspiration to life. Particular thanks to Lyn, Judy and Charlie who made it all run so smoothly while I ran about in a panic!

Roseland House - National Collection of *Lapageria*. 20th October 2018.



Lapageria house.



Lapageria rosea
'Ligtromu'.



Vitis 'Spetchley Red' in the
garden.

In October we visited the National Collection of *Lapageria* at Roseland House. We couldn't have timed it better, the purpose built *Lapageria* house was filled with flowers. Is there anybody who doesn't love *Lapageria*? I can't believe it. Is there anybody else who grows them this well? I doubt it!

With flowers in red, pink or white the colour range doesn't seem to be very wide but somehow *Lapageria rosea* uses the restricted palette to display every shade of beauty imaginable. I'm a fan, who wouldn't be. Who wouldn't want to grow every possible cultivar and who wouldn't rapidly run out of room? Charlie's greenhouse is currently full and there are more plants on the way. These are the most exciting times.

We were also treated to an illustrated talk about Charlie and Liz's recent trip to Madeira, a spectacular island for its plants and magnificent scenery. Thanks to Charlie and Liz Pridham for a marvellous afternoon and for their generous hospitality.

Coming Events.

Annual Meeting. Tuesday 29th January 2019. Heligan gardens.

A change of venue for our annual meeting this year, the Lost Gardens of Heligan have kindly offered us a meeting room and facilities.

Meet in the Cafe at the entrance at 9.30am over tea and coffee. At 10.00 we will move down to the meeting room in the garden.

10.00 - 11.00. Annual Meeting.

11.00 - 12.00. We are hoping to have presentations by some of our local collection holders and a brief presentation from the national office. Details are being confirmed.

12.00 - 1.30pm. Lunch, available at the Heligan cafe (sorry, you will have to get your own lunch this year, our finances have been cut).

1.30 - 2.30. Practical grafting session (please keep a record of how many fingers you had when you arrived).

2.30 - 3.30. The National Collection at Heligan and a chance to see the plants in the garden.

After many years on the committee, Alistair Rivers (Collections co-ordinator) and Ros Smith (Secretary) are both standing down this year. I am deeply grateful to them both for the work they have put in over the years keeping the organisation running and showing me the ropes when I took over as chairman. We are looking for volunteers to join the committee and particularly for someone to take on the role of Secretary. The job involves taking minutes at our committee meetings (usually two per year) and sending out this newsletter (mostly by e-mail). Please get in touch if you would be prepared to help us out or would like to discuss the possibility. You would be very welcome. . Please consider joining us, you don't need to take on the secretaries role (though that would be wonderful) - the committee needs some new blood, new perspectives and new opinions!

Plant Nannies are very welcome to join us at the Annual Meeting, we are planning a day that will include a practical session on propagation, introduction to some of the National Collections held in Cornwall, a short presentation about the work of Plant Heritage from our national team and a chance to see the collection held at Heligan and hear about the way it is being rejuvenated. It is helpful if you can let me know if you are planning to come so that we can plan (warn the cafe, put out enough chairs etc).

cornwallplantheritage@gmail.com

Events for 2019.

Planning is well underway, we are currently waiting for confirmation from a number of people. We are hoping to have a full list in time for the Annual Meeting. Details will be updated online as soon as they are confirmed.

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.

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.

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.

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