

# PLANT HERITAGE

National Council for the Conservation of Plants & Gardens



## Devon Group Newsletter Spring 2016

## MEMBERSHIP RATES:

Single	£30
Joint	£47
Student	£10
UK Garden Club	£50
Organisation	£75
Corporate	£125

## EDITOR

Malcolm Pharoah  
email: malcolmpharoah@gmail.com

## LAYOUT

Steve Morton  
email: steve.morton8650@gmail.com

## PRINTING

Tuddenham Press Ltd  
Unit 6, Hill Farm Barns  
Ashbocking Road  
Henley, Ipswich  
Suffolk IP6 0SA  
email: info@tuddenhampress.co.uk

Plant Heritage is the working title for National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) Reg. Charity Nos. 1004009/SC041785.

NCCPG 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 NCCPG.

# Contents

Chairman's Letter .....	2
Annual General Meeting 2015.....	3
<i>Caroline Stone and Malcolm Pharoah</i>	
Treasurer's Report.....	6
<i>Eric Reynolds</i>	
National Plant Collections in Devon.....	7
<i>Beverley Sugden, Felicity Dudbridge, Jenny Evans</i>	
Three Less Common Shrubs For Autumn Into Winter .....	11
<i>Caroline Bell</i>	
Research visit to the Netherlands .....	14
<i>Naomi Beddoe</i>	
A Year with East Devon .....	18
<i>Helen Brown</i>	
South West Alpine Flower Show & Plant Sale .....	19
Cornish Group Events .....	20
Plant Fairs 2016 .....	23
Area Events Programme 2016.....	24
Advertisements .....	34
Veitch Memorial Lecture.....	34
Plant Heritage Devon Group Contacts .....	37

**COPY DEADLINE: 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016 FOR PUBLICATION IN THE SUMMER 2016 ISSUE.**

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

# Chairman's Letter

Welcome to the new season for Devon Plant Heritage. I write in the middle of what may be the mildest December on record. November and December 2015 have both been very dull with little in the way of sunshine, and now the rainfall is increasing. We still have not had any true winter cold, no frost yet here in Sidmouth and we have roses and other summer shrubs still flowering. Raspberries are still cropping but without sunshine the fruit is not sweet. I perhaps shouldn't wish for it but at this stage we need some proper winter cold weather to reset the cycle. I hope that by the time you read this, whatever cold winter weather is in the offing will have well and truly passed, and that your gardens will be flourishing in the early spring.

I hope that those of you who attended the AGM at Willand in November enjoyed the day's meeting. Thanks to Caroline for the organisation, Helen and Edna for the plant sales, Sally and Co. for the teas and to the many others who helped by setting out the hall, serving refreshments or other work behind the scenes etc. At the AGM we also gained a new committee member, Penny Jones - welcome Penny. Many of you will know that Penny and Melvyn are National Collection Holders of *Primula sieboldii* Japanese cvs. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all our committee members and everyone who helped in any way over the last year.

You will be aware that there are changes afoot at Plant Heritage headquarters affecting the way the charity operates in future. Please remember though that Plant Heritage is your group and it needs you and your input to survive. We must try to build the organisation and attract new members. If you have any ideas on this please get in touch. The Devon group is still the largest (by far) county group, and Devon and its gardens has a very great deal to offer both locals and visitors alike. I think that one of the key factors in keeping the Devon Group so vibrant is down to our farsighted forebears who developed our area structure. Our area organisers and local committees overcome the geographical separations within the county by ensuring that in the summer months there should always be some event to attend in the local area. By cooperating with the other area organisers they also ensure that events do not clash across the county, so that events can be attended further afield. Please therefore do not forget that you are a member of the wider Devon group and can attend events in other areas providing you stick to any pre-booking requirements. You are also a member of Plant Heritage nationally and can therefore attend any event anywhere in the UK. It is useful to carry your membership card with you when travelling so that you can claim your concessions.

## **HELP NEEDED**

As I write we are still planning our 2016 events programme. As ever we are somewhat limited in the number of major events that we can attend by logistical difficulties in getting materials across such a large county, and the uncertainty as to whether there will be enough local helpers on the day. If we are hoping to put on an event in your area and you could possibly spare some time, please contact me or your local team.

Wishing you all a very productive and enjoyable gardening year

**John Twibell**, Sidmouth

# Annual General Meeting 2015

Caroline Stone and Malcolm Pharoah

Our President, Chris Bailes, welcomed 90 members to the AGM held this year on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November and for the first time at Willand Village Hall which proved a popular venue with its spacious hall and easy access to the motorway.

The Committee was re-elected and new member Penny Jones was welcomed.

A comprehensive folder containing reports from the Chairman, Treasurer, Area Events Organisers, Plant Exchange 2015, Devon National Collections Co-ordinators and Group Secretary was presented.

As usual the Plant Sales table held some interesting plants at very reasonable prices and the raffle contained some attractive prizes.

## **RAYMOND J. EVISON OBE. VMH**

Our first speaker was Raymond Evison, world renowned nurseryman, lecturer, author, photographer and raiser of many of the new cultivars of Clematis which have been bred for modern smaller gardens. Indeed the title of his lecture was '**Clematis for today's Gardens**' and featured many of the novelties which he has developed over the last 50 years, firstly at the Treasures of Tenbury nursery in Worcestershire and since 1984 at his own nursery in Guernsey.



*RJE in Guernsey Clematis Nursery Breeding House*

He decided from the outset to develop new cultivars which were dwarf growing but which produced a large amount of flowers and were repeat flowering. Inevitably the ones he selected for naming have been given Plant Breeders Rights so that on each plant sold he collects a Royalty from the sale. However he has been very selective and has only released ones with unique attributes.

His first slide was a form of the winter flowering *Clematis cirrhosa* called 'Ourika Valley' collected as seed from a plant in the Morocco valley. He said *cirrhosa* forms like a dry aspect and his earlier cultivar of 'Freckles' was good grown on a north facing wall and through a rose. It was named after his daughter who used to have freckles.

His collections of *Clematis paniculata*, one of seven species from New Zealand is usually a tall grower often up to 30 feet high and growing through trees in its native habitat but two of his seedlings 'Avalanche' and 'Michito' are dwarf forms with larger flowers which in March and April produce 2-3 inch diameter white flowers when grown in containers. Fluffy seed heads were a welcome feature.

The spring flowered Alpinas and Macropetalas come in a range of colours and are ideal for north walls and lend themselves to growing through other shrubs.

It is on the larger flowering hybrid forms that Raymond has concentrated in developing dwarf forms for the modern smaller garden. His most famous is 'Josephine'. A lady called Josephine Hill from London sent him a photo in the 1980's of a plant she had bought from a market stall and planted in a tub. She said it kept flowering and she kept cutting it down for cut flowers but it still flowered and she wanted to name it. He got Plant Breeders Rights for it and each year he sends her a cheque for the Royalties she has earned. He says he often gets a postcard from her from some foreign port which her cruise liner has visited. 'Josephine' has given rise to a sport called 'Empress' with exotic spiky flowers. Two of his best sellers are 'Ooh-la-la' which needs a shady spot so that the petals don't fade and 'Rebecca', a deep red flower named after his daughter who has red hair.

Growing *Clematis* in pots or containers is a modern way to show off their attributes and his display at the 2015 Chelsea Flower Show highlighted this technique to perfection. Plastic containers should not be used, as they heat up too quickly, *Clematis* needing their roots kept cool which can be done by covering with stones or better still under-planting with annual bedding plants or ferns. Growing in pots means extra watering but equally they don't like to be grown too wet and a feeding of rose fertiliser is ideal as it contains potash which promotes flower buds. He was very critical of the poor compost which is available today and he said a good John Innes potting compost no 3 is ideal and to plant 2-3 inches deeper than in its original pot so that if the stem gets damaged it will grow from below soil level.

His cultivar of 'Parisienne' produces masses of flowers over a very long period if cut down to 6 inches each year and grown up through birch branches put in the container. Another good long flowering form is 'Diana's Delight' introduced in 2003 and flowering from May to November.

Two recent introductions *Clematis* 'Bijou' and 'Filigree' were only 18 inches high and smothered in flowers and his 2015 introduction of 'Corinne' made a fabulous cut flower which lasted in water for 10 days.

It was a wonderful talk which included much advice; however, he said, it was impossible to get everything right and he often gets accosted on his stand at Chelsea, usually by "little old ladies". One in particular said "Evison, my Clematis which I bought from you are not doing well - why?". "Well Madam", he said "you have to water them, feed them and stake them.", but she said "I do that but still they don't grow, now look Evison I must have details and I need to write all this down.". "Well Madam," he said "you have to feed them with Cow manure.". "Look Evison", she said "I need more details - how old is this Cow?"

Our Vice-President, the inimitable John Carter, gave an amusing vote of thanks (as only John Carter can) and thanked Raymond for his support for Plant Heritage over the years (in fact he was one of the founding members of the Society).

## JAKE HOBSON

After a very enjoyable and filling lunch provided by Richard Forster Catering, our second speaker was one of the country's leading topiary and pruning specialists. Influenced by his time in Japan, and his creative background (he studied sculpture at the Slade in London) Jake is interested in what he calls Organic Topiary, combining traditional European topiary with Japanese niwaki pruning and contemporary cloud pruning.



*Jake Hobson*

He showed us examples of creative pruning from around the World from the carefully planned to the out of control.

The Japanese examples of plants being used to recreate the landscape beyond the garden were perhaps familiar and his example was of a garden where the pruning had been used to link the landscape and the foreground, creating a cloud-line of trees. In Japan the pruning is meticulous, often taking place twice a year. The effort the Japanese put into creating what is no less than living sculpture is stupendous. Jake's photograph of what he believes is the widest tree in the world – a pine trained out horizontally to an enormous width – demonstrated that. In another photograph of a huge tree, we slowly realised we could see people right at the top their heads just visible as they gave the tree its prune in preparation for winter. Perhaps that was a clue to how these very controlled pruning styles had started. The intention is to reduce the growth so the trees can cope with heavy winter snowfall, but has become something quite artistic. The aesthetic appeal is added to by the framework of rope and bamboo put in place to support venerable and highly valued trees in the winter.

The out of control topiary started with the hundreds-of-years-old topiary at Levens Hall in Cumbria with outsized examples leaning at drunken angles. Another huge shape that he described as looking like a blancmange was so abstract it could only have been several dollops of blancmange thrown randomly on a plate.

Several modern takes on topiary used shrubs or trees we in this country wouldn't immediately think of as candidates for such a treatment. The floating garden at the Getty Museum in California uses satsuki azalea (*satsuki* is the old Japanese word for May, which is when they flower) to mark out a parterre where the soil between the hedges is replaced with water. This gives the impression that the azaleas are floating; when they flower the hedges turn lipstick pink.

Jake showed us some of the work he does for clients, to everyone's amusement. Often his solution to an overgrown tree or shrub is to raise the crown. His slide showed one of the lovely light-weight tripod ladders he sells standing next to a shrub that had been given rather more than a short back and sides. Beverley Sugden said when proposing the thanks at the end that it looked like he had done a runner leaving his tools behind before the client saw what he had done! However he showed us the end effect when the plant had had a chance to put on some growth again: transformed from a stolid lump to something airy and elegant. He showed us another idea that was rather fun – a friend who creates graffiti clipped into hedges: sometimes as an easily erasable joke, sometimes on purpose such as when clients ask for a house name to be carved into their hedge.

# Treasurer's Report

## for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015

*Eric Reynolds*

Capitation income (Devon Group's share of the membership subscriptions) for the current year is £2,589.00 – slightly down from last year at £2,655.00. The National Office retains approximately £9,500.00.

The eight Plant Markets and Fairs grossed £8,829.26 with a surplus to funds of £6,531.55 up from £ 6,198.86 last year. The three County Events (the 2013/14 AGM at Rosemoor, the Axe Vale Festival and the Noel Kingsbury Day Course) made a surplus of £614.31. The many well attended area events around the County produced a surplus of £1,211.00. Whilst some events 'broke even' only one made an unavoidable loss due to the cost of the venue suddenly increasing just prior to the visit.

Two donations from members were received this year being:

£110.00 from Mr & Mrs D Fulcher following an Open Garden Event.

£40.00 from Fi Reddaway also from her 'Open Garden Event'.

Both were appreciated and gratefully received.

The Devon Group has continued the grant scheme to support local National Collection Holders and a total of £793.22 has been paid out to the following four NCHs as:

*Hostas* towards the costs of plant display labels support stakes.

*Scadoxus nutans* for an extra submersible pump.

*Dierama (spp)* for covering material for tunnel following storm damage.

*Artemisia* for display boards and posters to show this collection at the Sidmouth Scientific Conference.

The Devon grants will be available next year with a sum of £2,000.00 being allocated for same. Devon NCHs are regularly reminded in the magazine to apply – typically grants are given up to £500 - £600.

The 2015 Devon bursary of £1,000.00 was awarded to Naomi Beddoe for a visit to the Netherlands for the investigation towards the production of clean virus free nerine in Holland and the UK. Naomi hopes in time, if possible, to go on to a PhD eventually if her grades permit.

The three excellent Devon Group newsletters continue to be distributed at a printing and distribution cost of £ 2,172.64. The cost of same being offset, in part, by an income of £360.00 from advertising in the magazine.

The Devon Group have once again supported the National Office with a donation of £3,000.00. A letter of appreciation has been received from Sarah Quartermain the Chief Executive at the National Office.

Overall the Devon Group funds stand at £19,168.24 an increase of £2,616.97 over the year.

My thanks to Edwina Pickard of the South West area, Helen Brown of the East Devon area and Malcolm Pharoah of the North Devon Area for supplying me with the financial outcome of the various events. My thanks also to the organisers of the eight Plant Markets and Fairs and various area events.

## National Plant Collections in Devon.

*Beverley Sugden, Felicity Dudbridge, Jenny Evans*

As Devon is such a large county, we have three Collections Co-ordinators who liaise with the collection holders in their area. Every two years the Co-ordinator visits the collection to see if there are any problems or concerns with the collection and a report is produced.

Virtually all the Collections are open to the public at some time throughout the year whether on a daily basis (large gardens) or a special event, or by appointment. Collection Holders are proud of their collections and plants and are keen to show visitors and especially Plant Heritage members their collection. Please do visit a collection and support the collection holders either in Devon or throughout the country. All details are in the Plant Collections Directory which is produced every year and sent free to members in the spring of each year, and most of the local collections are described on our website at [plantheritagedevon.org.uk/collections](http://plantheritagedevon.org.uk/collections).

Each year Devon Plant Heritage Committee funds a “day out” for all the Devon National Collection Holders - we also invite the Cornish contingent but so far no one has taken this up. The event moves around Devon so all NCHs have a chance of meeting near to them every few years. Headquarter staff attend so it is a good way of keeping in touch. In 2015 the meeting was based at Iddesleigh. After collection matters had been discussed, Barry Starling gave a talk on his work breeding dwarf *Ericaceae* (50+ years). This was followed by lunch at the Duke of York and then on to Jo Hynes’ garden to look at the NC of Cyclamen and afternoon tea to round the day off. In 2016 the meeting will be at Bicton Gardens in East Devon.

### **SOUTH AND WEST COLLECTIONS CO-ORDINATOR.**

*Beverley Sugden*

#### **ALNUS and BETULA**

**Stone Lane Gardens, Stone Farm, Chagford TQ13 8JU. Tel.01647 231311**

Paul Bartlett, the garden manager, keeps both these collections to a high standard. As a result of his expeditions to Georgia over the past few years, he is collaborating with Queen Mary University, London, who are undertaking molecular research on samples of Birch he has collected. He is applying for Scientific Status for his collection. Paul was successful in applying for a grant of £340 from Devon Group in October 2014 to go towards renovation and improvement of grafting bench facilities.



## **EUCRYPHIA**

**Whitstone Farm, Bovey Tracey. TQ13 9NA. Tel 01626 832258**

Katie and Alan Bunn are doing well with their collection and keen to keep adding to it. They are very pleased to have raised a few from cuttings: *E x hillier* 'Winton' and *E wilkiei*. However, there are a few species/cultivars on the wish list which are proving difficult to obtain, for example *E lucida* 'Lesley' from Tasmania.

S&W Devon Group organised a visit for members in August, which was well attended and most enjoyable.

## **HOSTA**

**Cleave House, Sticklepath, Oakhampton EX20 2NL**

Due to Roger Bowden's poor health during the past few years, Ruth and Tim Penrose, his daughter and son-in-law, have undertaken the task of installing new labels for all the Hostas. This is still on-going as a number of labels have been lost in recent years and a fair amount of re-identification is needed. The Penroses recently received a grant of £500 from Devon Group to assist with the cost of labels. I visited the garden in May and it is looking well cared for as are the Hostas, many of which have made large clumps. Tim has also created a very entertaining audio tour of the garden.

Sadly, Roger died in the summer but I know the Penroses will want to maintain this wonderful collection that he built up over so many years.

## **IRIS**

**Rowden Gardens**

I visited the irises at Rowden Gardens in June and most were in full flower. Earlier in the year, the Carters' garden was featured on Gardener's World and looked magical. Following this, there was a huge increase in demand for plants! The Carters no longer have their nursery business but Carolyn Wixon at Rodeford Water Gardens has many of their divisions and has been trying to keep up with demand.

The Carters have reluctantly decided to relinquish their National Collection after many years of breeding these plants. However, they have made good provision for the future by working with Mark Haslett in Essex, who now has a recently approved National Collection of these Irises. A collection of the Rowden Irises has also gone to Rosemoor, but it is unknown yet whether they will actually form a National Collection. Galen and John Carter have been loyal supporters of Plant Heritage for many years, and their dedication to the breeding and dispersal of their water irises has made the world of gardens more colourful and diverse than it would otherwise be.

## **MONARDA and NEPETA**

**1 Greenbank, South Zeal, Oakhampton. EX20 2SJ. Tel. 01837 840018**

Fi Reddaway has been an active collection holder during the few years she was granted national collection status. Her records are meticulous and she propagates all her plants every year, the Monardas by division and Nepetas by cuttings. She has set up a website, informative but also very pretty and well worth looking at (<https://fireddaway.wordpress.com/>). She photographs all her plants and is aiming to make a herbarium specimen of all of them during 2016. She is also studying the botany of her plants.

Fi has had a number of groups visit her during the year, including a party of Czech botanists in July. She also has people phoning and e-mailing for advice, so she is pleased with the way her collection is developing and also with the expertise she herself is building up.

## **CARYA**

### **Cockington Court, Cockington, Torquay. TQ2 6XA**

The Carya Collection at Cockington Country Park remains a concern as we are still trying to find someone to identify a good proportion of the trees. They are in a reasonable condition and the areas they are in is kept clear and tidy, but most have lost their labels and the original planting plan is unclear and of little help.

The Countryside Manager is rather short staffed but does have volunteers to help with maintenance. However, until some botanical expertise can be found, this collection is of little use or meaning to visitors.

## **BUDDLEJA**

### **Paignton Zoo, Totnes Road, Paignton. TQ4 7EU. Tel. 01803 697529**

The National Collection of species Buddlejias held at Paignton Zoo is the one collection I have not visited this year and am due to do so on November 4th.

In the few years before I became S&W Collections Co-ordinator, a lot of work had been done by the Deputy Head Gardener, Catherine Mortimer, to bring the collection up to scratch. Being a horticultural garden as well as a zoo, there is obviously a huge work load for the gardening team, not just the Buddlejias to attend to. It will be interesting to see how the collection has fared since my last visit, although of course I will have missed the flowering season.

## **EAST COLLECTIONS CO-ORDINATOR**

*Felicity Dudbridge*

### **NERINE SARNIENSIS, NERINE HARDY SPECIES, CVS AND HYBRIDS**

#### **Bickham Cottage, Kenn, Exeter. Tel. 01392 833964**

Steven Eyre now has his second collection (Hardy Nerines) approved. They are both a joy to visit with identification that even Nerine numbies like me can understand.

### **RHODOHYPOXIS x RHODOXIS, MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED IRIS, STANDARD DWARF BEARDED IRIS.**

I have not visited this year, though due, but have been in contact and heard all about their Gold Medals at shows. Chris and Lorraine Birchall run a spotless, attractive nursery and the collections are very well documented. Since last year's AGM they have received NC status for the miniature and dwarf Iris.

## **AZARA**

### **University of Exeter, Streatham Farm, Prince of Wales Road, Exeter. EX4 4PX. Tel. 01392 723059**

I visited in July this year. The Azara collection has been gathered into one bed, the labels are all visible and losses accounted for. The Heuchera collection is still in abeyance as they have taken time to grow on plants free of the soil borne virus with

which they arrived. There is a member of the team directly in charge of Heucheras and they look very good indeed. Hopefully they will be able to apply for collection status in 2016.

## **RUSCUS**

I visited David Cann earlier this year. He has a compact collection in his garden and that of his mother. They are well grown and easy to identify. David is a scrupulous book keeper and it is easy to cross reference his entire collection on paper and in the ground.

## **NORTH COLLECTIONS CO-ORDINATOR**

*Jenny Evans*

In this my first year as a co-ordinator I visited five Collection Holders with one more scheduled for November.

## **BUDDLEJA DAVIDII and LEUCANTHEMUM**

**The Shapcott Barton Estate, East Knowstone, South Molton.EX36 4EE.  
Tel. 01398 341664**

I visited in July and August; all the plants were in very good condition and clearly labelled. Plant records are well kept with a complete photographic reference, together with an extensive and well-maintained herbarium. Plants are continuing to be propagated with specimens available for sale on garden open days.

## **PHLOMIS**

**Foamlea, Mortehoe. EX34 7DZ. Tel.01271 871182**

I visited in June. The garden was extremely tidy and well-maintained. The collection plants were clearly labelled with the majority, excluding a few newcomers, looking very vigorous and well established. The collection has only provisional status but in my opinion warrants Full Status.

## **MENTHA**

**Penborn Goat Farm, Bounds Cross, Holsworthy.EX22 6LJ**

Plants were well displayed and well labelled and the collections were generally looking vigorous, healthy and well maintained when I visited.

## **RODGERSIA (New)**

**The Gate House, Lee. EX34 8LR. Tel. 01271 862409**

This was a National Collection several years ago before being withdrawn. However, the "collection" has been fully maintained. The plants are in excellent condition, clearly labelled and with up-to-date plant lists and detailed botanical descriptions. The collection has once again been granted Full National Collection status as a reference collection.

## **AGAPANTHUS**

**Pine Cottage, Fourways, Eggesford, nr Chulmleigh. EX18 7QZ.  
Tel. 01769 80076**

I visited during August "Pine Cottage Plants Open Week". Duplicate plants from the collection have been transferred to a new National Collection in Hampshire and the plans for this collection in Devon are currently open-ended.

# Three Less Common Shrubs For Autumn Into Winter

Caroline Bell

If you are feeling limited by the season, perhaps you can be cheered by considering three plants that look good at this time of year.

## EDGEWORTHIA CHRYSANTHA

*Edgeworthia chrysantha* are fabulous shrubs for their autumn into winter effects. During the rest of the year their mid-green leaves are less interesting, but as they turn yellow and fall in autumn, they immediately reveal white, silky tassel-like buds which gradually enlarge to form tight, tubular flower clusters at the branch tips which are beautifully scented. Although they do not flower until about February, in the form 'Grandiflora' the stems are an interesting, eye-catching, burnished cinnamon colour for winter. So whether flowering or not, these shrubs have a strong winter presence.

*E. chrysantha* comes from China and was introduced in the 1840's: known as the 'Oriental Paperbush' because the bark generates high quality paper often used for Bank notes, it was named after Michael Edgeworth, plant collector for the East India Company. Growing to under 6 feet and as much wide, *E. chrysantha* makes a



*Edgeworthia chrysantha*

a rounded shrub for a sheltered site away from extremes. Opinions differ as to what degree they are woodlanders or if they prefer more sun; however, it is certain they like fertile, moist but well-drained soil, but not too dry: so watering during dry weeks in summer is worthwhile. Doubts are expressed about their full hardiness down to  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and many Nurseries are cautious in their planting advice: it seems the kind of shrub that will grow in hardiness as it matures. I did lose my first plant after I moved it, but this was, I feel, not due to the ensuing cold winter of 2009 which we will all remember, but rather moving it at all, as they are related to *Daphnes* and do not respond well to transplanting. *Edgeworthias* may prefer acid soil but again opinions are divided. Rightly sited, it is easy to cultivate and requires no maintenance.

There are two forms in cultivation: 'Red Dragon', synonym 'f. Rubra', which has scarlet-orange flowers; although it is apparently less strongly scented, it is an interesting bright colour for the winter garden, at a time of year when most shrubs have white, blush or yellow flowers; and secondly, the more common yellow form, which is usually found in the superior selection, 'Grandiflora', having larger, golf-ball size flowers, bigger

leaves and proper burnished stems; thus the foliage on my 'Red Dragon' is half the size of my 'Grandiflora'. *E. papyrifera* and *E. tomentosa* are synonyms for *E. chrysantha*, while the rarely cultivated *Edgeworthia gardeneri* is nearly evergreen, and less hardy. Whatever it is called, the deciduous *Edgeworthia chrysantha* is simply either a stunning or a highly scented shrub for the winter garden, but not for an exposed site.

### HEPTACODIUM MICONIODES (synonym jasminoides) AGM

As you will guess from its synonym, the deciduous, single species, *Heptacodium* is also a scented plant, but flowering earlier from late August until November. Although it was discovered in China by Ernest Wilson in 1907, it was not introduced until 1980 and has only fully come into cultivation more recently. It has suffered habitat loss in China and, while now semi-protected, is very rare in the wild. Heptacodiums have a wide season of interest, and are either a multi-stemmed shrub, or grow into a small tree to at most 20-25 feet by 10 feet wide from which side growth can be removed. After the scented flowers, if you are lucky with the weather, the calyx enlarges and turns bright red even on younger plants and especially if sited in sun. The attractive, curling, wavy-margined glossy leaves are retained into early winter and fall to reveal, on an older plant from around 10 years old if grown in sun, a peeling bark with a grey striation. While the bark may not be exceptional, it is an additional point of interest. Heptacodiums are easy to cultivate being very hardy, vigorous, and versatile: tolerant of both sun or shade, acid or alkaline, dry sites (Wilson found it growing on a cliff) and moist clay soil. The pretty white flowers attract bees and butterflies when there is less in flower in the garden.

Bark on my 12 year old tree of approximately 11 feet is developing its peeling quality which is presently brown, and the white to grey undercoat is not yet fully visible: I believe this slight tardiness may be due to its dry site on a bank which is not in full sun. I have been steadily pruning off its lower branches to raise its canopy and reveal its bark, and its shelter provides some summer dappled shade for a tender camellia. Its scent drifts down and you catch it unexpectedly from its multitude of small, white, star-shaped flowers. I have now planted another one in a moist sunny position which I plan to keep multi-stemmed. My photograph is of an approximately 7 foot, 9 year old *Heptacodium* growing at High Gardens, Kenton, Devon, which is an exceptional Plantsman's garden with adjoining Nursery and open for various charities; clearly



*Heptacodium*



*Heptacodium*

happy in its position, it already has a lovely shape, develops red calyxes and the bark has started to strip, revealing layers of colour. I would grow *Heptacodium* for its useful flowering time and scent alone, but it is not just a one season plant.

## LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA 'OCONEE'



*Liquidambar 'Oconee'*



*Liquidambar 'Oconee' foliage.*

Have you always wanted to grow a *Liquidambar* for its gorgeous autumn colour, but cannot find space for a tree? *Liquidambar* 'Oconee' is a shrub growing to about 10 feet and moreover its foliage persists into February in all its autumnal glory of red and purple. My 6 year old plant is nearly 3 feet high and wide with an umbrella-shape; according to the Dawes Arboretum, in the USA, 'Oconee' can become 6 to 8 feet wide, and it has the same distinctive maple-like alternate leaves as the rest.

Originating from Oconee County, Georgia, USA, 'Oconee' was recently discovered growing wild. It has red stems to match its crimson leaves at present, but it may develop corky bark on its older twigs and the deeply furrowed trunk with narrow ridges seen on some *Liquidambar*s after several years: hence another common name for the *Liquidambar* is the Alligator tree so they frequently have winter value. The cultivar 'Gumball' (synonym 'Globe') is also shrubby, but the autumn foliage does not persist and it is less hardy, so 'Oconee' is the better cultivar, being hardy in Zone 6. 'Oconee' does not like to dry out, so is well suited to wet ground, which is where I grow it.

*Liquidambar styraciflua*, native to the USA and some Mexican and Guatemalan forests, is one of four species of *Liquidambar*, and the only one native to the continent of America. It needs sun to colour well and prefers deep, moist, fertile, acid soil; the cultivar 'Worplesdon' AGM, growing up to 150 feet high, tolerates mild alkalinity and unlike most *Liquidambar*s, can produce attractive star-shaped, spiky, hard, seed-pods in the UK. However, acid soils give the best autumn colour and 'Worplesdon' can start its autumn colour in early September. In the UK, one other *L. styraciflua* cultivar, 'Burgundy' (growing to 150 feet) can have foliage persisting after Christmas, which is hardly surprising when in Mexico *Liquidambar*s are generally found as evergreen or almost evergreen. *Liquidambar*s or Sweet Gums get their name from the resinous sap which oozes out when wounded, and is quite literally liquid amber: when hardened it was used as chewing gum! I have found 'Oconee' easy to cultivate in moist acid soil and its persisting crimson colour is a striking winter feature.

# Research visit to the Netherlands to study aspects of Nerine production

Naomi Beddoe

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Plant Heritage Devon Group recently awarded me a bursary for a research visit to the Netherlands to study aspects of Nerine production. I am currently working through the third year of a horticulture/plant science degree and the aim of my Honours project is to generate virus-free plants from virus-infected Neries using a meristem micropropagation method. The old Nerine hybrids were given to us by a UK breeder and collector and included *Nerine* 'Hera', 'Aurora' and 'Fuchsine'. These bulbs are virus-infected, causing visible symptoms on leaves and a reduction in flowering ability for Hera and Aurora.

We aim to micropropagate the material to generate virus-free plants, which may also improve flowering ability and bulk up the limited stock. Working in the Rosewarne Micropropagation Laboratory with Ros Smith, I am experimenting with techniques and media recipes to generate enough material to make tests on, so that I can decide what works best and apply that to the limited material I have of the infected Neries. Ros Smith has used similar techniques to conserve and multiply difficult to propagate species (florete regeneration of rhododendron and scadoxus) or those suffering with disease (meristem technique of rhubarb). Due to the limited supply of material, the protocol is developed on other Neries before working on the 'Hera'. A simple multiplication protocol for bulb material has been developed and seven new 'Hera' plants generated, which are in the (slow) process of being grown on and further multiplied. In addition to material generated from the bulb, I am investigating if flower parts can be used to generate new plants with less contamination issues in culture and will investigate the possibility for excising growing points in the future. A number of media recipes for floral tissue are being



*Showing virus symptoms on a Nerine 'Hera' leaf. Material from this population has been used to generate seven new plantlets and to identify virus particles using the Transmission Electron Microscope at Plymouth University.*



*Showing Nerine 'Hera' bulbils in culture. Material is initiated into nutrient gel with the levels of macro and micronutrients and plant growth hormones tailored to the species, type of material and growth stage.*



*Showing a dissected Nerine flower bud with each individual part laid out on a glass tile. The florets and the basal part of the flower head are being tested for regeneration capacity.*

tested with differing combinations and concentrations of plant growth hormones.

Generating virus-free plants through meristem culture is a procedure often used in micropropagation; however it is not always successful or straightforward. The active growing point of cells is excised and initiated into culture. This growing point can be 0.5 – 1.5 mm across and needs to be dissected out using a microscope, tweezers, scalpel and a needle. Aseptic conditions and the correct care regime are required to ensure growth. The potential of virus-free material from the meristematic growing point is inversely proportional to its size but the likelihood of anything generating from it is positively proportional to the size. So, the smaller the meristem, the more chance there is that the resulting plants will be virus-free. However, the smaller the meristem, the more difficult it is to grow on. I tried a number of meristem excisions and two types of growing media, using a technique that we had used successfully with rhubarb of putting meristems on to filter paper bridges with the bases sitting in nutrient liquid. This did not work for any meristems and I did not find further specific details on the care regime for meristems of this species within the literature.



*Showing the excised meristem or growing point from a small Nerine bulbil that was generated using a twin-scale technique. The meristem was excised using a microscope under sterile conditions. The jelly-like dome shape at the top of the plant tissue is the growing point, where cells are thought to be virus-free for some plant viruses. Taking material from this point may generate a virus-free plant.*

I thought that speaking with and gathering information from skilful Nerine growers, plant health experts and micropropagation specialists in a commercial context would improve and speed up the progress of my research project, therefore improving outcomes for project stakeholders. Caroline Stone gave me the email address for Kitty de Jong who runs Agro Fleur Select, a cut flower and bulb producer growing a range of Nerines. I made contact with Kitty and she agreed to give me email addresses of specialists I could talk to about my project. I needed to learn about micropropagation of this species but also had other questions relating to care regime, production, economy, research relating to Nerines and the financial and time impact of virus-infected stock (to name a few). I realised the best way to collect information and make necessary contacts for this project was to travel to the Netherlands and talk to people in the industry. I made preliminary arrangements with Kitty and then put together an outline plan with associated costs and submitted my application to Plant Heritage Devon. I was thrilled when I found out I had been successful and developed my plan further. Each specialist I contacted was happy to spend between a few hours and a day talking to me.

## THE TRIP

I scheduled appointments with the specialists, booked travel and accommodation arrangements and created this itinerary:

- **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September** - Fly to Amsterdam, travel to Kitty de Jong and visit Agro Fleur Select business. Travel to accommodation.





*Showing the beautiful landscape and orderly planting of Nerines in an external growing area. These Nerines are grown for Kitty de Jong's company, Agro Fleur Select. Kitty's father, Kees de Jong, kindly accompanied me to the different growing areas including this one near to Creil to teach me about the growing process, soils, flowering periods and the impact of virus infection of this cut flower and bulb crop.*

- **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September** - Set up material for Nerine flower show at CNB building. Visit outdoor growing area of Agro Fleur Select, scout for virus symptoms and discuss growing methods. Visit Johan van Scheepen at the KAVB Library to search for relevant information.
- **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September** - Visit Leo van Leeuwen, a plant health inspector for Naktuinbouw.
- **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September** - Flower auction visit and then field trip to specialist outdoor Nerine growing area.
- **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October** - Visit the Iribov Micropropagation Laboratory for facility tour and afternoon in the propagation and analytical laboratories.
- **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** - Visit Paul van Leeuwen, a researcher and plant health specialist at PPO-BBF Lisse.
- **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** - Fly to Bristol, travel home.

It was a busy, satisfying and extremely interesting week. Kitty de Jong, her family and business associates welcomed me and were helpful in every way. I had a full schedule of appointments with specialists covering the weekdays, however, I joined my host for a boat trip around the canals, lake and waterways near to Roelfarendsveen on Sunday afternoon. I was treated to coffee and a lesson on the history of the area, which was beautiful and fascinating. The report I submitted to the Plant Heritage Devon Group contains a detailed account of each appointment, which can be accessed via their website. Here I will focus on the outcomes of the visit and how these will benefit my research project.

## OUTCOMES

The specialist contacts I made during this research trip were brilliant. I was particularly pleased that the experts were happy to make time for me in the first place but the level to which I was welcomed and talked to about my project was excellent. Nearly everyone spoke English, which was a relief, although I did learn a few Dutch phrases before arriving that enabled me to have at least a short conversation in Dutch. Access to scientific information was a key outcome, which included the KAVB library, an old but useful Nerine meristem paper by Haakkart et al. (no date) from one contact, a number of Nerine relevant papers and information from another. Evelien at Iribov discussed meristem tissue culture techniques with me and gave me numerous suggestions that I was not previously aware of that will aid my technique and success.

The information gathered during this visit will directly influence the technique used for meristem culture and the subsequent care of plant material. Specific information gathered includes the cutting and sterilisation process, use of specific needles, growth room temperature, light/dark requirements and time frame for growth. This information should improve the process and survival chance of excised meristems. The information gathered regarding the weaning care of these plants should help provide the correct environment once plantlets leave the growth room. The first weaning stage is under plastic in 70% humidity at 20°C; then humidity is gradually reduced over two weeks after which the plastic is removed completely. After four weeks, the plantlets are moved to the next stage of the nursery area. This area is kept at 18°C with no humidity control. After four weeks here they are moved to the main nursery where there is only heating to 5°C. Plants stay in the main nursery area for at least four weeks.

Iribov explained I could send samples for initial Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) virus tests to determine what viruses are present in the starting material. I took samples from the parent population of 'Hera' and from a 'Hera' plantlet currently in culture. Preliminary results show nerine latent virus (NeLV) and also positives for potex and poty viruses in both samples although there looks to be a difference in virus load for a poty virus. This information will directly influence the project, as it gives a confident result on the presence of specific viruses and virus groups. This means I know what to look for once I have generated plants through meristem culture. A colleague has agreed to work collaboratively on this project to aid with the PCR tests but making contacts in the Netherlands has saved time and money and offers an elegant backup solution should it be required.

Since returning from the Netherlands I have been testing a variety of media recipes for meristem growth, each with a different combination or concentration of plant growth hormones. Temperature requirements are also being considered, as is the process for rooting and transplanting.

Acknowledgements and thanks to Ros Smith, Dr Alec Forsyth, Dr Aisling Devine, Anne Osman, Peter Bond, Paul Waines, The Nerine and Amaryllid Society, Plant Heritage Devon Group, Caroline Stone, Steve Eyre, Arthur Andrews at Winchester Growers, Kitty de Jong and Meneer C. de Jong, Johan van Scheepen at KAVB Library, Leo van Leeuwen at Naktuinbouw, Iribov Micropropagation Laboratory, Paul van Leeuwen from PPO-BBF in Lisse and my current supervisor Dr James Wagstaffe.

# A Year with East Devon

Helen Brown

The first plant fair in the east of the county for some years was held at Burrow Farm, Axminster on 19<sup>th</sup> April. It was a very successful event, raising nearly £1000. We are indebted to Mary and John Benger for kindly allowing us to use their wonderful venue and also to charge non-members £1 entry to the fair, which they then knocked off the garden entry fee.

Many thanks to all who helped on the plant stall and gate duties, I'm hoping you will be available for next April!

On a very warm day in May, a group of us met for a sociable lunch at The Globe in Sampford Peverell and went on to Chevithorne Barton to view the National Plant Collection of Quercus, held by Mr Heathcoat Amory. Here the group doubled in size, but unfortunately, due to illness of the manager, our arrival was unexpected. Luckily, Head Gardener David Lancells was available to give us a guided tour of the collection, explaining how each accession was numbered and labelled, usually as an acorn; and its progression from sapling to planting out. It is an exemplary collection, perfectly documented and labelled and held within a garden also featuring a large selection of rare magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas, much enjoyed



*Spinney*



*Breach.*

by the group. My apologies go to those who on a hot afternoon were much in need of the promised, but unavoidably unavailable refreshments.

The visit to Kilmington gardens in June, also on a hot sunny day, was sadly poorly attended. Those who came were treated to Celia and Paul's wonderful display of climbing roses and clematis at Spinney Two, intermingled with

interesting shrubs and a good vegetable patch. A reasonable walk away at Breach there were orchids growing in the mixed wildflower meadow on the old tennis court and a wide, interesting selection of plants set in 3 acres surrounded by mature trees. A most wonderful array of cakes was provided for us by Judith and BJ; much enjoyed whilst watching the damsel flies over the pond.



*Little Ash, August*

A sociable August evening bring and share supper was held at Little Ash, with the plant stall raising a goodly sum for group funds. An enjoyable evening was spent catching up and chatting for a couple of hours, rather than just walking around a garden. A shame more people didn't join us!

## South West Alpine Flower Show & Plant Sale

Organised by: **ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY EXETER GROUP**

Venue: WEST EXE SCHOOL (formerly Technology College)  
HATHERLEIGH ROAD  
EXETER  
EX2 9JU sat nav use EX2 9JR

Date: SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
Time: PLANT SALES OPEN AT 10:00am (13 nursery stalls)  
SHOW OPENS AT 12:00pm UNTIL 4:00pm.  
Entry: £3.00 (AGS MEMBERS FREE)  
Refreshments: YES

Parking: FREE

Directions M5 junction 31 then A30 for 2 miles; A377 towards Exeter for half mile then left at traffic lights and left again on to Cowick Lane; at next lights turn right into Hatherleigh Road and college entrance is on right.

# Cornish Group Events

As our Chairman says in his Chairman's letter at the front of this newsletter you as members are part of the National organisation and as such can attend any event throughout the country. We have many members in Devon who live near to Cornwall and we are anxious to help the members of the Cornwall group with their events.

Below is a list of their planned events for 2016. If you would like to attend an event or to have more details please contact John Sirkett (01209) 215931 or email [cornwallplantheritage@gmail.com](mailto:cornwallplantheritage@gmail.com).

## **PLANT HERITAGE CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY GROUP**

### **Meeting and AGM, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.**

The committee is pleased to announce that our next meeting, to include the AGM, will be held at Roseland House, Chacewater TR4 8QB. Parking is available in the village car park, if not on street places which are free. Charlie Pridham, our host for the day is the group treasurer and also holds the National Collection of Lapageria.

The day starts at 10:30am with coffee and welcome and will include lunch and other refreshments.

There is no charge to members of Plant Heritage but please let us know if you are coming and tell us any special dietary requirements so that we can plan effectively.

Visitors and guests are very welcome, but there will be a charge of £5.00 for them to help towards catering costs. Please let us know if you are coming, by email to [cornwallplantheritage@gmail.com](mailto:cornwallplantheritage@gmail.com) or telephone John Sirkett on (01209) 215931

It is hoped that as many collection holders as possible will join us for the day. It would be really nice for members to hear how the year has gone for National Collection Holders. Time has been put aside in the agenda for the day for collection holders, and there will be plenty of time for informal discussion.

The committee hopes that by exploring the particular issues of conservation in Cornwall we can become more effective.

### **MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> - Visit to Mount Edgcumbe Country Park**

To see the collection of Camellia. Full details on the national plant heritage website shortly.

### **MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> - Stall at the HPS Plant Sale 10:00am - 2:00pm.**

Full details on the website shortly. Please come along and say hello, better still bring us a plant to sell and help us raise some money!

We love to keep members informed and provide information about events but it is time consuming and expensive to do it by post. If at all possible can you provide us

with an e-mail address so that we can let you know what is happening! Email us at [cornwallplantheritage@gmail.com](mailto:cornwallplantheritage@gmail.com) and we will add your address to our lists. Thank You.

We have a number of visits planned for the rest of the year in various stages of organisation, details will appear on the national website as they are finalised:

**JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> - 6:00pm Chairman's garden and collection.**

Open evening with other societies, particularly for the Sarracenia which should be at a peak.

**JULY 30<sup>TH</sup>/31<sup>ST</sup> - Open day, National collection of Clematis viticella.**

**AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> - Garden visit, Marsh Villa.**

**AUTUMN VISIT (date not yet finalised) - Lamorran Garden.**

## One of our events in 2015

*John Sirkett*

**VISIT TO THE NATIONAL COLLECTION OF DAHLIA AT VARFELL FARM AND THE SCULPTURE GARDEN AT TREMENHEERE ON 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

Around Mount's Bay there is a section of the Cornish coast where the usual rules of Cornish gardening are suspended. The late summer sunshine crashes in from the south like the waves on the beach and the frenetic colour of Cornish spring gardens is replaced by the warm ease of a summer afternoon.

A stone's throw from the beach (but please be careful not to hit the railway) lies Varfell Farm and the National Collection of Dahlia. It's free and open throughout the end of summer, a magnificent combination of spectacle and atmosphere.



*Dahlia Karma Choc*



*Dahlia Coltness Gem*



*Dahlia Happy Single Wink*

borrowing the view of St. Michael's Mount on the horizon. Walking between the plants the colour is overwhelming and funny and nauseating and gleeful all at once. There is an innocent joy to be had just enjoying the light tripping fantastically through the petals. Were you ever given a kaleidoscope as a child? It isn't meaningful or clever but it is a moment of wonder like nothing else.



*Tremenheere*

I had a dog who would lie on her back on the carpet and wriggle and scratch in perfect happiness. I feel like that (but I'm not going to do it). Lunch was easily arranged overlooking the beach and a frothy cappuccino fortifies the happy soul like nothing else.

In the afternoon we visited the Sculpture Garden at Tremenheere, Neil Armstrong's masterful blend of the best modern sculpture and Plantsmanship. The garden is built along a steep valley and the contours add a wonderful third dimension to garden visiting. As you walk around you look up into plantings that you will later walk through and then finally look down on and yet find satisfying from all perspectives.

The woodland planting follows the course of the stream, festooned with tree ferns. *Cyathea medullaris* quite magnificent with its toes in the water, as large as you will see anywhere else and happy outside which you are unlikely to see anywhere else. The woods are full of rare and unfamiliar plants but they are grown in profuse masses that balance mere rarity with form and structure to create a unique environment.



*Tremenheere*

At the top of the garden you emerge into the sun, beds of succulents and *cycads*. *Restios* frame majestic views out to sea. St Michael's Mount rests on the horizon like a giant oyster. This is a pearl of a place and as pearls go, it's a whopper!

It was a good thing they have a cafe because we needed a sit down by then!



*Tremenheere*

# Plant Fairs 2016

**SUNDAY MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**Tavistock Pannier Market**

10:00am to 3:00pm  
contact: Tim Ellis, 07973 771338  
info@timellislandscaping.com

**SUNDAY APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**South Molton Pannier Market**

10:00am to 3:00pm  
contact: Derek Burdett, 01769 540528  
fairhavernursery@hotmail.com

**SUNDAY APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**Burrow Farm Gardens**

10:00am to 4:00pm  
PH members free entrance, non-members £1.  
contact: Helen Brown 01404 850941  
helenlittleash@hotmail.com

**SUNDAY APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**Totnes Civic Hall**

10:00am to 2:00pm  
contact: Sally Dean, 01548 821714  
sallymdean@gmail.com

**SATURDAY MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>, SUNDAY MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**Rosemoor Great Torrington**

10:00am to 3:00pm  
contact: Derek Burdett, 01769 540528  
fairhavernursery@hotmail.com

**SATURDAY JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**Ivybridge Outdoor Plant Fair**

10:00am to 4:00 or 5:00pm  
contact: Tim Ellis, 07973 771338  
info@timellislandscaping.com

**SUNDAY JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**South Molton Pannier Market**

10:00am to 3:00pm  
contact: Derek Burdett, 01769 540528  
fairhavernursery@hotmail.com

**SUNDAY AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**Rosemoor Great Torrington**

10:00am to 3:00pm  
contact: Derek Burdett, 01769 540528  
fairhavernursery@hotmail.com

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**Tavistock Pannier Market**

10:00am to 3:00pm  
contact: Tim Ellis, 07973 771338  
info@timellislandscaping.com



# Area Events Programme 2016

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. Further details of all events, including location maps, are given on the [plantheritagedevon.org.uk](http://plantheritagedevon.org.uk) website.

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

Co-ordinator	<b>Helen Brown</b>	Little Ash Farm Bungalow
Telephone	01404 850941	Fenny Bridges,
Email	<a href="mailto:helenlittleash@hotmail.com">helenlittleash@hotmail.com</a>	Honiton EX14 3BL

## NORTH DEVON AREA EVENTS

Co-ordinator	<b>Malcolm Pharoah</b>	Lower Tithe Barn
Telephone	01271 379001	Marwood,
Email	<a href="mailto:malcolmpharoah@gmail.com">malcolmpharoah@gmail.com</a>	Barnstaple EX31 4EB

## SOUTH AND WEST DEVON AREA EVENTS

Contact	<b>Sally Dean</b>	The Cottage
Telephone	01548 821714	Curtisknowle House,
Email	<a href="mailto:sallymdean@gmail.com">sallymdean@gmail.com</a>	Diptford, TQ9 7JX

## Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar SPRING LUNCH AT RATTERY VILLAGE HALL

Contact	Edwina Pickard on 01752 492765
Booking	Essential.
Cost	£13.00 each for members and guests. Please send SAE for tickets to: Mrs E. Pickard, 11 Peters Close, Elburton, Plymouth PL9 8NU.
10:45am	Cheques should be made payable to Plant Heritage Devon Group. Coffee and plant sales prior to a talk by JULIAN SUTTON entitled <b>'The Botanical Gardener, Portraits of Plants in a World where Ideas Matter'</b> .
1:00pm	Lunch. Meat or vegetarian alternative (please state choice when ordering tickets), puddings and coffee.
Directions	<b>From Totnes:</b> take the A385 west towards the A38 and Plymouth; turn right where signed Rattery and then follow the NCCPG signs in Rattery village. Please park in the Village Hall car park.

## Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Mar TALKS, LUNCH AND GARDEN WALK AT MARWOOD HILL GARDENS

Contact	Malcolm Pharoah on 01271 379001 or malcolmpharoah@gmail.com
Booking	Essential.
Cost	Members £15.00 including lunch. Please state whether meat or vegetarian.
10:30am	Coffee.
11:00am	CAROLINE STONE: <b>'Nerines: South Africa to Devon'</b> .
12:00pm	A walk around the gardens at Marwood at a time when the Camellias and Magnolias should be at their best. There will be massed carpets of daffodils in flower under trees with Prunus, Hellebores and Alpine bulbs in full flower.
1:00pm	DICK FULCHER: <b>'Gleanings from Down Under'</b> .
Directions	<b>From Barnstaple:</b> Follow the signs from the A361 Barnstaple to Braunton road. Turn right at traffic lights (brown tourist sign) to Chaddiford Lane, over speed bumps, at end of road at the junction turn left follow road through Bradiford, Prieford, Guineaford and turn left at the top of hill to the Car Park. <b>Using the new bridge:</b> Take the Ilfracombe lane, turn left after the bridge on to Braunton road then follow as above. <b>From Ilfracombe/Combe Martin/Blackmoor Gate:</b> Take A3123 to Hore Down Gate, and turn at the brown tourist sign. Follow the road and turn right just before Guineaford to the Car Park.

## Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Apr HIGH CHERUBEER AND THE CLINTON ESTATE

Contact	Malcolm Pharoah on 01271 379001 or malcolmpharoah@gmail.com
Booking	Essential; please let us know if you will be having lunch at the Inn.
Cost	Members £6.50, guests £7.50 to include tea/coffee (but not lunch).
10:45 for	<b>HIGHER CHERUBEER, DOLTON, EX19 8PP.</b>
11:00am	By kind permission of Jo and Tom Hynes. A 1-acre country garden with gravelled courtyard, raised beds and alpine house, large herbaceous border, shady woodland beds, colourful collection of basketry willows, vegetable garden and National Collection of Hardy Cyclamen.
1:00pm	Lunch at <b>THE MALT SCOOP INN, MERTON</b> or bring a packed lunch.
2:30pm	<b>HEANTON SATCHVILLE, MERTON, EX20 3QE.</b> By kind permission of Lord and Lady Clinton. Large Country estate with Woodland and Spring garden. Spacious grounds which have been recently planted with a large collection of spring plants with Camellias, Magnolias, Pieris and Rhododendrons. Massed plantings of Spring Bulbs. Wonderful views over the surrounding countryside. Teas and cakes.
Directions	2 miles East of Dolton. From A3124 turn south towards Stafford Moor Fisheries, take first right, gardens 500 metres on left. Meet at Malt Scoop Inn at Merton after lunch to proceed to Heanton Satchville.

## Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Apr HALDON GRANGE, DUNCHIDEOCK, EXETER, EX6 7YE

Contact	Sally Dean on 01548 821714 or sallymdean@gmail.com
Booking	Not necessary.
Cost	Members £3.00, guests £5.00 to include tea/coffee and cake. By kind permission of Ted and Helen Phythian.

2:15 for  
2:30pm

This 12 acre garden was once part of the Pleasure Gardens of an 18<sup>th</sup> century house, and there are still very old trees remaining, including vast rhododendrons, towering champion conifers, and an ancient oak, home to a very active community of bees. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century a handsome south-facing house was built at the top of the property. It looks down over a large sloping lawn to a series of ponds, a lake and waterfalls. The current owners bought the property 30 years ago as a retirement project, in a much neglected state. They have restored it and added to it, one of the recent developments being an extensive new arboretum, planted in 2011. It contains a fascinating range of rare shrubs and trees, growing strongly among wild flowers and winding grass paths, where once there was a hay meadow. There is a very large well-tended vegetable garden, a newly planted wisteria tunnel, and innumerable camellias, rhododendrons and deciduous azaleas. There is such a variety of rhododendrons that one will be in flower in every month of the year. This is a vibrant garden, ever evolving without losing the historic feel. Wheelchair access to main features.

Directions From the A38 Plymouth to Exeter road take a left turning at the top of Haldon Hill, signed Dunchideock. Follow signs to Dunchideock for three and a half miles. Turn right at the village centre signed Lord Haldon. Follow NCCPG signs. **Car sharing is highly recommended.**

**Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> May LOVECOMBE, BUCKLAND MONACHORUM, YELVERTON, PL20 7LQ**

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

Booking Not necessary. Sensible shoes are **essential**.

Cost Members £3.00, guests £5.00 to include tea/coffee and cake.

2:15 for  
2:30pm

By kind permission of Lady White.

In the early 80's when Jo and Hugo White bought Lovecombe the garden was completely overgrown. The previous owner had lived there for 40 years and could no longer maintain it. There were derelict glass-houses and cold frames, and weeds everywhere. Today it is a gracious garden with lawns, terraces, a stream, rare oaks, bluebells, a developing wild flower meadow and winding paths among the shrubs and trees.

The house is at the top of a south facing slope, looking across a valley to The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum. There are two very fine wisterias on the front of the house. These flower in succession and are immaculately pruned by Jo. Below the top lawn is a peaceful paved seating area above terraces of herbaceous plants. For many years Jo helped in the plant sales area at The Garden House and not only did she learn a great deal there from Keith Wiley, she also brought home an enormous number of wonderful plants, many of them rhododendrons bred by Lionel Fortescue. These are now mature plants which fill the lower part of the garden. This garden is a credit to the knowledge and artistry of its owner.

Directions From the roundabout in the centre of Yelverton, take the A386 in the Plymouth direction. Turn right shortly following signs for Buckland Monachorum and The Garden House. At The Garden House drive down through the car park, into the garden and down to the bottom of the hill. Follow NCCPG signs. Park in small parking space on the left.

**Car sharing recommended.**

## Thu 19<sup>th</sup> May NURSERY AND 3 DEVON GARDENS

Contact	Malcolm Pharoah on 01271 379001 or malcolmpharoah@gmail.com
Booking	Essential.
Cost	Members £5.00, guests £6.00 for admission and refreshments.
10:30am	<b>HIDDEN VALLEY GARDEN AND NURSERY, OLD SOUTH HEALE, HIGH BICKINGTON, EX37 9BU.</b> By kind permission of Linda and Peter Lindley. Meet for tea/biscuits. In the morning we visit the established and developing woodland garden. An interesting collection of climbing and tender plants around the farmhouse with plantings of trees and shrubs leading to a newly created woodland garden filled with many treasures including the Chatham Island forget-me-not ( <i>Myosotidium hortensia</i> ) and massed plantings of bluebells. The adjoining nursery is stocked with tempting and unusual plants.
12:30pm	Lunch at <b>PORTSMOUTH ARMS</b> or bring packed lunch. Please let us know if you will be having lunch at the pub.
2:00pm	<b>HILL HOUSE.</b> By kind permission of Gillian and David Hunt. This arboretum was started nearly 40 years ago on bare farmland and contains a variety of both native and exotic trees and shrubs. The owners are still thinning trees which have been overplanted and restoring the Rhododendron garden. An orchard and Rose garden have been planted. Wildlife is paramount in this garden with North Devon Wildlife Trust undertaking bird bat and moth surveys with fungi and lichen catalogued. <b>HIGHER BRAGGERMARSH.</b> By kind permission of Sandy and Tony Sharpe. A garden started from bare land and hard landscaping 5 years ago. Herbaceous borders are being developed with an emphasis on Old English Roses and Shrub Roses. The garden is being developed with the natural and wildlife environment in mind. <b>LOWER BRAGGERMARSH.</b> By kind permission of Jane and Alex Gibson. The garden has been developed on south facing hillside, previously farmland, with open views to the Taw Valley. Areas of the garden planted with wild flowers and woodland with pond and bog garden. Established Orchard. Tea/Coffee and Cake.
Directions	<b>From South Molton, Exeter or Barnstaple:</b> Travel to Umberleigh, on the A377 Exeter to Barnstaple road. Take the B3227, signposted Great Torrington through Atherington, keeping on the B3227 until you come to 2 very steep valleys. At the bottom of the second valley, Langridgeford, take second turning on the left (unsignposted except for a B&B sign) up a steep and narrow lane for 1 mile to Lee Cross crossroads. We must park here but we can ferry people to Old South Heale from here. <b>From Old South Heale:</b> Return to B3227 and turn right. Go through Atherington and rejoin the A377 turning right towards Exeter, through Umberleigh until reaching The Portsmouth Arms, turn right at Sawmills and follow Plant Heritage signs to Lower Braggermarsh and park in the field opposite.

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> May THE OLD DAIRY, SIDBURY, SIDMOUTH EX10 0QR**

Contact Helen Brown on 01404 850941 or helenlittleash@hotmail.com  
Booking Essential by 16<sup>th</sup> May.  
Cost Members £7.50, guests £9.00 for garden entry and refreshments.  
12:30pm Lunch at **THE BLUE BALL, SIDFORD** (Optional).  
Booking via Helen.

2:00pm **THE OLD DAIRY, SIDBURY.**  
By kind permission of Dame Alison Carnwath and Peter Thompson. Splendid views over the Sid valley from this 6 acre hillside garden carved out of woodland. The garden surrounds a delightful Strawberry Gothic house with duck pond, bog garden, bluebells and a collection of Rhododendrons, sourced mainly from Millais nursery.



*The Old Dairy*

Directions **From Honiton:** follow the A375 towards Sidmouth. Pass the Sidbury sign and take a left turn just prior to hump back bridge, follow the NCCPG signs.

**From Exeter:** follow the A3052 to Sidford, then turn left on to the A375 towards Honiton. Go through the village of Sidbury, and continue until you cross a hump back bridge and then turn right, follow the NCCPG signs.

**Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> Jun PLAZ METAXU, COOMBE HOUSE, WITHERIDGE, TIVERTON, EX16 8PT**

Contact Sally Dean on 01548 821714 or sallymdean@gmail.com  
Booking Essential.  
Cost Members £3.00, guests £5.00 to include tea/coffee and cake.  
2:15 for By kind permission of Alasdair Forbes.

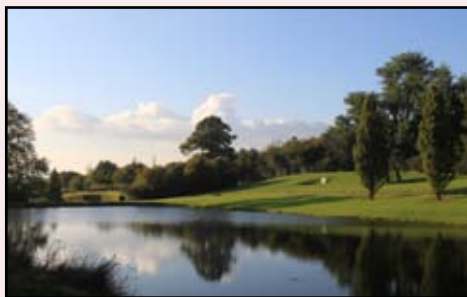
2:30pm Plaz Metaxu (The Place that is Between) is a large garden in a valley beside a farmhouse. The current farmhouse dates from the 1800's but there has been a dwelling on the site for centuries. It was still a working farm when Alasdair Forbes took it over in 1992.

Behind the house is a walled garden, which would once have supplied fruit and vegetables to the house; it is now a profusion of shrubs and flowers. Also to the back of the house is the Hermes Courtyard, originally a farmyard with cobbles buried under a layer of turf. This has been beautifully cleaned, restored and reinvented as a tranquil space with clipped evergreens and gravel.

The garden slopes gently down a shallow valley with a series of lakes and huge velvety lawns which are mown twice weekly. Curving hornbeam hedges, avenues and sculpted grassy mounds all lead the eye to distant views, and sheep grazing beyond the ha-ha add a bucolic feel.

Despite the fact that the garden can be cold and windy there are many very interesting trees and shrubs. Sculptures and inscriptions are carefully placed to intrigue and tantalize.

Alasdair has created his garden, not only to enjoy plants, but to inspire conscious gratitude for space. It is a most beautiful and thought provoking place and can rightly be described as unique.



*Plaz Metaxu*

Directions

**From Tiverton:** take the B3137 to Witheridge (10 miles) In the centre of Witheridge turn off the B3137 into the large village square. Follow the NCCPG signs from here taking Drayford Lane out of the village, the garden is on the left after half a mile.

### Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Jun LOWER ASH MOOR, ROSE ASH EX36 4RF

Contact Malcolm Pharoah on 01271 379001 or malcolmpharoah@gmail.com

Booking Preferable.

Cost £4.00 to include Tea/Biscuits.

2:00pm

By kind permission of Cyril Cole who will take us on a 2 hour guided walk and talk around his farmland. For the past 20 years Cyril has been part of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and his farm has been managed to enhance and protect its rare and valuable wildlife habitat. The walk will take us through wild flower meadows, past ponds and reed beds, into woodlands and then Culm grassland, which supports some of the lesser known birds along with butterflies, insects and amphibians all found amongst the 150 or more different plant species which have been identified here.

Since we visited Cyril in 2013 he has established more flowering meadows and can now accommodate more visitors. (On our last visit we were limited to 15). This visit has always proved very popular.

Directions

**From Barnstaple:** take the A361 Link Road, towards Tiverton. Turn right at the Moortown Cross junction signed to Rose Ash and Rackenford. Follow the road until you come to a left hand turning signed to Meshaw, Witheridge and Chumleigh, take this and continue along the road. Plant Heritage signs from here.

### Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Jun JUNE VALLEY GARDENING

Contact Helen Brown on 01404 850941 or helenlittleash@hotmail.com

Booking Essential by 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Numbers limited.

Cost Members £7.00, guests £8.00, for garden entry and refreshments.

12:30pm

Lunch at **THE BUTTERLEIGH INN, BUTTERLEIGH** (Optional).

Booking via Helen.

2:30pm

**SHUTELAKE, BUTTERLEIGH, CULLOMPTON EX15 1PR.**

By kind permission of Jill and Nigel Hall.

A garden terraced into a hillside; several levels blend a Mediterranean feel with the natural local landscape. Borders and beds are planted with an eclectic mix of shrubs and flowers, with added sculptures, woodland walk, lake and large rockery.

There is some uneven ground and steps.

#### Directions

**At exit 28 from M5:** take Station Road/B3181 towards centre of Cullompton, at the traffic lights turn left along main street, then take right turn on to Tiverton Road. Follow along here for about 1.5 miles and turn left for Butterleigh. Follow NCCPG signs.

**From Tiverton:** take the Canal Hill road off the A396, heading towards Cullompton. Travel approximately 2 miles and take right turn for Butterleigh, and follow NCCPG signs.



*Shutelake*

#### Thu 14<sup>th</sup> Jul WOOD, BISHOPSTEIGNTON, TQ14 9TN

Contact  
Booking  
Cost  
2:15 for  
2:30pm

Sally Dean on 01548 821714 or [sallymdean@gmail.com](mailto:sallymdean@gmail.com)

Not necessary.

Members £3.00, guests £5.00 to include tea/coffee and cake.

By kind permission of Lord and Lady Darling.

The elegant Regency house, built in 1809, stands on the side of a valley, surrounded by lush farmland. When the current owners arrived in 2008 they first did a major restoration of the house, which stands in a wonderful parkland of mature trees. The garden, however, was virtually a blank canvas, so Dan Pearson was called in to help. Near the house Dan Pearson's design included an intricate pattern of flowerbeds, and gravel paths. Further away he turned his attention to the walled garden, creating enormous herbaceous borders, and a formal orchard containing crab apple trees. Almost as soon as the garden became established Jan Darling saw that parts of the design were not working. Some planting was in huge blocks, some beds were unmanageably large, and some were small and fussy. The last two years has been spent simplifying the design and removing a lot of plants with the help of Norfolk friend and garden designer George Carter. A small gazebo was built as a focal point in the walled garden, paths realigned and beds reduced. A pair of gates designed by George



*Wood*

Carter lead to the new lake.

In autumn 2011 work started on the creation of a crescent-shaped lake, designed by Nicholas Pearson (no relation to Dan) from Bath. It now has a profusion of water plants and wild flowers, two floating islands and is host to numerous butterflies and wildlife. Jan Darling is a knowledgeable and sensitive gardener and she is gradually creating a garden which will complement the historic house.

**Directions** From the A380 Torquay to Exeter road take A381 Teignmouth road. After half a mile there is a bus shelter on the right and sign to Wear Farm, and SLOW sign on the road. Turn left into unmarked road, up a hill for half a mile. The entrance to Wood is on the left.

### Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug ANTONY HOUSE, TORPOINT, CORNWALL, PL11 2QA

**Contact** Sally Dean on 01548 821714 or sallymdean@gmail.com  
**Booking** Essential. National Trust members please bring membership cards.  
**Cost** Members and guests £5.00. Teas can be purchased in the café.  
**2:15 for** By kind permission of the National Trust and Mark Maunder, head  
**2:30pm** gardener.

Antony House holds a large National Collection of hemerocallis, over 600 cultivars. These were collected by the late Lady Cynthia Carew Pole in the 1960's and 70's, and a number of new varieties were bred at Antony. She was a most enthusiastic gardener and together with her husband, Sir John, made many improvements to the garden. After her death in 1977 no new hemerocallis were added to the collection, which makes it uniquely historical. Today it is meticulously curated by Antony's head gardener, Mark Maunder, who will give us an introductory talk and show us the plants. These are grown in long beds in a walled garden, and in many borders elsewhere in the gardens.

After the visit to the hemerocallis collection we are free to spend time in the garden and woodland. The Repton landscape with long vistas to the river Lynher is magnificent. There is a summer garden and many outstanding trees. Those wishing to visit the house will have to pay for entry.

**Directions** **Via Torpoint ferry:** after crossing, take the A374 and you will find Antony on your right in 4 miles.

**Via Saltash Bridge:** continue on the A38 till you come to Trerulefoot. Turn left and follow signs to Torpoint. Antony will be on your left in 5 miles.

### Thu 25<sup>th</sup> Aug RURAL RETREATS

**Contact** Helen Brown on 01404 850941 or helenlittleash@hotmail.com  
**Booking** Not necessary.  
**Cost** Members £10.50, guests £12 for garden entry and refreshments.

**10:45 for** **FURSDON HOUSE, CADBURY, EXETER EX5 5JS.**

**11:00am** By kind permission of David and Catriona Fursdon. Coffee on arrival. Home of the same family for 7 centuries, Fursdon House is set on a hillside with extensive views over parkland and beyond. Terraces of roses, herbs and perennials in mixed and contemporary planting are sheltered by the



Directions	house. Woodland walk, pond and meadow. <b>From Exeter:</b> Take the A396 towards Tiverton and after about seven miles turn left to the village of Thorverton. Turn right in the centre of the village opposite the Thorverton Arms, passing the church on your left and follow the signs for Fursdon. After about a mile take the right hand fork which is signposted Fursdon where it is about a mile further up the lane. Enter by the gate over the cattle grid.
12:45pm	Lunch at <b>THE FISHERMANS COT, BICKLEIGH EX16 8RW</b> (Optional). Booking via Helen please.
Directions	Turn right out of Fursdon drive and follow the narrow lane, turn right on to A3072 and follow it down to Bickleigh, the pub is on your right before the bridge.
2:15pm	<b>BURNBRIDGE COTTAGE, CADELEIGH, TIVERTON EX16 8RY.</b> By kind permission of PH members Kate and Martin Leever.
Directions	Turn left out of The Fishermans Cot and follow A3072 up the hill. Turn right by the Blue Cross Kennels and follow NCCPG signs.
	Mature trees form the backdrop for this informal, secluded 1 acre garden reclaimed from neglect over the last 7 years. Streamside garden, copse, pond and late summer flowerbeds, diversely planted for wildlife. Tea and Cake.



*Burnbridge Cottage*

**Tue 6<sup>th</sup> Sep HIGH BARN, TORBRYAN, NEWTON ABBOT, TQ12 5UW**

Contact	Sally Dean on 01548 821714 or sallymdean@gmail.com
Booking	Not necessary.
Cost	Members £3.00, guests £5.00 to include tea/coffee and cake.
2:15 for	By kind permission of Ann and John Holl.
2:30pm	The garden was created in old orchards nearly 25 years ago. It is a late summer/autumn garden with fine agapanthus, grasses and fiery autumn colours in a series of island beds, on the sloping lawn. A few old cider apple trees remain among the shrubs and herbaceous plants; they now support large rambler roses. Several very interesting birch trees have been planted over the years. Since we last visited in 2006 a new entrance, a drive and a parking area have been constructed. This was an opportunity to reduce the number of island beds and make some others smaller, which improves the view of the lake and, more importantly, makes for less work. There is now a new path and steps up from the rill area to the front door, making several outdoor seating areas more accessible, and also providing new planting opportunities. Set in a quiet valley with fields, orchards and a lake in front of



*High Barn*

Directions it, the garden is in harmony with the countryside, and the grey stone house makes a perfect backdrop.  
**From Totnes:** take the A381 towards Newton Abbot. After 3 miles the Red Post Garage will be on your right. Take a left turn signed Fishacre Barton and Broadhempston. Follow NCCPG signs for about 2 miles.

**Mid Sep COACH TRIP TO ABBOTSBURY GARDENS AND KNOLL GARDENS, DORSET.**

**Date to be finalised.**

Contact Malcolm Pharoah on 01271 379001 or malcolmpharoah@gmail.com  
 Booking Essential.

Cost Around £30.00. As a group the admission to both gardens is considerably less.

Starting from Barnstaple, additional pick up points will be **Moortown Cross Services** on A361 and **Fenny Bridges, Honiton**. (Helen Browns).

**ABBOTSBURY SUBTROPICAL GARDENS** is a large established garden famous for the wealth of tender plants and the South African garden will be at its best then as well as Hydrangeas and autumn flowering herbaceous plants.

**KNOLL GARDENS** is famous for its massed plantings of grasses and herbaceous plants which are stunning in September. Neil Lucas, the owner, will be there to meet us and tell us about the garden. Neil has created many Gold Medal gardens at Chelsea Show over the years and was holder of National Collections in Devon in the 80's and 90's when he was also Collections Co-ordinator.

Abbotsbury has a large cafe and restaurant where we can get lunch or snacks, or you can bring your own picnic (to eat in the coach or coach park). Knoll gardens has a small do it yourself cafe for teas/coffee and cakes etc. More details will be in the Summer Newsletter but it would be an advantage to let Malcolm Pharoah know well in advance if you intend to go on this trip.

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep EARLY AUTUMN at LITTLE ASH.**

Contact Helen Brown on 01404 850941 or helenlittleash@hotmail.com

Booking Not necessary.

Cost Members £3:00, Non Members £4:00, includes refreshments.

2:00pm **LITTLE ASH FARM BUNGALOW, FENNY BRIDGES, HONITON, Ex14 3BL**  
 By kind invitation of Helen and Brian Brown

Plantaholic's 1.5 acre country garden. Naturalistic planting in colour co-ordinated mixed borders provides a backdrop to the borrowed landscape. A natural stream, pond, damp woodland area and mini wildlife meadows combine with a range of interesting trees, shrubs and bamboos.

Directions **From Honiton:** leave the A30 at Iron Bridge, travel through Fenny Bridges and look out for the NCCPG sign on the left as you leave the 40mph limit.

**From Exeter:** leave the A30 at Patterson's Cross and follow NCCPG signs.

# Advertisements

## ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Display advertisements, full colour		
	One Issue	Three issues
Quarter page	£15	£45
Half page	£30	£85
Full page	£50	£140
50% Discount for National Plant 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 by email to [malcolmpharoah@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmpharoah@gmail.com).

## Veitch Memorial Lecture

**ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MUSEUM,  
EXETER, DEVON EX4 3RX**

**FRIDAY JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 1:00 - 2:00PM:**

At the end of every July, the Royal Albert Memorial Museum holds a plant-orientated lecture in memory of Sir Harry Veitch.

This year, DR J.C. DAVID is giving the Veitch Memorial Lecture entitled

**“The Bowden Lily: the Devon connection”**

on *Nerine bowdenii* and its introduction into this Country.

The Devon Group has been involved in organising this lecture, and we encourage members to attend what promises to be an interesting and enjoyable day.

For further details, which will be published nearer the time, see the What's On page on the Royal Albert Museum Website at <http://www.rammuseum.org.uk/>

## Burrow Farm Gardens

East Devon's Secret Gardens



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](http://www.burrowfarmgardens.co.uk)



Unbeatable range of locally grown hardy water loving plants grown near Kingsbridge, South Devon, by David Kerr, a knowledgeable enthusiast. Visit the nursery by arrangement to buy potted or bare root plants; mail order also available. The usual water lilies, irises and oxygenators plus a wealth of interesting and unusual varieties.

01548 521286

[www.devonpondplants.co.uk](http://www.devonpondplants.co.uk)



## Discover the view at Marwood Hill Gardens

This magical and very special 20 acre private garden with three lakes is set in a valley tucked away in North Devon only 4 miles from Barnstaple. Created by Dr. Jimmy Smart VMH in the late 1950's 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.

Car & Coach Parking Available | Please call for Opening Times.

Tel: 01271 342528 [www.marwoodhillgarden.co.uk](http://www.marwoodhillgarden.co.uk)

Marwood Hill Gardens, North Devon EX31 4EB



### Garden Tea Room

Our award-winning Garden Tea Room offers a seasonal menu of homemade, locally-sourced and gluten-free delights.



### Plant Sales

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





# NFU MUTUAL IS PROUD TO SPONSOR PLANT HERITAGE

We'll invest time helping you to ensure your home is properly protected.  
Home insurance from NFU Mutual.

For a quote call us on  
**0800 197 1184**  
or visit [nfumutual.co.uk](https://www.nfumutual.co.uk)



**NFU Mutual**  
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

It's about time®

NFU Mutual is The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 111982). Registered in England. Registered Office: Tiddington Road, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6BJ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. A member of the Association of British Insurers. For security and training purposes, telephone calls may be recorded and monitored.

# Plant Heritage Devon Group Contacts

## PATRON

**Lady Anne Berry**

## PRESIDENT

**Chris Bailes**

tel: 0207 3496470  
e-mail: bailes.christopher@yahoo.com

## VICE PRESIDENTS

**John Carter**

tel: 01822 810275  
e-mail: rowdengardens1@btinternet.com

Rowden Gardens,  
Brentor,  
Tavistock, PL19 0NG

**Diane Rowe**

tel: 01884 840545  
e-mail: diane@orchard-house.demon.co.uk

Orchard House,  
Parsonage Farm,  
Uffculme, EX15 3DR

**Michael Hickson**

tel: 01884 255544  
e-mail: michael@topmejsen.co.uk

Bolham Orchard,  
Tiverton, EX16 7RH

## Chairman

**Dr John Twibell**

tel: 01395 578689  
e-mail: john.twibell@btinternet.com

Farthingwood Broadway,  
Sidmouth, EX10 8HS

## Vice Chairman

**Diane Rowe**

tel: 01884 840545  
e-mail: diane@orchard-house.demon.co.uk

Orchard House,  
Parsonage Farm,  
Uffculme, EX15 3DR

## Treasurer

**Eric Reynolds**

tel: 01297 625342  
e-mail: sher\_bluefirs@btinternet.com

Blue Firs,  
6 Wessiters Drive,  
Seaton, EX12 2PJ

## Secretary

**Caroline Stone**

tel: 01566 785706  
e-mail: carolinestone\_mayfield@yahoo.co.uk

The Glebe,  
North Petherwin,  
Launceston, PL15 8LR

## Membership Management

**Penny Walmsley**

tel: 01404 831992  
e-mail: walyp\_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Rakehill, Hayne Lane,  
Wilmington,  
Honiton, EX14 9JZ

## National Collections Co-ordinator East

**Felicity Dudbridge**

tel: 01392 811647  
e-mail: felicitydudbridge@gmail.com

Cotley House,  
Dunsford,  
Exeter, EX6 7BH

## National Collections Co-ordinator North

**Jenny Evans**

tel: 01837 871163  
e-mail: jennifer.evans@lineone.net

Domons Lodge,  
Bratton Clovelley,  
Oakhampton EX204LD

### **National Collections Co-ordinator South and West**

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

### **Events Co-ordinator East**

**Helen Brown**  
tel: 01404 850941  
e-mail: helenlittleash@hotmail.com  
Little Ash Farm Bungalow,  
Fenny Bridges,  
Honiton, EX14 3BL

### **Events Co-ordinator North**

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

### **Events Contact South and West**

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

### **Plant Fairs Organiser North**

**Derek Burdett**  
tel: 01769 540528  
e-mail: fairhavennursery@hotmail.com  
Fairhaven Nursery,  
Clapworthy Cross,  
Chittlehampton,  
Umberleigh, EX37 9QT

### **Plant Fairs Organiser South**

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

### **Plant Fairs Organiser West**

**Tim Ellis**  
tel: 07973 771338  
e-mail: info@timellislandscaping.com  
Medrow Bungalow,  
Medrow,  
Polyphant, PL15 7PS

### **Plant Exchange**

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

### **Newsletter Editor**

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

### **RHS Representative**

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

### **Publications Organiser**

**Steve Morton**  
tel: 01271 861610  
e-mail: steve.morton8650@gmail.com  
77 Lagoon View,  
West Yelland,  
Barnstaple, EX31 3LE

## THE MISSION

Plant Heritage (NCCPG) 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:** *Edgeworthia chrysantha* at Marwood Hill Gardens - see the article on page 11 of this issue for more information on this plant.

**Back cover:** North Devon area members visit to Stepps Cottage, John Turner's garden, in July 2015.