

DEVON NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011



**2011 EVENTS AND VISITS * THE NEW WEBSITE
PHLOMIS * NEW NATIONAL COLLECTIONS**

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THE MISSION

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

DEVON GROUP PLANT FAIRS 2011

Sunday 27 Feb: Totnes Civic Hall 10-2	organiser ④
Sunday 20 March: Tavistock Pannier Market 10-3	organiser ②
Sunday 17 April: Totnes Civic Hall 10-2	organiser ①
Easter Monday 25 April: Castle Hill, Filleigh Nr. Barnstaple 10-3	organiser ③
Sat/Sunday 14/15 May: RHS Rosemoor 10-3	organiser ③
Sunday 3rd July: Colyton Grammar School 10-3	organiser ⑤
Sunday 10 July: South Molton Pannier Market 10-3	organiser ③
Sunday 4 Sept: RHS Rosemoor 10-3	organiser ③
Sunday 18 Sept: Tavistock Pannier Market 10-3	organiser ②

- ① Sally Dean, see page 2
- ② Tim Ellis, see page 2
- ③ Derek Burdett, see page 2
- ④ Julian Sutton, Desirable Plants 01803 864489
- ⑤ Trevor Wood, see page 2

EDITOR'S NOTES

Our new website for the county has been one of the highlights of the year and some interesting articles have appeared on it and we have included several in this newsletter, together with some others and also news about some new collections. The 2011 Area events look really interesting.

Malcolm Pharoah

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MEMBERSHIP RATES:

Single £25
Joint £40
Student £15
Gardening clubs & non-commercial groups £40
Corporate £70

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010

Broadly speaking this has been a good uplifting year. After reminding ourselves of our aims and objectives at a very successful special meeting in the previous year, we have as a result consolidated, and begun the process of moving on. That process might not have been perhaps as fast as I would have liked, but that has not been due to any lack of enthusiasm amongst our committee or members; quite the opposite, we have at times been frustrated by being unable to further our objectives because of a lack of a full complement of officers on our committee. That is still the position and I will allude to it again a little later.

However we have made progress.

Our most significant step, thanks to our secretary Penny Ross and her ingenious son Toby, has been the installation of our own website. It is such an important resource that I have decided that Penny should give her own report at this and every meeting hereafter. It is already giving us many more opportunities for publicity and for our members to communicate with each other. I suspect however that she will say that we need more contributors. I urge you please as members to add your blog, even if it is little things and might for example be a memory of something that happened in the past.

The same comment is made about our magazine. We are always struggling for contributors, so please help. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Malcolm Pharoah our editor, for enduring the pressure of getting material together and meeting target dates (where some fine tuning is still required). Our thanks to David Cann, Gordon and Edwina Pickard and Sue Cox, our distributors.

Other successes, include the fine display of National Collections organised by Georgina Craig assisted on the day by Howard and Sally Wills held in May at Rosemoor.

We think of all the many garden visits organised in our regions, particularly to Holcombe Rogus in the East with the very fine parterre, the mysterious Italian garden in the South and to Martyn Rix's collection in the North.

We congratulate Michael Hickson our Vice President upon receiving the Victoria Medal of Honour from the Royal Horticultural Society.

We thank all of our County National Plant Holders for maintaining their collections, it is them that we offer our support; and to Edna Squires and her group organisers.

I now wish to give my particular thanks to my committee. We have met five times this year. All have on a voluntary basis worked very hard. But I have to single out our Group Organisers, Rob and Jan, Margaret and Diane for special thanks. It is upon them that the success of our organisation depends.

It is with some sadness that I have to report the retirement of Eric Reynolds our Treasurer, we thank him for keeping us in good financial health. He will be ably replaced by Rob Wagstaff. We also thank Margaret Jewel for many years of hard work as North Devon Organiser, who stands down. I thank again my Vice-Chairman Mike Squires for his continued support and kindness.

It is with regret that I had to report that Patricia Stout was unable to take on the post as publicity officer, due to other work commitments. We are still wanting someone to fill this important post. I have to say that until we get someone, we will never be working with full efficiency and is a real hindrance in trying to implement new ideas. All of us have loads of initiatives that we would like to implement. Such as talks to schools and other garden societies, achieve better links between our three Groups, organising bus trips and other transport to our more distant garden events; but we cannot do it until we have the people to publicise and organise it. I have to say it is becoming quite a large thorn on my flesh.

Good publicity affects membership numbers. We are just holding our own numbers about 10 down from last year and are still the largest in the country, but the actual number is debateable, and we could at least keep even numbers or improve if we started to publicise ourselves in a better way through a publicity officer. At the moment publicity is piecemeal and haphazard. Responsibility has been taken on by either Group Organisers or Plant Market Organisers, which is unfair.

On the subject of Publicity, I too have been at fault. I have attended 2 Head Office meetings in London. But I have not transmitted enough news to you. I shall therefore be giving you in future a resume of current news and details of the structure of the organisation at the national office, in the next newsletter. I can tell you that they are doing better financially, aided a little by our recent donation of £2,000.

Also I can report that we are setting up a fund of similar amount to aid our county collection holders, who may apply for grants.

The sadder aspects of my report are to mention the sad loss of Bob Craig, our hearts go out to Georgina. Sir John Quicke one of our finest collectors – I shall never forget the most beautiful bright crystal blue day early in Spring when it seemed every Magnolia was together in Bloom and we presented a new tree in memory of him – our love is given to Pru and family. The recent sad loss of Dr Tony Lowe a founder member and previous General Secretary. Also Patricia Baker another founder member. And finally the very sad death of Kenneth Ashburner. A fine eulogy has already been given by John Carter, so I will not add any more other by saying how pleased I am that all of his work is going to be preserved by his widow, we send her our very best wishes and of course our commiserations upon her sad loss.

Thanks to the dedication that you our members have given us, I believe we are making progress to better ourselves, we continue to maintain our common purpose of helping to preserve to plants and trees we love and consequently I remain optimistic about our future.

I again thank our secretary Penny who despite a loss in her family has been able to work so hard and be so dedicated to our cause. We are deeply grateful.

Finally, I thank Felicity again for all her hard work in making this and Members Day, such a success.

John Turner (As given to the A.G.M. at Rosemoor on 30th October 2010)

GARDENING ADVENTURES

It has been a big surprise to me that my retirement pastime has been creating a 1-acre garden. The surprises and pleasures, large and small, continue to light up my life. In an almost frost-free cliff top site on the North Devon coast it was possible, after a complete clearance of the undergrowth, to put windbreak hedges and shrubs in place and cover the ground in two years. Then came a period of replacing square metres of oblique *Osteospermum* and Hottentot fig [*Carpobrotus edulis*] with more desirable plants. After another three years has come the removal of some of those already too large hedges - two of *Olearia macrodonta* and one of *Rosemarinus* - giving wonderful space for further new plantings. Then last summer [2009] I began to feel that the time had come to try to collect one genus, whether or not it would ever add up to a National Collection. I had been storing the plea for three years of the [then] NCCPG Chairman at an AGM for more members to have a go at this kind of conservation.

What thrives particularly well here amongst the 250 or so genera that have proved themselves at home in this favoured spot? The plant which Jim Mann Taylor has called “PHLOMIS: The Neglected Genus”, [His book of that title ISBN 0 9532413 0 0 out of print but available as a book-on-demand through lulu.com, publishers.] There were three well-established species here so why not try to track some more through the RHS Plant Finder. It would be good to have a group of shrubs and herbaceous perennials that occur in the wild from around the Mediterranean right across central Asia to China. Enormous pleasure was derived over several months of emailing, writing and telephoning nursery people up and down the country and in France. The severe winter had caused damage and loss to most of their stock; I would have to be content (and I was!) with one or perhaps two or would have to wait till next spring (gardeners are patient). All were so helpful and friendly in their responses: “Have you an unusual plant for me so we could swap rather than bother with money?” “Let me know if the variegation does not hold and I’ll send another plant in the spring” [*P. russeliana* ‘Mosaic’]. “I have a cutting and will send it when it’s large enough - pay me then” [*P. samia* ‘Green Glory’]. “Only two of your list available” [*P. samia* sp., *P. cashmeriana*] - but when the parcel arrived with three plants: “Sending a stock plant for you” [*P. pratensis* - see right]. After enjoying its pink flowers in June, I am about to send some seed it has produced back to the nursery. Beside all these positive vibes I have been spurred on by some local Plant Heritage gardeners, including Malcolm Pharoah at Marwood (where I am a garden volunteer one day a week), and by support from Edna Squires as National Collections Coordinator.



Phlomis pratensis by B. Smith

Edna even acquired a *P. 'Sunningdale Gold'* for me from the 2010 HP Plant Exchange. It's all very encouraging for an amateur gardener aiming to lift her garden interest up a level.

There are now twenty-six *Phlomis* species planted in the driest parts of the garden - including one grown from AGS seed - all doing well several months on. Another breakthrough was to come with an expedition to visit Jim Mann Taylor in Gloucestershire in July. He was most generous with information, tips and cuttings from no less than thirteen species of his former National Collection [ten of them new to my list]. I learned a great deal during the meeting, of course, and came away with three textbooks on loan with which to continue my education. Furthermore, I have electronic copies of several articles that Jim Mann Taylor has written over the years and of his 10-year *Phlomis* accession list which will be invaluable to me as I go along. I can report that the cuttings are so far responding to TLC on the office windowsill. I know that there will be losses as in all gardening but I go into another season full of enthusiasm and hope. I can recommend setting out to collect a particular species to anyone who hasn't yet got round to it! The plants are beautiful to have and the wide cooperation and collaboration are a real delight.

Beth Smith

[Garden open 2011 under NGS scheme and at any time to PH members by arrangement: 01271 871182]

HAVE YOU BOUGHT A NEW BED LATELY....

Last winter I attended a Plant Heath workshop run by the headquarters staff of Plant Heritage held at R.H.S. garden Wisley.

The chief speaker was Andrew Gaunt, who works for The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) formally Plant Health. Andrew himself has a national collection of *Hedychium* (gingers) which he grows at his home at Chichester.

In his job of Plant Inspector he comes across all sorts of diseases and pests and increasingly several new ones. One of the latest is a beetle called the Citrus Longhorn Beetle, native of China, Japan and South Korea and bores itself into wood which it eats but when transported from one country to another spreads the population of the beetle.

Andrew said he had a phone call from a lady which went....

"I can't sleep at night", he said "well its nothing to do with us"

She said, "I hear noises in the night" he said, "well its nothing to do with us"

She said. "I hear munching noises" Ah! he said, it probably is to do with us, we're on our way. When they got to her house, she said, "Its in the bed"!! So they started to dismantle the headboard and found two of these beetles calmly munching the wood in her headboard which he said he was surprised to find was made of pallet wood. It was a new bed she had bought which had on it Made in China. So beware.....

The Citrus Longhorn Beetle has become a problem in that it bores itself into pallets which are used worldwide to transport goods. In fact it has got so bad that there is now a directive from the E.U. that all pallets have to be steam cleaned to rid the pallets of the beetle. The beetle has also been found on plants of *Acer* (Maple) which were brought in from China to garden centres and particularly one in the New Forest which if the beetle had escaped could have infested the trees in that area.

Malcolm Pharoah

THE NEW DEVON WEBSITE

The new web site, set up by Penny Ross and her son Toby, came on line in late summer of 2010 and is a wonderful resource for reading about our National Collections, as there are articles and illustrations about most of the collections grown in Devon.

We are the only county to have our own website(although one other county may also have set up a site). Along with the collections one other feature which Penny and other members of the committee hope members will participate in, is the writing of blogs. It can be anything which you may feel other members would like to read and it doesn't have to be anything technical.

If you would like to write a blog or just read the interesting accounts of our collections or to see what events are happening in the county go to www.plantheritage.devon.org.uk Or you can go to the national website of Plant Heritage click on to Devon and then click on to our website.

Below are two blogs posted by Julian Sutton and Trevor Wood about the misleading names of plants.

Watsonia borbonica – Trouble with Names

We expect more of names than they can deliver. Take the example of *Watsonia borbonica*, one of the first species of this South African iridaceous genus I knew as a garden plant, completely hardy on our heavy, damp soil in South Devon. It was also the first *Watsonia* I saw in the wild, its metre-high spikes of sugar pink flowers sticking out jauntily from rocky roadside banks east of Cape Town, hours after arriving in the Cape one day at the start of summer.

The name attributes the plant to the Isle de Borbon, the French Overseas Département in the middle of the Indian Ocean now known as Réunion. How could a plant native only in the south western Cape get this name? Quite simply, the botanist who named it in 1788 was misinformed.

It is not the only South African plant to suffer this fate: *Zantedeschia aethiopica* is a good example, while *Albuca canadensis* is spectacularly off the mark. Further afield the jojoba, *Simmondsia chinensis* is a desert plant of the American southwest. *Scilla peruviana*, native to the Iberian peninsula and North Africa, is famously said to have arrived in Bristol docks on a ship named *Peru*.

It's easy to see how early European botanists, only beginning to sample the diversity of plants in far-flung parts of a world still vast and poorly explored, at the mercy of slow, human-scale communications could make these mistakes. It is also important to remember that a scientific binomial is not a description. (A gardener tempted to believe that *Tellima grandiflora* might have large flowers will be disappointed.) The polynomials they replaced, long strings of Latin words, did attempt to describe but were hopelessly cumbersome. The specific epithet, the second word of a binomial is simply a tag, hopefully relevant in some way. Once it's validly published, it cannot easily be changed.

Watsonia borbonica has other names. In a country of many languages, familiar plants often have several vernacular names. My attention was recently caught by its Afrikaans name *suurkanol* (sour corm). Now, I will smell or taste bits of just about any plant – I don't advocate this, I'm simply stating a fact. A name like that is a challenge to me, so I cautiously chewed a piece. Crunchy, starchy, maybe a hint of bitterness, but not

sour. Then I began to sense my teeth furring up, often a sign of toxic oxalate crystals, and I rapidly spat it out. Only then did I feel a bitter numbness on the tip of my tongue and lips, and a sourness spreading into the saliva. Two hours later, the sour taste was still there. At least one name gets it right.

A few more plants from wrong places.

Written by {Trevor Wood} @ September 20, 2010 5:02 pm

Cupressus lusitanica. Introduced to the UK from Portugal (roughly the equivalent of the Roman province of Lusitania) a bit before 1700. Native to Central America, including Mexico, & presumably introduced to Portugal by sailors, priests or merchants.

Nerine sarniensis. **Guernsey Lily**. The specific name comes from Sarnia, that is the Roman name for Guernsey, or possibly another of the Channel islands. First recorded in Europe from colonies growing on that island. The plants were traced to the wrecking of a ship from Japan; but the plant is native to South Africa & the fated vessel had called at Cape Town.

Quercus x hispanica. Lamarck (1744-1829) gave this name to 3 oaks in the Trianon Gardens, Versailles, one of which, a Fulham Oak, he wrongly thought had come from Gibraltar; another may have been a Lucombe Oak, raised in Exeter. They are both hybrids of a Turkey oak with a Cork oak. Similar hybrids, which are fertile, named *Quercus crenata*, grow in the wild in Italy & Slovenia. The presently preferred name for the Lucombe Oak is *Quercus crenata* 'William Lucombe'.

Salix aegyptiaca. A willow in cultivation as a male clone with particularly numerous showy catkins, much grown in Muslim Gardens from Kashmir to Egypt. The wild plant comes from Turkey, Iran & the adjacent ex-USSR.

Salix babylonica. Introduced to the UK, as a pendulous tree, in about 1730, probably from Turkey, and thought to have been the willow on which in Babylon the weeping Jews hung their harps (Psalm 107); they more likely used *Populus euphratica*. It is now reasonably clear that the tree is native to C & N China, and, in its weeping variant, had been exported, and widely grown in Muslim countries. One of the twisted willows, formerly *matsudana* 'Tortuosa', is another form of *babylonica*. The weeping tree has been named *Salix babylonica* 'Babylon'.

YOUR ADDRESS

The address label on your envelope was produced via a 'mailmerge' procedure which can sometimes result in incorrect combinations such as 'Dr and Mr'. If there are any problems with your own address label please could you let us know: contact our membership secretary, Sue Cox on 01626 821215 or e-mail her at se.cox@llcott.plus.com.

**DEVON PLANT HERITAGE
MEMBER'S DAY
19 MARCH 2011
BUCKFAST ABBEY, BUCKFAST
10.30am – 4pm**

10.30 COFFEE AND PLANT SALES

11.30 Conservation of wildlife in gardens Graham Titchmarsh

1.00 LUNCH

2.15 Responsible horticulture - conservation & best practices.

Alistair Griffiths, Horticultural Science Curator, Eden Project.



TICKETS: £20 TO INCLUDE LUNCH, COFFEE AND AFTERNOON TEA
NAME(S)

.....
.....

TICKETS, AS USUAL, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION ON THE DAY. THIS IS PURELY TO SAVE YOU THE COST OF AN SAE. IF, HOWEVER, YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO SEND YOU YOUR TICKETS, PLEASE ENCLOSE AN SAE.

PLEASE SEND YOUR TICKET APPLICATIONS AND CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO NCCPG DEVON GROUP TO FELICITY DUDBRIDGE, COTLEY HOUSE, DUNSFORD, EXETER EX6 7BH. FOR ANY PROBLEMS, EMAIL FELICITY@THEDUDBRIDGES.COM, OR PHONE 01392 811647 DURING THE DAY.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE A PLANT IDENTIFICATION TABLE SO DO BRING YOUR SPECIAL PLANTS. PLEASE BRING A FEW, OR MANY, PLANTS FOR THE SALES TABLE, DONATED; OR SOLD 75% TO YOU & 25% TO THE SOCIETY, IN WHICH CASE THEY NEED TO HAVE 2 LABELS, ONE WITH THE PLANT NAME, ONE WITH YOUR NAME & THE PRICE. AS THE FLOORS ARE CARPETED PLEASE BRING YOU PLANTS IN BAGS OR CLEAN LINED

**MEMBER'S DAY BOOKING FORM
ON THE REVERSE**

**FOR TREGOTHNAN VISIT
SEE THE END OF THE AREA
EVENTS LISTING**

AREA EVENTS 2011

All events in each area are open to members and members' guests. Charges (including tea and cakes) except where otherwise stated: members £3 per day and members' guests £5. All events will take place whatever the weather. May we ask you to respect the owners' privacy and not enter before the time specified.

EAST DEVON

Area Co-ordinator: Diane Rowe, Orchard House, Parsonage Farm, Uffculme EX15 3DR
Tel. 01884 840545 Email: diane@orchard-house.demon.co.uk

NORTH DEVON

Area Co-ordinator: Maggie Morton, 77 Lagoon View, West Yelland, Barnstaple EX31 3LE
Tel. 01271 861610 Email: Maggie.Morton1@btinternet.com

SOUTH AND WEST DEVON

Area Co-ordinators: Jan Wagstaff, North Boreston, Halwell, Totnes TQ9 7LD
Tel: 01548 821320 Email: Jan.wagstaff277@gmail.com

Mon 14 Feb SNOWDROP WALK AT BOWRINGSLEIGH, KINGSBRIDGE TQ7 3LL

Contact Sally Dean, 01548 821714 BOOKING NOT NECESSARY
11.30am By kind permission of Michael & Nicky Manisty. A guided walk around the impressive gardens at Bowringsleigh to see the extensive range of snowdrops (*Galanthus*). Soup & a roll after the walk. Plant sales.

Directions From Kingsbridge take A 381 west towards Salcombe. After ½ mile pass through West Alvington & take the first road on right, then follow NCCPG signs.

Sat 26 February TALKS & LUNCH AT MARWOOD HILL GARDENS

Contact Maggie Morton, 01271 861610 BOOKING ESSENTIAL
10.30am Coffee
11.00am Talk by John Carter, one of our Vice Presidents & owner of Rowden gardens near Tavistock. John's talk is about water gardens & plants to grow in them. John has national collections of Water Irises & *Caltha* (Marsh Marigold) & will include these in his talk. His talks are always informative & entertaining!
12.00pm Walk around the garden to see the snowdrops, hellebores & newly planted *Hamamelis*.
1.00pm Lunch in the tearoom.
2.00pm Talk by Sarah Chesters. Sarah is Principle Education Officer at RHS Rosemoor & horticultural expert for BBC radio Devon's 'Potting shed'. Plant sales and raffle.
Cost £11.00 for the day. Lunch included (Please state choice of a meat or vegetarian alternative when booking places).

Wed 9 March WINTER LUNCH AT RATTERY VILLAGE HALL

Contact Edwina Pickard, 01752 492765 BOOKING ESSENTIAL
10.45am Coffee & plant sales prior to a talk at 11.30 by Ian Park. "The National Collections at Exeter University", followed by **lunch at 1.00pm**. Main course with vegetarian alternative (please state choice when ordering tickets); puddings & coffee.

- Cost* Please send SAE for tickets (£11.00 for members and guests) to Mrs E Pickard, 11 Peter's Close, Elburton, Plymouth, PL9 8NU. Cheques should be made payable to NCCPG Devon Group.
- Directions* From Totnes take A385 west towards the A38 and Plymouth; turn right where signed to Rattery and then follow NCCPG signs in Rattery village.
- Thurs 7 April** **FAST RABBIT FARM, ASH CROSS, DARTMOUTH TQ6 0NR**
 Contact Sally Dean, 01548 821714. **BOOKING NOT NECESSARY**
 2.30pm By kind permission of Alan Mort. Spectacular 12 acre valley garden containing a wide range of camellias, magnolias and rhododendrons. Lakes, streams and waterfalls create a rich habitat for wildlife. The tranquil gardens benefit from the sheltered setting & proximity to the coast. The path from the car park into the garden is a little steep. Plants available from the nursery. Teas.
- Directions* Take A381 Totnes to Kingsbridge road. At Halwell take A3122 signed Dartmouth. 1 mile beyond Woodlands Leisure Park turn right signed Fast Rabbit Farm. NCCPG signs from here.
- Thurs 5 May** **MONK'S AISH, AISH, SOUTH BRENT TQ10 9JG**
 Contact Sally Dean, 01548 821714. **BOOKING NOT NECESSARY**
 2.30 pm By kind permission of Judy Garnett. Situated on the very edge of Dartmoor, this attractive 1 acre garden has many distinct areas of interest including a stony stream with *Primula* & thickly planted shrub borders. A range of azaleas & a fine *Embrothrium* provide colour in May. A small woodland, vegetable plot & sunken garden add further interest. Teas & plant sales.
- Directions* From Plymouth direction take the A38 and leave at the South Brent exit. Ignoring the first turning to South Brent follow B3372 to a roundabout & take 1st exit towards the village centre. At the T junction turn right. Follow the road through the village centre, passing the church on L. NCCPG signs from here. Cross the railway bridge and go straight on. Follow this road for 1/2 a mile. Take first turning on left & Monk's Aish is 1/2 mile along on R.
 From Exeter direction take A38 to South Brent exit (Marley Head) and follow B3372 to the roundabout. Take the 3rd exit towards the village centre. At the T junction turn right. From here follow directions given above from above.
- Tues 17 May** **'Azaleas Galore' visits to the 'Old Glebe' at EGGESFORD & 'Sherwood' at NEWTON ST CYRES**
 Contact Maggie Morton 01271 861610 **BOOKING PREFERRED**
 10.30am Meet
 11.00am By kind permission of Mr & Mrs Nigel Wright. Nigel will take us for a walk around this inspiring 7-acre garden. The garden features species & hybrid *Rhododendron* & *Azalea*. It includes mature trees & several lawns, courtyard, walled herbaceous borders, bog gardens & a small lake. Plants will be available from the *Rhododendron* nursery.
- Directions* 20m NW of Exeter. Turn South off A377 at Eggesford Station

- (halfway between Exeter & Barnstaple) cross railway & river Taw.
Drive straight uphill passed Eggesford Garden Centre for approx 1 mile.
NCCPG sign will be found on the right of the entrance. Park in field.
- 12.30pm Bring a packed lunch & picnic in the field car park or visit the nearby garden centre at Eggesford.
- 2.30pm In the afternoon we dip our toes into East Devon with a visit, by kind permission of Lady Quicke, to Sherwood. (Our thanks to Diane Rowe, area co-ordinator for East Devon). Here Vaughan Gallavan, Sherwood's head gardener, will show us around the 15-acre garden. The garden is set in steeply wooded valleys with National Collections of *Magnolia*, Knaphill Azalea & *Berberis*. The woodland garden has many shade loving perennials including *Epimedium*. Wild flowers & daffodils abound. Heathers, maples, *Cotoneaster*, *Buddleja*, *Hydrangea* & late flowering perennials all feature in this mature garden giving year round interest. Steep in places. Please bring suitable footwear.
- Directions* 2 m SE of CREDITON. Off A377 Exeter to Barnstaple road, ¾ m CREDITON side of Newton St Cyres, signed Sherwood, entrance to drive approx 1 & ¾ miles.
- Cost* £5.00 for day.

Mon 30 May EAST DEVON TALENT AT TALATON

Bring your visitors too on these Bank Holiday visits. Contact Ruth Charter 01404 814798

- 10.30am **KEEPERS COTTAGE, LARKBEARE EX5 2RZ**
By kind permission of Peppi & Richard Shaw
A delightful 1 acre streamside garden in rural setting. Plantswoman's choice of unusual colourful perennials together with small orchard & veggies. Park in road.
- 11.30am **3 IVY COTTAGES, TALATON EX5 2SD**
By kind permission of Nickie Bitschi. ¾ acre enthusiast's garden with excellent large bog area and stream. Mixed borders, stone walls and containers with many unusual alpins. Wandering poultry. Disabled parking only by cottage, and down road.
- 12.30pm Lunch at Talaton Inn ¼ mile from Ivy Cottages or picnic.
- 2.30pm **RYDON HOUSE, TALATON EX5 2RP**
By kind permission of Sir Jack & Lady Anne Boles.
A country house garden, with old walled vegetable and fruit area. Unusual climbers. Rare shrubs in sheltered corners. Views. Orchard. Bees. Park in back yard.
- DAISYMOUNT NURSERY**, Daisymount House, Ottery St Mary (off B3174). Katie Pooley grows much of her varied stock from seed & is very reasonably priced. Selection includes unusual grasses, shrubs & perennials, with Italian tomatoes, salads & vegetables. Please park by nursery.

Friday 10 June EXPLORING THE MYTHS & THE MAGIC

- Contact Diane Rowe 01884 840545 **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**
- 10.15am A first look at Biodiversity & the garden as we visit **Goren Farm, Broadhayes, Stockland, Honiton** to look at wild meadows & the wildlife living there. By kind permission of Julian Pady who will guide the group. The developing theme of biodiversity in our gardens will run through the programme over the next couple of years.
- Directions* 6 m east of Honiton on A35, turn off at Shute X. proceed 3m to the Stockland TV mast & take next right. Follow Shute signs.
- 1.00pm Lunch or a picnic at – **Burrow Farm Gardens, Dalwood**, by kind permission of John & Mary Benger. (Detail on booking)
After lunch Mary will lead us round her ever developing gardens and show us the new Anniversary garden. She will discuss good garden plants which have merit in attracting wildlife – and her future plans for a wildflower meadow at Burrow Farm.
- Cost* Booking essential - £10 for day with set lunch or bring picnic and purchase drinks & snacks £4.00. Book early – numbers limited.

Mon 13 June MIDDLE WELL, STOKE GABRIEL, TOTNES TQ9 6RL

- Contact Sally Dean, 01548 821714. **BOOKING NOT NECESSARY**
- 2.30pm By kind permission of Pam & Neil Millward. There have been spectacular developments since our last visit in August 2008. Improvements to the stream and a new summerhouse are just two of the recent changes. Well thought-out colour schemes, carefully chosen materials and an eye for design make this a very special place. Pam will lead a tour of this fascinating plantswoman's garden. Teas & plant sales.
- Directions* Take A385 Totnes to Paignton road to Collaton St. Mary. In village turn R at the side of a public house (Parkers Arms) signed Stoke Gabriel. Continue toward Stoke Gabriel for about 1.2 miles, turn L at cross roads towards Waddeton and Galmpton. NCCPG signs from here.

Thurs 23 June 'Langtrees' in CROYDE & 'St Brannoeks' in BRAUNTON

- Contact Maggie Morton 01271 861610 **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**
- 10.30am By kind permission of Paul & Helena Petrides. Langtrees is a 1-acre plantsman's garden with an eclectic mix of plants & year round interest from the landscaping & design features. Formally owned by Dr Tony Rogerson & his wife Marney who together created the garden out of what was then agricultural land. Since 1999 Paul & Helena have re-established and developed the garden with flowers & interest for all seasons from *Rhododendron* and *Magnolia* in spring to *Salvia* and *Canna* in the autumn. Take care, some surfaces may be slippery.
- Directions* 10m W of Barnstaple cross the new bridge and follow the A361 to Braunton, then L on B3231 to Croyde. Past Croyde Bay Holidays on L. Cott lane on R as road narrow towards the village centre. No parking in lane, park in village hall car park 200yds L by village. Parking charges

in the village hall car park are reasonable and you should include the lunchtime period.

12.30pm

Lunch will be served in the village hall.

14.30pm

By kind permission of Col & Mrs Smith Bingham. St. Brannocks is a splendid garden of open lawns & vistas & boasts a magnificent stepped glasshouse filled with a profusion of tender & interesting plants. The garden includes a Roman garden, an *Echium* garden & a south facing veg and cutting garden. On leaving the garden you can visit the chapel & holy well. The holy well of St Brannoc, or Brannock, is tucked away in a little dell next to a modern Catholic chapel, built on the site of an ancient medieval chapel, which had fallen into ruins by the 18th century.

Directions

From Croyde return to the central traffic lights in Braunton. Turn L onto the A361 towards Ilfracombe. When you pass the Parish church of St. Brannock (a fine 13th century building with pointed steeple) on your right, look out for the last building on your left, which is the fire station. Turn immediately left at that crossroads, and travel uphill for a short distance until NCCPG sign. Just after passing St Brannocks Well Close (a modern housing estate cul-de-sac on your right), you will see to the right two granite uprights - this is the entrance to St Brannock Drive, just to the right of its entrance is a car park for the chapel.

Cost

£12.00 for the day, includes lunch (extra will be needed for parking in Croyde village hall car park).

**Friday 8 July SUMMER LUNCH AT FARDELL MANOR, CORNWOOD
PL21 9HT**

Contact Edwina Pickard **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

12.30pm

By kind permission of Father Benedict Ramsden. The spacious terrace in front a fine Tudor Manor has magnificent hedges enclosing interesting spaces, some filled with roses. A woodland area & lawns slope down to a lake. Father Benedict has kindly agreed to give a short talk on the history of the house. Plant sales, drinks & lunch.

Cost

Please send sae for tickets (£12.50 for members and guests) to Mrs E Pickard, 11 Peter's Close, Elburton, Plymouth, PL9 8NU. Cheques should be made payable to NCCPG Devon Group.

Directions

Leave the A38 at Lee Mill exit, follow signs to Cornwall for 1.5 miles. Fardel Manor is on the L. Follow NCCPG signs.

**Thurs 14 July A DAY AT BERRYNARBOUR, A LOOK AT HOW A VILLAGE
PREPARES FOR BRITAIN IN BLOOM**

Contact Maggie Morton 01271 861610 **BOOKING PREFERRED**

Date still to be confirmed, check Summer Newsletter. Please bring a picnic.

10.30am

By kind permission of Tim Jones & Tim Davies. Harpers Mill is an informal plantsman's garden containing a wealth of interesting & unusual plants. Designed to encourage wildlife with a range of habitats that include woodland & areas left to grow wild.

- Directions* Take the B3230 heading north towards Ilfracombe. Turn R onto the A3123 & then L at Smythen Cross down into the Sterridge Valley towards Berrynarbor. Harpers Mill is on the R.
- 12.30pm By kind permission of Phil & Lyn Bridle owners of the Guest House 'The Lodge'. This delightful Edwardian country house is set in over an acre of mature gardens & one in which we can stop to have refreshments and our picnic.
- 2.30pm A guided walk & talk with Wendy Applegate as she takes us around the village & gardens of Berrynarbor, showing us how they are preparing for the National competition of Britain in Bloom 2011. Plants for sale
- Directions* From Harpers Mill continue straight onto Wood Park Lane and then down Rock Hill. Turn right towards Castle Hill and right again at Castle Hill
- Cost* £5.00 for the day (refreshments will be extra)

Details of the following will appear in the Summer Newsletter

- Tuesday 9 Aug VISIT TO LIBERTAS, BUCKLAND-TOUT-SAINTS, KINGSBRIDGE TQ7 2DS (2.30pm)**
- Tuesday 6 Sept VISIT TO MOORCOTT, DIPTFORD, TOTNES TQ9 7NX (2.30pm)**
- Friday 23 Sept Salvias - hardy and not-so-hardy species from around the world**
An illustrated talk by *Salvia* enthusiast Robin Middleton who has one of the largest collections in the UK – as seen on BBC Gardeners World October 2010.
- 7pm for 7.30 start at **West Hill Village Hall, near Ottery St Mary**. Plants for sale.
- Cost* £6 Contact Helen Brown 01404 850941 or helenlittleash@hotmail.com
- Sat 15 October Talks and Lunch at MARWOOD HILL GARDENS**
Contact Maggie Morton 01271 861610 Booking Essential
- 10.30am Coffee
- 11.00am Talk by Jo Hynes. Jo has a 1-acre country garden set in the rolling farmland of mid Devon & is a National Collection holder of hardy *Cyclamen* (excluding *C. persicum* cultivars). Having recently visited Israel, Jo is going to give us a talk about the trip & her National Collection.
- 12.00pm Walk around the garden
- 1.00pm Lunch in the tearoom.
- 2.00pm Talk by Howard & Sally Wills about New Zealand.
Plant sales and raffle.
- Cost* £12.00 for the day. Lunch included (Please state choice of a meat or vegetarian alternative when booking places).

VISIT TO TREGOTHNAN, TRURO, ON THE 31ST MARCH 2011

Those of you who came to the AGM will remember the talk by Jonathan Jones of Tregothnan on the teas they are producing, the manuka bushes, the herbal teas, the floristry business and the wonderful gardens. Although normally prohibitively expensive, we have been offered a free tour of Tregothnan. We were advised that the best time to visit would be late March/early April, and so I have organised a tour on the 31st March to skip in between all other visits of our own and other commitments. As I have mentioned, the visit itself is FREE. There is plenty of time to organise transport before the event but it would be most helpful if you could ring or email me to let me know:

1. that you would like to come

2. you would like me to arrange for a bus (provided there is enough interest). Full details of this visit are on the website. Felicity Dudbridge 01392 811647 Felicity@thedudbridges.com

GENERAL INFORMATION FROM TREGOTHNAN ESTATE

The Tregothnan Estate near Truro, home to the same family since 1300, has the largest historic garden in Cornwall.

As a private botanic garden and arboretum, Tregothnan is unequalled - offering a diversity of rare plants and trees, sweeping vistas and peaceful secluded groves.

While the traditional parts of the garden are impressive, there is always something new and exciting to see. Everywhere there are lovely views over the Estate and surrounding countryside.

Each year a strictly limited number of guests visit Tregothnan Botanic Garden.

Each private visit which includes a Tregothnan cream tea in Tregothnan's 19th Century summerhouse lasts approximately 2 hours and is taken by one of Tregothnan's knowledgeable gardeners. The cost per person is £50.00. There is no minimum number as your visit is exclusive to you - you may choose to be one person or 100. We can also organise visits for larger numbers if required. For numbers over 10 people we have a group rate of £25.00 per person.

Visits are arranged by prior appointment only and may be taken at either 10.00am or 2.00pm Monday - Friday. The Estate is not open on the weekends or bank holidays.

Your visit will also give you an opportunity, should you wish, to see Tregothnan's well-known tea garden which has recently been publicised on Radio 4's "The Next Darjeeling" and in various national newspapers including the Daily Telegraph.

Meanwhile as you are visiting Cornwall, Tregothnan has a cabin in the wood yard where selected produce is available, no notice is necessary. Tregothnan wood yard is a hive of activity and may be visited from Monday to Friday 9.00am-5.00pm, closed weekends and bank holidays. The range of Tregothnan products is becoming famous for the first tea to be grown in the UK but venison, pork and herbs are sought after and in the wood yard our craftsmen will even make you a table to feast from! Also fresh flower bouquets are being grown and packed for happy customers all over the UK. Our English Estate Charcoal is a must for any serious summer foodie, try our eucalyptus scented charcoal or, while stocks last, apple scented delicious charcoal!

NEW EAST DEVON PLANT FAIR

Sunday July 3rd 2011. 10am to 3pm

The East Devon NCCPG Plant Fair will be at Colyton Grammer School, just off the main A3052 in the village of Colyford 6miles west of Lyme Regis.

In the (very large) main hall there will be provided, 8ft long tables at £30.00 per pitch. Outside the hall on the terraced area there will be several 12ft by 12ft pitches also available. Easy access to pitches/tables with ample parking in the grounds. Within the hall there will be a number of tables available free of charge to any non-nursery National Collection Holders who might wish to sell, or display only, plants from their collection.

To book a pitch, please ask all interested parties to contact me, Eric Reynolds, Blue Firs, 6 Wessiters, Seaton, EX12 2PJ, email address sher_bluefirs@btinternet.com.

My telephone is 01297 625342, if I am not at home, please leave a message with contact number. I certainly hope that Devon members & nurseries will be interested in this new venue.

OTHER EVENTS

SOUTH WEST ROCK GARDEN FLOWER SHOW organised by the Alpine Garden Society (AGS) Exeter Group at **St. Luke's College of Science and Sport**, Hart's Lane, off Hill Barton Road, Exeter (on the Pinhoe Road, next to Sainsbury's).

Saturday 26 March 2011. **Plant Sales** open at 10 am. (13 nursery stalls); Show open 12 noon to 4 pm. Entry: £2 (AGS members free). Refreshments. **Free Parking**. Book stall selling new and second-hand books.

Roger Stuckey

FAST RABBIT FARM

Ash Cross, Dartmouth
Tel: 07813 504490
Garden created in sheltered valley
with natural stream.

Several ponds and lake,
partially wooded,
rockery, extensively planned,
extends 12 acres plus
new woodland planting and
walks created through woodland
Free Car Park.
Some level walks. Toilets

Nursery with wide range of plants
Open 11-5 March to October
Sundays + Bank Holiday Mondays
Admission £3.50. Children 50p.
Parties welcome by appointment.
Disabled: Please phone prior to visit.

www.fastrabbitfarm.co.uk

NEWS AND EVENTS

IS YOUR GARDEN OR NATIONAL COLLECTION OPEN THIS YEAR?

Let me know now and have the dates included here.

Malcolm Pharoah

NURSERIES INVITED

There are regular visits to gardens in the South and West area of Devon. We usually invite two nurseries to bring stock to sell at these visits. If you would like to be included in the list of sellers, please contact:

David Molloy tel: 01803 752307, email molloy01@yahoo.co.uk

For a list of gardens to be visited this year see the events listing above.

NEW NATIONAL COLLECTIONS IN DEVON

NOVEMBER 2010

I am pleased to report that at the Plant Conservation Committee on 11 November approved two new collections.

David and Penny Ross were awarded full status for their Collection of *Hesperanthera*



coccinea cultivars (left) (*Schizostylis* as was – the botanists are still changing names and this one has not even reached Plant Finder yet!) and

Alan and Katie Bunn in Bovey Tracey were awarded provisional status with a review in two years for their Collection of *Eucryphia* (the provisional status is because some of the *Eucryphia* are of a comparatively young age, see below).

Congratulations to both for all the hard work that it

Hesperanthera coccinea (P. Ross)

takes (both plant wise and for paperwork) to attain Collection status. Both Collections will therefore be in the 2011 Directory.

There are two Collections in the “pipeline” and I will be doing preliminary visits to them in early summer next year.

If any of you have special plants which are close to your hearts and would like to think about having a National Collection please do let me know.



Edna Squires
SW Co-ordinator National
Plant Collections

see page 2 for contact
details

Eucryphia lucida 'Ballerina' (M. Pharoah)

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS.....

During a recent holiday in the Algarve region of Southern Portugal we came across a Garden Fair. It transpired it was the annual Plant Fair of the Algarve region of the Mediterranean Garden Society and this was the second time it had been held.

It wasn't on the scale of the ones we organise in Devon but the enthusiasm that the members and the buying public had was very impressive and it was interesting to see how a society gets started and expands, very much like ours here in Devon.

I well remember over twenty years ago going to our own Plant Fairs particularly when they



were staged at Bicton and indeed having a Plant Stall for Marwood gardens. I think in those days there was probably only two Plant Fairs a year now we have nine probably ten this year and organised in all regions of our County.

Anyway, the Garden Fair seemed to go well with several nurseries selling plants.

Photo B. Smith

The biggest problem in the Algarve is a lack of water so people were keen to get their hands on plants that could survive in arid conditions. The layout of the stalls and the labelling of plants left a lot to be desired but that will develop with time. And I did buy a plant, a *Protea* in fact, too cold to keep outside in our climate but I do grow them in pots and sink them into the ground in spring and lift them in late autumn and keep them indoors in the winter. In fact one flowered this summer, so my new *Protea* Pink Ice will get that treatment this year, and I shall think of that Garden Fair when it flowers and wonder how far they have progressed.

If you would like to see more information about their Society, visit their website at www.MediterraneanGardenSociety.org

Malcolm Pharoah

TALKS & LUNCH AT MARWOOD HILL GARDENS

Saturday 26 February

Talk by John Carter owner of Rowden Gardens near Tavistock
John's talk is about water gardens & plants to grow in them. John has national collections of Water Irises & *Caltha* (Marsh Marigold) & will include these in his talk. His talks are always informative & entertaining!

Pre lunch walk around the garden to see the
snowdrops, hellebores & newly planted *Hamamelis*

Lunch in the tearoom

Talk by Sarah Chesters, Principle Education Officer at RHS Rosemoor &
horticultural expert for BBC radio Devon's 'Potting Shed'

Plant sales and raffle

Cost £11.00 for the day. Lunch included

(Please state choice of a meat or vegetarian alternative when booking places).

Contact Maggie Morton, 01271 861610 *Booking essential*

Cheques should be made payable to NCCPG Devon Group

South and West Area Winter Lunch

Wednesday, 9th March 2011

at

Rattery Village Hall

Coffee and plant sales from 10.45 am. followed by an illustrated
talk by Ian Park of Exeter University at 11.30 am

"The National Collections at Exeter University"

Lunch at 1.00 pm: main course, choice of desserts and coffee.
(Please state if vegetarian dish or other dietary requirements when ordering tickets)

Booking essential

Tickets £11 per person

Please send SAE to:

Mrs E. Pickard, 11 Peter's Close, Elburton, Plymouth, PL9 8NU

Tel: 01752 492765

Cheques should be made payable to NCCPG Devon Group

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

DEVON POND PLANTS. Unbeatable range of locally grown hardy water loving plants grown near Kingsbridge, South Devon, by a knowledgeable enthusiast. Visit my nursery by arrangement to buy potted or bare root plants; check availability at www.devonpondplants.co.uk. Mail order also available. The usual water lilies, irises and oxygenators plus a wealth of interesting and unusual varieties. Please ring David Kerr on 01548 521286

FANTASTIC FUCHSIAS AT SUNDIAL GARDEN, 700+ varieties, many rare (100+ hardies); 200+ named pelargoniums. Also good range of hardy plants with a sprinkling of treasures for the connoisseur. Pleasant mature garden being rescued and replanted including many hardy fuchsias, open daily all year, café and shop. On the A35 at Offwell, Honiton. Tel: 01404 831549. Fuchsia/Pelargonium catalogue £1.50 + S.A.E. or on www.sundialgarden.co.uk

ELWORTHY COTTAGE PLANTS, Jenny Spiller, Elworthy Cottage, Elworthy, Lydeard St Lawrence, Taunton, Somerset TA4 3PX. Tel:01984 656427. Clematis & Unusual Perennials, especially hardy geraniums, geums, grasses, ferns, epimediums, pulmonarias, crocosmias, campanulas, snowdrops and violas. Open 10.00am to 4.00pm Thursdays mid March to end July. Visitors welcome at other times March to October, please ring first. 1 acre plantsman's garden open at same times as nursery, admission £2. Groups welcome. Plant list: 3 x 2nd class stamps. www.elworthy-cottage.co.uk

BREGOVER GARDEN NURSERY, Middlewood, Nr. Launceston, East Cornwall PL15 7NN. (off the B3254) Interesting range of hardy border plants, Crocosmia, Violets. Catalogue: 3 x 1st class stamps; SAE for violet list. Open from March to mid October, Wednesdays 11am to 5pm. Nursery and cottage garden at weekends by appointment. (NGS opening end of May) Tel: 01566 782661.

FULL AND PART-TIME COURSES IN HORTICULTURE AND FLORISTRY offered for all ages at various levels. Heritage and Botanic Gardens 12 week course, National Award in Horticulture (Design and Landscape) 2 year course, both 1 day/week starting September 2010. Explore how flowers can enhance your home with our Floral Design course; create a design every lesson to take home. Visit the website www.bicton.ac.uk or ring 01395 562400 for more information.

Rates for advertising in this Newsletter

Classified Ads	per issue	3 issues		
	£10	£25		
Display Ads	Black & White		Colour	
	per issue	3 issues	per issue	3 issues
Quarter page	£15	£45	£15	£45
Half page	£25	£70	£30	£85
Full page	£40	£110	£50	£140



THE YEAR IN PICTURES, 2010 part 2

Some of my favourite pictures from 2010, David Cann



Enkianthus at Trewithin 30 May 2010

Hestercombe 12 June 2010



Karen Rawson with a tall trunked treefern at Greencombe, Porlock 18 April 2010

Magnolia 'Atlas' from Sherwood, at the RHS Rosemoor show 10 March 2010

