

Truro School, Poltisco House

We have had a communication from Alistair Sneddon, the Estate Manager of Truro School. Poltisco House (Malpas Road) on the site is currently being restored in keeping with its Regency style. They wish to restore the grounds and are asking if any of our members are interested and prepared to advise them what to do. If you are interested, please contact me, Peter Gilmore on 01326 561445 and I will put you in touch with Alistair.

Our CGS Website

We have recently made some subtle changes to the format of the website in addition to adding pictures to the Gallery and adding the latest News. Hopefully some of you will have seen that we use the News section to advise you of changes to the programme e.g that caused by the fire at the Alverton. If you see such a notification could you pass the information on to anyone that you know who is in the CGS but does not have a computer.

We really would like contributions from you for the web site. If you go on a Self Drive or a Coach Trip, we would love to receive a few photos and a paragraph or two about the event. We do not need an essay! It is hoped that we can also produce, in conjunction with our PR people, a small e-newsletter with contributions from you about what is happening in your garden with a 'Members Garden' feature, but we need your input.

Please, please let us hear from you. Contributions to me on pgily@btinternet.com or webmaster@cornwallgardensociety.org.uk

On the website there is a link to Facebook and Twitter. Keep an eye on these as well.

Peter Gilmore

C.G.S CONTACTS

Please be sure to update your records when changes are made.

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We have pleasure in welcoming the following as new members:

Ms J Bond from Egloskerry
Mrs C Brown from Box Heater Wood
Mrs P Coumbe from Camborne
Mr and Mrs T Dingle from Penhalt
Mrs P Dormand from St Blazey Gate
Mrs Y Furneaux from Fowey
Mrs J Harrison from Lerryn
Mrs S Kennet from Gerrans
Mrs C Rice from Lanjeth
Mrs C Swallow from Perranarworthal
Mrs J Wiltshire from St Mabyn
Mr and Mrs W Wyldbore-Smith from near Calne
Mr and Mrs N Heard from Lamorna
Dr S Gray from St Erme
Mrs J Greengrass from St Breward
Mrs M Tipton from Connor Downs
Mrs D Medway from Crafhole
Ms B Graham from Millbrook

and three new Affiliated Societies have joined us:
St Teath Gardening Club
Sheviocck Parish Garden Club
Tywardreath Garden Club.

Message from the Membership Secretary:

Please can you make sure you remove your membership cards from my covering letter before you throw it away!

I sincerely hope there won't be errors this year but please let me know as soon as you can if there are, so that I can rectify the matter quickly. Many thanks,

Marion

Included with your March Newsletter will be the following:

- 1) The Cornish Garden no. 57, the annual Journal of the CGS
- 2) Letter and membership cards
- 3) Tom Hudson flyer
- 4) Booking Forms as below

Self Drive

May 1st	Werrington and Higher Truscott
May 15th	The Hidden Gardens of Morval
June 19th	Trethew, Lanlivery and Bodmin Nursery
July 2nd	The Roseland and St Mawes

Coach visits

May 8th	Lukelands and Hill House Nursery
May 20th	Burrow Farm Gardens and Lee Ford Gardens
June 23rd	RHS Garden Rosemoor

For any membership enquiries, please contact Marion at the address below:-

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Next issue - June 2014. If you wish to include any items in this issue, please contact Charles Francis by May 1st.

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THE CORNWALL GARDEN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 58 MARCH 2014

www.cornwallgardensociety.org.uk

AFFILIATED TO THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
PATRON: HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1094859
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 4504080

Chairman's Corner

What a horrible wet start to the year! The only consolation being, as it has been reasonably mild, we have seen an early start to Spring. As many of you will have read, there was a fire at the Alverton Hotel, in the very room that we were to hold our first Lecture of 2014. A near record number turned up to hear Bob Brown, but unfortunately the alternative room that the Hotel offered us was not nearly big enough. I do apologise to all those who were disappointed and were unable listen to what turned out to be a very good lecture. We will do everything we can to avoid this happening again by ensuring that if an alternative room has to be found, it will be big enough. Again my apologies to all those who were inconvenienced by this unfortunate event.

It is that time of the year again, when we appeal for Stewards to help either during the build up and/or on the Saturday or Sunday of the Show. A huge amount of work goes into ensuring that each year the Show is better than the one before, and to achieve this we do need Stewards. Please contact Debbie Evans for more information, see below.

We are helping Tom Hudson with publicity for a Plant Sale that he is having on June 1st.

Tom is one of the great horticulturalists and plant hunters in Cornwall, and I am sure there will be something for everybody there (Flyer enclosed). I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Show which promises to be another excellent one. We have reduced the entrance fee for Members and non-Members to a very attractive level but only if you buy your tickets in advance. For more details see below

Andrew Leslie Chairman



Pre-Show thoughts

After a rather wet and windy winter, what could be better than coming to the Cornwall Spring Flower show on 5th or 6th April and celebrating the start of Spring! This year's Show will have many of the features of recent years but also some significant changes. Chris Beardshaw, well known TV gardening celebrity, will be opening the Show on the Saturday morning and Toby Buckland, formerly main presenter of BBC Gardeners' World, will be visiting the Show on Sunday morning. We will have well over a hundred trade stands which will include many familiar faces as well as some really interesting new ones. The interest in the Show this year from traders has been amazing. This year's Show will have the usual competitive classes, four show gardens and will also be a great family event with a variety of attractions of interest to children. A nature-based trail for youngsters is being planned for both days (a plan can be purchased on the day or downloaded from the CGS website for free beforehand) and on the Sunday, a potter with their wheel, birds and animals and stilt walkers too! This is in addition to face-painting on both days and other nature-based activities. Gardeners' Question Time this year will again be chaired by Tim Hubbard and held in the marquee in the Dorothy Garden and the panel includes Chris Beardshaw, George Kestell and Nutty Lim. Spaces will be limited and so come early. So we have a great Show planned. There will be a lovely atmosphere with even more live music planned throughout the Show. So, please spread the word about the Show and put up posters wherever you can. Remember to remind everyone that entry tickets are so much cheaper if you buy them in advance. **Entry on the gate is £8.00 (Under 16s Free) or £5.50 for CGS members.**

However, tickets bought in advance before 25th March are £6.00 or £3.50 for CGS members.

If anyone is willing to spend a short time using our visitor questionnaire that would be very helpful and please let me know. We always receive lots of complimentary remarks about the Show but it is important for us to learn even more about our visitor preferences so that we can continue to develop the Show in the years ahead. Looking forward to a terrific Show again. I hope to meet as many of you as possible at the Show in early April!

Martin Pallett Show Director e-mail: showdirector@cornwallflowershow.co.uk Telephone: 01726 817346 or 07734 366504

As Andrew mentioned in Chairman's Corner, it is that time of year again and we still have lots of gaps on the volunteer rota for the Spring Flower Show! If you haven't already offered to help out, I urge you to do so - the Show that we are all so proud of can't happen without the valiant efforts of our volunteers. We need help throughout the week before the Show to set up, during the Show for jobs such as stewarding and car parking and afterwards to take it all down and clear up. Don't worry if you've never done it before or can only spare a couple of hours - all help is much appreciated. Also you don't have to be a member to take part - why not bring a friend along too? All volunteers receive free entry to the Show and we pay mileage expenses on non-Show days. Also volunteers are invited to our 'Thank You' Garden Party held in May. See this year's CGS Journal to read about the 2013 Stewards' Party at Ethy House.

Debbie Evans If you can help please e-mail: volunteer@cornwallgardensociety.org.uk or Telephone 01209 710787

September 2014 Tour to York and North Yorkshire Gardens

A tour is being organised to York and North Yorkshire Gardens in September this year. This tour will be based in the centre of York staying at the Monkbar Hotel for 4 nights from 21st returning on 25th September. During the stay and in the evenings there will be time to explore the wonderful City of York. The full list of gardens, big and small, is to be finalised but we plan to visit Newby Hall gardens, Castle Howard, RHS Harlow Carr, Helmsley Walled garden, Burton Agnes and Scampston Hall and we will be looking for smaller gardens that will be at their best in September. You can reserve a place on the tour or 'express an interest' (without a final commitment from you) by contacting the Booking Secretary, Mary Hutt on 01872 863735 or emailing her at patfward@btinternet.com.

Hampton Court Trip in July 2014

Please note that this trip is now fully booked. Mary Hutt has a waiting list and her contact details may be found above.



© Tricia Howard

CGS Special: Easter Primrose Week at Hidden Valley Gardens

Cornwall Garden Society members are invited, free of charge, to see the primrose beds in their second year at Hidden Valley Gardens, as well as tour the rest of the garden over the Easter period from Thursday 17th April to Monday 21st April, 10am to 6pm. Recently we have created an enclosed area fenced by hazel hurdles in a damp shady corner at the bottom of our garden with two large granite stone pillars marking the entrance. Here we have planted many varieties of old and new primroses. Some have been grown from seed from the famous Barnhaven strains. This seed is now produced in France by a dedicated team and are very special, with an old fashioned character, and diversity of subtle colouring, fragrance and hardiness.

To complement the primroses, the enclosure has been planted with ferns, box and pulmonarias. Tea, coffee and home-made cakes will be available as well as primrose plants for sale. Dogs on lead are welcome.

Directions: From A390 between St Austell and Lostwithiel, turn onto the B3269 towards Fowey, then right after 200 yards following the signs for 2 miles. Tricia Howard Tel: 01208 873225 www.hiddenvalleygardens.co.uk

Chris Beardshaw to open 2014 CGS Spring Flower Show

Distinguished horticulturalist Chris Beardshaw will officially open the 2014 Cornwall Spring Flower Show at Boconnoc on Saturday 5th April. The popular TV and radio presenter will also be one of the event's judges. "We are delighted that Chris has agreed to be guest of honour at the 2014 show," said Martin Pallett. "Gardeners throughout the country have benefitted from his advice on Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time and the many TV programmes he has fronted in recent years and we will, I'm sure, be very interested to see him and hear what he has to say."



© Liz Eddison

This year's Show is again supported by Atkins Ferrie Wealth Management of Helston

Position Vacant

Next year the Show Committee will be looking for someone to take over the role of signage expert. Dick Butters will be standing down after this year's Show, but it would be the perfect opportunity for his successor to step into his shoes and see what is involved. A set of signs is already in existence, and locations have to be chosen in advance in conspicuous roadside positions around the county, the landowners contacted for approval and the signs erected and subsequently removed. If you would be interested in this vital work for the Society please make contact with Dick to obtain further advice on what is required. His e-mail address is brackenacc@hotmail.com

Another Position Requesting Help

This time it's looking after the family silver, or at least the Society's cups & trophies. This entails locating and collecting (or making sure last year's holders bring them to the Show in time) all the cups & trophies and getting them down to the engravers in St Austell on the Friday. On the Friday evening ringing through the winners to the engravers as they are awarded and totting up all the points based cups. The last cups are awarded on Saturday morning so they need to be rung through and then they all need to be collected from St Austell before they shut at lunchtime. On Sunday afternoon the cups need to be arranged for the prize-giving so they can be handed to whoever is awarding them. If you would like to help, please contact Mark Wilson by e-mail at wilsonmark@gmail.com

Change of roles for Jeff Rowe

Jeff Rowe, who has won two consecutive medals from Chelsea Flower Show, is a familiar face at flower and garden shows across the country. This year, however, the owner of Trevidden Nursery in Buryas Bridge near Penzance, will be stepping across the divide for the first time and managing trade stands at the Cornwall Spring Flower Show on 5th and 6th April.

For the last few months Jeff has been spending his evenings processing applications and is now in the happy position of having all pitches booked up, with a waiting list of businesses wanting to be part of the very popular event that takes place annually at the Boconnoc Estate near Lostwithiel. Not that his work stops there.

"I'm now busy finalising positions which is quite tricky with about 100 stands to fit in," he said. "I'll need to spend the whole of the week before the Show on site marking everything up so my business partner Claire will be running the nursery whilst I'm away. We've also got our usual Trevidden Nursery stand at the show so I'll be wearing two hats that weekend. Claire and I attend shows all over the country but the Cornwall Spring Flower Show is always a special highlight" said Jeff. "As both trader and trade-stand organiser this year, it's going to be a very busy two days!"

Bus transport from Penzance to the show is being organised on 5th April - for more information, contact Peter Gilmore on 01326 561445 or 07443 644392. For more information about the Cornwall Spring Flower Show, visit www.cornwallgardensociety.org.uk

Charities Benefitted by £1,775

The two Carolines are delighted to report that as a result of some of the 2013 Self Drive (formerly Walks & Talks) Visits, the sum of £1,775 has been donated to the following charities: Cornwall Historic Churches Trust, Creed & Grampound Church, Useful Hands In Sierra Leone, The Gild House, Help for Heroes and Juvenile Diabetic Fund,



© Jim Rucker

These charities were sent part of the cost of the trips by those garden owners who wished to pass the whole, or part of their charge for the day on to them. It is gratifying to know that these Visits not only give an enjoyable day out but sometimes also benefit worthwhile charities.

We look forward to seeing Members over the year & hope for good weather for the outings.

Forthcoming Events

Friday 14th & Saturday 15th March - **The West Cornwall Spring Show** at St. John's Hall, Penzance.

Tuesday 18th March - **Noel Kingsbury** will give a lecture at The Alverton Hotel.

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th March - **Falmouth Spring Flower Show** at The Princess Pavilion <http://falmouthshow.co.uk>

Wednesday 7th May - **Dan Hinkley** will make a special visit to the Eden Project to give a lecture entitled "Favourite Plants from recent collections. A Host of New Plants from the Wilds of China, Vietnam, Myanmar, New Zealand, Chile and Tasmania".

Reminder

Remember to refer to the lilac card which came with Newsletter 57 giving details of gardens and nurseries offering discount to CGS members.

Moyclare Garden at Liskeard is offering Two-for-One Entry on production of your membership card

Don't forget to visit our website regularly for updates: www.cornwallgardensociety.org.uk

Seasonal Report from Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens

Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens has only properly been open to the public since September 2012 so in terms of the many majestic, long established Cornish gardens - it is very much the new kid on the block. Quite a long gestation preceded the opening however and some of the earlier plantings are now powering ahead. This windy and wet winter is also astonishingly mild, allowing many plants to grow unchecked. Tree ferns especially are putting on substantial new growth - *Cyathea medullaris* in particular is a thing of wonder - trunk growth of greater than a foot per year and now a crown that spans 20 ft. making an impressive sight. The other *Cyatheas* - *C. australis*, *C. dealbata*, *C. smithii* and *C. cooperi* are remarkably perky with a fresh green crown. It has been a pleasant surprise to find *C. brownii* and some even more left-field experiments growing strongly. In support the marvellous *Lophosoria quadripinnata* has been languidly reaching out its furry croziers all winter. It is extraordinary that a plant of its class, hardiness and presence should remain so rare in our gardens. I have seen it covering hillsides in Southern Mexico.

Established palm trees all thoroughly enjoyed last summer's heat - now up to 40 different species are thriving at Tremenheere. Particularly impressive growth from *Brahea edulis* and *Phoenix theophrastii*. I am greatly excited by the emerging colony of *Parajubaea torallyii*. Mass planting of these doubtfully hardy plants may drift from bold into foolish but I am happy to take the risk. These beautiful and fast growing palms are happy in semi-shaded woodland conditions.

Another palm that I regularly find myself staring at in wonder and admiration is the fickle but very elegant *Jaunia australis* - a woodlander of poise and beauty which Cornwall can do well.

Work is about to start on a new 4 acre extension to the gardens - primitive woodland and a loose grassy South African meadow will form main themes here. Not likely to be viewable for another few years. A minor triumph was to find a self-sown seedling of *Xanthorrhoea glauca* - it has since been successfully transplanted to a prominent new site. I have never heard of grass trees reproducing in the open in the UK before.

On the arts side the major event of the year was the installation of a new permanent work by the renowned English land artist Richard Long. Better known for working in a minimalist way with stone in often wilderness locations - he has adapted his style for a smaller scale, garden setting. The work itself is spectacularly sited alongside a single line of the restio, *Baloskion tetraphyllum*. Response to this maturing work has ranged from derisory comments to excited praise. Work to finish James Turrell's Skyspace continues. Other artwork threatens to arrive as the year unfolds.

The other main news is that the plant sales area is now taking shape and is scheduled to open at the end of March 2014. This will reflect the broad range of plants growing in the gardens and will be run with conviction and style by Daniel Michael. The Lime Tree restaurant in the visitor centre has become a mecca for foodies with a strong local following. I am fortunate to have the Ashtons at the helm - Justin the wonder chef and Miki running front of house with panache.

Onward...

Neil Armstrong Director



Jaunia australis
© Neil Armstrong