



**CORNWALL GROUP  
NEWSLETTER FOR  
December 2019**

It's a strange time of the year. Christmas is on everybody's mind but it's too early to wallow in it. The autumn has finished but there are still strange things hanging on. I saw a display of *Miscanthus* last week, the dead flowering stems festooned with the fluffy white seed heads capturing the low winter light to magnificent effect.

At the other extreme, spring has started to appear. The first flashes of the new year can be found if you look hard enough. The earliest *Galanthus elwesii* cultivars should be in flower before Christmas along with the earliest daffodils. I have a single *Leucojum vernum* in reckless flower and I have just seen the first *Camellia* 'Drama Girl' in a garden. It was a single bud that had got confused (they aren't very intelligent) but it lived up to its name.

### *Camellia* through the winter.

'Drama Girl' may be an unusual sight in the late autumn, but there have been camellias in flower for some time. Pam Dormand brought the first flowers of *Camellia sasanqua* to the October meeting and others have been appearing in the 3-stems competition since then.

*Camellia japonica* and *C. x williamsii* cultivars will come into their own at the end of February, they play a major part in Cornish gardens. It is quite difficult avoid growing one or two just for the burst of pink they provide as the yellow lava of daffodils erupts from the ground. However the season of camellias starts long before the spring spectacle kicks off. The autumn flowering cultivars may have smaller blooms than their spring cousins but they will provide a conveyor-belt of colour and scent to carry us through the dark nights around Christmas and onwards into the New Year.



*Camellia sinensis* plantation  
at Tregothnan.



*Camellia brevistyla*.



*Camellia cuspidata*.

However familiar we think camellias are in Cornish gardens they are far more significant in our tea pots. *C. sinensis* is a sub-tropical shrub that is widely grown in southern China where the leaves and young shoots have traditionally been harvested to produce tea. The tea drinking habit has spread worldwide and cultivation of the shrubs has followed, even reaching to Cornish shores with expanding commercial tea plantations at Tregothnan. The small, white single flowers are produced in November and December and although the blooms can be damaged by frosts the shrubs do not seem to be touched.

*Camellia brevistyla* has smaller white flowers on shrubs with a looser habit. It flowers from the end of September until Christmas, often appearing before the first *C. sasanqua* buds show colour. It occurs widely in southern China and Taiwan and is occasionally cultivated for its seeds. The oil in the seeds is extracted and used in cooking.

*Camellia cuspidata* comes into flower a little later. In my garden it usually opens in the first weeks of January and the tiny white flowers will keep appearing for a couple of months or more, sometimes lasting into April. It makes a dense, compact shrub rarely reaching much more than 2m tall.



*Camellia sasanqua* 'Rainbow'.



*Camellia sasanqua* 'Hugh Evans'.



*Camellia sasanqua* 'Narumigata'.

*Camellia sasanqua* is the autumn flowering species we are most familiar with. It is native to Japan where numerous selections have been made. In the wild state it is white flowering but pale pink and deeper rose coloured forms have been selected. Many of them have arrived in the UK following the species first introduction in 1896. In my garden the first of them to flower is 'Rainbow'. The large white flowers are tipped with rose pink. The plant produces an abundance of buds but they open over a long period so the plant is spangled with flower for much of the autumn but never entirely plastered with bloom. The neat leaves are held on long drooping stems that can occupy a significant space in the garden. The flowers have a distinctive 'cosmetic' scent best appreciated on a still day.

'Hugh Evans' is very similar in many ways, but the flowers are deep pink and seem to be less scented. Best grown in a sunny spot, the autumn flowering camellias do not generally appreciate shady conditions and in deep shade they are unlikely to flower at all.

'Narumigata' is a much larger flowered selection. Rounded blooms are freely produced from the compact plants throughout November. I find the scent rather sweeter than the other cultivars and it may be that it carries some trace of hybridity.

In recent years there has been much breeding work done with *C. sasanqua*, especially in California and Australia. The species grows well in drier, sunnier positions than other camellias making it well suited to the mediterranean climate zones around the world. Paradise Plants in New South Wales have introduced a range of new selections identified by the prefix "Paradise". These are often double flowered forms and they seem to be catching on worldwide. From the other side of the world, 'Jean May' is a particularly pretty double pink cultivar that is proving popular in Cornwall. It was raised from unknown parents by Ralph May at Gerbing Camellia Nurseries in Florida.



*Camellia sasanqua* 'Paradise Blush'.



*Camellia sasanqua* 'Rosea Plena'.



*Camellia sasanqua* 'Paradise Belinda'.

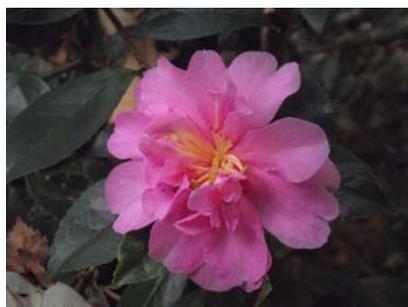


*Camellia sasanqua* 'Jean May'.

The sasanqua camellias produce flowers reliably during late autumn with a distinctive scent. However they often have small flowers and camellia growers don't really do small with enthusiasm. Inevitably hybrids have been created between *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica*. They have larger flowers and brighter colours but there is a price to pay, they usually come into flower later in the year. 'Yuletide' makes a name for itself as a Christmas flower but I find that it rarely flowers before the New Year once it has settled in. The young plants of 'Yuletide' in flower that make a great splash in the nurseries in December are recent imports, usually from Italy, that have taken advantage of some late season warmth.

Hybrids produced in cultivation are usually listed as *C. x vernalis*. 'Yuletide' is a chance seedling from 'Hiryu' raised by Nuccio's Nurseries in California and first catalogued by them in 1963. The rich red flowers with a bold central boss of stamens make a distinctive splash of colour in the garden in late winter.

The same hybrid between *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica* also occurs naturally in Japan when it is called *C. hiemalis*. 'Showa-no-sakae' is one of these Japanese cultivars, believed to be a seedling of 'Shishigashira' that came from the Kansai area in about 1928. Within ten years it was in commercial cultivation in California. Seedlings have been selected in a range of colours with both single and double flowers.



*Camellia hiemalis* 'Showa-no-sakae'.



*Camellia hiemalis* .



*Camellia x vernalis* 'Yuletide'.

There is a very long history of *Camellia* breeding and selection, originally in China and Japan but more recently in Europe, the USA and Australasia. The traditional shapes and forms of flowers in the genus have been thoroughly explored by breeders, but from time to time events conspire to produce a change in direction. Until 1978 Dr William Ackerman had been breeding fragrant camellias in the USA but after the winter of 1977/8 only 15 cultivars survived from the collection of 956 plants in the US National Arboretum in Washington D.C. He immediately switched his objectives to breeding cultivars that would be reliably hardy by using the very hardy *C. oleifera* as a parent, usually crossing it with *C. sasanqua* and other autumn flowering hybrids.

His hybrids all carry the 'Winter's ....' prefix. They have proved to be hardy in the cold winters of the USA and although hardiness isn't needed for them to survive in Cornwall, the introduction of *C. oleifera* increased the size of the flowers and produced simpler and more informal flower shapes than the very stylised blooms of *C. japonica*.

'Winter's Interlude' is a hybrid between *C. oleifera* and *C. sinensis* 'Pink Tea' that first flowered in 1984 and was registered in 1991. It makes a compact upright shrub usually flowering in January.

'Winters Snowman' is a more recent hybrid, first flowering in 1987 and registered in 1997. The double white flowers appear with me around Christmas and the plant adds to its interest later in the season with rich, reddish-brown new growth.

'Winter's Toughie' is one of the most recent cultivars, registered in 2009. It is a seedling from the cross between *C. oleifera* 'Plain Jane' and *C. sasanqua* 'Jean May'. In researching its background

the International Camellia Register helpfully informed me that it was not extinct! (But it is a very useful resource online).



*Camellia* 'Winter's Interlude'.



*Camellia* 'Winter's Snowman'.



*Camellia* 'Winter's Toughie'.

Winter can be grey and dreary. The rain falls, the nights are dark, it is hardly surprising that we look for the first signs that things are changing.

Readers will be well aware that J. C. Williams raised the first hybrids between *C. japonica* and *C. saluenensis* at Caerhays from 1923. They are generally large shrubs that flower in mid spring, however *C. x williamsii* 'November Pink' is unusual in starting to flower in late autumn. It isn't the most vigorous or reliable of them but the bright pink flowers are a taste of spring while the nights are still drawing in.

The days tick by slowly but eventually the winter solstice arrives along with the lunacy of Christmas. With luck there will be one of those cold but sunny days that tempts you into the garden. I walk out purposefully, looking for flowers on 'Show Girl', immediately after lunch on Christmas Day. It is a large flowered hybrid between *C. sasanqua* and *C. reticulata* raised by Howard Asper in California and registered in 1966. It has come to represent the end of winter for me. Once it flowers there will be camellias covered in bloom until the end of May, the season of excess has started.

The last gasp of winter comes with 'St Ewe'. As December ends the single flowers start to appear, at first spangling occasional branches with cold pink flowers but as the temperature rises they cascade cheerfully through the leaves and seem to coax out the spring sunshine. I'm looking forward to it already.



*Camellia x williamsii* 'November Pink'.



*Camellia* 'Show Girl'.



*Camellia x williamsii* 'St Ewe'.

## LAST MEETING

"New and unusual bulbs and how they get to your garden".  
by John Amand.

They're not all bulbs and they're not all unusual! It was an interesting first line.

Jacques Amand International was founded by John Amand's father and obtains its stocks from growers around the world. Originally bulbs from the Himalayas were collected from the wild but now they are grown in narrow hillside fields in the Indian foothills. Plants such as *Kaempferia*, *Hedychium*, *Eucharis* and *Scadoxus* are all cultivated. Initially stocks were flown out from Calcutta and they often stood for hours in the heat before being loaded. By the time they arrived in the UK they were often worthless as a result. Now bulbs are treated with more care and are brought out by sea in containers. As a result the bulbs now arrive here in excellent condition. The *Arisaema* supplied from India include *A. costatum*, *A. tortuosum*, *A. consanguineum*, *A. speciosum* and *A. nepenthoides* (which smells of wet nappies). *Arisaema sikokianum* comes originally from Japan but the commercial stocks are now grown in India. *Arisaema candidissimum* has a rose scent and the traditional form has pink flowers striped with white but darker and lighter colours are being bulked up for production.

*Lilium nepalense* needs an acid soil and moves about the garden where it is suited, rarely coming up where it was originally planted. *Cardiocrinum giganteum* used to suffer a lot of damage during shipping but the bulbs are now grown in pots and they are imported in full container loads. They are grown in a sterile compost based on coir that can be imported. Bulbs grown in the fields have to be cleaned of soil by hand in order to pass inspection.



*Arisaema candidissimum.*



*Cardiocrinum giganteum.*



*Arisaema sikokianum.*

Large stocks of bulbs are also imported from Holland where many rare bulbs have been bulked up over several decades. Kath Dryden gave John six bulbs of *Iris* 'Katherine Hodgkin'. He took them to Holland and they are now grown on a field scale. One field of 1 hectare contained an estimated 1.2 million bulbs which is about a third of the total production. *Iris* 'Katherine's Gold' is a yellow mutation of 'Katherine Hodgkin' that is becoming popular. It grows as vigorously as its "parent" but has brighter flowers. 'Sheila Anne Germany' is a seedling from the same cross as 'Katherine Hodgkin' and it has produced 'Polar Ice' and 'Finola' as sports.

In February Jacques Amand International mount a display at the RHS show including *Iris reticulata* forms. These were mostly blue and purple initially. 'Palm Springs' s one of the best new blue forms, a mutation from 'George', but recently Alan McMurtrie has been breeding new colours in Canada. Thirty years ago he collected forms of the blue *Iris sphenensis* and yellow *Iris danfordiae* in Turkey and he has raised a great many new colours. Many of these are undergoing trial in Holland, some are now available commercially. 'Sea Breeze' is good and 'Summers Day' was the best chrome yellow form produced. It was a good substitute for the short-lived *I. danfordiae* but it can also have a short life and it being replaced by a more durable hybrid selections such as 'Sunshine'. 'Spot On' is very striking and 'Scentsational' is very strongly scented. 'White Caucasus' is compact and vigorous and performs well in pots which is important to the Dutch nursery industry. Others that may succeed commercially include 'Eyecatcher', 'Atilla', 'Sea Green', 'Orange Glow', 'Fireworks', 'Pristine' 'Tequila Sunset' and 'Dream Catcher'. They will be appearing in catalogues in the next few years.



***Iris* 'Katharine Hodgkin'.**



**Jacques Amand display at the RHS spring show.**



***Iris* 'Eyecatcher'**

*Fritillaria* such as *F. uva-vulpis*, are grown in large numbers in Holland because they have robust bulbs that stand up well to machine lifting and the handling needed to produce the pre-packs of bulbs for the garden centres. *F. purdyi* and *F. recurva* were originally produced in the laboratory but it was found that they didn't increase in the field and they have now been dropped from production. Fritillaries are grown for cut flower in the first year and then the bulbs are lifted for sale at the end of the second year. *Fritillaria meleagris* 'Alba' was originally grown by division but now seed strains have been selected that come true and this speeds propagation. *F. michailovskyi* is planted in nets on heavy soil and the bulbs come up when the nets are lifted. *Fritillaria persica* smells of cats, which is a drawback as a cut flower so new clones are being selected that are unscented. One grower has 320 selections and is producing seedlings to find ones that look good as cut flowers and also increase well. 'Green Dreams' has green flowers and 'Twin Towers' reliably produces two flower spikes from each bulbs.

*Fritillaria imperialis* is also being developed. *F. i.* 'Argenteovariegata' has been known since the early 1600's but it has always been rare. From a few bulbs in 2007 one grower now has two wide beds of bulbs, each 100m long. *F. raddeana* and *F. imperialis* var *inodora* have both been used in modern hybridising, the latter in an attempt to reduce or remove the smell, which has been likened to cannabis. If the smell could be bred out then they would have a good future as cut flowers, which is a very important part of the Dutch industry. New colours have been produced from pale yellow to deep red. In July the bulbs are "scored" (the basal plate is deeply scored from below) and then replanted. Multiple bulbs are produced from the cut surfaces the following year. About a dozen new varieties have been introduced so far and they are on trial at Wisley where they should be looking good in the first week of April next year. 'Early Temptation', 'Early Favourite', and 'Early Passion' are available. 'Castor' and 'Pollux' were also released but 'Pollux' has since been withdrawn because of poor performance. They have to be planted in the fields by hand. Four people are drawn across the field on a trailer, placing the bulbs in the furrows as they go. They can be lifted from the soil by machine but they are picked up by hand and placed into shallow trays. If the bulbs are bruised then they rot.



***Fritillaria imperialis* 'Argenteovariegata'.**



**Jacques Amand display of *Fritillaria* at the RHS Spring Show.**



***Fritillaria meleagris* 'Alba'.**

About 350 cultivars of *Allium* are being grown in Holland and the RHS have recently held a trial at Wisley. 'Summer Drummer' can have stems up to 8ft tall. 'Forelock' and 'Red Mohican' are also recent cultivars that are becoming popular. *Allium cristophii* has to be raised from seed

because the bulbs don't divide. It has been crossed with *A. atropurpureum* to overcome this drawback and *A. 'Metallic Shine'* has been the best seedling so far. *Allium schubertii* was also produced from seed but it has been crossed with *A. atropurpureum*. The offspring produce bulbils in the flower head which has cut production time from four years to two. Other hybrids have been raised for other reasons. *A. macleanii* x *A. cristophii* gave *A. 'Globemaster'* which is being produced primarily for cut flower now. 'Purple Rain' is also being grown for cutting. Ten bulbs in the first year can give 40 flowers after three years. The flowers are all cut at once and there is a danger of flooding the market and depressing the price so they are held in cold store and small quantities are released to each of the four major cut flower markets every day.



*Allium 'Globemaster'* .



*Allium 'Summer Drummer'* .



*Allium 'Red Mohican'* .

Cultivars of snowdrop have been selected for pot production. They give much more uniformity of growth than the imported bulbs from Turkey. The bulbs are chipped to increase numbers, the bulbs are cut into vertical sections, including a piece of the bulb plate. Originally the chips were grown in vermiculite while new bulbils developed but now they are planted directly into the fields. They have to be grown in vast quantities because the large producers of flowering pot plants need to work on a very large scale for it to be worth their while.

Lilies are usually shade loving but in the Dutch fields they can be grown in the open because of the high water table. They started with 12 bulbs of *Lilium lankongiense* twelve years ago and now it is being produced on a field scale. *Cyclamen* are produced from seed. It is sown in December and the plants are saleable by the following August. *C. hederifolium* 'Red Sky' is one of the recent developments with dark red flowers.

There has recently been a trial of *Colchicum* at Hyde Hall in Essex. John find that they flower really well even if planted late. He brought a number of bowls of potted bulbs which he kindly donated to the raffle. 'Nancy Lindsay', 'Innocence', 'Rosy Dawn' and *C. macrophyllum* looked good. 'Spartacus' is a newer cultivar.

Tulips are very important in Holland where they are grown mainly as a cut flower crop. For that reason many of the older varieties have been phased out in favour of cultivars that produce better quality or more uniform blooms for cutting. The bulbs are composted after flowering, they aren't worth replanting. Production can be highly intensive, using mobile greenhouses over field grown bulbs, rotating benches and even producing them in trays of water to make automation and machine packing easier. After flowering in the fields the bulbs are fed very heavily so that they produce large daughter bulbs. At the end of the year the bulbs are lifted and they are always replanted into new ground, the Dutch do not grow the same crop in the same place for two years running.

Various machines are used to lift bulbs from the fields but many crops still rely on hand lifting to reduce damage. Many bulbs can be packed by machine and so it is the robust species that resist damage that arrive in garden centres and bulb catalogues!



*Colchicum autumnale*  
'Album Plenum'.



*Lilium langkongense* .



Bulbs for sale.

## THE THREE STEMS COMPETITION

Thanks to John Amand for judging the Three Stems competition. Congratulations to Trish Wilson for her delightful vase of *Salvia* (I wish the picture was as charming - sorry). *Salvia involucrata* Bethellii is a wonderful, tall herbaceous plant for the end of summer. The large flower heads add a sharp pink zing to the border. *Salvia leucantha* had white flowers from pale lilac heads and *Salvia corrugata* had bold heads of blue flowers above shiny, corrugated leaves. A striking combination.

I came second with a vase of *Nerine undulata* and Tricia Howard came third with a lovely group of late flowers from *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight'. The palest green shade of the flowers looking particularly elegant against the red curtains.

Pam Dormand brought in a selection of *Camellia sasanqua* flowers, a reminder that spring is just around the corner. All we have to do is eat our way through Christmas first! Sarah Wilks also brought in a *Camellia*, matching it with a *Nerine* and *Diascia personata* to good effect. On the subject of *Nerine*, Sue Lake's vase of *N. bowdenii* were very striking, like the beating heart of autumn.

But if I had to pick one flower that filled me with joy it was Jean Gadd's *Rosa* 'Gertrude Jekyll' in perfect condition. Not the slightest suggestion that it was clinging on to summer with desperate fingernails. It just lay in the vase as relaxed as a cat in the sunshine. A delightful memory of summer.



**1st. Trish Wilson.**  
*Salvia involucrata* Bethellii',  
*Salvia corrugata* and *Salvia*  
*leucantha* .



**2nd. John Sirkett.**  
*Nerine undulata* .



**3rd. Tricia Howard.**  
*Hydrangea paniculata*  
'Limelight' .

John Amand brought in some beautiful bowls of *Colchicum* that he donated to the raffle. Enormous thanks, some people were very lucky indeed. 'Spartacus' was new to me, a fabulous pale lilac flower on a strong stem. He also brought a table of wonderful bulbs to buy and many members took advantage of the opportunity to get something new.

Brian Hiley brought a vase of *Fuchsia* species that showed how good they could look at the end of the year. *Fuchsia boliviensis* isn't entirely hardy but it is well worth overwintering under cover for the clusters of long scarlet flowers through summer and autumn. *Galanthus* 'Autumn Belle' and *Selinum wallichianum* were both in perfect condition, representing spring and autumn respectively.

My greatest admiration, however, goes to Jo Waterhouse for her flower head of the Pohutakawa Tree from New Zealand (*Metrosideros excelsa*). A gorgeous tuft of red in a vase of scarlet flowers.



*Colchicum 'Spartacus'.*



*Fuchsia boliviensis.*



*Pohutakawa, Metrosideros excelsa.*

### **Christmas Festive Lunch.**

**Saturday, 14th December, 12:00 for 12:30 hrs.**

Hawkins Arms, Zelah. TR4 9HU. (<https://hawkinsarms.co.uk/>)

If you want more details then please contact the Chair, Phil Gadd, tel: 01726 817396 or email: [phil@gaddabout.com](mailto:phil@gaddabout.com).

### **New Year Walk 2020.**

**The New Year Walk will be at Mylor and Restronguet Creeks on Saturday, 4th January 2020, starting at 10:30 hrs. (Please note: there was an error in the last Newsletter. January 4th is the correct date.)**

Meet at the Pandora Inn car park ([www.pandorainn.com](http://www.pandorainn.com)) (Satnav: TR11 5ST). Please car share if possible.

This is a easy-moderate grade walk of about two hours and good walking shoes, or preferably, Hiking Boots are recommended. The walk will start at Pandora Inn, Restronguet Creek, and follows the edge of the creeks, down Restronguet Creek to Weir Point and via Greatwood Quay, back up Mylor Creek to Mylor Bridge. It then climbs the hill through fields to Restronguet Barton and descends Restronguet Hill back to the Pandora Inn. Lunch will be at the Pandora Inn where well behaved dogs are welcome. For committee members there will be a meeting following lunch.

Any queries, contact Phil Gadd, ([phil@gaddabout.com](mailto:phil@gaddabout.com)) (Tel: 01726 817396).

## OTHER EVENTS LAST MONTH

Wet grey weather has dominated the month. I could have stayed at home and tidied the sodden sludge of summer from the garden but I'm not that diligent. If I wait long enough it will disappear by itself (probably). When the chance has arisen I have slipped away to the eastern counties looking for some sunshine but I haven't been very lucky. The rain arrived later than it did in Cornwall but it had the same effect.

### **Kew. 1st November 2019.**

At the start of the month I got to Kew on a dry day. The gardens were balancing on that awkward moment between the end of autumn and the start of the new season. A few *Salvia* still looking good, some late *Nerine* and a few *Crocus* trying very hard but it was the sort of day when I could understand why gardens fill with art works for the winter. Sculpture abounds on every manicured lawn, clustering like migrating swallows on the telephone wires.

It was a perfect day to see the glass sculptures of Dale Chihuly which have been on display in the greenhouses this year. Chihuly is based in Seattle, USA and produces large glass installations in bright colours, many of them reflecting the organic shapes of plants and flowers. This is a return to Kew for Chihuly who last exhibited there in 2005. A number of the pieces have never been seen in the UK before. While I was there sections of the exhibit were being moved and it was fascinating to see the complex pieces being delivered in sections packed in cardboard boxes.



**Turquoise Marlins and Floats, 2015.**



**Glassware being delivered.**



**Ethereal White Persian Pond, 2018.**

### **Wisley. 15th November 2019.**

A trip to Wisley produced a bit more in the way of colour. Strong winds have stripped all the leaves from my *Liquidambar* but the old tree of *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Wisley King' was looking stately on the lawn as a kaleidoscope of colour spun through the branches. *Liquidambar* produce reliable colour in autumn, even in Cornwall, however strong winds will shorten the display.

*Acer palmatum* can also produce reliable colour, though it is well worth seeing adult plants before judging their performance - young plants always colour better in pots than they do in the open ground. 'Bloodgood' seems to perform well under a range of conditions. At Wisley the canopy had turned to a uniform scarlet red that shone out, even in poor light.

*Cornus kousa* 'Cappuccino' also stood out from a distance. I had seen it in flower in the summer and wondered why it had such a strange name but the rich brown autumn foliage answered the question. It was planted for Rosie O'Hare, the first child to be born in the garden (unexpectedly) in 2016. It's a colourful place!



*Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood'.



*Liquidambar styraciflua*  
'Wisley King'.



*Cornus kousa* 'Cappuccino'.

**Wisley. 15th November 2019.**

It is a self-indulgence to show a selection of *Agave* on display in the greenhouse. A number of the newest cultivars have been imported from the USA and it was good to see them in leaf. Most of them derive from recent hybrids between *Agave* and *Manfreda* which adds hardiness and moisture tolerance to the mix. They will be worth trying outside in Cornwall when they become more widely available. Originally they were called *x Mangave* but recent taxonomic changes have lumped the two genera together so things have become much simpler!



*Agave* 'Moonglow'.



*Agave* 'Kaleidoscope'.



*Agave* 'Inkblot'.

**Valley Gardens, Windsor Great Park. 17th November 2019.**

I had been hoping to see more in the way of late autumn colour at the Valley Gardens but I was too late, the leaves had fallen and the rain had softened the low lying ground. The first precocious flowers on *Rhododendron* provided a cheering promise of spring. There is a large collection of species and hybrids in the gardens, mostly dating from the 1940's and 50's. The display will continue to improve over the next few months and if you are in the area in spring it is well worth a visit - free if you don't include the cost of parking.



*Rhododendron lutescens* .



*Rhododendron rigidum* .



*Rhododendron rubiginosum* .

## October visit to Lukesland. by Tricia Howard.



**The pond.**



**Lukesland House.**



**The Tudor Gardens.**

Lukesland is in a tranquil valley garden, on the edge of Dartmoor near Ivybridge. On a lovely sunny day at the end of October Peter and I made a visit. This is mainly a spring woodland garden, but there was lots of interest and colour to enjoy at the end of October. The sound of water could be heard tumbling down from Dartmoor, through a series of ponds and cascades. The Gothic Revival style house was built in 1862, a previous house being demolished and the stonework used to make the garden. In 1931 Howard and Muriel Howell bought the house and improved the gardens, which are now owned by a descendent John Howell and his wife Lorna. Colour from the trees made a lovely picture, with the fiery red of the Japanese maples and bronzy yellow from the swamp cypress and *Ginkgo biloba* standing out. One border had a tall *Helichrysum* with lots of tiny white everlasting flowers as well as pink nerines. There was also a tea room with cake and soup.



***Helichrysum.***



**Lukesland Bridge.**



***Acer.***

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

Membership renewals are due in January but because we have no meeting during that month, we usually handle them at the December meeting.

APOLOGIES.

The bank details sent out last month were incorrect due to a recent change in account numbers. Sorry.

**If you are able to use online banking the correct details are attached with this newsletter.**

We would be grateful if you could try to avoid cash as these payments are becoming increasingly difficult to process.

Alternatively you can bring a cheque payable to Cornwall Hardy Plant Society to the December meeting. (Single membership £12 per annum, £20 joint.)

### **Snowdrops at the Garden House.**

The Garden House will be hosting a snowdrop sale by Avon Bulbs on Saturday 1st February 2020, 11am - 3pm. Normal garden admission applies.

Discover the Matt Bishop snowdrop collection at the Garden House. The snowdrops are displayed and labelled in the herbaceous borders and naturalised with many flowering bulbs in areas throughout the ten acre, sheltered garden.

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11am - 3pm. Weekends from Friday 17th January 2020.

The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton, Devon  
PL20 7LQ.

[www.thegardenhouse.org.uk](http://www.thegardenhouse.org.uk)

01822 854769

## **COMING EVENTS**

**Everything that I have heard of is going on at Rosemoor. Please tell me if you know of anything else that might be of interest to members.**

#### **Rosemoor.**

Thursday 14th November - Saturday 4th January.

Rosemoor Glow Garden Illuminations. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only.

Check website for details: [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

#### **Rosemoor.**

Thursday 14th November - Friday 31st January.

Winter Sculpture Exhibition.

Check website for details: [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

#### **Rosemoor.**

Saturday 14th December and Sunday 15th December.

Magic of Christmas Food and Craft Fair.

Check website for details: [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

**If you go to any of these events, please would you take some pictures for the newsletter! Three "landscape" (broad and low) pictures fit the page perfectly. "Portrait" (narrow and upright) pictures may have to be cropped to fit them in. Add some words if you like. Thanks.**

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4th December .  
 Christmas Social. Brian Hiley will talk about "My Favourite Gardens".  
 7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall.

Please bring some food, sweet or savory, suitable for a finger buffet. Nina will be there to serve both alcoholic and non-alcoholic mulled wine to accompany the food and we look forward to seeing as many members as possible. As the food tables will take up most of the room there will be no plants for sale, however any plants for the display table will be most welcome and the 3-flower competition will take place as usual. Also please bring a raffle prize. Seasonal items, chocolate, wine as well as plant related items would be very acceptable.

## ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday 14th December 2019 .  
 Christmas Festive lunch. 12.00 for 12.30hrs.  
 Hawkins Arms, Zelah. TR4 9HU. (<https://hawkinsarms.co.uk/>).

Saturday 4th January 2020 .  
 New Year Walk, 10.30am.  
 Meet: Pandora Inn Car Park, TR11 5ST.

Wednesday 5th February 2020 .  
 A.G.M and Jonathan Hutchison will talk about "The Falkland Islands".  
 7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall.

Please let me have any items that may be of interest to the members so that I can include them in the next newsletter. News items, visits, photographs and upcoming events especially welcome. Please let me know if I drop any clangers!

*John Sirkett* [cornwallhps@gmail.com](mailto:cornwallhps@gmail.com)

There is no newsletter in January so don't forget the New Year Walk on Saturday 4th , 2020. In the meantime here are some more flowers from the winter *Camellia* to help you through the cold, dark, wet winter days (though of course the sun will be shining brightly on January 4th for the New Year walk).



*Camellia*  
 'Winton'.



*Camellia*  
*sasanqua*  
 'Paradise  
 Pearl'.



*Camellia*  
*sasanqua*  
 'Sekiyō'.



*Camellia*  
*sasanqua*  
 'Crimson  
 King'.



*Camellia*  
*sasanqua*  
 'Paradise  
 Vanessa'.



*Camellia*  
 'Cornish  
 Snow'.