A couple of days of sunshine over the weekend have made an enormous difference in the garden. I got out a chair and sat by the house, being dazzled in the bright light. All around things are growing, the camellias are well underway, there are snowdrops everywhere and the first daffodils are going over. If you get a moment to sit in the garden then take it, you won't regret it. The *Hamamelis* are in full flower along with winter honeysuckle, *Daphne* and *Chimonanthes praecox*. On a still day the garden is strongly scented, and still days aren't uncommon at this time of year. Of course it is also the time of year to watch out for sudden cold snaps. It can all change in a moment. Sit in the garden, enjoy the sun, wear your thermal long-johns and cross your fingers!

**Mahonia for winter sunshine.**

The Mahonia seem to have had a more "compact" flowering season this year, usually they sputter from October through to February. This year they (more or less) all hit the peak in December and as a result the garden shone with yellow light as the days turned greyer and darker.

![Mahonia japonica.](image1)

![Mahonia oiwakensis lomariifolia.](image2)

![Mahonia oiwakensis lomariifolia.](image3)

I only grow one plant of *M. japonica*. It came to me as *M. bealei* but it isn't. It should have short, upright spikes of bright yellow flowers but instead it has these trailing stems with sparse greenish-yellow flowers dangling beneath them. They are slightly scented but not strong enough to be worth stopping for as you walk past. It's growing too big and I should really cut it hard back, but there is a part of me that would be just as happy to dig it out and grow something more interesting in the space. I could rehome it to the windbreak and let it take its chances. It's prickly enough to keep the neighbour's horse out anyway.

*M. oiwakensis lomariifolia* is a much taller and more upright thing, the flowers are now mostly out of sight. The hybrid between the two species, *M. x media*, is intermediate and has some of the charms of each of its parents.

I like the upright stems of *Mahonia oiwakensis lomariifolia*, though there is something gaunt about them and it does get tall. This one was photographed at Castle Kennedy in Scotland, mine is taller and sparser, an equivalent picture would just have shown a bundle of kinky upright
The flowers of *Mahonia oiwakensis lomariifolia* are borne in stubby short congested racemes. For me they are wasted at the top of the tall stems, but in the wind they scatter yellow petal-confetti rather delightfully. It provides enough amusement to cheer me on a windy winter day. This is the tall, rather coarse leaved plant that we all used to call *Mahonia lomariifolia* however it has now been accepted as part of the range of variation within *M. oiwakensis* and the situation has become more confused.

Mahonia oiwakensis lomariifolia Fine Leaf.  Mahonia oiwakensis lomariifolia 'Rubrifolia'.  Mahonia x media 'Buckland'.

In the last couple of decades there have been numerous new introductions of *Mahonia* from China. Some of our old assumptions have been challenged and some good new plants have arrived. In the process, this new form of *M. oiwakensis lomariifolia* was introduced. It's a wonderful thing with finely divided deep green leaves, the individual leaflets prickly and curved, the whole effect rather architectural. Bright chestnut new growth is an added bonus. So far it has remained more compact than the old form. I call it the fine leaved form but I don't think it has been given a cultivar name yet so beware. If you buy *M. oiwakensis lomariifolia* you could get either form - as well to see it in person first! Gorgeous as it is, this one is not for cuddling.

In the National Collection at Savill Gardens is a plant labelled *Mahonia oiwakensis lomariifolia* 'Rubrifolia'. It has red tinted foliage and I would love to see how it looked growing in the garden, this one is in the greenhouse. Unfortunately it is unexceptional in flower, the foliage is the best part.

*Mahonia x media* 'Buckland' is a hybrid between *M. japonica* and *M. oiwakensis lomariifolia*. A number of cultivars of the hybrid have been raised in the UK. Lionel Fortescue produced many seedlings at Buckland Monachorum in Devon and this is one of the better ones. It has good foliage and plenty of racemes of flower in the head, all held moderately well splayed out. My plant is a bit leggy and would be better if I cut it back more regularly.

Mahonia x media 'Charity'.  Mahonia x media 'Charity'.  Mahonia x media 'Charity's Sister'.

A number of seedlings of the hybrid were raised at the Slieve Donard Nursery in Co. Down. *Mahonia x media* 'Charity' was selected by Eric Savill from a line of imported seedlings growing in Russell's Nursery and it was the best of its time. It has large, rounded heads of foliage with long racemes of good yellow flowers. The racemes are rather lax in the centre of the rosette, like
tired starfish after a long night out, so I think there are better forms now, however this is the "industry standard", it performs well and is reliable in production. On the down side, I know a number of really old plants and they are never attractive. It doesn't develop character with age, it just gets old. The flowers are bright, reliable, wintry. They have lots of good things about them, I just find that after a few decades I am getting bored with it in the garden. Perhaps I just eat too much caviar and champagne to appreciate its pedestrian baked-beanyness.

I don't grow *Mahonia x media* 'Charity's Sister', it was photographed at Wisley but this is, exactly as you might expect, the dowdy sister. One of those things that was named for the sake of completeness. 'Charity' will turn to teaching and become headmistress of a junior school in Northumberland, the sister will marry a jockey who immediately puts on weight and never wins anything. Just the way of things.

*Mahonia x media* 'Faith' is another sister of 'Charity' named by Eric Savill in the 1950's. This was photographed at Wisley a few weeks ago, and was the first time I had noticed it - having walked past the spot fairly regularly for 30 years. It is very tall, taking after the *M. oiwakensis lomariifolia* parent but with much better flowers and rather good foliage. There was a third one named at the time called 'Hope', but I don't recall ever seeing it, 'Charity' immediately cornered the market and you only really need one of them.

*Mahonia x media* 'Lionel Fortescue' was one of the hybrid seedlings raised by Lionel Fortescue at Garden House in Buckland Monachorum. He gave it to Savill Gardens who recognised it as a good thing and named it in his honour. I think it is the best of the Buckland seedlings (a couple of hundred were raised but only a handful retained). It has dense heads of upright flower spikes, well furnished with flowers and can look good for a month or more in the middle of winter. Bushy and upright, so it also has good form and never looks tired.

Originally distributed as *Mahonia napaulensis* and assumed to come from a collection by George Forrest in Yunnan in 1904, *Mahonia x media* 'Maharajah' has since been recognised as a hybrid. A confusion has occurred somewhere. Fabulous long, elegant, (spiny) leaves and dense heads of bright flowers with impact. It is an excellent thing. Mine is still in the greenhouse waiting for a space to appear (that old *M. japonica* had better watch out).

*Mahonia x media* 'Underway', *Mahonia x media* 'Winter Sun', *Mahonia x media* 'Arthur Menzies'.
Mahonia x media 'Underway' is a good looking form of the hybrid. I like the poise of the flower racemes and the matching, slightly folded leaves. Said to be more compact than other forms, I wouldn't have said that it was distinctively different. Another one of the Slieve Donard selections, it has a certain elegance about it that isn't always found among the hybrids.

Mahonia x media 'Winter Sun' is another Slieve Donard selection and one of my favourites, but I am hard pressed to give a good reason. It has plenty of shortish racemes of flower that quiver over the foliage like a dob of custard on a green plate. For many years it grew outside my sitting room window in a rather bleak north facing bed. Eventually I moved it into the sun and it came alive. One of the earliest to flower, it shines when the light catches it between the trees. Not the tidiest of growers but I don't mind, I like it.

Mahonia x media 'Arthur Menzies' is an American hybrid from seed produced at the Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco though it was selected and named in the University of Washington Arboretum in 1964. It is now thought to be a hybrid between M. bealei and M. oiwakensis lomariifolia so perhaps it will need a new hybrid name eventually. Given the number of selections of the Mahonia x media that have been raised and named in the UK it is a little unfortunate that this American hybrid is the best of them. Good, sturdy compact growing shrub with excellent flower heads that last well. If I ever get bored with Mahonia x media and chop them all out, this one will remain, not because it is an excellent Mahonia, but because it is an excellent shrub.

LAST MEETING

"My Favourite Gardens".
by Brian Hiley.

Before Christmas (doesn't it seem a long way away now) Brian Hiley entertained us with a look at his favourite gardens. The list included many gardens that will be less familiar and worth visiting if you are travelling in the area.

Kingston Lacy in Dorset is now in the hands of the National Trust. The house was inspired by an Italian Palace and the garden contains many ornaments collected in Italy and Egypt. The Japanese Garden was created in the early 1900's and covers seven acres. A Fernery, an Arboretum and the kitchen garden are particular highlights.

Packwood House in Warwicksire was restored by Graham Baron Ash at the start of the 20th century. He had a passion for collecting that flowed into the gardens, forming brightly coloured herbaceous borders, sculpted yews and formal vistas.
| Coleton Fishacre is an Arts and Crafts house built in the 1920's, a former country house of the D'Oyly Carte family. The garden has a mild location close to the sea and houses a good collection of tender plants, especially of New Zealand and South African origin. There is a viewpoint at the end of the valley garden looking out over the Devon coast. | Marwood Hill Garden in North Devon was created by Dr Jimmy Smart in the late 1950's. Set in a valley and including three lakes, the garden houses a large number of Magnolias and other interesting trees, as well as National Collections of Astilbe, Tulbaghia and Japanese Iris. |
| Arley Hall in Cheshire was built between 1832 and 1845 on the site of the original hall built in 1469. The herbaceous border is thought to be the first of its kind planted in England. The formal gardens extend to about 8 acres with a further 6 acres of arboretum. An avenue of pleached Limes, mature Holm Oak columns and Yew hedges add to the structure of the garden. | The garden at Bidulph Grange was created by James Bateman and has survived almost intact from the Victorian period with extensive plant collections from all corners of the world. The Italian garden, Chinese garden, Egyptian pyramid and Himalayan Glen are displayed among massed rhododendrons. The garden also features the oldest Golden Larch in the UK. |
| Powis Castle has been transformed from a medieval fortress to a family home over the last 400 years. The terraced garden in the Italian style has views out over the Severn Valley. A formal garden with clipped Yew hedges and a woodland containing many champion trees complete the setting for the remarkable building. | Aberglasney is a medieval house and its associated gardens in Carmarthenshire. In the last century the large house had started to fall into disrepair but in 1995 it was taken over by the Aberglasney Restoration Trust. The Elizabethan cloister garden has a parapet walk along the top and there is an earlier cloister garden that may date from the 13th century. Above the cloisters, the walled garden was designed by Penelope Hobhouse. A unique feature of the house is the Ninfarium, a covered garden built in the central ruins of the house, that drew its inspiration from the gardens of Ninfa in Italy. |
The National Botanic Garden of Wales opened in May 2000 and since then has become the most visited garden in Wales. Set in the countryside of Carmarthenshire, the garden features the largest single span greenhouse in the world. The unique double walled garden includes a butterfly house within the formal layout and the botanically arranged beds bring the total number of species cultivated up to 8,000.

Dyffryn Gardens focus on rare plants of botanical interest is down to the early 20th century vision of Reginald Cory. He inherited the garden from his father and used his personal wealth, in partnership with the landscape architect Thomas Mawson, to create an outdoor showcase for his collection of trees, shrubs and other plants.

Hergest Croft in Herefordshire has been created over the last 120 years by four generations of the Banks family. The Lower Terrace by the house leads out to a rockery, a blue and white border and a large kitchen garden. The Azalea garden stands next to a Maple Grove created in 1985. In the distance behind the house, Park Wood is a 30 acre valley woodland containing exotic trees and giant Rhododendrons creating a Himalayan scene.

Hampton Court Castle stands beside the River Lugg in Herefordshire. It was originally built in the 15th century by Sir Rowland Lenthall on land given by King Henry VI. Rowland had fought at Agincourt under Henry V. Substantial parts of the original Manor remain. The walled garden is a Victorian addition along with a Yew Maze and a kitchen garden.

Brobury House stands on the banks of the River Wye by Bredwardine Bridge, the first brick built bridge to cross the Wye. The gardens were laid out when the house was built in the 1880's though a number of water features have since been added making use of a stream that runs into the river.

To end with Brian showed us some pictures from his holiday to Tenerife of the grounds of the Hotel Garoe in Puerto de la Cruz. A lovely insight into the possibilities when gardening in a warmer climate.
THE THREE STEMS COMPEITION

Thanks to Brian Hiley for judging the Three Stems competition. First prize to a vase of Nerine 'Mansellii', an early hybrid between *N. sarniensis* and *N. undulata* raised in Guernsey in 1880. Rebecca Heard came second with a selection of Correa in flower. Although they can flower from late summer onwards, the best display from Correa comes in the grey weeks before Christmas when we are hungry for some colour. They aren't reliably hardy in most gardens but Correa 'Marian's Marvel' is getting a good reputation for toughness and is worth a try outside (but root some cuttings before winter just in case). Peter Howard was third with some pink Hesperantha flowers still performing well after their autumn spectacle.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1st. John Sirkett.</th>
<th>2nd. Rebecca Heard.</th>
<th>3rd. Tricia Howard.</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Nerine</em> 'Mansellii'.</td>
<td>*Correa backhouseana, C. 'Marian's Marvel' and C. 'Dusky Bells'.</td>
<td><em>Hesperantha coccinea</em>.</td>
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Adrienne Lloyd brought a flower of *Iris foetidissima* growing out of its usual season but beautifully matched with *Hesperantha* 'Pallida', both with flowers approaching white from different directions. Trishia Wilson brought in a selection of winter leaves, *Euphorbia amygdaloides* 'Purpurea' providing a dark, solid contrast to the silvery markings on the leaves of *Arum italicum* 'Marmoratum' and the feathery frond of *Polystichum setiferum* 'Divisilobum'. Tricia Howard brought in a selection of red flowers (Santa's on his way) and *Salvia* 'Royal Bumble' caught my eye as it blended into the background of red curtains. It captured something of the past summer, perhaps the buzzing of fat bees in the sunshine.

A selection of yellow flowers from Jo Waterhouse brought some more sunshine into the hall. We have had some bright moments in the last couple of days but they have been fleeting. If I had to pick a favourite then it would be a brazen *Euryops* laughing in the face of the pre-solstitial gloom!

On the display table, Pam Dormand had brought in some early snowdrops. 'Colossus' and 'Snow Fox' are classic spring flowers showing colour in the buds already. If the mild weather continues it will be a very early spring. 'Autumn Belle' flowered several weeks ago but had a single flower from a late bud still looking good and 'Remember Remember' had held on well from its November flowering. 

*Corydalis flexuosa* was a wonderful suggestion of the spring to come, I don't think I have ever seen it this early before. A very lovely form with pale china-blue flowers. Sometimes *Corydalis* can become drawn and leggy in the low light levels of winter but these remained beautifully compact. An arrangement of winter foliage (from Tricia I think) with some paperwhite *Narcissus* was widely admired. The combination of purple *Pittosporum* 'Purpureum' foliage and the white mottled 'Irene Patterson' looked really elegant with some flowering rush stems. *Leptolepis novae-zelandiae* looked particularly good, certainly one I should try in the garden.

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**Secretary, Cornwall Hardy Plant Society.**

At last year's AGM the secretary of our group stood down after long service. At the time nobody was able to step forward and take on the role so Sarah Wilks agreed to take over and keep things running smoothly for a year. We are all very grateful for the job she has done but the time has come for her to give up the role and we are looking for a volunteer to take over. Sarah has supplied a summary of the duties entailed during the year, if you feel that you could support us by taking them on PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE consider volunteering.

Secretary’s duties, CHPS.

Attend two committee meetings a year, taking minutes at the meetings, drawing up the agenda for the meeting - liaising with the Chair.

Receiving various emails from HPS head office on a range of subjects. Examples: a television company is looking for gardens to film – this would be passed on for inclusion in the CHPS monthly newsletter if appropriate; the head office is closed for holidays (no action needed); the deadline for asking for a grant for the following year is approaching. All are usually dealt with in a matter of minutes.

In the last two years two small grants from HPS head office have been sorted out, for a flutter flag and for taking a stand at CGS Spring Show 2020. This involved a few emails again, not an involved process. This year application for a stand at the CGS Show required a few emails to the Trade Stand director plus a simple form to fill in.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE.

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**Dividing Plants.**

And while we were on the subject of help, now is a great time to divide herbaceous plants and pot up some spares for the Plant Fair in May. The earlier you do it the better chance of them being established in pots by the time of the sale. The better they look, the more money we can make and it all helps to pay for speakers to keep the programme interesting for the coming year!

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**OTHER EVENTS LAST MONTH**

Christmas and the New Year produced a diversity of events, the wet weather in the middle of December finally gave way to some dry days. It would be too much to suggest that the sun came out but the rain stopped, it's almost the same thing. The first camellias opened, the first daffodils
flowered and if you visited gardens you will have noticed that the mud has firmed up, at least temporarily!

**Polystichum in Surrey. 30th December 2019.**

I was in Surrey at the end of December looking at things botanical and I was taken out to see the local *Polystichum* ferns. The Soft Shield fern, *Polystichum setiferum*, is fairly common in the south of England. It has a large number of delightful varieties that have been selected for garden use over the last century or so. *Polystichum munitum* comes from the western side of North America. The fronds have simple, lance shaped pinnae that lead to the name Western Sword fern. It is widely grown in gardens in the UK. The evergreen fronds have a strong structural impact in gardens right through the winter. In suitable places it naturalises quite easily taking advantage of moist, shady environments so that it is regularly reported growing in "wild" situations.

Ferns reproduce by spores which germinate very easily in damp conditions. *Polystichum* add a little wrinkle to the reproductive scenario by outbreeding strongly. They do not self-pollinate easily, instead they pollinate other individuals most successfully.

There are a number of places where the two species grow together and a few years ago at a single site in Surrey, the hybrid between the two species was discovered and later named *Polystichum x leslei*. That is the plant we were looking for. Fortunately we had been given exact details of the location and the parent species were easily found. Growing among them were a couple of plants that didn't quite match the description of either parent. Similar to *P. setiferum* but with broader, overlapping pinnae and "flatter" fronds. I am almost certain that we had found it and detailed study of the photographs taken seem to have confirmed it. All in all a rather jolly way to spend an afternoon.

For a long time this was the only site in the UK where the hybrid was known to occur but in recent years a single plant has been found at a second location. I haven't seen it but it is closer to home, growing in a hedge in mid-Cornwall. I can feel a spring trip coming on!

![Polystichum setiferum. Polystichum x leslei above and P. setiferum below. Polystichum munitum.](image)

**Wisley Glow. 31st December 2019.**

The RHS have run the "Glow" celebration in their gardens (except for Hyde Hall) through December. I didn't manage to get to Rosemnoor this year but I was in Wisley for the end of the year. During the day the garden is decorated with giant flowers and unfortunately I wasn't able to stay until the lights came on in the evening (it was New Years Eve). The picture of the illuminated greenhouse came from their website.

A field of white flowers beside the path to the greenhouse were very striking in the misty light and the new Wisteria arch was heavily decorated. It will be a couple of years before the young wisterias can match the display. Giant daffodils along the canal shone out as the sun went down, water lilies in the pond made a good display with the massed winter stems of *Cornus* and Ghost Brambles.
New Year Walk. 4th January 2020.

Eighteen of us and a handful of dogs (who were not technically members - we should look at that) arrived at the Pandora Inn for the New Year walk. Overnight the weather forecast had suggested cloud with a possibility of drizzle in the morning so it was a relief to arrive at Restronguet Creek and see the sunshine glinting off the rippling water. Hardly a breath of wind stirred the sails of the boats out on Carrick Roads. In the distance the sound of sailors on the water blowing with all their might to stir the sails could just be heard.

The path led around the creek to Mylor, an easy walk, the surface was good and even the dogs stayed clean for the most part. At Mylor we turned up the hill and over the fields to the road. Along the way there were daffodils in bud, *Vinca major* in bloom and some lovely stands of *Petasites pyrenaicus* in flower. It is a dreadful weed in the garden but the scented flowers are a delight in the first days of January. Many of you will have known it as *Petasites fragrans* but recent research has shown that it is the same as the plant that grows in the Pyrenees. All of the plants in the UK are male so seed is never produced. Instead it is spread by pieces of rhizome moved during soil excavations. It is the only plant that I know that is distributed entirely by JCB!

From the road at the top of the hill it was a short and easy walk back down to the Pandora Inn for an excellent and well deserved lunch. Thanks to Phil and Jean for organising the route and walking it beforehand to make sure that it was suitable. They may also have arranged the weather, it could hardly have been better.
New Year Walk - Mylor and Restronguet Creeks.
by Phil Gadd.

On a mild and overcast morning eighteen hardy members and six dogs gathered in a parking area on Quay Road, Restronguet, belonging to Peter and Judy Watson who had kindly allowed us to do so, for our annual walk and lunch. Thank you, Peter and Judy.
The official starting point for the walk was the Pandora Inn, located 100 meters back along Quay Road.

The Pandora Inn dates back to the 13th Century, when there was a farm on the site. Later it became an Inn and was known as the Passage House as a boat was kept there to link the post road from Turro to Falmouth, which cut across the creek. The Inn changed its name to The Ship and was finally renamed in memory of the HMS Pandora which was sent to Tahiti to capture the mutineers from the Bounty. The captain of the HMS Pandora was from Cornwall and is reputed to have bought the inn on his return. The HMS Pandora was ill-fated, sinking on the Great Barrier Reef with the loss of many crew and mutineers, and the pub also had its share of bad fortune in 2011 when a fire badly damaged the building. The proverbial silver lining was that fire had destroyed all the 1970s additions to the pub, and it has now been restored using traditional materials and building methods.

Having taken the obligatory group photos, the party set off from the parking area to the Pandora Inn ready to follow the paths and tracks along the edge of Restronguet Creek to our left. Having reached the Inn there was a sudden mass exodus to its facilities for comfort breaks! Having regrouped the party finally set off on their walk. As we passed the Inn the more observant members would have noticed the gold post-box, set in the wall, celebrating the 2012 Olympic medals for sailing.

The Restronguet Sailing Club (RSC) was founded in 1933 and had its first Olympic Gold Medallist in 1948. By 1965, it had become so popular that it outgrew its location on Restronguet Creek and was relocated to its current position near Mylor Harbour. More recently, Ben Ainslie learned to sail there and went on to win a number of Olympic medals and receive a knighthood.

The route along Restronguet Creek consisted of various paths and tracks with the occasional access road reaching the properties dotted along the area, which all bore the title of Cottage like a well-worn cardigan! As we neared the end of Restronguet Creek and started to pick up signposting to Mylor Bridge we passed Greatwood House.

Greatwood House was built in 1840 as a private residence by the family who owned Trelissick. It has been put to a number of uses over the years including a market gardening estate and a hotel. In the 1970’s it became derelict and was subsequently converted into flats. It has since gone full circle and been restored into a single large residence.

As we worked our way around the headland and into Mylor Creek the area became a little more remote, passing through kissing gates, with more wooded areas and fields which contain cows, although there were none to be seen as we passed through. This part of the route proved to be somewhat muddier than when tested but was as nothing to those that had dealt with and conquered the quagmire encountered the previous year! Eventually the party arrived at Mill Quay on the edge of Mylor Bridge.

The quay at Mylor is thought to date from the 18th Century, initially built of slate and the rebuilt in granite. Just upstream at the head of the creek was a tidal mill. In the late 1760’s, work began on a new double-wheeled watermill behind the quay to replace the tidal mill. Water was supplied by a leat to power the waterwheels and the water exited from tail races through two arched openings in the front of the quay. The mill was in use until the early 20th Century.

Mylor is the name of the parish but there is no village of Mylor. The closest thing to this are the separate villages of Mylor Bridge, which is the largest in the parish, and Mylor Churchtown which includes the harbour as well as the church.

From Mill Quay the party turned inland and undertook a long steady climb via a small footpath and track uphill eventually emerging into a field, there following the right hedge until reaching a gateway leading to a lane. The settlement here is known as Restronguet Barton. Turning left onto the lane the party enjoyed some easier walking on a tarmacked surface. This lane, in places, afforded panoramic views to the left over Mylor Bridge.
and the valley it sits in. A short distance along the lane was a large memorial cross to be seen.

_During the Second World War there were British and American army camps on the hill near Restronguet Barton. Between the two camps was a prisoner-of-war and refugee camp which housed over 100 men. Many of the refugees were Ukrainians who had fled the Communist regime and the men created a chapel from one of the Nissan huts in the camp. The prisoners were repatriated after the war but many of the refugees found work on the farms in the area and a number settled permanently. In 1948, the Nissan Hut chapel was blessed by three Roman Catholic priests, and a priest from Falmouth made regular visits to take services. When the camp finally closed an eight-foot-high cross was built on the site of the old guard house. A re-dedication took place near the start of the 21st Century with a number of the original refugees and their descendants attending._

Finally, on reaching a crossroads the party turned right, signposted to Restronguet Passage, and followed the lane down the hill back to Pandora Inn where a welcome drink and lunch was available to them.

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**Hardy Plant Walks.**

_by Charlie Pridham._

On our very enjoyable ramble around Mylor in January several members asked me when these HPS January walks started. As far as Liz and I can remember the first was in 1997 when the normal meeting night of the first Wednesday fell on the 1st of January. Predicting a low turn out it seemed a shame to book a speaker, so Beryl our then secretary organised a walk up near the Duchy Nursery which would end up in their old tea room after wandering around the nursery. The weather unfortunately let us down and many of us battled winter weather to arrive to sheet ice and the Duchy with frozen pipes and no water for loo or teas, so it was not the most promising of starts! We cant remember the exact year of the next walk but think it was the late 1990's and involved using the two ferry crossings at Fowey, this was organised by Judith Stevens and was very successful. My records from this point are not complete due to our newsletter not starting until Jackie Miller and Betty Doney started a paper version in 2000.

The next walk I have found was up and around Tregrehan and the Eden Project in January 2002, I have no pictures for these early walks so if anyone has a photo record please get in touch. A second walk around Glendurgan occurred in March of that year, we made our leisurely way back up from Glendurgan beach via Bosloe and Carwinnion to the Red Lion for Lunch. Well fed and watered we reassembled at Penjerrick and were treated to a magical guided tour of the garden by Peter Clough. Penjerrick although quite overgrown is a very special garden.

Next in 2003 was Bedruthan with the first of several visits to Trellissick the following year in 2004. During this period Lynn and Judy organised many other winter walks as well as the January one, with other members coming up with ideas as well like a memorable walk up North Hill to the round houses organised by Jen and Pete Bousfield in March 2005 which followed a walk around Malpas earlier in January.

2006 was Boscastle (I have no pictures), 2007 Padstow where we ate a picnic lunch in the shelter of a dry stone wall with white sand and blue skies. It was a lovely day. In 2008 nothing had been organised but there is a note in the January 08 Newsletter saying sorry to those receiving paper newsletters that something last minute had been arranged but we were only able to tell email newsletter people. Frustratingly nothing is said about where it took place and I clearly didn't go as I have no pictures - can anyone fill this blank? 2009 Harlyn Bay, then 3 years when Liz and I didn't go 2010 St Mawes, 2011 Pentire, and 2012 Trellissick. Anyone have pictures for these?

In 2013 Lelant, Liz was waiting on a back operation so just the dog and I on that one (Liz stayed in the pub)! 2014 Lanhydrock, 2015 Newquay, 2016 Crantock, 2017 Idless woods, 2018 Pontsmill, 2019 The Lappa Valley where I broke Liz's hand "rescuing" her from the mud, brings us up to date.

We are lucky to live in a lovely part of the world and its safe to say several of these walks we wouldn't have done on our own although several have been revisited at different times of the year. I have spent a happy hour going back and revisiting the pictures, many members sadly no longer with us and the same with dogs, our last three have all taken part.
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
01822 854769

Cornwall Garden Society Show
4th - 5th April.

Once again we will be having a stand at the Cornwall Garden Society Spring Show to promote Cornwall Hardy Plant Society. Volunteers are needed to man the stand and talk to the general public. If you think you could spare an hour or two during the weekend please have a word with the Chair, Phil Gadd.

Phil has also been promoting the society through the free newspapers around St Austell. If anybody knows other free papers that are distributed in the county could you let him know so that he can spread the word more widely.

Thank you.

Coach trip to two North Devon Gardens,
Castle Hill Gardens and Marwood Hill Garden.
Wednesday 29th April 2020.

Leave from St Erme Community Centre car park at 9.00am and returning at 6.00/6.30pm. Arrive Castle Hill at approx 11.00am, refreshments available from tearoom, depart at 1.00pm.

Arrive at Marwood Hill 1.30pm, light lunches etc available from garden tea room or bring your own packed lunch. Depart 4.00pm.

Cost is £30 per person which includes the return coach journey and both garden entrance fees.

There are 49 places available on a "first come first served" basis, secured by payment. Please let Sue Lake or Dave Mayhew know if you wish to reserve a place. Payment can be made at the February meeting or at the March meeting at the latest please.
Charity Calendar for DementiaUK.

We have received an e-mail about raising awareness and support for DementiaUK that members might like to consider as the weather warms up.

"My name is Robyn Ainsworth and I'm hoping to pose for/produce a cheeky charity calendar to raise awareness/support for DementiaUK at a regional and national level.
I would like the calendar to have an English Garden theme and wondered if any of your members would be able to help me?
Would any member of the Cornwall Hardy Plant Society allow me to pose in their garden for the calendar pictures?
I understand it's an unusual request and if you would like to know more about the calendar please feel free to ask me. I'm hoping to set up related social media once things get underway. Any help you can provide would be much appreciated, look forward to hearing from you,
Robyn
robynainsworth9595@outlook.com

COMING EVENTS

Spring is returning and there are a few events going on this month. Please tell me if you know of anything else that might be of interest to members.

Plant Heritage Cornwall Group.
Tuesday 28th January, 10.30am - 4.00pm.
Annual branch meeting and study day at Heligan PL26 6EN.
Check website for details: www.cornwallplantheritage.co.uk

Tregoose, Grampound. TR2 4DB.
Sunday 2nd February, 1.00pm - 4.30pm.
Open under the National Garden Scheme.
Check website for details: www.ngs.org.uk

Cornwall Orchid Society.
Sunday 2nd February, 2.00pm, Chacewater Village Hall.
Members plant sales.
Check website for details: www.cornwallorchidsociety.com

Snowdrop Sunday, Pencarrow, Bodmin PL30 3AG.
Sunday 9th February, 10.00am - 4.00pm.
Check website for details: www.pencarrow.co.uk

West Cornwall Orchid Society.
Sunday 9th February, 2.00pm, The Annexe, behind Camborne Community Centre, South Terrace TR14 8SU.
Talk by Ron Lindsay.
Check website for details: www.westcornwallorchidsociety.btck.co.uk

Cardinham Gardening Club.
Monday 10th February, 7.30pm. Cardinham Parish Hall, PL30 4BN.
Claire Woodbine, "Gardens of the Far East".
Check website for details: www.cardinhamgardening.co.uk

Cornwall Garden Society Lecture.
Tuesday 11th February, 7.30pm, The Alverton, Tregolls Road, Truro.
Lady Skelmersdale, "Beat the Drum".
Check website for details: www.cornwallgardensociety.org.uk
Cornwall Garden Society Lecture.
Wednesday 12th February, 2.30pm, 2.30pm. St Mellion International Resort, Saltash.
Lady Skelmersdale, "Where did your garden grow?".
Check website for details: www.cornwallgardensociety.org.uk

Camborne-Rudruth Fuchsia Society.
Thursday 13th February, 7.30pm. Camborne Science and International Academy, TR14 7PP.
Check website for details: www.cornwallfuchsias.btck.co.uk

Tregoose, Grampound, TR2 4DB.
Sunday 16th February, 1.00pm - 4.30pm.
Open under the National Garden Scheme.
Check website for details: www.ngs.org.uk

Snowdrop Sunday, Pencarrow, Bodmin PL30 3AG.
Sunday 16th February, 10.00am - 4.00pm.
Check website for details: www.pencarrow.co.uk

Cornwall Dahlia Society AGM.
Sunday 23rd February, 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Tresillian Village Hall, TR2 4AZ.
Check website for details: www.dahlia-cds.co.uk
Contact: 07989 494050

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. Any other content very gratefully received. Thanks.

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday 5th February 2020.
Annual General Meeting and
Jonathan Hutchison will talk about "The Falkland Islands".
7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall.

ADVANCE NOTICE
Wednesday 4th March 2020.
Penelope Townsend will talk about "Gardening with Jane Austin".
7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall.

Wednesday 1st April 2020.
Penny Jones will talk about "Japanese cultivars of Primula sieboldii".
7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall.
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7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall. |
| Wednesday 1st April 2020 | Penny Jones will talk about "Japanese cultivars of *Primula sieboldii*".  
7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall. |
| Saturday 1st May 2020 | Plant Fair.  
Truro Cattle Market, Newquay Road, Truro. |
| Wednesday 6th May 2020 | Garden visit.  
Brackenwood, Zelah, home of Dick Butter, a CHPS member. |
| Wednesday 3rd June 2020 | Garden visit.  
Bokelly, St Kew, home of Henrietta and Toby Courtauld. |
| Wednesday 1st July 2020 | Garden visit.  
South Bosent, Dobwalls, home of Adrienne Lloyd and Trish Wilson. |
| Wednesday 5th August 2020 | Garden visit.  
New Mills Farm, Ladock, home of Irene and Jeremy Newton. |
| Wednesday 2nd September 2020 | Ben Pope, Head Gardener at Trotton Place will talk about "Making the Most of What You Have".  
7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall. |
| Wednesday 7th October 2020 | Nigel Hewish of Kingston Maurward gardens will talk about "Salvias" (National Collection Holder).  
7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall. |
| Wednesday 4th November 2020 | Christina Shand from Dyffryn Fernant Gardens will talk about creating a garden "Between a Bog and a Hard Rock".  
7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall. |
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<td>Wednesday 2nd December 2020</td>
<td>Christmas Social. John Sirkett will talk about &quot;Recent Tour of Scottish Gardens&quot;. 7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall.</td>
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<td>Saturday 12th December 2020</td>
<td>Christmas lunch. Date and details to be confirmed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 2nd January 2021</td>
<td>New Year walk. Date and details to be confirmed.</td>
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<td>Wednesday 3rd February 2021</td>
<td>AGM. Chris Bailes, ex Curator of RHS Rosemoor and Chelsea Physic Garden will talk about &quot;Forged in Fire and Ice - the remarkable flora of Chile and Patagonia&quot;. 7 for 7.30pm, Ladock Village Hall.</td>
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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