



**CORNWALL GROUP
NEWSLETTER FOR
September 2017**

Important Messages from the Chair.

This month I am writing to you on two important matters associated with the ongoing well-being of our Society.

Membership of the Hardy Plant Society.

It is my job as chair to inform you about a communication we have had from the Hardy Plant Society (HPS). The Hon. Secretary's letter states that their constitution as well as our Cornwall Hardy Plant Society's (CHPS) constitution requires all CHPS members to be members of the HPS. Currently only 26 CHPS members are members of the HPS. The HPS Hon. Secretary states that Cornwall members need to correct the situation by all joining HPS from 2018. (Also she says that, based on the current position, the HPS insurance covering public liability may not be valid.)

I have been consulting your committee members and some previous committee members. Many acknowledge that Cornwall does not fully benefit from the national events as they are often held far away, but there are still many benefits of being part of the Hardy Plant Society, such as a good journal twice a year, newsletters, seed exchange and specialist groups (see also other benefits on the HPS leaflet). In addition, there is the significant but more intangible benefit and value of being 'Hardy Planters' (People passionate about perennial plants) and puts us in a strong position to draw speakers from far way and access exciting local gardens.

I, very much, hope you will do this, but if you cannot for any reason drop me an email (hiddevallygardens@yahoo.co.uk) or write so I understand your reasons. Individual replies will be treated in confidence, but please remember it is important for our Society and all our members that we respect our constitution so that we can remain 'Hardy Planters'.

We do not want to lose any members over this issue, and the committee is looking at the problem which will be discussed fully at the AGM.

Chair and Vice-Chair.

For the past few years you have had a strong group of officers and committee members supporting the activities of CHPS. In addition other members have been helping to run our Society smoothly, particularly Charlie in respect of the Annual Plant Sale. There will be one or two changes at the next AGM as long serving members come to the end of their period in post. In order to prepare well ahead for the AGM, I am specifically writing to you in respect of the position of Chair and Vice-Chair. In February I will have completed 4 years as Chair and the position of Vice-Chair is now vacant (Nina has had to resign). I am therefore asking you to consider supporting CHPS more actively by letting me know if you will undertake one of these positions from February 2018. It will be great if we can fill both these position at that time.

The only alternative to filling both positions is for me to continue as Chair for one more year. If necessary (and if it is your wish) I will do one more year, but only if we have a Vice-Chair who is prepared to be Chair in 2019.

Just a few words about the role of Chair: In my 4 years there has been some re-organisation of the roles of Officers and Committee members and there is the current matter of HPS

membership. These have taken more of my time than was expected as Chair, but, going forward, the main focus of the role is chairing two or three committee meetings per year plus the AGM and hosting the monthly meetings. The main activities of booking talks and gardens, preparing and publishing the Newsletter and of course Treasurer and Membership Secretary are the roles of other Officers and committee members.

Please ring me (01208 873225) or email me now, or see me at the September meeting if you wish to discuss one of these roles.

Again, please view this as a matter for your serious consideration. Our Society needs a Chair in order to function.

Tricia Howard

As I write this the warmth has returned, perhaps we will have a late summer to look forward to. I finally got the meadow cut which gives me a month to wander around on it and have picnics (chance would be a fine thing) before the daffodils start to come up. I only grow 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' in the grass so they pop up while the last of the autumn leaves are falling.

There are a couple of administrative issues to be dealt with this month and it would be helpful if members could give them some thought, I'm sure they will come up for discussion at the next meeting (details below).

Tricia says: "Hope you have all had a lovely summer and now there are the indoor meetings to look forward to. It would be good to see your late summer flowers, so bring something for the display table or for the three stems competition. Also if you have spare plants you can sell them on the group sales table and 10% will go to CHPS. Some good plant related items would also be very welcome for the raffle table."

The raffle raised considerable funds for the group and has helped us to book some very interesting speakers for the coming year, so please support it if you can.

The 'Three Stems' competition is a bit of fun and shows everybody the best things in bloom every month, as well as earning everlasting fame for the winner (chosen by the speaker on the night). Perhaps not quite everlasting. Just bring three stems of anything you like from the garden in a vase or container and astound us all.

If you would rather not enter the hurly-burly of competition (and there are some cut-throat Victoria Sponge eaters out there - I've seen you) then why not bring something seasonal for the display table?



Roscoea cautleyoides 'Early Yellow'.



Roscoea cautleyoides 'White Flower'.



Roscoea humeana 'Inkling'.

It is always difficult to find plants for the garden that are easy, unusual and that give a worthwhile performance. For a long time *Roscoea* have hovered on the fringes of cultivation, taken up by alpine growers but rarely seen in general gardens. It is a pity because many of the species are tough and adaptable and give a good display in their season.

One of the best is *R. cautleyoides*. The flowers are usually yellow and appear in spring on the first warm day (whenever that may be). *R. cautleyoides* 'Early Yellow' starts the season for me.

In a good year it will appear in early March as the snowdrops lose their shine, the flowers appearing at ground level before the pseudostems have elongated. In a late year they flower in April from the top of long stems. It is an easy species to grow in a well drained soil that doesn't dry out excessively while they are in growth. They will tolerate desiccation but the leaves curl up to conserve moisture, the pseudostems flop and the clumps never quite bounce back. They are often planted in the shade, but look better in full sun where they remain compact and flower more freely.

There are a number of selected yellow cultivars of *R. cauleyoides*. 'Kew Beauty' has wider flowers than most but I find the rest almost indistinguishable. 'Late Emperor' is unusual in flowering in August. There are also lilac-purple forms under a variety of names. I have grown a number of forms claiming to be paler than usual but the only one I still grow has been distributed locally as 'White Flower' (and it very nearly has).

As the standard forms of *R. cauleyoides* fade, *R. humeana* appears. The large flowers often appear singly, but they are produced over several weeks. It deserves a special place because it doesn't clump up very rapidly. The individual flowers are astonishingly exotic among the spring bulbs. There are yellow forms, a pure white form (that is impossibly rare at present - try Edrom) and a number of purple forms, the darkest called 'Inkling' which is so slow it probably deserves a pot.



***Roscoea scillifolia* f. *scillifolia*.**



***Roscoea x beesiana*
'Monique'.**



***Roscoea* 'McBeath's Pink'.**

As the season goes on, *R. scillifolia* appears. First comes the pink form, now called *R. scillifolia* f. *scillifolia*. It flowers through June and July and the pale pink flowers are charming but small. They are followed by seed pods that are charming but small and in due course by seedlings that are If it likes the location it will rapidly spread into a low carpet like an unruly lawn dotted with pink fluff. The black form, now called *R. scillifolia* f. *atropurpurea*, flowers a month later. The small flowers are interestingly dark, almost glossy purple but it is only attractive in detail, it makes no impact in the garden at all.

Many seed strains of species *Roscoea* have been produced but there are only a few hybrids. The best of them is *R. x beesiana*, a cross between *R. cauleyoides* and the purple *R. auriculata*. Typically it has yellow flowers with variable spotting of purple on the lip but there is a white cultivar called 'Monique' with a lilac flush. It is vigorous and sterile, so it clumps up well and flowers for many weeks before it tires.

Apart from the tiny flowers of *R. scillifolia* there were very few pink flowered *Roscoea* until Ron McBeath introduced 'McBeath's Pink'. It is excellent in full sun, the flowers bleach slightly to a pure pale rose colour. In the shade it remains obstinately lilac.



Roscoea purpurea 'Wisley Amethyst'.



Roscoea purpurea f. *rubra* 'Red Gurkha'.



Roscoea purpurea 'Imperial Salmon'.

As the spring flowers go over the garden can retreat into *Agapanthus* and *Hydrangea*. At the end of June strange clusters of leaves emerge from the ground marking the arrival of *R. purpurea*. It is a vary variable species, the leaves can be any shade from pale green to deep purple and the pseudostems can either match or contrast with them. In general the flowers vary from pale lilac to purple and they may be as much at 10cm (4in) from top to bottom.

In 1938 Frank Kingdon Ward discovered a form in Assam with white flowers and a contrasting purple lip. Introduced under the number KW13755, for many decades it was the most remarkable selection of the species, never failing to attract attention. In recent years 'Wisley Amethyst' has been selected from the stock with a purple and white lip and for the first time this remarkable collection has become freely available.

So far so good. We have a lovely genus of hardy gingers with large pastel flowers in yellow or purple that occasionally produced a stripey surprise.

Then in 1992 an expedition discovered a scarlet flowered form of *R. purpurea* in Nepal. A small number of plants were found in a single site in the valley of the Buri Gandaki and the best of them was introduced to the trade as 'Red Gurkha'. It grows fairly strongly but does not produce seed, so it has been distributed slowly. It will never be cheap but it makes an amazing splash of scarlet among the late summer flowers.

The rich colour inspired breeders to persevere with it and it was found that the pollen from 'Red Gurkha' would produce viable seed when placed on the stigmas of other *R. purpurea* forms. The first success was distributed widely without a name. It is tall growing with purple leaves and flowers that open reddish-pink and darken to purple. I was told that it was raised at Forde Abbey but I haven't been able to confirm that. Other breeders have also been at work. Visitors to Wildside during summer will have seen Keith Wiley's seedlings planted through the garden and this year he has selected a handful of the best and given them names. My favourite (today anyway) is 'Imperial Salmon' with pale flowers and dark leaves.

I have no doubt that over the next few years we will be seeing a lot more of these remarkable late flowering perennials in gardens. The anticipation is delightful.

LAST MEETING

2nd August. Penberth and Penberth Plants.

Timing is everything. It rained all day. Not the sort of happy rain that rattles big joyful drops on the roof and laughs and gurgles along gutters. This was miserable rain. Rain like a damp duvet, weighty and clinging and cold. Then at Penberth the sun came out. Brian said he had watched the weather front pass over as he drove along the road, a sharp line of cloud and the sky cleared. Timing is everything (6.00 for 6.30pm does the trick).



Rockery in the sunlight.



Claire Batten safely fenced.



Hardy Planters on a chamomile lawn.

Claire Batten and Jeff Rowe welcomed us on behalf of Penberth Plants and Lady Banham welcomed us to the garden. The property was bought by her grandfather in the 1920's. He created the garden and was a skilled breeder of daffodils. Some of his original bulbs are still growing in the garden. Lady Banham's grandmother planted some of the *Watsonia* and grew South African heathers. Following generations have made additions to the house and developed and refined the garden.

Claire and Jeff showed us around. They had both worked in the garden earlier in their careers and had now returned to run Penberth Plants and to manage the garden. There is a problem with rabbit damage but Claire says she would rather work with it than fence the plants however a small amount of netting is used in the most vulnerable locations to keep rampaging in check. Behind the house a rockery has been established on the hillside. Claire and Jeff are busy clearing some overgrowth and replanting with a range South African plants that have made Penberth Plants so successful. The local granite is quite wonderful covered in ancient moss and some of the stones are magnificent. Below the slope the Hardy Planters gathered, mystified by the perfume of what they later discovered was a chamomile lawn.



***Eucryphia x nymansensis* .**



***Clethra alnifolia*.**



***Impatiens gomphophylla*.**

Below the lawn the garden runs along either side of a path leading down towards the cove. The beds have a wide selection of *Rhododendron* and *Camellia* for spring and there is a large collection of Daffodils raised at Penberth by Lady Banham's grandfather. At this time of year some wonderful scented shrubs and unusual herbaceous plants took centre stage. A beautiful large *Eucryphia* stood out above the shrub canopy. None of us were entirely confident, but this one seemed to be *Eucryphia x nymansensis*. Just as strongly scented was *Clethra arborea* growing at nose height by the side of the path.

Watsonia were growing throughout the garden but I was also interested in *Impatiens gomphophylla* with whorls of orange flowers spaced along vertical stems. This is the first time I have seen it growing in a garden and I think it is going to be a very useful addition to the summer spectacle.



Leucospermum 'Tango' .



Mimetes cucullatus.



Leucospermum 'Veldfire'.

After our tour of the garden we visited Penberth Plants display tunnel. Here they grow the spectacular specimens they use to mount displays at the shows. They had won four gold medals at Chelsea before they moved to Penberth so the pressure was on for their first year in a new location. It was clear from the standard of the specimen plants that another gold medal was well deserved and in addition they won the award for the best exhibit in the marquee.

Penberth Plants specialise in the flora of South Africa, and they grow a wide range of proteas and their relatives. A couple of *Leucospermum* were in flower. *L* 'Tango' is a hybrid between *L. glabrum* 'Heldersfontein' and *L. lineare* 'Diadem' raised at the Vegetable and Ornamental Plant Institute in South Africa introduced to the trade in 1993.

L. 'Veldfire' was raised initially for the cut flower industry but it has short stems and brittle flowers so it is now grown as a garden plant. In the USA it is thought to be hardy to minus 3 degrees Celcius given a reliably warm summer to recover. Jeff says it has survived minus 6C in their tunnel so it should be a good prospect for the warmer parts of the county.

Mimetes cucullatus doesn't have such showy flowers, but the leaves on the flowering tips turn bright red making an unusual display. It comes from the Western Cape and resprouts well after cutting back, which make it popular in floristry and help it to survive occasional cold spells. Perhaps we will be seeing it in the 'three stems' competition one day!



Erica cerinthoides.



Erica viridiflora.



Erica verticillata.

As we walked through the garden my eye was constantly caught by flashes of purple from the heather growing in the sunnier slopes and hedges, however I was unprepared for the wonders to come. Claire and Jeff grow a wide range of South African *Erica* and they regularly feature in their displays at shows. The plants are generally taller growing than the heathers we are used to, but they have larger flowers in the most astonishing colours.

We had seen *Erica verticillata* earlier in the evening growing on the rock garden. The pale lilac colour is familiar, but the long tubular flowers grow in dense heads on the upright shoots. It has a long flowering season in the summer and was making a significant contribution to the border. Originally the species had a very restricted distribution within Cape Town but urban development means that it is now extinct in the wild. A few plants in cultivation, including one at Kew, have contributed to its reintroduction to a sanctuary in Cape Town.

Erica cerinthoides is a variable species but it was a bright orange-red flowered form that attracted attention. South African sources suggest that the branches are damaged by significant frost, but that the plant resprouts easily. Claire and Jeff have found it much hardier than expected and regularly have it in flower for the earliest shows of the year.

Erica viridiflora is one of a small number of plants with pure green flowers produced in summer. As with all of the South African heathers it needs a sunny position in an acid soil to prosper. A light trim after flowering helps to keep the plants from becoming straggly. Penberth Plants also grow a number of other plants that require similar conditions. They have raised and named a number of new *Aeonium* hybrids that combine the dark purple foliage of A. 'Zwartkop' with the bushier growth of some of the other species. There were trays of interesting seedlings growing in the propagation house. Some large rosettes of *Aloe polyphylla* looked good in pots but they also grow well in gardens. It prefers cooler and moister conditions than most species and it prospers spectacularly in the rock garden at Kew, so it should do well in Cornwall.

Pelargonium 'Ardens' rounds off a choice selection of plants. The deep scarlet flowers always attract attention at the shows and it is easily overwintered under cover. I am sure many of you have seen Claire and Jeff at the shows, but if you are interested a range of their plants can be seen at:

www.penberthplants.co.uk



Aeonium seedlings.



Pelargonium 'Ardens'.



Aloe polyphylla.

OTHER EVENTS LAST MONTH

Lots to do last month and the cooler weather has made garden visits easier. Here are a few of the things people have been up to. If you manage to get to a garden event please consider sending in a few pictures for the interest of the members.



Hampton Court Show. 4th - 9th July 2017.

Janice Greening made the trip up to Hampton Court Show this year and sent in some pictures. The water looks like a delightful setting for the show and it makes me laugh that Viking Cruises are the headline sponsor. Penberth Plants had a very successful stand again this year and were the RHS Master Grower. There is a short video available on the RHS website featuring Claire Batten talking about the plants, if you are interested.

www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-hampton-court-palace-flower-show



***Fuchsia* 'London 2000'**



**Fowey Fuchsia and
Pelargonium Show.**



***Pelargonium* 'Princess of
Wales.'**

Fowey Fuchsia and Pelargonium Show, 30th July 2017.

Fowey Fuchsia and Pelargonium show was very well supported this year and the plants looked as though the unpredictable weather had suited them. Fuchsias can suffer in hot weather and the colours can bleach so cool wet weather has led to a colourful show.

Among the *Fuchsia* I was very impressed with a plant of 'London 2000' grown as a bonsai. It was flowering well and I thought it made an attractive exhibit. The *Pelargonium* section of the show was better supported than I have seen previously. I wonder if growers are shifting their attention after the arrival of Fuchsia Gall Mites. Control is not easy but the current suggestion is to cut off all the affected growth as soon as damage is seen, and cut plants to the ground in winter. Prunings should be burnt to ensure the destruction of the mites. If that isn't possible, seal the prunings in a plastic bag and leave it in the sun until they dry out. If we are vigilant, we can slow the spread of this tiresome little pest (there are no suitable chemicals that will control it). There was a wide variety of pelargoniums on show, including a good selection of scented leaf varieties but my favourite exhibit was a Regal Pelargonium called 'Princess of Wales' that reminded me of strawberry jam, and then I stopped for a cream tea!



***Agapanthus* in the upper
garden.**



***Roscoea purpurea* seedlings.**



**Remarkable colour
combination.**

Wildside. 30th July 2017.

The last week of opening at Wildside for the year. I probably go on about it too much, but it is a garden I enjoy. At the end of July I was especially looking forward to seeing Keith Wiley's *Roscoea* seedlings. *R. purpurea* 'Red Gurkha' has been introduced fairly recently and Keith has crossed it with other forms of *R. purpurea* to add purple leaves to the range of red and pink shades in the flowers. This year he has named and released a number of his own selections, and many of the original seedlings are to be seen in the garden.

Beyond that I wasn't sure what to expect, my own garden has moved into the languid summery phase where nothing much seems to happen in the pause before the "autumn daisies" kick in. I was amazed by the colour and spectacle.

Agapanthus plastered the slopes and valleys of the upper garden to incredible effect and once again I was bowled over by the remarkable use of colour. I have said it before, and I have no doubt I will continue to say it "To the last syllable of recorded time," (Macbeth, lovie, Macbeth), go and see it if you get the chance!



Fruit trees in the walled garden.

Grey and pink shades in the borders.

Chillies in the restored greenhouse.

The Edwardian pergola.

West Dean Gardens, West Sussex, 30th July 2017.

Having seen West Dean Gardens recently on Gardeners World we made our way there on 30th July. We were not disappointed, the gardens were truly beautiful. The walled gardens contained fruit trees in all different shapes and the restored glasshouses were full of flowers and fruit. The house with the chillies was amazing, ready for their chilli festival on 11th August. On to the pretty sunken garden, all pink and grey, and then to the 300ft Edwardian pergola, one of the largest in the country with stone pillars adorned with vines, clematis, roses and jasmine. Lunch in the restaurant was very tasty and so was the plant centre, one or two pots brought home to Cornwall!

A very worthwhile visit and thoroughly recommended.

Simon and Jo Waterhouse.



Leucadendron argenteum.

Theatre with a view.

Protea cynaroides.

The Minack Theatre. 2nd August 2017.

I'm sure you are all enthusiastic theatre goers and have sat in wonder on the cliffs at the Minack to watch a performance. Over the last decade you will have noticed the gardens developing and I arrived early enough for our last meeting at Penberth to squeeze in a visit. If you haven't been, it is worth a visit during the day just for the planting on the cliffs, and the atmosphere.

Unfortunately during my visit it was particularly atmospheric bordering on deeply drippy but you might like to see some pictures anyway.

For me, the most remarkable thing is to see a grove of the Silver Tree, *Leucadendron argenteum* used as a windbreak. I have one in the greenhouse here but I long to try it against the south wall of the house and I was delighted to be able to buy a seedling. I don't know any others growing on the mainland (it is common on Tresco), please correct me if you know of others, it is a favourite plant of mine.

Protea cynaroides joined it in the category "not really hardy plants for the garden" and was flowering in front of the box office (where I nearly bought a very tasteless t-shirt) and is another thing I would like to try. However the whole spectacle is dominated by the remarkable setting. Even on a day when the sky and sea had joined together without a boundary, it is a remarkable place.



The Beth Chatto Gardens.



***Senecio candidans* 'Angel Wings'.**



The fabulous blue shed of Hoyland Plants.

Hyde Hall Plant Fair. 5th August 2017.

I have been looking forward to the Hyde Hall Plant Fair since this time last year, when I had to cancel a visit at the last moment. This year I was going, nothing was going to stop me. In the event the M5 tried its best (4 hour delays) and it took me 9 hours to get to London by which time I had buttock cramps and a sore throat from singing cheerful songs along to the radio. The hotel entrance loomed just as I was about to get out the Leonard Cohen cd's and wallow in midnight misery.

The plant fair follows the usual RHS formula of lovely little nurseries in tents with a display set out on the ground in front of them. Beth Chatto Gardens had a display of all the best things you might hope to see growing in the east of the country and Steven Hickman from Hoyland Plants gets the award for the best use of a blue garden shed in a display. Shady Plants from Ireland had come a long way to sell me *Cheilanthes sinuata*, a silvery fern for a dry sunny position but the best plant of the day for me was *Senecio candidans* 'Angel Wings', the Falkland Sea Cabbage. New to cultivation and being distributed this year, it has the brightest silver leaves I have seen. Nearly forty years ago I saw the species being grown at the University of Reading Botanic Garden and I haven't seen it since. It didn't live for long, though it is described as easy to cultivate. One came home with me, so time will tell.



The new entrance.



View from the garden.



The Global Growth Vegetable Garden .

Hyde Hall. 5th August 2017.

I was surprised by how few of the visitors to the plant fair took the time to look around the garden. The most easterly of the RHS gardens and also the largest, set in the flat wheatfields of south Essex (and just down the road from Basildon if you are looking for a cultural reference). The garden is built around the top of a hill. More of a pimple by Cornish standards but it does give an amazing outlook over the landscape. The RHS are expanding around the flanks of the pimple and out into the surrounding farmland. A new entrance has been constructed this year, and the hilltop farm buildings have been demolished to make way for a new education centre. The new Global Growth Vegetable garden has now been completed and the greenhouse is already full of exotic crops. This is the first time I have seen okra prospering.

In the last few years the dry garden on the south side of the hill has been substantially extended and showcases a range of plants that struggle in Cornwall. It is a surprise to find *Agave* growing in a county with such cold winters, but they are dry in the gravel and the summers are reliably warm (it's August and I have just got my winter duvet out again in Cornwall). The gardens immediately surrounding the house are more formal. The Rose Garden is new but the themed colour borders were part of the garden when the RHS took over and continue to provide a

striking feature.



Part of the Dry Garden.



Rose Garden.



Hot Colours .



The second show hall.



Silverware on show.



Fuchsia 'June Marie Shaw'.

Camborne and Redruth Fuchsia Show. 6th August 2017.

An excellent show this year. I think entries were slightly down, probably because of problems with Fuchsia Gall Mite, but the quality of exhibits was very high indeed. When fuchsias are grown by experts the results can be quite spectacular. Camborne and Redruth Fuchsia Society have a great selection of silverware for the winners and it makes an impressive centrepiece to the first show hall (there are two). I was very impressed with 'June Marie Shaw' grown as a bush in a 12cm pot and my favourite cultivar, 'Lechlade Magician' grown as a bonsai. *F. 'Straat Magelhaen'* is an interesting hybrid between *F. procumbens* and *F. perscandens*. The green tubed flowers have brown sepals and are larger than either parent. It should be hardy enough in Cornwall.



The Rosemoor Plant Fair.



Dahlia and Gladiolus from Pennard Plants.



Millwood Plants display.

Rosemoor Plant Fair. 18th August 2017.

A drop of rain in the morning didn't seem to put people off at the Rosemoor Plant Fair and by lunchtime the sun had come out. The exhibitors tents and displays were laid out on the meadow beside the formal garden. Dahlias and gladiolus seem to attract mud, as Pennard Plants discovered, but problems were rapidly resolved by the garden staff (and some large flooring sheets). It was a busy day so the catering facilities were well used and very welcome. Exhibitors were very happy with arrangements for the show and there were some remarkable displays. Tale Valley Nursery showed a good range of smaller perennials. I had fallen for the charms of *Senecio candidans* 'Angel Wings' at Hyde Hall, but I still thought it was the most striking new plant on display. The bright silver leaves are unusual in a plant that grows well in wet weather and it should do well in Cornwall. It's other name, the Falklands Sea Cabbage may suggest appropriate conditions. Penguins are not essential.

Millwood Plants from Devon had my favourite display, showing the best herbaceous plants for

late summer, all superbly grown. The Botanic Nursery from Wiltshire showed some interesting plants from their National Collection of *Digitalis* as well as a lot of other fascinating plants. We have just been on a visit to Penberth Plants and seen their display plants in the poly-tunnel but here they had them displayed to magnificent effect supporting the plants for sale. I came away from a mouth-watering selection of plants with a variegated kale called 'Chantilly Creme'. I am now officially a vegetable grower!

Cornwall Hardy Plant Society now has a website containing a welcome page, an introduction for new members, 2017 events, plants at a discount (under development) and an archive of the Newsletters.

The address is www.cornwallhardyplantsociety.org.uk .

Other notices.

In addition to the committee posts that need to be filled for next year, we are looking for help with the winter meetings at Ladock.

We desperately need someone who will take responsibility for picking up the key and opening the hall at the start of the evening, and locking the door and returning the key at the end. It isn't a difficult job but you do need to be the first there in the evening, and the last to leave. If you can't be there on a particular evening you would need to make arrangements for the hall to be opened and then locked again. Please please please - we need help. Just have a word with Tricia.

COMING EVENTS

If you know of events coming up that might be of interest to the members please let me know so that I can include them. cornwallhps@gmail.com

Crugsillick Manor, Ruan High Lanes, TR2 5LJ.

Sunday 27th August, 11.00 - 5.00pm.

Admission £4 . Open under the National Garden Scheme.

National Collection of Dahlia, Varfell Farm, Penzance, TR20 8AQ.

Sunday 27th August, 10.00 - 4.30pm.

The Dahlia collection is open every day until the end of September, but the August Open Day is attended by a team of specialists who can answer queries and offer advice.

Trebah Amphitheatre.

1st September - 8th September.

A cultural celebration at Trebah featuring theatre, music, stand up, puppetry and dance around the garden.

Wisley Plant Fair.

Tuesday 5th September - Sunday 10th September.

Always a very popular week which attracts the countries best nurseries and includes the National Dahlia Society Show in a big tent!

Tremenheere Plant Sale.

Sunday 10th September, 10.00 - 2.00pm.

Free admission to the Plant Fair, Nursery and Cafe. The garden is also open and should be at its best in September.

Lower Charaton Cottage, Charaton Cross, Pensilva PL14 5RQ.

Sunday 10th September, 2.00 - 5.00pm.

A cottage garden, part of an 11 acre site.

Admission £5 to support St. Luke's Hospice, Plymouth.

Gweek Bring and Buy Plant Sale.

Saturday 16th September, 11.00am.

Two Quays House, Gweek (just below the Seal Sanctuary).

Sale to support Children's Hospice South West and the MS Society. Good cause, good plants, good catering.

Devon Plant Heritage Sale, Tavistock Pannier Market.

Sunday 17th September, 10.00 - 3.00pm.

Lower Amble Gardens, PL27 6EW.

Sunday 17th September, 2.00 - 6.00pm.

A group opening of gardens in Lower Amble, just north of Wadebridge.

Admission £5 to support Cornwall Hospice Care.

RHS Malvern Autumn Show.

Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th September, 9.00 - 6.00pm.

Trebartha, nr Launceston, PL15 7PD.

Sunday 24th September, 2.00 - 5.00pm.

Historic landscape garden. Admission £5 . Open under the National Garden Scheme.

Devon Plant Heritage Sale, Rosemoor.

Sunday 24th September, 10.00 - 3.00pm.

**Please would you let me know of any garden shows, open days or other events that may be of interest to our members so that I can include them in the next newsletter. Please check the details for yourself. I try to verify them all, but I might make mistakes! All other content gratefully received.
cornwallhps@gmail.com**

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 6th September 2017. 7.00 for 7.30pm.

A return to autumn meetings at Ladock village hall.

Judith Plante Cleall from Devizes will be talking to us about

Wessex Gardens of the National Trust.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Wednesday 4th October 2017. 7.00 for 7.30pm at Ladock Village Hall.
Rosy Hardy from Hampshire will be talking on "Early Autumn Perennials".

Wednesday 1st November 2017. 7.00 for 7.30pm at Ladock Village Hall.
Ian Bernallick from Bodmin will be talking on "Wild Flowers of Cornwall".

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!

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