



**CORNWALL GROUP  
NEWSLETTER FOR  
March 2018**

Last month Howard Wills spoke to us about the Wonder of Flowers and his pictures promised the delights of summer when there was barely a blossom to be seen in gardens. This month the season has rolled forward, the evenings are getting much lighter and there are flowers everywhere. I'm almost frightened to say we have also had a few sunny days when it is pleasant enough to sit out. I went and reclaimed a plastic chair that stands over a *Leucadendron* through the winter. They may not have any trouble growing them at Penberth but I decided my young plant needed a little help for the first year. The time has come to uncover it. I need to sit in the sun for a bit after a thoroughly overcast winter. The weekend is threatening a cold blast from the east but I have my fingers crossed - it might not reach this far west. If it does get here it will set the spring back and I have the first blue anemones in the garden to enjoy. One of my favourite plants, and I can see them from my seat. I will wrap up warm if I have to, just as long as it doesn't rain as well.

With any luck all of this will be forgotten by next month, and we will be deep into spring, the show season and anticipating garden visits. In the meantime I hope you manage to find a sunny corner for a cup of coffee from time to time and get a chance to watch the world pass by.



***Narcissus* 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation'.**



**Fields of daffodils .**



***Narcissus* 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation'.**

Spring has arrived. We may get a blast of Siberian wind over the weekend (or we may not) but the daffodil fields have turned yellow. In the last couple of decades daffodil fields have moved around a lot more, to find ground free of *Narcissus* Fly and a range of diseases that can build up in the ground. As a result I find myself driving past unexpected fields almost anywhere in the county.

It is delightful to pull over for a moment and enjoy the spectacle but it also has an impact on the garden. When I started my current garden I decided that there was no point planting the same daffodils that were growing in the fields around me. If they were going to have a place in the garden they would have to be special.

The first to earn a place in the garden was 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation'. If I could only have one big yellow daffodil, this would be it. I bought a sack of bulbs from Fentongollan Farm and planted them in grass that was destined to become a meadow. I'm still waiting for the meadow, but the daffodils are amazing. It is the earliest on them to flower, I usually have blooms for the end of November, and I would be upset if I didn't have them by Christmas. Early flowers were not successful as a cut flower crop, it seems shoppers didn't want daffodils for Christmas. Poor fools, I look at them with pity through eyes that sparkle with gold.

It was raised (in Sussex I think) by Herbert Chapman in 1943 but he sold the stock to F. Rijnveld and Son, a Dutch company who named and registered it in 1956. Its parentage is unknown so the source of the early flowering is a mystery.



*Narcissus romieuxii* JCA805  
in November.



*Narcissus* 'Cedric Morris' in  
early December.



*Narcissus romieuxii* 'Julia  
Jane' in March.

At the same time I was planting 'Rijnveld's Early sensation', another yellow *Narcissus* came to my attention. 'Cedric Morris' is a small little daffodil, believed to be a selection of *N. minor* though it has never quite shaken off the suggestion that it is a natural hybrid. It was discovered by Sir Cedric Morris growing on a rocky ledge while he was travelling in northern Spain. He passed a bulb to Beth Chatto, and she grew it on until she had enough to start distributing it. I have wanted it since I first heard about it, but I didn't manage to obtain one until last year. I thought that £8 was a bit of an anticlimax to a thirty year search. I got it from Bob Brown, so don't tell him at the next meeting that I would happily have paid fifty. I suppose I could have bought six, but I'm not sure he had them. 'Cedric Morris' is a little thing, barely 15cm (6in) tall and it isn't a very strong grower. I have it in a large pot, and for now at least I am growing it under cover. The important thing about it is the season. My bulb was flowering in October, and it stayed in flower for nearly a month. Once again there will be people who poo-poo autumn daffodils but for me they are the promise of spring. Dahlias and daffodils marking the whole cycle in a vase. Incidentally, I tend to check my spelling on google these days and I suggest you don't look up "poo-poo" unless you like videos of babies on You-tube. "Poo-poo definition" is a better search term to check spelling.

From Spain it is only a short journey over the water to Morocco, where Jim Archibald collected some seed of *Narcissus romieuxii* in 1962 under the number JCA 805. The parent population was very variable and growing in mixed woodland above 1,700m (5,600ft) in the Middle Atlas Mountains. In cultivation it has shown itself to be exceptional, both in vigour and variety. Many named forms have been selected from it, my favourite blooms for me under glass in late November, with pale primrose flowers just as the garden turns grey. 'Julia Jane' was one of the first selections to be made, by Archibald himself, and has large, mid-yellow flowers in spring.



*Narcissus pseudonarsissus* , a  
native species. .



*Narcissus obvallaris* .



*Narcissus obvallaris* .

Not content with a "meadow" of 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' flowering from November until February, I decided that I could add a second layer of interest by planting *N. obvallaris*, the Tenby daffodil, over the top. They open in March, with small but intense golden flowers growing from glaucous clumps of foliage.

*N. obvallaris* is a surprising plant found growing apparently wild in a number of places in west Wales, particularly around Tenby. It has also been recorded from the Isle of Wight and Oxfordshire but it is possible that all populations are escapees from gardens or cultivation. For a long time no other plants were known but more recently a *Narcissus* has been found on the Montes de Toledo, near Almaden in Ciudad Real, Spain that seems to match the Welsh plants.

Whether it is native or not, it is a very good garden plant. The bulbs are small, but they increase rapidly by division. Mine never set seed, but I have been told that some selections do and it would be interesting to see if there was any variation among seedlings. I have never seen them in the wild in Wales, but I have been told they are very uniform. And planting them through the meadow was a mistake.

The Tenby daffodil is a sweet little thing and by the time it flowers the leaves of 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' are flopping about the place like a net-full of eels. I lived with the mess for ten years, but since then I have been moving the Tenby daffodils to a quiet corner of their own where they can flower in peace and tidiness.



***Narcissus asturiensis* 'Van Tubergen Clone' .**



***Narcissus asturiensis* 'Van Tubergen Clone' being tiny .**



***Narcissus cyclamineus* at Rosemoor.**

My latest fascination has been the tiny daffodils grown in alpine gardens. It started with *N. asturiensis*, a perfect golden daffodil barely 5cm (2in) tall. I have the 'Van Tubergen Clone' which seems to be the best clumper in a species that can be solitary and short lived. It is a elfin wonder, flowering at the end of February and needing nothing but clear ground to be spectacular (in the smallest way). It doesn't compete very well with weeds but it is worth some effort. *Narcissus cyclamineus* is another favourite. It can be difficult to obtain because the bulbs resent being dried out, so purchase it in a pot in spring. It grows well in Cornwall because it is best in damp soils and that is easily achieved in the county. The long yellow flowers with reflexed tepals appear in February and readily turn into fat seed pods. I have just reached the point where self sown seedlings are appearing in the garden and they are delightful. There are masses of them in the grass at Rosemoor and it is well worth a visit.

Away from the species, Cornwall has long been known for daffodil hybridisers and bulbs of old hybrids and seedlings can be seen in many hedges through the spring. Among the miniature daffodils the most significant name has been Alec Gray. He settled in Treswithian, to the west of Camborne and set about raising small *Narcissus*. He raised a great many of the most popular modern cultivars grown today, many of which will appear at the local spring shows. His best known hybrid is undoubtedly 'Tete a Tete', raised in the 1940's and now one of the most popular and distinctive small *Narcissus* in cultivation. I thought I had enough of them in the garden, but it didn't stop me filling a tub with the bulbs last autumn and I am enjoying the result now.

('Golden Harvest' by Andrew Tompsett published by Alison Hodge is a wonderful account of daffodil breeders and the daffodil industry in Cornwall. Ron Scamp will be at most of the local spring shows with his magnificent displays and catalogue of temptation.)



***Narcissus* 'Elka' raised by Alec Gray.**



***Narcissus* 'Tete a Tete' raised by Alec Gray.**



***Narcissus* 'Jumblie' raised by Alec Gray.**

## LAST MEETING

### **The Wonderful World of Flowers. by Howard Wills.**

Howard owns an idyllic 3 acre site in the countryside near Torrington. He runs Fernwood Nursery, specialising in Sempervivum and he holds the National Collection. He used to hold a National Collection of Phormium and exhibited the two genera together at shows which gave a problem for the RHS as the two groups are covered by different judges. He has now given up the National Collection of Phormium because the colourful forms are only borderline hardy on his site. Howard is a keen gardener with an interest in botany and mathematics and he finds flowers very interesting for many reasons.

The plant kingdom is divided into two major groups, the non-flowering plants and the flowering plants. Non-

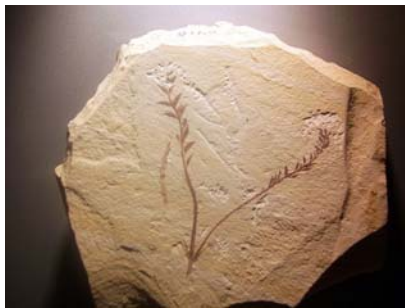
flowering plants include algae, mosses, liverworts, ferns and conifers. Fungi are not really plants, they are a group in themselves. Lichens are made up of a combination of a fungus and an alga. They are closer to the fungi in their reproduction.

The first fossil of a flowering plant is *Archaeofructus sinensis*. The most primitive surviving plant is thought to be *Amborella trichopoda* from New Caledonia and belongs to a group that is ancestral to all flowering plant families. Looking at a lily flower we can see the basic structure. In the centre is the stigma, supported on the end of a long style. At the base is an ovary. Together these structures form a carpel. Outside the carpel there is a ring of stamens made up of a long filament with an anther containing pollen at the tip. Outside the ring of stamens there is a ring of three petals making up the corolla, and outside those a ring of three sepals forming the calyx. In a lily the petals and sepals are almost identical in appearance and under those circumstances the whole group may be referred to as tepals.

Pollen shed by the anthers will travel to the stigma of a flower where it will produce a pollen tube that grows down through the style to fertilise the ovum in the ovary. In time this will develop into a seed.

Ancestral features are well represented by *Nymphaea* 'Chromatella'. It has many sepals, petals, stamens and carpels all arranged in a spiral around the central axis. The flower parts can also show intermediate structures, for example as the anthers merge into the petals there may be intermediate petaloid stamens. Other examples include *Magnolia*, *Illicium floridanum*, *Delosperma* 'Red Mountain', *Delosperma congestum* 'Gold Nugget', *Astrophytum* and *Turbincarpus*. These all show simple flowers with many floral parts arranged in a spiral.

Floral evolution has tended to reduce the number of these parts. The ancient *Echinocactus* with many parts can be compared to the more modern *Trillium* which has flower parts arranged in threes.



***Archaeofructus* (image from Wikipedia available under Wikimedia Commons) .**



***Lilium* 'Flashpoint' showing six tepals rather than a distinct calyx and corolla.**



***Nymphaea* 'Marliacea Chromatella', a primitive flower with parts arranged in a spiral around the axis.**

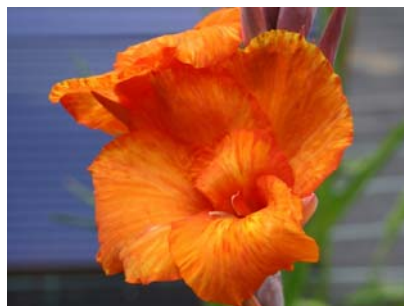
*Pulsatilla vulgaris* and *Anemone coronaria* have multiple parts to the flower. *Sempervivum* such as *Sempervivum grandiflorum* have 10 or 11 petals. *Rosularia sedoides* has 7 or 8 petals.

*Graptopetalum* has 5 petals as has *Geranium sanguineum*. Five is a very common petal number among flowering plants. *Oenothera pulchella* and *Lunaria annua* have four petals. *Trillium*, the Lily family, and the *Alliums* all have their parts in threes. *Begonia* has two petals and *Clitoria ternatea* seems to have a single large petal, though it is actually a more complex flower with fused parts. *Aponogeton distachyos*, the water hawthorn, has flowers with a very strange single petal which carries clusters of stamens. *Albizia* has no petals, just a cluster of colourful stamens as have *Haemanthus* and *Calliandra leucocephala*.

*Euphorbia* have strange flowers with a boat shaped bract that encloses a carpel and two stamens. *Canna* has flowers with tiny bracts, small, almost insignificant petals and large, colourful staminodes which carry the anthers.



***Geranium sanguineum* var. *striatum* with flower parts in fives .**



***Canna* 'African Yellow' the large colorful parts are anther bearing staminodes.**



***Clitoria ternatea* looks like a single petal but is actually a complete flower fused together .**

Ancient flowers may have separate petals and bisexual flowers with both male and female parts. Advanced plants may have fused petals as seen in *Kalmia* (Ericaceae), *Convolvulus* (Convolvulaceae), *Corydalis* (Papaveraceae) and *Physoplexis comosa* (Campanulaceae). They may be unisexual, such as *Ilex* and *Silene dioica*, with different sexes carried on different plants or with both sexes of flower carried on the same plant as in *Begonia*.

The flowers of *Primula* are dimorphic. Some have 'pin' flowers with the stigmas protruding from the flower tube, others will be 'thrum' with a ring of anthers protruding, and the style held deep within the tube. .

Ancient plants often have radial symmetry with the flower parts arranged in a circle and large, conspicuous flowers carried singly. Examples include *Clematis*, *Stapelia flavopurpurea*, *Narcissus*, *Magnolia*, *Liriodendron*, *Abutilon*, *Cistus*, *Meconopsis cambrica* and *Aquilegia* 'Cameo Blue'.



**The fused petals of *Kalmia* 'Richard Jaynes' .**



***Primula vulgaris* with a pin flower.**



***Primula vulgaris* with a thrum flower.**

Advanced flowers may show the bilateral symmetry seen in *Phragmipedium*, *Alstroemeria*, *Disa*, *Dicentra spectabilis* 'Alba', *Salvia patens*, *Scaevola aemula* and *Olearia paniculata*. Advanced plants may have flowers in groups such as *Rhododendron*, *Nectaroscordum siculum*, *Pieris formosa* 'Wakehurst', *Lupinus*, *Kniphofia* 'Saturn', *Allium* 'Globemaster', *Massonia depressa*, *Scadoxus multiflorus*. Plants such as *Hydrandea macrophylla* show these grouped flowers evolving to have larger sterile florets on the outside of the head and smaller fertile ones within. This is carried to an extreme in the Asteraceae where the individual flowers are grouped into composite heads resembling a single flower. Common examples include *Gaillardia* 'Sun Flare', *Bellis perennis*, *Taraxacum*, *Centaurea* and *Doronicum*. The outer flowers in these heads may be large and sterile, the inner flowers carry the stamens and style. In *Achillea* the composite flower heads are themselves grouped into large inflorescences that act like super-flowers.

The reverse happens in *Iris*, where the flower parts are grouped into three sections, each of which acts as a individual flower.



***Bellis rotundifolia* 'Caerulescens', a composite flower .**



***Hydrangea serrata* 'Grayswood' has sterile and fertile flowers in a head.**



***Achillea filipendulina* 'Parker's Variety' showing composite flowers massed to form a "super-flower" .**

Some camellias and roses show double flowers that have lost their anthers and replaced them with extra petals so that they are no longer fertile. Narcissus also has cultivars that show double flowers. Howard doesn't really like double flowers but he does make an exception for the intricate symmetry of the pom-pom Dahlias such as *Dahlia* 'Blyton Softer Glow'.

Grasses are wind pollinated and have extremely specialised modified flowers. The stamens and anthers hang out into the breeze and act as filters to catch wind blown pollen. Willows and Hazel use a similar arrangement. Other flowers have accessories to aid them. *Cornus* 'Eddie's White Wonder' has four large white bracts and a group of flowers in the centre of them. *Arum* flowers are concealed in a large spathe that can trap pollinators for a while. *Arisaema consanguineum* and *Amorphophallus titanum* are good examples. *Zingiber spectabile*, *Heliconia* and *Bougainvillea* all have brightly coloured bracts surrounding the true flowers.

Some flowers are wierd and wonderful. *Tacca chantrierei*, *Strongylodon macrobotrys* with pale jade blue flowers

and *Tibouchina* with complex filament appendages. *Strophanthus preussii* is a remarkable climbing plant with extremely long petal tips. *Rafflesia* is the largest individual flower in the world. The photograph shown was an 80cm flower but can be up to 1m wide. Flowers may also have strange appearances to us such as *Dracula simia*, the Monkey Face Orchid, *Caleana major*, the Flying Duck Orchid and *Orchis italica*, the Naked Man Orchid. Cabbages are all interesting, Broccoli heads are a mass of flower buds and Cauliflowers are bud primordia. The Romanesque calabrese is Howard's favourite flower head with remarkable geometric symmetry.



***Camellia* 'Takanini' .**



**The Jade Vine, *Strongylodon macrobotrys*.**



***Tacca chantrieri*, the Bat Flower .**

(Apologies that I don't have Howard's beautiful pictures to illustrate his comments, I have substituted a few of my own.)

## THE THREE STEMS COMPETITION

A remarkable range of flowers in the 'Three Stems' competition. Do please consider bringing in a vase of three stems to enter. They don't have to be rare or difficult, just something that you enjoy from the garden. They are judged by the speaker on the evening so you never quite know what will catch their eye. Just bring a vase along and stand it on the stage at the back of the hall. It helps other people if you put a piece of paper beside it saying what the flowers are (if you know) and put your name on the back so the organisers know who has won! Many thanks to Howard Wills for judging on the day.



**1st. Jo Waterhouse.  
*Cornus mas*.**



**2nd. Sue Lake.  
3 Hellebores .**



**3rd. Tricia Howard.  
*Galanthus* 'Trumps'.**

It is clear that spring has started with snowdrops, daffodils and primroses all putting on a strong show. A lovely vase of *Cornus mas* from Jo Waterhouse took the first prize, the bright colour repeated in a striking yellow hellebore from Sue Lake. It wouldn't be February without snowdrops and Tricia Howard brought in the delightful *Galanthus* 'Trumps' for third place.



**Janet Dale and her snowdrops.**



**Mistletoe seeds from Pam Dormand.**



**Sophora seedlings from Jo Waterhouse.**

Thanks to Janet Dale for bringing her range of snowdrops for sale (my apologies to Janet that in my only picture she is dipping her head in a plastic bag). I came away with a form of *Galanthus* 'Warham' that is strongly scented. I planted it out the next morning and almost immediately it was watered in.

Last month Pam Dormand wrote about her experience growing Mistletoe from berries and she brought a few packets in so that members could have a go for themselves. Please let us know how you get on. Jo Waterhouse brought in some *Sophora* seedlings she had grown. They were very popular and gratefully received. Thanks to them both for their generosity, I'm looking forward to the pictures of the plants in flower. (I take my hat off to anyone who manages to grow the Mistletoe on the *Sophora* !)



**Primula 'Snowgoose'.**



**Snowdrops and black foliage from Tricia Howard.**



**Aeonium 'Pygmeae'**

The display table was loaded with the essence of spring, the rain doesn't seem to have held anything back. *Primula* 'Snowgoose' opened the season of double primroses. A good white flowered double raised by Barnhaven that looks as though it is a strong grower.

Tricia showed her talent for colour combinations again with a small vase of snowdrops supported by the dark foliage of *Pittosporum* 'Tom Thumb' and *Ophiopogon ploaniscapus* 'Nigrescens'. A good combination that would work in the garden, perhaps in a raised bed where you could appreciate the detail. The theme of dark foliage was carried over into a couple of *Aeonium* looking pristine. A. 'Black Magic' and 'Pygmeae' (or 'Pygmaeum') are both new to me, but I will be keeping an eye out for them. They won't be appreciating the rain but the mild weather this winter must have helped them, these two were certainly looking marvellous.

## OTHER EVENTS LAST MONTH

Spring is trembling in the bushes and from time to time I have been out there trembling with it. Well, part trembling, part shivering. If you have been out to any of the events this month you will know the experience. Hope for the best, dress for the worst.

### **Kew, 26th January 2018.**

A quick trip up to London at the end of January gave some spare time for a visit to Kew. Like most gardens at this time of the year it is looking tidy but bare. I had hoped to see the great sheets of *Crocus tommasinianus* growing in the grass but I was a week early and the weather was a little too overcast. They were trying hard but not yet overwhelming.

Jo Waterhouse commented last month on the awful mess made by summer growth, retained to

add "winter interest" to the garden. I am sure she is right, it really doesn't work in Cornwall. At Kew on the other hand, the Grass Garden is looking as bright as I have seen it. Perhaps we should send them some weather and level up the playing field!

In the Princess of Wales Conservatory work is underway on the annual Orchid Festival. These things always throw up some surprises that cast the orchids into the shade, and this year it was a giant Water Buffalo that looked as though it had a days going to prepare for. I'm sure it will be covered in friendly flowers by the time it's finished.



***Crocus tommasinianus* in the grass.**



**Winter stems in the Grass Garden.**



**Water Buffalo waiting to be decorated.**

### **Wisley, 26th January 2018.**

Wisley is an irresistible stop off point on the journey to London. I had meant to stop off for lunch, but for one reason or another that didn't work out. Work is progressing rapidly on the new entrance to the garden, the steel structure is more or less in place and it looks as though it is going to be a remarkable building. It has been a damp year even at Wisley and the tractor was out aerating the soil. It's a job I don't do because it takes so much effort, but this machine managed to stab the ground every few inches with a hollow tine, spitting out the soil plugs behind it. I doubt I will find one cheap on e-bay.

Late last summer the new Tropical Garden opened in place of the old Rose Garden, which had become tired. I am always fascinated to see the specimens wrapped in straw and plastic to protect them from the weather. Some time in March they will find out if it has worked.



**The new entrance building under construction.**



**Aerating the lawns.**



**Winter protection in the Tropical Garden.**

### **Myddleton House Snowdrop Sale, 27th January 2018.**

Every year the Myddleton House Snowdrop Sale seems to attract a larger crowd. It is my January self-indulgence in a month when nothing much happens. The most delicious things turn up, and it is best not to consider the money that changes hands. If you had an urge to grow a snowdrop with yellow marks on both the inner and outer segments then Joe Sharmon had a few bulbs of his new 'Golden Fleece' available for £300 (there were a few sold). I have a touch of the insanity, but it doesn't run that deep, I can wait a few years! In 2012 a bulb of 'Elizabeth Harrison' sold for £725, this year there were a few available for £60 and I can wait a few more years yet. Several people couldn't, and they sold very quickly.

I came home with a few autumn snowdrops, some of which I have been waiting for, and I hope to enjoy them again before the end of the year and the whole silly season starts again.

The restoration of the garden has continued and the snowdrops on the rock garden were coming to a peak. Half an hour enjoying the garden with a cup of coffee is much better than standing in a queue with the loonies, waiting for the opening dash ( but QUICK QUICK, DON'T BE LATE).





**The Myddleton Snowdrop Sale.**



**Snowdrops for sale.**



**Snowdrops on the Rock Garden.**

### **The RHS Early Spring Plant Fair, Westminster, 13th February 2018.**

A quick whizz up the motorway for the RHS Early Spring Plant Fair at the last moment was made possible by the terrible weather. Much nicer to run away to the big city where - surprise surprise - it was raining.

The RHS keep meddling with the arrangements for the Early Spring Plant Fair and this year was no exception. It is a pity because it undermines the display of early spring bulbs that have been such a feature of earlier years. Several good points this year, the number of seed potatoes on display has reduced and the number of stands selling cake has increased. A last minute visit is bound to be a bit of a rush so I had to do without cake. It takes a great deal of courage to walk past the displays of summer bulbs without falling into insolvency and I was travelling with a lily-liver - I mean lily lover - which ate into the snowdropping time. A spectacular display of species *Cyclamen* from Birmingham Botanic Garden also demanded attention. Avon bulbs joined with the specialist snowdrop show in the Lindley Hall, their stand packed with magnificent things as always. Much of the hall was filled with an aerial display of snowdrops and autumn leaves suspended on almost invisible fishing lines. I don't usually have a lot of time for this sort of nonsense, it often looks as though it was executed to keep the taxi drivers occupied while they wait for customers, but this was well conceived and well executed. I'm not going to repeat it myself, I can't imagine anyone anywhere will, but I was pleased to see it.



**Early Spring Plant Fair.**



**Dangling snowdrops.**



**Avon Bulbs stand.**

### **The Garden House, Snowdrops, 18th February 2018.**

The Garden House has survived the winter. I had hoped to visit earlier in the month because the snowdrop season has been early this year but in the event there was still plenty to see. My other worry was that their perfect lawns would be slipping down the hill in a muddy mockery of the Winter Olympics but all was well.

The best snowdrops are clustered around the lawns by the house, and there are more names on show this year than I have seen before, which is helpful to the mildly obsessive and does nobody else any harm. The structure of the garden was beautifully exposed in its late winter nudity. If you have ever walked naked through a garden in late winter you will have come up in little white bumps and for the sake of argument let's call them snowdrops. They were everywhere. The other floral delight was *Crocus tommasinianus*. They were first planted to cascade between the Acers at the far end of the garden but now they have spread and can be found in dribs and drabs, then clusters, then great sheets around every corner. I can't grow *Crocus* in my garden for longer than it would take to slip over in the mud and bum-toboggan to the bottom of the hill, so I am envious. The tiniest sparkle of February sunshine opens the flowers wide, it is wonderful. The garden is open next weekend as well for the snowdrops (24th/25th February 2018).



**The naked Garden House.**



**Snowdrops.**



***Crocus tommasinianus*  
naturalised.**

## *Canarina canariensis* by Tricia Howard.

When I was in Tenerife in January I was pleased to see for the first time this climbing campanula, *Canarina canariensis*, with brick-red bell shaped flowers growing amongst shrubs on the roadside verges. It has edible fruits of reddish orange berries. Have any members grown this at home?



*Canarina canariensis*

## COMING EVENTS

**Gardening is still cold work, but there are a few events coming up next month. Please let me know of anything coming in March so I can include it in the next Newsletter.**

**The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum.**

24th/25th February. 11am - 3pm.

The Garden House is opening to show the collection of uncommon snowdrops planted by Matt Bishop. £5 admission, the Tea Room will be open and serving the 'Winter Warmer' menu.

**Bosvigo Hellebore day.**

Saturday 24th February. 10am - 4pm. Bosvigo House, Bosvigo Lane, Truro TR1 3NH.

Hellebore sales day raises money for Shelter Box. The queue starts at 9.30, the sale opens at 10.00am.

**Higher Cherubeer, Dolton nr. Rosemoor.**

Friday 25th February 2-5pm.

Large snowdrop collection and National Collection of Cyclamen.

[www.sites.google.com/site/cherubeergardens/the-gardens](http://www.sites.google.com/site/cherubeergardens/the-gardens)

**West Cornwall Flower Show.**

Weekend 2nd/3rd March from 11am.

Marazion Village Hall, at the top (east end) of the village.

**Rhododendron, Magnolia and Camellia Early Show, Rosemoor.**

Saturday 10th March, normal admission to the garden.

**Cornwall Garden Society lecture.**

Tuesday 13th March, 7.30pm. The Alverton, Tregolls Road, Truro.

Andy McIndoe will talk on "The Creative Shrub Garden".

**Cornwall Garden Society lecture.**

Wednesday 14th March, 2.30pm. Penventon Park Hotel, Redruth.  
Andy McIndoe will talk on "Designing and Planting a Small Garden".

**Devon Plant Heritage, Tavistock Plant Fair.**

Sunday 18th March.  
Beside the Pannier Market.  
Check the website: [www.plantheritagedevon.org.uk/](http://www.plantheritagedevon.org.uk/)

**Hardy Plant Society 61st Annual General Meeting and lecture day.**

Saturday 24th March, 10am. Petroc College, Mid Devon Campus, Bolham Road, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6SH.  
This year the National AGM and Lecture Day is being hosted by the Devon Group. Speakers will be Dr. Julian Sutton of Desirable Plants and Nick Macer of Pan Global Plants. The day is expected to cost £22 including lunch (attendance for the AGM alone is free). This should be a really excellent day and it is nice to have such a significant national meeting so close to home. Full details will be published in the National HPS newsletter in February.

**Alpine Garden Society southwest show.**

Saturday 24th March.  
Rosemoor Garden, Devon. Show opens at 10.00am.

**Falmouth Spring Show.**

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March, 10.00am - 4.00pm.  
Princess Pavillion, Falmouth.

**Trevince Garden Festival.**

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March, 10.00am - 4.00pm.  
Trevince, Gwennap, Redruth, TR16 6BA.  
Trevince are launching their first 'Garden Festival' with a plant sale, speakers and demonstrations, garden necessities shop, cafe and other attractions.

And if you have the urge to travel ...

Bournemouth Orchid Show, Saturday 24th February. Alpine Garden Society Show, Pershore, Saturday 24th February. Taunton Orchid Show, Saturday 24th February. Cheltenham Orchid Show, Saturday 3rd March. Orchid Society of Great Britain show, Wisley, Saturday 10th March. Exbury Lachenalia Day, Saturday 17th March.

Check details online because this is as much as I know.

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](mailto:cornwallhps@gmail.com)

**NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 7th March 2018. 7.00 for 7.30pm.  
At Ladock village hall.

**Bob Brown from Cotswold Garden Flowers will be talking about**  
**"Garden-worthy Ferns".**

**Bob Brown is an amusing speaker and I am looking forward to hearing his comments on gardening without the silly inconvenience of flowers!**

## **Cornwall HPS Poster.**

Attached is a poster for our March meeting. Bob Brown is an excellent and thought provoking speaker (with an impish sense of humour). This is a great chance to hear what he has to say. Please find somewhere to display the poster, guests are very welcome.  
Many Thanks. Tricia Howard.

## **ADVANCE NOTICE**

**Wednesday 4th April 2018. 7.00 for 7.30pm at Ladock Village Hall.  
Jane Lindsay from Tynings Climbers near Bristol will be talking on a "Passion for Climbers".**

**Wednesday 2nd May 2018 will be our first garden visit of the season.  
Moyclare, Liskeard, meet at 6.00 for a 6.30pm start.**

**Saturday 5th May 2018, 10.00am - 2.00pm.  
Our annual Plant Sale at Truro Cattle Market.  
Don't forget to propagate something for the members sales table and help us raise some money for the society.**

## **HPS Leaflets.**

Sarah Wilks has just recieved some new leaflets from the National Office that may be of interest to members.

The Kenneth Black Bursary Scheme helps in the funding of developing horticulturists through local colleges and other establishments. The leaflet explains the details and you might be able to help getting them to the right place in the appropriate organisations so that the money available is actually used.

The HPS Conservation scheme has been "refreshed" recently and the leaflet explains how members can join in.

Both leaflets should be available at the next meeting, please take a look.

**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)