



the Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia group



Bulletin 121 / August 2016 / www.rhodogroup-rhs.org

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

What a fantastic and busy spring we have had, celebrating the Centenary of the Rhododendron Society! I do hope that you were able to attend and participate in at least some of the events around the country. But if not, then I hope you saw some of the publicity that the RCMG gained from the media exposure. The celebrations started in March with John Marston's poster display of archive material and pictures of the founders and some of the characterful early members of the Society in the lecture hall at Rosemoor at the Early Spring Show which incorporates the RHS Early Camellia and associated SW Branch competitions. The historical context was continued by Charles Williams at Caerhays Castle in early April. The memory of everyone's glasses of wine so close to the original precious notebooks and photograph albums of Ernest Wilson and George Forrest still makes me shudder! It was also a great time to be visiting Caerhays to see the magnolias, and especially *M. 'Caerhays Splendour'*, a superb new deep purple raised by Head Gardener, Jaimie Parsons. Congratulations to all the team at Caerhays for winning most deservedly the Historic Houses Association's 'Garden of the Year' award.

In May, the celebrations moved to the south-east, starting with the Centenary Rhododendron Show at Wisley. This was designed to be a simple competition with just five classes – species, hybrids, evergreen azaleas, deciduous azaleas and tender rhododendrons – to encourage new exhibitors and as many members as possible to bring along flowers to show the public at Wisley. The marquee was full of blooms not usually exhibited at this time of year, and everyone loved it! The dedicated marquee on the lawn in front of the restaurant enabled thousands of visitors to see our plants in bloom, to learn about our Top 100 favourite plants, and to see the excellent posters produced by Pam and Sally Hayward, and printed by the RHS on our behalf.

Record numbers of members booked up for the Centenary Celebration Tour and talks that followed, some for all three days, and others just for single visits. What is certain is that all the gardens, both public and private, put in a huge effort to host our members and to show their collections, and our grateful thanks go to all of them. We were also fortunate to have two excellent after-dinner speakers – John Anderson and Ken Cox – who both gave fascinating talks to those present at the Hilton Cobham. Special thanks go to Judy Hallett for admirably organising

We were delighted to be awarded an RHS Silver-Gilt Medal, which is an outstanding achievement for a group of amateurs who have not built anything like this before! We understand that it was only a few points off receiving 'Gold'.



HM The Queen at Chelsea Flower Show.

Photo: RHS

another successful final tour. This was her last before she retired from her role as Tours Organiser.

The Group exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show was a massive undertaking for all those involved, and you would not believe all the administration that our Secretary Sally Hayward had to complete to make this the huge success that it was. We were delighted to be awarded an RHS Silver-Gilt Medal, which is an outstanding achievement for a group of amateurs who have not built anything like this before! We understand that it was only a few points off receiving 'Gold'. In

particular, I would like to thank Sally, and Andy and Jenny Fly who built the exhibit, but also everyone who contributed in so many ways, especially RBG Edinburgh who kindly loaned some of their Vireya collection to add diversity to our exhibit.

But the final and lasting part of the Celebrations will have landed on your doorsteps a few days after Chelsea. I feel sure the Centenary Edition of the Yearbook will go down in history as the 'best ever', not only because it is significantly bigger than ever, but also because of the quality of all the articles which range from reflections on the past century to plants and issues of the moment. How fortunate we are to have Pam Hayward to commission these articles from world experts and to produce this scholarly work on our behalf – it's worth your subscription alone!

Continued overleaf

All these activities have raised the profile of the Group significantly. We have gained mentions in a number of publications, but especially the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Garden*. Andy Fly was interviewed extensively on BBC Radio Sussex; the BBC filmed at Caerhays and interviewed the descendants of the founders of the Society during their Chelsea TV coverage, and Sally Hayward was interviewed on BBC Gardeners' Question Time. I'd like to warmly welcome all the new members that joined the Group at events this spring, and have continued to sign up since. None of these events could have happened without considerable planning by all those involved, so thank you to everyone who helped make it happen. Thanks also to everyone who helped man the stand for a session or two, who gave advice about plant problems, talked to the public, enthused about our genera and our Group, and signed up new members. This was all great stuff, but it was also good fun, and new friendships were formed amongst members, so do get involved again next time we plan any of these public-facing events!



Charles Williams discussing archives from the collection at Caerhays.
Photo: David Millais

The Centenary Appeal has got off to a cracking start, and as I write, the fund currently stands at about £5000. Now that we are a charity we can claim an additional 25% Gift Aid from UK tax-payers. Thank you to everyone who has contributed sums both large and small. However, I would really like to encourage *everyone* to contribute to this fund so that we can really make a difference to plant conservation in the next few years. The funds are ring-fenced for plant conservation, and will enable us to commission specialist micro-propagation of the most rare and choice endangered plants to preserve them for the future before they are lost forever. It is vital conservation work indeed, and will make a worthy way for members to mark the Centenary!



Magnolia 'Caerhays Splendour' at Caerhays Castle Photo: David Millais

The Minutes of the AGM at Ramster, and my annual report can be read online. Please take a look at the Group website to see the latest information on our finances, new charitable status, seed-collecting, Nagoya and the newly formed Plant Committee chaired by Ivor Stokes. At the AGM, I was delighted to welcome Jenny Fly as our new Treasurer, to replace Alastair Stevenson who has, remarkably, been on the Committee for more than 20 years! Barry Haseltine was the first of our Trustees to step down on a rolling four-year cycle, and is replaced by Graham Mills, our webmaster. Miranda Gunn has retired after ten years as International Branch Chairman, to be replaced by Rama Lopez-Rivera who wrote so well about *Rhododendron yakushimanum* in the 2015 yearbook.

I am very grateful to those who have volunteered to come forward to serve on your Committee, but it is *essential* that others offer their time to fulfil the vital roles of Events Co-ordinator and Yearbook Editor so that the Group can continue to produce a good yearbook and arrange events and tours as part of our membership package. The present Committee cannot take on this extra work unaided, and there is a great danger that we will be unable to offer the yearbook or produce events in the future. We do need members to think about how they can volunteer to serve the Group, and not just pay a subscription for member benefits.

David Millais

EDITOR'S NOTES

Peter Furneaux

I need your letters, reports from Branch events and articles.

**The copy date for the next Bulletin No. 122
is Friday 9th September 2016**

Please send your contributions to:

email: peterfurneaux@gmail.com

or post to: Peter Furneaux

Lucton Court, Lucton, Herefordshire HR6 9PQ

Letters or articles on any aspect of our three genera will be gratefully received and accompanying photographs are very welcome.

TREASURER'S NOTE

Jenny Fly

Gift Aid

I would like to introduce myself as the new Treasurer for the Rhododendron Camellia & Magnolia Group.

It is very good news that the Group has been established as a Charitable Organisation – No. 1161254. This gives us the ability to re-claim Gift Aid from your subscriptions and other gifts to the Group from UK taxpayers. This will give the Group an additional 25p for every £1 of qualifying income to pursue further projects.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete and submit the form on the Group website to enable us to reclaim the Gift Aid:

www.rhodogroup-rhs.org/information/giftaid/

Your information will be secure and not revealed to anyone except the Group's Gift Aid and Membership Officers.

Donations of wild-collected seed for the RCMG Seedlist

Representatives of plant societies including the RCMG, the British Pteridological Society, The Cyclamen Society, the RHS Lily Group, the Scottish Rock Garden Club, the International Dendrology Society and Plant Heritage had a meeting, hosted by The Royal Horticultural Society, on May 13th 2016, to consider common procedures for adoption by their seed exchanges.

The meeting considered the implications of the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and compliance of seed collectors with laws and regulations concerning collection of material from plants growing in their natural habitats. It was noted that there could be an impact on the reputation of an organisation that distributed or exchanged wild-collected seed that did not have the necessary permits.

In addition to the CBD, there are restrictions on the utilization of genetic material acquired from signatory countries (www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/) after October 12th 2014, the implementation date of the Nagoya Protocol. The definition of utilization does not include cultivation, whether for private or commercial use. However, development of new named cultivars through breeding or selection is included, as is use of the genetic material for developing new drugs etc. So far as seed exchanges are concerned, in the absence of any document laying out the mutually agreed terms for utilization, we will inform recipients that there is a 'no utilization' restriction on relevant seed. They will also be made aware that if there is no documented link back to the source of the seed and any paperwork relevant to the collection of that seed, then it becomes extremely difficult for future utilizers to carry out the necessary checks to establish the status of the plant material. That also applies to any recipients of the progeny of the seed.

The 2016 RCMG Seed List was compiled offering only garden collected seed as an interim arrangement, pending more clarity which would enable the resumption of the acceptance of donations of wild-collected seed for future Seed Lists.

All future contributors of **wild-collected seed** should be aware that the reputation of the RHS Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group is at risk if we offer seed that has been collected illegally, or that does not have permission for distribution. This could do harm to future attempts to people who want to collect legitimately. The RCMG is not able to check every seed submission, so please do not submit seed that would put our reputation at risk. The donor is required to retain documentation giving any relevant permission for as long as possible.

All submissions of **wild-collected seed** must be accompanied by a statement of confirmation by the Donor that the seed has been collected legally with permission for distribution. The necessary form can be downloaded from the Group website www.rhodogroup-rhs.org

Failure to submit this form will mean that the seed cannot be accepted.

Future RCMG Seed Lists will carry the following statement:

'The RHS Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group has sought assurances that all wild-collected seed offered in this list has been collected in accordance with the laws of the source countries and that its distribution is allowed under the terms of any permits to collect the seed.'

Furthermore, genetic material collected from the wild since October 12th 2014 is covered by the Nagoya Protocol, which is legally binding in the EU, including the UK. For material from signatory countries, unless there is written consent from the country of origin, 'utilization' is not permitted. This includes development of new named cultivars and hybrids as well as production of new drugs and other products. Cultivation, privately or commercially, is permitted. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you should not assume that seeds in this list have consent for utilization as described above.'

It must be emphasized that **donations of garden collected seed are welcomed and do not require any accompanying statements** other than to inform the Seed Convenor of the source of the material.

Sally Hayward

CENTENARY ACTIVITIES

Rhododendron Show at Wisley

In conjunction with the RHS, a rhododendron show was staged at Wisley on May 7th. It was extremely well supported by exhibitors from across the country with blooms from both large and smaller gardens. A new Centenary Cup was awarded for the best exhibit chosen by a panel of judges but emphatically endorsed by the public in a 'visitors' vote' conducted throughout the weekend. The winner was a perfect spray of *Rhododendron schlippenbachii* exhibited by the Crown Estate (this species was also popular in our members' Top 100).



Rhododendron schlippenbachii exhibited by the Crown Estate, Windsor Great Park at the Wisley Show and winner of the Centenary Cup.

The Show was meticulously organised by Sally Hayward and, as well as the competitive classes, there was a superb display of photographs of the RCMG members' Top 100 rhododendrons (see the website and Bulletin 120 for the complete list). To further inform the public, where these favourites appeared on the show bench they were also highlighted with their Top 100 ranking. A demonstration by Brian Humphrey VMH of grafting techniques for rhododendrons also attracted much interest. We are most grateful to him for sharing his expertise.



Rhododendron 'Mollie Coker' Loderi Group seedling exhibited by Andy & Jenny Fly.



Rhododendron 'Belisar' exhibited by Robin Whiting.



Rhododendron primuliflorum exhibited by High Beeches Garden, Handcross.
Above photographs: Peter Furneaux



Harvey Stephens (centre) and members of the Crown Estate team who staged a wide variety of blooms for the Rhododendron Show at Wisley.
Photo: Jim Gardiner

On the following three days, a number of garden visits had been organised by Judy Hallett. Reports of these follow.

Editor

Visit to the Isabella Plantation, Richmond Park

A beautifully warm and sunny English May day found us journeying into Richmond Park, via the extraordinary vantage point of Richmond Hill where, after a gentle drive through ancient parkland punctuated with 300-year-old pollarded oaks and exuberant runners and cyclists, we disembarked from our coach and walked the short distance past wild flower-peppered acid grassland to the jewel in the crown which is the Isabella Plantation.

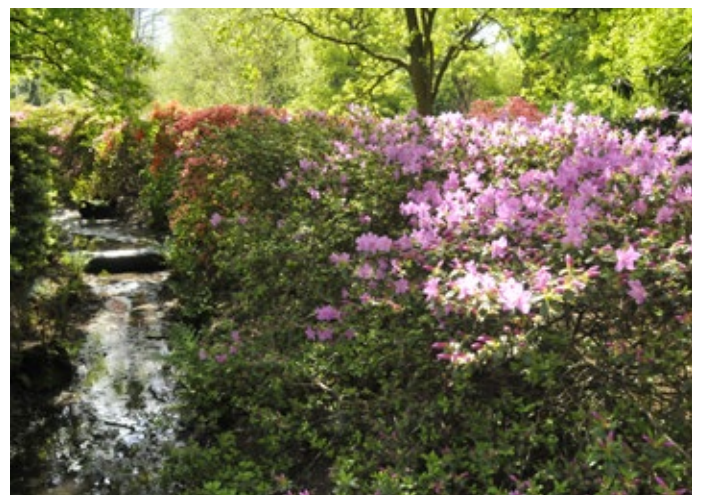
We were met by Jo, assistant superintendent, Simon Richards the superintendent for Richmond, and gardeners Dick and Barry.

The 40-acre woodland gardens were originally planted up in the 1830s but only open to the public in 1953. The garden was developed from a streamside walk in 1831 to the large collection of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and wild flowers it is today. Water is pumped around the park from larger ponds outside the boundary.

The plantation is widely known for its collection of Kurume azaleas, the group introduced from Japan by Ernest Wilson in 1918. Many were introduced to the Arnold Arboretum first and then brought to Britain. An amphitheatre-shaped area around the Still Pond is doubly banked with such azaleas as well as *Rhododendron reticulatum*, *R. vaseyi* and backed by tall *R. macabeianum*, *R. falconeri* and *R. hodgsonii* in a breath-taking presentation, their colourful flowers further reflected in the water below. This amphitheatre style is echoed on a larger scale in the Valley Gardens at Windsor in the Punch Bowl plantings.

Deciduous azaleas within the plantation are generally mixed with evergreen azaleas and a wide selection of camellias including *Camellia sasanqua* cultivars. There are *Magnolia* and *Acer* collections throughout the woods but, as well as these exotics, natural and local trees and flowers have been planted and allowed to grow next to the exotic.

Many trees and shrubs have had recently to be cleared in order to allow light in to the interior, as plants were severely suffering. For instance, the Acer Glade once full of sweet chestnuts, now has a collection of deciduous azaleas as well as *Cornus*, *Enkianthus*, *Calycanthus* and other lower growing deciduous ornamentals. Swathes of *Rhododendron ponticum* which comprised a good forty per cent of the evergreen cover has been removed in recent years on a three-year programme of removal, rotovation and over-seeding with grasses and wild flowers. In this way new deciduous bands have been created providing light for the azaleas and the wild flowers on the woodland 'floor'.



Azaleas beside a stream at the Isabella Plantation.

Soils are sandy and acidic and the site is managed organically. Leaf mould is composted as a mulch and soil conditioner and bracken from the greater park is used as a peat substitute and ericaceous compost. Natural leaf and needle-fall from the trees bring a slowly composting surface to the planted areas. The older population of ancient trees bring with them their own long-standing eco-systems with *Quercus robur*, *Fagus sylvatica* and *Carpinus betulus* having unique ecological communities. Dead-wood is retained also for the benefit of birds, bats, fungi and invertebrates. Monolith trees are retained wherever possible, or fallen branches left to lie.

We meandered slowly through plant-rich areas with names like Wilson Glade, Acer Glade, Still Pond, Deciduous Azalea Glade, Dark Ride, Bog Garden and Heather Garden with mixtures of fascinating trees and shrubs plus some open areas. The plants were mostly thriving and there were many exciting mature examples of our favoured genera as well as exciting exotics such as *Nyssa*, *Taxodium*, *Betula*, *Halesia*, *Davidia* (all mature plants in full 'bract' at our visit), *Photinia*, *Liriodendron*, *Corylopsis*, *Prunus* and many other eye-catching beauties – never being far from the company of indigenous species.



Evergreen azaleas beneath oaks at the Isabella Plantation.

Reluctant to depart but having to meet our deadlines for the day, there was a general feeling that further visits in the future were absolutely essential, especially throughout the seasons. This is a wonderful garden with a thrilling collection which has benefited from recent opening up and clearance of older plantings. This garden is a delight to walk around and is well set to continue to be a magnificent collection of trees and plants in the future.

Cheryl Sapcote / Photographs: Peter Furneaux

Sarum

Rod and Mary White's garden is not easy to describe in words. It is the result of more than twenty years of loving and sometimes frustrating endeavour. This is obvious to anyone who has ever gardened.

Through the eyes of someone from the other side of the world I will attempt to do their creation justice. Sarum is very much a plant collectors' garden with a diverse range of plants. The tree collection is a fantastic mix of rare conifers, many from the Southern Hemisphere, and deciduous and evergreen trees from the northern parts of the globe. From what I gather, the trees from my half of the globe are hard to come by in the UK.

Collecting historic hybrids and threatened rhododendron species has been a big motivator for Rod in his selection. There were many species I have not seen before so that the experience

was an education for me as well as a great pleasure. Rod has an obvious ability of being able to match tree structure and form to create a great backdrop to the rhododendrons. There is also something there in every season. Combinations of scented plants, great foliage range and diverse structural growth give interest at every point of the garden.



Rhododendron yuefengense at Sarum.

Listening to Rod, his passion is obvious but you can also pick up that there have been challenges in creating what I would call a masterpiece of gardening. It is a tribute to his resilience as a gardener in that he has continued to try plants in several locations until they work for him.



Rhododendron 'Fortune', tree and truss, at Sarum.

The continuous quest to gain this success has been aided by lateral thinking. Using bamboo and other plants that help dry out damp places has achieved great backdrops for his rhododendrons and amply demonstrates this.

There are so many features that would take a lot longer to put into this article but for me the standouts in rhododendron specimens were *Rhododendron yuefengense* as a species and *Rhododendron* 'Fortune' as a cultivar. As a group, Rod's collection of Section *Choniastrum* impressed me greatly. Even for someone from the Southern Hemisphere, the collection at Sarum of Southern conifers were a real treat to see.

While this is just a quick summary of Sarum from my perspective, I am sure that everyone would agree that it is a garden of great merit and hopefully Rod can continue the fantastic job he is doing in giving rare rhododendrons a place to grow and remain a reference collection as well as an aesthetic garden long into the future. As a horticulturist, albeit from a different quarter of the globe, I salute Rod and Mary and all those that have had a part in making Sarum such a wonderful garden. They have created it for their pleasure and, fortunately for us as a group, have shared it with us.

Robert Hatcher / Photographs: Mary White

Valley Garden, Windsor

It was another warm sunny day for our visit to this great garden. Our coach was met by Harvey Stephens, Deputy Keeper of the Gardens, Claire and Issy who manage the database of the collections and Robert, a Wisley student.

Eric Savill, who was a Chartered Surveyor by training, started planting rhododendron species in the Valley Garden after the Second World War.

The garden, which is made up of seven valleys, has an average rainfall of only 22 inches but benefits from an underground irrigation system which is fed from and returns to Virginia Water. The soil is Bagshot Sands which responds to very generous applications of mulch. In some areas the overhead canopy has been lost in winter storms. The effect of this was quite noticeable, although many new trees have been planted including sweet chestnut which has a beautiful bark.

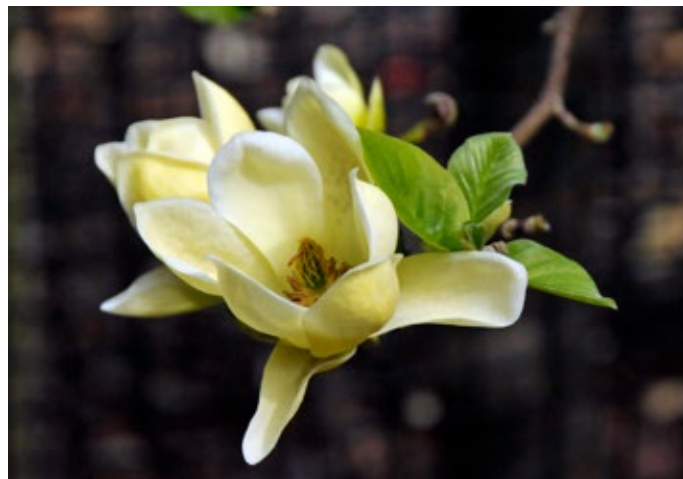
The garden is immaculately maintained by Patricia, the Supervisor, Claire and the team of eight gardeners. The labelling of plants was excellent throughout.

We saw so many wonderful species rhododendrons so I only mention a few that were at their best on the day. There were four different Cox and Hutchison collected *Rhododendron hodgsonii*, a very fine deep yellow *R. sinofalconeri*, *R. fulvum*, *R. oreodoxa*, *R. thomsonii*, *R. platypodum*, *R. fortunei*, *R. morii* (Ben More Form), *R. niveum* 'Crown Equerry' and *R. serpyllifolium* 'Album'.



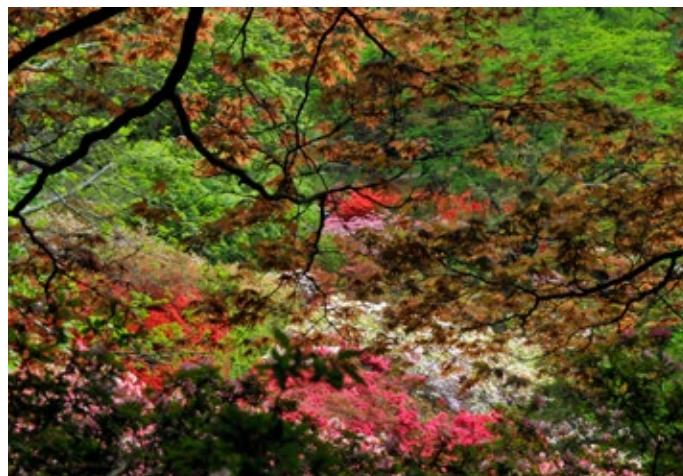
Harvey Stephens who was our guide at the Valley Gardens. He is standing in front of *Rhododendron serpyllifolium* 'Album'

We saw the first bloom this year on *Magnolia rostrata*, a bright yellow *Magnolia* 'Lois', a *Davidia involucreata* with hundreds of creamy white bracts, together with acers, *Betula utilis* and *B. albosinensis*, *Oxydendrum arboreum* and magnificent oaks.



Magnolia 'Lois'

Of course the highlight was the overview of the Punch Bowl which was a blaze of colour, azaleas in every hue, complemented by the coloured foliage of Japanese acers, white stemmed *Betula utilis* and various pines.



Azaleas in the Punch Bowl at the Valley Gardens.

John Anderson formerly Head Gardener at Exbury Gardens now heads the team as Keeper of the Gardens, following in the footsteps of Mark Flanagan, John Bond and Sir Eric Savill. The Garden will go forward in safe hands as I am sure that he and Harvey will be a force to be reckoned with and we wish them well.

Pat Bucknell / Photos: Peter Furneaux

Savill Garden, Windsor

Our guide to the Savill Gardens in Windsor Great Park was Harvey Stephens, Deputy Keeper, accompanied by assistant gardeners Issy Bean and Claire Sadler.

These world class gardens, containing an enormous range of plants, are open to visitors nearly the whole year so there is a need to provide interest at all seasons. For example in the new Summer Wood we were told of developing plans to introduce a variety of summer-flowering shrubs and other plants including a large range of *Hydrangea* cultivars.

Rhododendrons are a particular feature. In the 1940s an important collection of some two thousand of these plants were transported physically from Tower Court, Ascot where they had been grown by J.B. Stevenson. As well as many fine species it was

interesting to see some old and now little known hybrids such as the brilliant red *Rhododendron* 'Siren', *R.* 'Alice Mangles' and *R.* 'Dulcie Daffarn', both pink.



Rhododendron 'Alice Mangles'

Photo: Michael Ashbrook



Rhododendron 'Siren'

Photo: Michael Ashbrook

Among a wide range of interesting trees I noted the coppery new growth of *Tilia endochrysea*, many magnolias including *M. sieboldii* ssp. *sinensis*, *Paulownia kawakamii*, *Acer davidii* 'Karmen' and *Halesia macgregorii*.



Magnolia sieboldii ssp. *sinensis*

Photo: Peter Furneaux

Particularly satisfying for visitors is the comprehensive plant labelling and the series of strategically placed information boards.

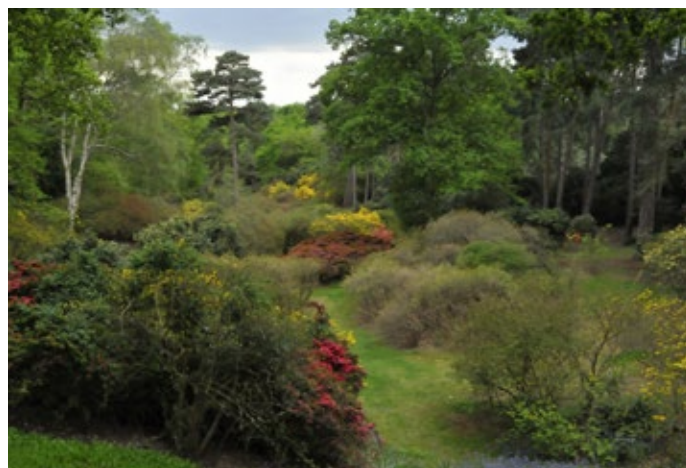
Our unforgettable visit to these very appealing and immaculately maintained gardens ended with a delicious lunch in the Savill Building. We were hugely grateful to Harvey, Issy and Claire for devising such an interesting and informative tour. It was real privilege to be part of it.

Michael Ashbrook

Pyrford Court

Following the glories of Windsor, one might have been forgiven for expecting an anticlimax for the visit to Pyrford Court. However, this was not the case. First laid out in 1906, and then fallen into neglect, it showed how with careful research and sympathetic treatment of the remains of the old planting, a garden could be brought back to life. Together with the local group of Plant Heritage (represented at our visit by Marion Badger) and head gardener Noel Duffy, enormous strides have been made in just three years.

Beside the drive there is a dramatic view into a natural amphitheatre where overgrowth of hardy hybrid rhododendrons, camellias and deciduous azaleas has been tamed. Their scent would be followed by a ground cover of lily-of-the-valley which unfortunately could only be imagined. The woodland of oak, Scots pine and maple had been carefully managed to frame the view from the terrace, once likened to that at Powerscourt.



The recently restored area beside the drive at Pyrford Court.

The same care was also apparent in the treatment of three fine cedars of Lebanon in front of the house. Here much had been removed and replaced by a large expanse of grass. *Ilex* hedges served as background for much new planting. On one side of this plat stands a restored ancient pergola supporting the trunks of equally ancient wisteria. Old lead labels revealed evidence of previous climbers.



RCMG members at Pyrford Court.

Opposite the house, a fine mellow brick wall completes the enclosure which gives shelter to many and varied plantings. Here were wisteria grown as free standing specimens in the lawn and constituting part of the National Collection of some 57 cultivars. Just coming into flower, they not only created great interest but demonstrated the skill and care apparent throughout the garden.

John Mann / Photos: Peter Furneaux

The Coach House

We were greeted on our arrival by Carolyn Townsend, Jim Gardiner and Peter Mills. Peter has been managing the rejuvenation of this completely overgrown garden, which was started in 1979 and is still ongoing.

Our tour started halfway up the service drive and we were led away from it across a grass pathway. Either side of this were beautiful mature oaks and other specimen trees which had had their canopies raised to let in enough light so that the new younger specimens had more than adequate space and room to mature. Also it created extra vistas across parts of the garden.



Cornus 'Wisley Queen'

Amongst the newer planting we noted *Metasequoia*, bamboo-leaved oak and many magnolias. Passing by these and to the right we came across beautiful ancient rhododendron specimens of a considerable height and spread, including *Rhododendron* 'Beauty of Littleworth', various forms of *R. Loderi* Group and *R. sinogrande*. There were many more Hardy Hybrids but without further research we were unable to name them.

Further along were more new specimens such as *Cornus nuttallii* and *C.* 'Wisley Queen'. From this point we proceeded on to a raised wooden walkway and up some steps which were surrounded by bluebells, shuttlecock ferns and primroses. At the top of the steps and along the pathway we could enjoy far-reaching views over the top of the rhododendrons which we had recently walked past on the lower pathway.



Magnolia 'Yellow Lantern' at the Coach House.

A sloping path led us to another area of open meadow with three large ponds which had small islands located in them. The ponds were surrounded with typical marginal plants including various hostas and irises.

We headed back to the top of the service drive via stone steps, and then behind the house we found a panorama of colour, with tubs of tulips, compact hybrid rhododendrons, azaleas and other companion plants.

Unfortunately, our tour had to be brief and we only managed to see a small part of the huge work that is being undertaken. It is an incredible garden packed full of tasteful planting. A real garden paradise!

We all agreed we wanted to see more of this exciting garden, and maybe one day we might be invited back to see the rest of it.

Andy Fly / Photos: Peter Furneaux

Ramster

The Group's AGM was held in the morning with reports from the Chairman and from the Treasurer (both of which can be found on the Group's website). This was followed by a delicious lunch. We were most grateful to Miranda Gunn for her generous hospitality.



David Millais with Miranda Gunn cutting the RCMG birthday cake.

Photo: Judy Hallett

Afterwards we were invited to tour the garden.

Ramster Gardens

I had never been to Ramster before and I can thoroughly recommend a visit to everybody. As you enter the grounds from the road, the first thing to hit you are the clumps of *Rhododendron* 'Cynthia' lining the drive. This plant is Ramster's trademark and features throughout the gardens.



RCMG members at Ramster gardens.

The tour of these impressive grounds started after our celebratory lunch where we were divided into three groups and headed off in different directions. My group was led by Miranda

who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of every plant. The starting point was at the front of the house where we admired a 600-year-old oak tree, completely hollow and looking like something out of a fairy tale.

As we wound our way through the garden, we came across a *Magnolia sargentiana* var. *sargentiana* which had refused to flower for many years and only started once Miranda threatened it with a chainsaw! She worked out that the lack of flowering was caused by squirrels pinching the buds, a problem rectified by coating green tree guards with Vaseline to stop the squirrels climbing up.

Next on the list was the RCMG collection of Hardy Hybrid Rhododendrons. John Bond had been looking for a home for the Group collection and suggested Ramster. All of the plants are clearly labelled and have been planted with plenty of space to allow them to develop their full potential.

R. 'Mrs Philip Martineau' was doing her usual thing of giving up once she had reached a certain size. This was the exception in an otherwise magnificent collection. There were no signs of pest or disease anywhere and if plants were not already in flower, they were well budded.

We were able to name a rather handsome specimen of *R. 'Currieanum'*, an old Waterer hybrid, pre-1851 with lilac purple flowers and dark blotch. This was at the head of the bog garden with spectacular views down to the lake. *Gunnera manicata* and candelabra primulas and rhododendrons adorn this area and did not disappoint. The water course trickles down to the lake from a reservoir at the top of the garden and is powered by the original ram pump dating from 1890 and still in perfect working order.



Part of the RCMG collection of Hardy Hybrid Rhododendrons at Ramster.

Notable trees were *Davidia involucrata* showing its famed handkerchiefs, *Tetracentron sinense*, a rare plant with dappled bark and heart shaped leaves, and perhaps the finest English oak we had ever seen, with a beautifully straight, clean trunk and an almost perfectly rounded head. All of the oaks are straight-stemmed in this garden and every crown lifted to provide the ideal growing conditions for the rhododendrons. *Poncirus trifoliata*, the 'Crown of Thorns' was looking great with its pure white orange blossom flowers and thorny branches.

The avenue of *Acer palmatum 'Dissectum'* is a sight I will never forget. The plants date back over 120 years when they were planted as part of the original garden by the then Gauntlets Nursery, to showcase their work.

Magnolia 'Susan' has been carefully sited by the pond to allow you to look through the branches at the water, a very effective view. We did not venture down the steps affectionately known as the "Granny Killers"! When you see them you will understand why!

More clumps of *R. 'Cynthia'* were passed and some of these 'centenarians' were so tall that we could not see any flowers or buds from below, just a mass of stems which gave an eerie effect. It was very striking.

Last on the list was the area of new planting. A large bank of *R. 'Gomer Waterer'* had been cleared as it was not flowering and was blocking the pathways. New rhododendrons, magnolias and other companion plants are growing well and will be worth a return visit in a few years.

The whole garden is carpeted with wild flowers and bulbs and there are some outstanding sculptures and solid wood benches carved into foxes, hens and wild boar to name a few.

This is definitely a progressive garden with constant planning for the future always in the mind of the owners. It is an exceptional garden and a perfect setting for our Centenary celebration.

Stephen Harding / Photos: Peter Furneaux

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

As David Millais has mentioned in the Chairman's Notes, the Group won a Silver-Gilt Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show!

This is an amazing achievement and reflects all the hard work put in by Sally Hayward and David Millais to plan the exhibit, and the combined efforts of Sally, David and Andy and Jenny Fly to build the stand and lay out the plants so carefully. We are also indebted to the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh who entrusted us with some of their most precious vireyas for the duration of the show.

Her Majesty the Queen visited the exhibit on Monday 23rd May and was presented with a bouquet of rhododendrons which she could be seen with on the cover of the *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Express* the following day (see p. 1 of this bulletin). What better endorsement for a 'rhododendron revival' could we ask for! The rhododendrons in this bouquet came from Ramster.

Thanks to all who played a part in this, not forgetting the Top 100 participants! The *Rhododendron yakushimanum* image kindly supplied to us by Jennifer Lu attracted a great deal of attention and having the 'real thing' forming part of the scene was truly inspired. The Queen instantly recognised our favourite rhododendron and spent some time talking to Sally about it.



Sally Hayward presenting a bouquet of rhododendrons to the Queen. The flowers came from Ramster, Miranda Gunn's garden.

Photo: Gill Groombridge



Part of the Group's stand at the Chelsea Flower Show. The information boards in this quarter of the stand describe briefly the introduction of rhododendrons and their intrepid collectors, as well as the history of the Rhododendron Camellia and Magnolia Group.



A collection of vireya rhododendrons generously lent by the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.



The backcloth for this quarter of the stand was a photograph of Mt. Nagata in front of which was placed a well flowered plant of *R. yakushimanum* 'Koichiro Wada' and a selection of its hybrid progeny.

In addition, our three associated stands: Burncoose Nurseries, Hillier's and Millais Nurseries all won Gold medals, so congratulations to them too!

Pam Hayward / Photographs: Sally Hayward

APPRECIATION

Malcolm Nash

Malcolm finally lost his hard fought fight against leukaemia on the 9th May 2016.

Malcolm was born on the 6th February 1939 and grew up in West Drayton. He attended Latymer School followed by Edinburgh University. There he studied dentistry. He left after a couple of months having decided that a career of peering into other people's mouths was not for him!

After spending his National Service based in Gibraltar, he decided to train as a radiographer. He soon decided that this career was not for him either and eventually trained as a Chartered Accountant working for the BBA until he retired in 1968.

It was on a holiday after this that he met Dot who he married a year later. They had a son Richard who married Hannah. They gave Malcolm and Dot four grandsons called Sam, Thomas, Teddy and Harry.

Malcolm's hobbies included railways and gardening. He loved plants, especially rhododendrons and azaleas. Through this love he was invited to visit Sir John Quicke's garden in Devon where he met Jim Inskip. Both Malcolm and Jim soon realised they shared the same passion for ericaceous plants, particularly

deciduous azaleas. They decided to try to find some of the lost cultivars both of Ghent and Knaphill varieties. This quest took them all over Europe and they had communications with other like-minded people in the USA and Australia.

Notable finds included *Rhododendron* 'Van Houtte Flora Plenum' found in Emmets garden in Kent which the Belgians had been seeking for twenty years. In Sir William Benyon's garden in Berkshire they found *Rhododendron* 'Bijou de Gentbrugge'.

Jim and Malcolm worked together for over twenty years and Malcolm spent two days a week at Jim's nursery helping with the collection which now exceeds 725 different varieties. Colin Crosbie, the past curator of RHS Garden, Wisley said he had never seen such a vast collection.

Jim told me recently that Malcolm's expertise in this field was unrivalled, yet he was a very modest man and was always willing to share his knowledge with everyone.

We were privileged to have him serve in various roles on the committee of the Wessex Branch for twenty years. We will all miss you Malcolm but we will never forget you.

Andy Fly

MEMBERS' LETTERS

Rhododendron – or Coleus

Many years ago I had just given a talk on rhododendrons to a local garden club when an elderly member came over and asked me to write down the name of a rhododendron I had shown with attractive young foliage. Whilst I wrote *Rhododendron pentaphyllum* she explained that she was particularly fond of coleus plants and that this rhododendron reminded her of them. I bore the insult silently on behalf of *R. pentaphyllum* while harbouring some spiteful satisfaction that she would not come by one easily.



Rhododendron pentaphyllum in flower.



New growth of *R. pentaphyllum*.

Photos: Barry Starling

Mine had arrived as a packet of seed labelled '*R. pentaphyllum* var. *nikoense*, Chichibu form' from a friend in Japan. On consulting the atlas, Chichibu appears to be in a mountainous area of central Honshu about 60 or 70 miles west of Tokyo. The seedlings grew quite quickly but it was three years before the colourful foliage characteristic became fully developed. The outer margins of the elliptic leaves are broadly stained a foxy orange-red hue, a feature which lasts well into summer before turning dark green. The 1980 *Rhododendron Handbook* gives '*nikoense*' as a synonym of '*pentaphyllum*' rather than a variety but neither that nor the current handbook make any mention of the colourful new leaves. Cox, in *The Larger Rhododendron Species*, gives a good description mentioning also good autumn colouring; McQuire and Robinson in the *Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species* also pay tribute to its fall colour but do not mention the new growth – strange! My plants, sadly, have never been conspicuous in autumn.

I have never succeeded in rooting cuttings but plants are easily raised from seed in a heated propagator where they will germinate within two weeks reaching 3 or 4 inches high in their first season. It takes about three years for the distinctive leaf colouration to become most prominent and seedlings do vary in the intensity of their colour so it pays to grow on as many as possible, then select the best.

Each spring, as the growth starts to swell, the local slug population will converge on them, decimating the buds so that, as spring progresses, one wonders why the young shrubs are not leafing out and realise too late that slugs are responsible. They are equally partial to the buds of *R. schlippenbachii*. Protection from slugs must be absolute during spring in the first three years, after which they lose interest.

It is fortunate that the exquisite, pure pink flowers are born on bare stems before the leaves emerge. Pink flowers on tawny-orange foliage would not be a happy combination. In my experience flowers are sparingly produced but as the *Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species* demonstrates, they can be most prolific.

Barry Starling

One woman among the men – Dame Alice DuCane Godman, founder member of the Rhododendron Society, 1915

When I was researching information for our South West Branch Group Centenary display at Rosemoor, I noticed that the founder members of the Society were, as to be expected, all men. They had at least nominal ownership of the large estates with rhododendrons from which the membership was elected. It was therefore noticeable that a woman's name appeared in the list of founder members, and my interest was aroused as to how she came to be elected.¹

She was Alice Mary Chaplin who married Frederick DuCane Godman FRS of South Lodge, Horsham in 1891. He was many years her senior, his first wife having died in 1875. He had been a natural scientist, ornithologist and explorer of some renown, and had published a massive tome on the flora and fauna of Central America. In fact, after his death in 1919, Dame Alice and their two daughters set up a fund, chaired by Lord Rothschild, for the Natural History Museum to encourage further exploration and research in zoology and botany.²

South Lodge was across the road from Leonardslee, home of Sir Edmund Giles Loder. Both he and Fred Godman were of the same age and were friends who exchanged plant material,

including plants and hybrids of *Rhododendron griffithianum* which had come to Fred Godman from the ailing Harry Mangles, who had delivered to him a cartload of his young grafts. One of these, a particularly good form of *R. griffithianum* growing in the cold greenhouse at South Lodge, formed the basis of Edmund Giles Loder's most famous hybrid with *R. fortunei* from 1911 which was named 'Loderi' by William Watson of RBGKew.³

My theory (and it is only a theory) is that Dame Alice was admitted to the original Rhododendron Society as a sort of representative of her old and ailing husband who was too ill to take part directly and died in 1919. She might well have been proposed by her neighbour Sir Edmund Giles Loder who had also joined the newly formed Rhododendron Society in 1915. Damehood had been bestowed upon Alice Godman through her work for the British Red Cross of which she was deputy President. She had accompanied her husband on his last expeditions in North Africa and the West Indies, so she must have been a resourceful and capable woman.

By 1919, she was joined in the Rhododendron Society by one other woman, a Lady Rayleigh, and the two remained the only women in what had become by the 1920s acknowledged as a Gentlemen's Club which was superseded in 1927 by the Rhododendron Association, a (slightly) more democratic organisation.

References:

1. Typewritten minutes of the second meeting of the Rhododendron Society and first AGM, May 1916: Caerhays Archive.
2. Memorial to the late Frederick DuCane Godman in the *Journal Science*, August 1919.
3. John Hammond (2016). People, places and plants: Sir Edmund Giles Loder. *Rhododendrons, Camellias & Magnolias* 67, 56–79.

John Marston

Twenty Years on...

I owe my education in rhododendron species to repeated visits to three Sussex gardens close to where we lived for many years – Borde Hill (walking distance), Nymans and Wakehurst (both a ten-minute drive). Though we have long since deserted to the West Country, the rhododendron collections at Borde Hill and in the wild garden at Nymans retain a warm place in my heart.

My ambition when I came to retirement from business was to get to the Himalayas and elsewhere to see and photograph rhododendron species in their natural habitat, and I have been fortunate enough to have achieved that to a fair degree. I have been able to look at rhododendrons along the Himalayas eastwards from Nepal, to Bhutan, southeast Tibet, Arunachal Pradesh (India), and on into China. Each trip was exciting and rewarding, not least for the agreeable and very knowledgeable companions with whom I shared the experience. But there is one particular occasion, exactly twenty years ago come the end of May this year, that stands out in my memory above everything else. This was the crossing of the Doshong La, the 15,000ft pass in southeast Tibet that sits on the western shoulder of the last and most easterly of the great Himalayan peaks, Namche Barwa, and rises up from close to where the fearsome Tsangpo Gorge begins to cut its way right through the Himalaya, for the river to emerge as the Brahmaputra on the Indian side. The Doshong La is famously described by Frank Kingdon Ward in his *Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges* as 'the rhododendron fairyland', and it is also well described by Peter Cox in Cox and Hutchinson's *Seeds of Adventure*. I am just adding here a personal memoir from my diary and plant log of the time. It was my good luck that I was able to join one of the few parties,

this one organised by David Burlinson and Kenneth Cox, that got permission to visit the area at that time. I believe today the Chinese authorities have made it almost impossible or at least impossibly expensive for foreigners to visit.



Rhododendron dignabile

Photo: Philip Evans

After two days driving from Lhasa Airport following the Tsangpo river east we reached the foot of the Doshong La above the village of Pe, and a delectable campsite set up by our Sherpa crew (who had been hired from Nepal). Here we were surrounded by stands of *Rhododendron wardii* in full bloom and a mass of the orange flowering *Primula chungensis*. The plan was to spend that afternoon and the following day on this north side of the pass and, according to my log, we identified at least eight species plus the dwarf blood red *R. forrestii*. Most unusual were a white-flowered form of *R. campylocarpum* in an area some way up the pass (where both Ward and later Ludlow and Sherriff had made their camp when here), and thickets of a *lacteum*-like species of *Taliensia* – *R. dignabile*, with both yellow and pink-flowered forms. On the third day we climbed to the top of the pass in difficult, late snow, conditions, and were thankful on the descent of the south side we had ice axes to brake much slipping and sliding. It was a thrill, during the descent, to discover on a rocky outcrop, straggly plants of the orange-flowered *R. cinnabarinum* ssp. *xanthocodon* Concatenans Group – roughly where Ward must have first found and named it 'Orange Bill'. Our campsite at the foot was enveloped in apparently ceaseless 'Scotch mist' and light rain, but that was a small price for what we found over the next three days – according to my log, a further eighteen species, plus one or two natural hybrids, all within reach of the camp. Those that stand out in my memory are the different coloured forms of the unusual Neriiflora *R. parmulatum*, a prostrate *R. chamaethomsonii* with a large corolla out of all proportion to the leaves, a gully full of a rare species of Uniflora – *R. imperator*, and, perhaps best of all, after much searching, the eastern form of subsect. *Barbata* *R. exasperatum* growing prostrate over a large rock.



Rhododendron exasperatum

Photo: Philip Evans

The complete list of rhododendrons species that I recorded is shown below. The climb back up the snow-covered south side was arduous and it was good to get back to our camp at the foot of the north side – and to a great personal surprise. It happened to be my birthday, and our wonderful Sherpa cook had somehow managed to bake and ice a birthday cake in our very wet south side camp and then carried it unscathed all the way back over the pass to present it (plus candle) that evening at the end of supper! That was special. From the Doshong La we went onto the lovely Rong Chu Valley and other places in the Gorge area – but that is all another story.

Philip Evans



Rhododendron imperator

Photo: Philip Evans



Rhododendron parmulatum

Photo: Philip Evans

List of species found

North Side

calostrotum var. *riparium*
campylocarpum
cerasinum
dignabile
faucium

forrestii (at summit)
hirtipes
uvariifolium var. *griseum*
wardii

South Side

arizelum
cephalanthum ssp. *cephalanthum*
 Nmaiese Group
chamaethomsonii
charitopes ssp. *tsangpoense*
cinnabarinum ssp. *xanthocodon*
 Concatenans Group
exasperatum
glischrum ssp. *rude*
imperator
lanigerum
laudandum var. *temoense*

leucaspis
mekongense
parmulatum
viridescens
plus (seen by Chris Sanders and Ken Cox)
fulvoides (possibly)
keysii
leptocarpum
sinogrande

MEMBERSHIP

Rupert Eley

We welcome our new members and hope they will enjoy all the benefits of membership of the Rhododendron Camellia and Magnolia Group.

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

We are delighted to announce that Christopher Legrand has come forward and has offered to take on the position of Events Co-ordinator. He has unanimously been co-opted by the Management Committee, and has already been active in researching Group events and trips for next spring. Christopher and his wife Rosemary have been members of the New Forest Branch for many years, and both are experienced lecturers on gardens and countries around the world, so Christopher is an ideal person to be taking on this role. Rosemary is the daughter of the late George Hyde, and she wrote about his azaleas in the Yearbook of 2014.

We still urgently need an offer for someone to replace Pam Hayward as Editor of the Yearbook!

North West England & North Wales Branch

Our annual show, which took place on 1 and 2 of May at Ness Gardens, produced some lovely blooms, despite camellias being early and many rhododendrons, especially the Triflora subsection, being late. A magnificent collection of Vireyas, exhibited by Jean Hannon, deservedly took the prize for “Best in Show”. Her specimens were outstanding in both beauty and condition.

As usual, it has been an odd season for our genera, following on a late summer in which we had little substantial rain, just light showers which never penetrated below the leaf canopy. Herb Short, of the ICS, has often written of the need to keep camellias watered in summer and suggesting that dryness at this time of year leads to flower bud drop. I have never experienced this as a problem in earlier years but this is precisely what occurred in early spring this year. The *Camellia x williamsii* varieties seemed relatively unaffected, *C. ‘Debbie’* being a notable exception, with two specimens with very few flowers. Many *C. japonica* varieties had very few flowers, others being unaffected. Two varieties that did flower as well as usual were Bill Ackerman’s ‘Pink Icicle’ and ‘Fire n’ Ice’, which were in their full glory for an ICS visit.

With many large specimens over twenty years old it is difficult to keep them all well watered, as well as the demands for water from the rhododendrons. I hope we will have a wetter summer – the rain falling as I write may portend more.

Ted Brabin

South East Branch High Beeches

At the kind invitation of Sarah Bray, a group of members collected together at High Beeches on 30th April for a visit to the splendid gardens. Sarah had suggested that we meet in the early evening, as she said the gardens were particularly nice in the evening, and so it turned out. Despite the threat of some rain it was a pleasant warm spring evening, and we had the whole garden to ourselves, except for the wildlife.

In this late spring, many of the flowers that would have been over by 30th April were in full bloom, although the corollary was that some that should have been out were not! The garden at High Beeches is surprisingly hilly; although the road to it is not exactly flat, when one starts to descend into the main part of the garden there are many deep interconnecting valleys, giving sudden changes of view and, on our visit, glades filled with bluebells.

Around one of the corners, we were bowled over by a large bush of *Rhododendron ‘Florida Ogada’* in full flower; the flowers are some of the biggest one sees on rhododendrons and the brilliant yellow made quite a sight. Sarah explained to us that it was very rare and had been gifted to Anne Boscawen by Hope Findlay when he was at the Savill Garden many years ago.

As part of the idea that the evening was a pleasant time to visit the garden, Sarah offered us a glass or two of wine in the house, and we were delighted that Anne Boscawen had walked over from her own house to join us – it became a jolly party of like-minded and friendly members – exactly as we want our Group to be!

Barry Haseltine

Far off mountains with jagged peaks
And slopes explorers could not resist.
Bedazzled by brilliant drifts
In richest shades of reds and pinks,
Carmine, purple, yellow and flame.
Some were white with sweetest scent,
From tiny stars to huge displays;
Luring like sirens across ravines,
Rose Trees beckoned with beguiling charm.
Risking life, the hunters reached them,
Sent home bounteous treasured prize.

From precious seed great gardens grew;
Leaf by leaf they gathered force.
Great names would rival for such skill
As those who tended could produce.
Mixed magics that are man’s delight,
Made potent crosses of the best.

Now there’s no need to travel far,
Nor clamber rocks to take a look
At wild ones with fantastic leaves
Of rust and bronze, felt and scale,
All hidden underneath.
A living legacy grows on;
Namesakes of great-grandfathers.
Towering trees in scarlet robes,
Bristling bushes and dainty shrubs;
They catch us now with all their power.
And awe-inspiring to the heart
Are rhododendrons in full flight.

THE LAKELAND RHODODENDRON, CAMELLIA & MAGNOLIA SOCIETY

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES 2016 – 17

11 October 2016 – 2.00 pm

Annual General Meeting

Christopher Bradbury - "Spring Tour 2016"

8 November 2016 – 7.30 pm

Alan Clark - "The Glory of the Rhododendron"

6 December 2016 – 2.00 pm

**Richard Baines, Curator Logan Botanic Garden
"A Conservation Visit to China 2015"**

14 February 2017 – 2.00 pm

**Christopher Bradbury "Farrer's Last Journey"
Plant collecting in Upper Burma 1919-20**

14 March 2017 – 2.00 pm

Kevin Hughes of Heale Gardens, nr Salisbury "Magnolias"

All meetings will be at the Lakeland Horticultural Society
Holehird Gardens, Patterdale Road, Windermere LA23 1NP

For information contact Christopher Bradbury

01539 446186, ccbradbury@gmail.com

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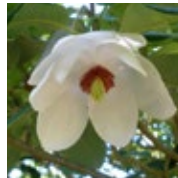
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the Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia group forthcoming events



OCT	NOV	JAN 2017	APRIL 2017	
<p>9</p> <p>Wessex Branch The Water Garden, Kingston-upon-Thames</p> <hr/> <p>Garden visit Andy Fly pinecroftgarden1@btconnect.com 01903 742350</p>	<p>19</p> <p>New Forest Branch Hillier Gardens</p> <hr/> <p>Talk Rosemary Legrand 'The Gardens of Lake Maggiore' Martin Gates mgates@talktalk.net 02380 252 843</p>	<p>14</p> <p>North West Branch Ness Botanic Gardens</p> <hr/> <p>Quiz, book auction, social Ted Brabin angela.brabin@btinternet.com 0151 353 1193</p>	<p>8/9</p> <p>RHS / South East Branch RHS (Venue TBC)</p> <hr/> <p>RHS Early Rhododendron, Main Camellia and Spring Ornamental Competitions Georgina Barter georginabarter@rhs.org.uk 020 7821 3142 Barry Haseltine bhaseltine@btinternet.com 01342 713132</p>	<p>30/1^{MAY}</p> <p>North West Branch Ness Botanic Gardens</p> <hr/> <p>Branch Show Ted Brabin angela.brabin@btinternet.com 0151 353 1193</p>
<p>15</p> <p>North West Branch Ness Botanic Gardens</p> <hr/> <p>Talk Ross Underwood 'Plant Hunting in Sikkim' Ted Brabin angela.brabin@btinternet.com 0151 353 1193</p>	<p>19</p> <p>North West Branch Ness Botanic Gardens</p> <hr/> <p>Talk Lloyd Kenyon 'An Exploration of Bhutan' Ted Brabin angela.brabin@btinternet.com 0151 353 1193</p>	<p>FEB 2017</p> <p>11</p> <p>North West Branch Ness Botanic Gardens</p> <hr/> <p>Talk Donna Young 'Liverpool Museum Herbarium' Ted Brabin angela.brabin@btinternet.com 0151 353 1193</p>	<p>22/23</p> <p>RHS / South West Branch RHS Rosemoor</p> <hr/> <p>RHS Main Rhododendron Competition and SW Branch Camellia, Magnolia and Floral Display Competitions Georgina Barter georginabarter@rhs.org.uk 020 7821 3142 Dr John Marston artavianjohn@gmail.com 01271 323202</p>	<p>MAY 2017</p> <p>13/14</p> <p>RHS RHS Harlow Carr</p> <hr/> <p>RHS Harlow Carr Rhododendron Competition Georgina Barter georginabarter@rhs.org.uk 020 7821 3142</p>
<p>29</p> <p>South West Branch RHS Rosemoor</p> <hr/> <p>Talk Vaughan Gallavan 'The red flowered magnolias in New Zealand' Dr John Marston artavianjohn@gmail.com 01271 323202</p>		<p>MARCH 2017</p> <p>4</p> <p>Wessex Branch Ramster</p> <hr/> <p>Slide show and talk John Talbot 'Propagation in the 1980s' Andy Fly pinecroftgarden1@btconnect.com 01903 742350</p>		<p>20</p> <p>Wessex Branch Ramster</p> <hr/> <p>The Ramster Flower Show Andy Fly pinecroftgarden1@btconnect.com 01903 742350</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Wessex Branch Ramster</p> <hr/> <p>Walk, followed by slide show and talk on 'Meconopsis' by Richard Thornton Andy Fly pinecroftgarden1@btconnect.com 01903 742350</p>		<p>11/12</p> <p>RHS / South West Branch RHS Rosemoor</p> <hr/> <p>RHS Early Camellia Competition and SW Branch Early Rhododendron and Spring Ornamental Competitions Georgina Barter georginabarter@rhs.org.uk 020 7821 3142 Dr John Marston artavianjohn@gmail.com 01271 323202</p>		<p>22-26</p> <p>North West Branch Eastern Scotland</p> <hr/> <p>Group Tour Ted Brabin angela.brabin@btinternet.com 0151 353 1193</p>

Event updates to Alastair Stevenson please:

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