



*The
Irish Garden Plant Society*



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Front cover photograph of *Romneya coulteri* courtesy of Maeve Bell



Romneya coulteri by Maeve Bell

The summer I met my husband I fell in love twice. I still live with both my loves because the second was the Californian poppy, *Romneya coulteri*. My future mother-in-law grew it in a sunny bed by the house and I was captivated by the huge blooms, the white petals like expensive crumpled tissue and the centre a luxuriant boss of golden stamens.

Some years later with the publication in 1984 of *An Irish Flower Garden* by E. Charles Nelson, I learnt about its Irish associations. It was named in honour of two people: the Reverend Dr John Thomas Romney Robinson, an eminent astronomer, and Dr Thomas Coulter, one time curator of the Trinity College herbarium. Thomas Coulter had found it during his travels in California in 1832 and although he did not describe it he left dried specimens. It flowered for the first time in Ireland at Glasnevin in 1877.

About this time my mother-in-law generously dug up dozens of plants for one of my friends to start her new garden. Over a decade later we bought my friend's house and there to welcome us was the *Romneya*, flourishing in a narrow bed outside the dining room window. A year or so later I was puzzled by a pencil-like ridge in the carpet under the table; I lifted a corner of the carpet to find a maze of roots running beneath the floorboards. The *Romneya* had tunnelled under the wall and was making a bid for the hall. I banished it to the far end of the garden where it continues to thrive in my light sandy soil.

It never gets any winter protection and survived temperatures of -14°C a couple of winters ago although it was slow to flower the following summer. After the mild weather last winter, the beautiful glaucous foliage was looking so good that I did not cut it back in April; as a result it is well over two metres high, considerably taller than usual, and in glorious flower a month earlier than normal.

Bees adore it but pests are notable by their absence. It's a fabulous plant. Grow it – but perhaps at a safe distance from the foundations of your house.



A note from the Chairman



This is our first newsletter since our A.G.M. in May and an opportunity to recall some of the highlights of the weekend. The attendance was particularly heartening with over 100 members with us for the event. The weather could not have been more suitable and the gardens were simply outstanding. No doubt each person will hold their own particularly favourite memory and I was especially delighted that at this A.G.M. we approved the nomination of three of our members as Honorary Members of the society.

Joe Kennedy's many years of breeding primulas reached a highlight in recent years with the release of the Kennedy Irish Primulas from Pat Fitzgerald's nursery in Co. Kilkenny. It was a delight for us to recognise Joe's achievement and dedication to the development of the old Irish primulas and I imagine there will be other delights to come.

Pat Fitzgerald has to his credit a long list of plant introductions and has brought the status of Irish plants, including Joe Kennedy's, to the attention of an international market. He has taken a particular interest in Irish heritage plants and a number of our treasured Irish plants are presently passing through the propagation process at his plant and he continues to seek other suitable Irish plants.

Helen Dillon was added to our list of honorary members simply because she is Helen Dillon. Her contribution to Irish horticulture through her garden, her television work and her writing has been immense. She has been a member of the IGPS since its foundation and while she always promoted an interest in good plants she particularly promoted interest in Irish plants.

We generally look on the nomination of people as honorary members as an honour bestowed on them. I am of the view, especially as I consider these three people, that our society is being greatly honoured by their acceptance of honorary membership and I thank them for this and for their great contribution to Irish horticulture.

Paddy



It's been a funny old year by Rae McIntyre

July 14th and it's a horribly wet day with a continuous drizzle punctuated at times by very heavy showers of the stair-rod variety. July used to be a favourite month in my garden but, at the moment, I am going through a bout of disliking it. There are several reasons for this state of affairs. Top of the list is the main garden of about half an acre at the south side of the house. I have described before in this *Newsletter* how it has turned into a wood which is nobody's fault but my own because it is packed with ornamental trees, rhododendrons, azaleas, flowering shrubs and shrub roses. There is no room for grass, just gravel paths wending between beds and borders.

A few flowers can be seen from downstairs windows of the house but from upstairs windows there's just a half-acre sweep of dense foliage. One knowledgeable gardening friend has suggested that if I have a wood I should make the most of it by planting woodland plants. An image flitted through my mind of drifts of North American natives like trilliums, in every possible colour and variety that trilliums come in, erythroniums *Uvularia perfoliata* and *Vancouveria hexandra*. The thing about these woodland plants is that they're mostly spring-flowering and I have no problem with the woodland in spring and early summer. In fact I love it then.

This past spring has been wonderful. Everyone's garden seemed to excel thanks to a combination of a pleasant autumn merging seamlessly into a mild, albeit very wet, winter, followed by a warm spring. I have six magnolias (yes I know it's ridiculous) in the main garden and all of them flowered abundantly this year. It was the first time for *Magnolia denudata* which I've had for about eight years but it has been well worth the wait. It was also the first time for a deep pink flowered form of *Magnolia x soulangeana* which I was given two years ago when it was three metres tall. It usually takes large plants a while to settle down after planting so I was both surprised and pleased to see it in full flower. There will come a time when all these magnolias grow far too big for their space but by then I shall be pushing up the daisies in the nearest graveyard.

In July magnolias don't look particularly unkempt although the *Magnolia stellata* 'Royal Star', in the middle of the garden, has leaves that are turning reddish brown at the tips. I detest this intimation of autumn in July. It's supposed to be high summer for heaven's sake. Even worse is *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena' with leaves that are in full autumn garb. I hope it isn't dying. Rhododendrons and azaleas were better this year than they have been for a long time. At the end of January there were five in bloom although two of them were 'Christmas Cheer'. February was actually a great month in the main garden because there were carpets of snowdrops in one border and, up in the white garden, a border there nearly looked as if snow had fallen on it. Because I am greedy when it comes to buying bulbs to flower in spring there were many little pockets of crocuses, reticulata irises, small species tulips, miniature daffodils and the icy blue flowers of *Scilla mischtschenkoana*. Over in what had been the hot border there were drifts of the narcissus 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation'.

March was a disappointment. Some days were bitterly cold with the sun shining from a clear blue sky - a weather combination I detest. Unlike 95 percent of the population I feel much more alive on mild, murky days. Clear skies preceded frosty nights. Because many of the rhododendrons have grown too big to protect with wigwams of canes and fleece the flowers on six of them became taupe-coloured and felt icily cold and damp the next morning. Thankfully we had no frosts in April and May and the prolific blooms on most rhododendrons were unharmed. There is a downside to this of course. Rhododendrons are at their scruffiest in the summer months. I only deadhead a few that I know from experience are reluctant to form new buds when the old ones are still there. It's only mid-July and yet many rhododendrons have produced new flower buds for next spring.

In what used to be the hot border in the main garden the deciduous azaleas also bloomed abundantly but, now that they have finished and their leaves are looking slightly autumnal, the whole border is beginning to irk me. This time last year these azaleas were the main denizens of a border in the stackyard. The hot border (main garden) had a few shrubs and many hemerocallis and crocosmias. To make life easier - as I thought at the time - I swapped these borders around and, starting in the autumn, all the herbaceous stuff was lifted and transplanted in suitable weather during the winter months. I was going to keep the azalea border in order by judicious use of the hoe. Huh! The first niggle started when all the 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' narcissi finished flowering and their dying leaves lay on the ground on top of the soil. It was not an attractive sight. When the border had been full of hemerocallis their fresh lime green leaves hid the browning daffodil foliage. The hoeing was fairly

satisfactory during March and early April but then the weeds started in earnest. If they had been 6 inches/15 cm tall I could have coped but instead the dark chocolate brown soil was quickly covered by a film of weed seedlings each about the size of the top of a pencil. Hoeing these was useless. Picking them by hand would have been back-breaking and anyway in 48 hours time there would have been another crop of tiny shiny baby weeds. The gardening gurus would advise mulching. I can source two different kinds of compost. Locally there is spent mushroom compost but it's alkaline and therefore no use for spreading on ericaceae. Council mulch is available in large quantities for a small cost. It is recycled waste and grass clippings from golf courses round the north coast and is supposed to be sterile. If it is then why, I wonder, have colonies of weeds that I have never seen before come into the garden.

There are two solutions to this weed problem. (1) Zap the blighters with glyphosate or (2) Use reliable ground cover plants. I am going to do both. There is absolutely no point in planting ground coverers in weedy soil so it will be glyphosate first and then planting. Some groundcover plants are not very exciting but that doesn't matter because they're only there as background to flowering shrubs. Evergreen perennials like bergenias, libertias and epimediums have proved their worth here over many years. Andy, who works here, and I have had quite a heated argument about the merits (I say) and demerits (he says) of *Alchemilla mollis*. He insists that it's nothing but a weed and killing one lot of weeds then planting more doesn't make sense. I love it, always have done no matter what insulting things people say about it so it will be planted. Some years ago I saw a magazine illustration of a garden in which the three main elements were deciduous azaleas with vividly coloured flowers, drifts of *Primula bulleyana* that were equally vivid and *Alchemilla mollis*. I intend copying that in part of the azalea border because I was so taken with it.

Roses this year have not followed the pattern of flowering that they normally do. For a start they were so much earlier to bud and then to bloom. *Rosa banksiae* 'Lutea' has been growing here against a south-facing wall for two years. I've read that it takes some years to settle down to flowering but it was quite well covered in April with clusters of yellow flowers. My Hampshire cousin claims that hers always flowers in April but, because we are so much farther north I wasn't expecting any until May; that's when I saw it blooming some years ago in a Co. Down garden. I have many roses here, too many for me to go into detail about, but in mid-July they all seem to have run out of steam. 'Mme Alfred Carrière' usually a dependable long-flowerer has only a few blooms because it stopped producing any at the beginning of this month.

'Kathleen Harrop' another continuous bloomer also stopped recently and all the leaves dropped from it. It has done this before so I have assumed it must be hungry. In previous years, once it was given a feed it came into leaf and flower again. Hopefully 'Mme Alfred Carrière' and other recalcitrant roses will do likewise. Thank goodness for 'Alister Stella Gray' and 'Bonica' which work hard all summer long at producing flowers and giving little bother.

It's been a great year for hydrangeas. For many years these were out of fashion so a limited number were offered for sale. This has changed and the supermarket I go to in Coleraine has had an almost continuous selection of flowering ones for sale - even through the winter months. I have been buying them instead of cut flowers and they seem to thrive in our cold, old, usually frost-free house. In spring five were planted in the garden and I was pleased to see them coming into bloom with the flower colours as I bought them. The pink ones haven't become blue although they probably will in our unequivocally acid soil. The stackyard has had some changes and is now predominantly a celebration of summer. Andy spent much of the winter draining beds and borders that have been frequently waterlogged. Knowing his predilection for mechanical gardening toys like chain saws, strimmers and leaf blowers I offered to hire one of those mini-diggers for him. He said, strangely enough, that he would prefer to use his trusty spade. And he did - it's no wonder that there's more fat on a bicycle than there is on him. He piped the drains with plastic pipes left over when we had our fields drained last year and it has (touch wood) made an amazing difference.

I thought I had meticulously labelled the herbaceous plants that were dug out of the main garden last autumn. Apparently not. There are two borders and two beds in the stackyard that have been crammed full of perennials. I used to have carefully planned colour schemes with hot borders and cool borders but that is no longer happening. Instead *Geranium endressii*, which I thought I had left behind, is climbing through *Crocasmia* 'Lucifer' and the pink fluffy cat's tail flowers of a sanguisorba are stuck in beside the vivid orange yellow flowers of *Ligularia clivorum* 'Desdemona'. Actually I don't mind although perhaps I will later on. Life is much too short to get into a flap about clashing colour combinations.

P.S. It is July 27th. I had almost forgotten about this piece of writing because we've since had glorious summer weather. There were days when the temperature went up to 27.5°C at the Giant's Causeway. To-day we're back to normal with some extremely heavy showers but it's nice not to have to do any watering.



Seed Distribution Scheme 2014/15

What a wonderful year for seeds! We have had a succession of either poor springs or poor summers, but this year, with a very mild winter behind us, and great weather, there should be loads of seed around.

We have a very determined and productive but small band of seed collectors who keep the scheme running each year, with some of them sending in 30 or 40 different seeds. New people are always welcome, please feel free to try your hand, it is not difficult if you follow the guidelines below. There is a definite pleasure in collecting and spreading seed from your garden.

General Seed Collecting Tips

1. Make sure seeds are present, look very carefully!
2. Only collect when ripe – wait until the first ripe seeds are visible and ready to fall out.
3. Collect when dry, much easier to keep dry and in good condition.
4. Take the entire flower head, easier and quicker, you are bound to get some seed.
5. Collect into a paper bag or envelope, moisture can get out and air in – leave it open.
6. Put the name on the bag or envelope, even if you have a great memory, dry seeds can look alike!
7. Allow the seeds to fall out naturally, some though you will need to persuade.
8. Try to clean off as much chaff and debris as possible before sending it in please.

Take care – some plants have toxins, or irritant hairs, Helleborus for instance can cause irritation under your finger nails if you get the seeds out by hand, let them fall out in a bag. Many Composites fall apart into a lot of fine hairs when seed cleaning, do as much as you can in a closed bag, or work outside in a gentle breeze!

Remember as well that some seeds will mysteriously disappear when ripe. Euphorbia has exploding seed pods that propel seeds several metres, collect when the first pods go, put in a folded over paper bag (shops carrier bags are

great) and let dry (I once innocently (!) put such a bag near our house phone, my poor late mother in law spent ages looking for the mice rattling around each time a seed popped). Geraniums catapult their seeds when ripe, again collect when the first have gone and into a paper bag. We are not the only seed collectors either, ants will collect and distribute Viola, Trillium, and Cyclamen (among others) seeds as they enjoy the elaiosome – a protein rich body attached temporarily to the seed – which falls off as they transport the seed, thus spreading it.

Last comment, always please record the full plant name, there is little point in sending seed in as ‘Campanula’, cultivar names are given as a guide only though, seedlings will normally be very different as they will not come true.

Please send seeds, by end November 2014, to

Stephen Butler
Curator of Horticulture
Dublin Zoo
Phoenix Park
Dublin 8



Snippets

PLANT SEARCH

Do you grow the double flowered *Primula vulgaris* ‘Elizabeth Dickey’?

If you do, Caroline Stone would love to hear from you.

Please contact Caroline at

carolinestone_mayfield@yahoo.co.uk

The Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Committee Conference
Botany of Desire, The Role of Nurseries in the Irish Garden and Beyond.

Will be held at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin.

On October 10th 11th & 12th

For details and booking form please see www.nihgc.org



Growing on Howth by David Jeffrey

During the enjoyable A.G.M. meeting in Howth, I was struck by the thought that members might wish to know more about the background to gardening on the peninsula. We have lived here for more than 40 years and have absorbed much of its natural history and pattern of gardens.

In 1887 Dr H.C. Hart published “The Flora of Howth”, one of the earliest local floras in Ireland. In the introduction he noted that Howth possesses 57% of the known flora of Ireland within its four square miles. This old statistic emphasises the diversity of habitat that underlies semi-natural vegetation and gardens.

The bedrocks of Howth are the hard Cambrian rocks of the “Bray Series”, underlying the eastern two thirds of the peninsula and the limestone of the Lower Carboniferous period. The latter underlies Dublin and the Midlands right across to the Burren. The two rock types are separated by a fault that runs diagonally from east of Howth village to the shore at Sutton.

However, the two truly ancient bedrocks only partially account for the variety of soil conditions encountered. Full glacial conditions, which ended about 13,000 years ago, laid an ice sheet over Howth, moving from the north west. This ice sheet carried boulder clay with much limestone. A different type of drift also occurs, non-calcareous and sandier in texture. This is distributed in patches to the eastern side of Howth and may be derived from Irish Sea ice. This drift underlies the two gardens we visited and also our garden.

Changes in sea level associated with the ice, led to Howth becoming an island. This ended about 5,000 years ago as a spit of beach sand developed where the present isthmus is located.

Natural vegetation ranged from various coastal communities - sand dunes, salt marsh and cliff, mixed oak woodland on the heavier, deeper drift soils, and our most famous lowland heath. Heath vegetation is confined to soils derived from Bray Series rock outcrops. The vegetation is largely comprised of common heather, bell heather and dwarf gorse. Peak flowering is in August, and it's a sight worth seeing!

The vegetation is protected by the European Habitats Directive as it is disappearing elsewhere in north-western Europe. Its characteristic habitat comprises very infertile soil, low rainfall and fire. The latter enables nutrients to circulate.

The rainfall is less than 700 mm, with mild winters associated with the sea. Because altitude ranges from sea level to 560 ft. (172 m), we are strongly affected by gale force winds. Trees are acclimated to south westerlies, but the most damaging winter storms have come from the south.

Natural vegetation has been altered by many centuries of farming, giving rise to opportunities for pasture, meadow and ruderal floras. In the last 150 years grassland has yielded to houses and gardens. On the western third of the peninsula on limestone-rich drift and calcareous former beach sand, soil conditions are similar to those in north Co. Dublin generally.

The remaining two thirds, with soils of low pH and very variable soil depth, pose an interesting challenge to gardeners. In the flower garden it's a matter of selecting, by trial and error, those genera that can tolerate low soil pH. Dianthus, Phlox, Lupins and Monarda fail miserably but herbaceous Geraniums, Astrantias and Aconitums thrive. We can also grow *Lobelia tupa* and the ubiquitous *Echium pininana* is a bit like a weed!

Shrubs tend to be our forte, with a variety of Ericaceae and many southern hemisphere genera including Acacia, Correa, Prostanthera, Grevillea, Euryops, Acca, Drimys and Crinodendron.

The combination of well drained, low pH soils and a relatively mild winter climate enable these types to prove reliable.

Vegetable growing is a different matter. Soil depth is a critical factor, demanding raised beds. Soil management entails regular application of lime and annual dressing with garden compost. Our system is aided by a shredder, which makes it possible to utilise all the prunings from our shrubs to be composted.

Climate change will pose new challenges to all gardeners. On Howth I think our biggest threat will be recurrent summer drought. The answers lie in the use of mulch, careful selection of plants and wise use of stored rain water. We may look forward to longer growing seasons, with somewhat milder winters.



The Effect of a Name on a Plant's Popularity by John Joe Costin

There are plant traders in Ireland, who have an acute awareness of the sales potential of a good name and of the creditability that provenance confers. They also understand the value of an upgrade. They flatter by offering you first option (because you are keen on good plants) on 'choice or rare plants' with a "superiority" endorsement implicit in the name. "This is the very good **'Birr Castle'** form, the superior **'Rowallane'** clone or these propagules are from the best specimen in **'Mount Usher'**. The nameless plant's origin may have been one dug out of a neighbour's garden or was part of the detritus removed in a landscape renovation. **'Lord Rosse'** has status, while acknowledging that the donor was **Maisie McGrath** has little marketing cachet. There is an element of credibility however, in what they claim, as visitors liberating plants from gardens that are open to the public, is a despicable nuisance that owners endure.

Naming a plant is a scientific necessity, but to realise its sales potential is a marketing exercise. Companies expend large sums to create a name that will be acceptable across different countries and market segments for their new product. The pitfalls are many, as D.E.W. Distillery, Tullamore discovered when no one would taste their whiskey liqueur "Irish Mist" at the Berlin Green Week some years ago. The Irish Ambassador told them why. In German, Mist means excrement. The popularity of a poor garden plant or the anonymity of an excellent plant can be entirely due to its name. A good name can popularise the mediocre, whilst the unpronounceable can render a great plant, an unknown. No matter how much you revere your generous aunt who enriched your life with a substantial legacy, it is best not to name a plant in her honour, if you wish that it be in every garden, if hers is one of the 20 most numerous surnames in Ireland. Your sentimentality and the ubiquity of the name, be it **Breda Kelly, Maggie Brennan** or **Mary Murphy** is likely to maintain its obscurity, irrespective of its garden merits. Equally, the less confident might demur at purchasing a plant named **Penelope Postlethwaite**, honouring a lovely sister, lest a mispronunciation might cause an embarrassment. However, if abbreviated to **Penny Posh**, it could be a winner, as we like products with names that offer a reflection of a perception we may desire for ourselves! This was demonstrated recently when an Aldi own brand was voted the best in a blind test on 10 perfumes that included Chanel No 5. However, women went on

the airwaves, to enunciate the consequences for the gift bearer, if they were presented with that Aldi perfume for St Valentine's Day. Chanel No 5 is the best selling perfume in the world. If Aldi is a better perfume and if women want the best fragrance and make their purchase on the nose test alone, then Aldi's product should displace Chanel No 5, but it will not. Luxury purchases are not made on the basis of logic but on emotion. Chanel No 5 is laden with associated values that outweigh the science of scent. A brand stands for quality, something particular for a customer, something for which you can charge additional money for the assurance it offers. The most influential and profitable advertisement ever written in the cosmetic industry was created by an agency in New York for L'Oreal. It absolves buyers of any sense of guilt or of indulging in extravagances and justifies an expenditure on the premise **"Because I'm worth it"**. Luxury goods companies are among the most profitable businesses because they condition us to believe that the best could not actually be inexpensive. Tart wrote "we want what we are conditioned to want".¹ Associating a new product with a leading celebrity is a standard route to sales success. In 2012 a perfume with unique chemistry was launched. It is an ink black liquid in the bottle but that colour disappears when sprayed on the skin. Named 'Lady Gaga' it recorded sales of \$60 million in the first week.

Rhododendron

Hybridisers did not learn the benefit of name association from Madison Avenue. The converse may well be the truth. The titled Irish 150 years ago were obviously an important market segment. Cultivars named in their honour include: **Countess of Athlone, Duchess of Connaught, Duchess of Decies, Earl of Athlone, Duchess of Athlone, Lady Bessborough, Earl of Donoghmore, Lady Alice Fitzwilliam and Marchioness of Lansdowne**. The crucial factor was their understanding of the scale of land ownership and of the concentration of so much land among so few. In 1870 300 landowners had holdings of 10,000 acres or more.² In 2000 it was calculated that 67% of Scotland was owned by 1000 landowners.³ Exbury Gardens Nursery specialised in ericaceous subjects. When its owner, Lionel Rothschild stated in a RHS lecture that every garden, no matter how small, should have a minimum of 4 acres of woodland, he was thinking of his own customers, large land owners, whose estates gardens extended to 12Ha (30 acres) or more. Rothschild, the scion of a Jewish banking family from Hamburg, was the classic outsider, who cultivated the titled and became an insider. On a visit to Exbury's nursery, I was told, that flattering the lady of the manor by naming a rhododendron in her honour, apparently spontaneously, while conducting her around the nursery was excellent marketing. It elicited large orders for the named selection, perhaps 1000 or more, many of which she subsequently distributed as gifts to elevate her prestige among her peers. Many rhododendrons are treelike in height and

spread, and could only be accommodated in farm size gardens. Focusing on owners of large land holdings made good business sense. Given to-days housing planning densities of up to 22 homes per acre, the custom of one estate was the equivalent of perhaps 600 modern suburban gardeners. With the democratisation of wealth, the market responded to the purchasing power of the middle classes. When the taste for large bloomed shrubs peaked in the early 70's the most popular cultivars were not named in honour of titled personages. The names now told the purchaser what they did e.g. **Pink Pearl**, **Purple Splendour** and **Britannia**. Rhododendrons were particularly suitable to low cost field production, because it took a minimum of four years to produce a budded saleable plant. As it has a fine fibrous root system, it transplanted readily and was amenable to the ball and burlap technique. Sales declined with the advent of container production, the demand changed to compact sized Japanese Azaleas and dwarf Rhododendrons.

Roses

Post war there was an insatiable demand for luminous coloured flowers in the largest sizes, perhaps as a compensation for the deprivations of war. Begonias, *Dahlia*, Gladioli, *Chrysanthemum*, *Rhododendron*, Flowering Cherries, Lilacs and Roses enjoyed unprecedented popularity. Roses did for the small garden, what *Rhododendron* did for the demesne. It took a 10 year programme, to breed a new cultivar. The war's interruption to trade gave Meilland, (a French breeding house) adequate time to perfect an exceptional robust rose, released immediately after the ending of World War II with an inspirational name - **Peace**. It was planted everywhere by everyone to celebrate what an exhausted Europe craved for. The name and the timing of its introduction was exquisite. It sold 10m+ bushes. Roses were superb marketing vehicles in the 60 and 70's and were named to honour personalities, sell products and highlight events. Despite breeders' annual marketing campaigns to launch the 'newest and best selections yet' they were always able to find an 'excellent selection', which they had held in reserve, should someone come seekin

g a new rose as a publicity vehicle for their product or event. A guaranteed minimum purchase of 10,000 bushes gave us the **'Rose of Tralee'**. Companies offered coupons redeemable to acquire the rose named after their product. **Glenfiddick**, single malt whiskey, sold 750,000; Cadbury-Schweppes were delighted with their tea sales. Their coupons purchased 500,000 Typhoo Tea roses.

The Colour Blue

Blue is the coldest, deepest and purest colour, but other than in bulbs and some perennials, it is the scarcest colour in our gardens. Annually, we have announcements of new, 'must have' blues. In 2012 the sensation was the first blue *Dahlia*. Prior to that, we had the launch of a blue tulip, blue potato tubers, blue figs and various wonder berries from distant places in hues of blue. In the

USA the day lily is so popular that the Hemerocallis Society register 500 new introductions each year in nearly every flower colour possible except blue. To encourage breeders, the Society's array of accolades now includes the James E Marsh Award conferred annually on "a nearly blue Hemerocallis". This is an honest description, which other breeders and marketing campaigns could follow. In fact, blue could be used as a reliable lie test on nurserymen. **Blue Moon** is a marvellous name, an ambience fused with mood that made the sensational claim when it was introduced in the 1960's as the first blue rose in a family that offered every shade, of every colour but none in any shade of blue. It was at a time when the rose was king of garden plants. Seventy million bushes were produced in Britain in 1970. Unlike now, where customers make their selections from pot grown batches in full bloom, selections in 1970 were made from nursery catalogues and the plants were dispatched bare root in the dormant season. Their choice was influenced by the poetry of the prose and the colour prints in the catalogue. In this instance the printers excelled themselves and the **Blue Moon** rose that appeared in print was a **Meconopsis blue**. In reality, the blue was a hint of a tincture, but printers felt it would besmirch their newly acquired colour print reputation if they attempted to reproduce the actual grey blue of the flower. In reality, it was a disappointment and despite the great name it did not sell well. Few of these 'product promotional roses' justified the hype or became classics. The breeders were inured to success, and the garden performance of many did not match the marketing promise. The public tired of the high maintenance, the thorns, the pruning and the spraying treadmill; the rose industry did not make the transition to container production and sales diminished to less than a tenth of the numbers sold at its peak.

When David Tristram, a Guinness employee for 18 years, returned to Sussex to start a nursery, he took with him an impressive but unidentified **Scabiosa** that flowered continuously in his Dublin garden from April to October. He propagated a few and continued to observe its garden performances. In 1984, it was selected as one of the first plants to be promoted in Garden Centres in the UK. It needed a name and because it seemed always to be covered in a halo of butterflies, (as its flowers are one of the richest sources of nectar) he named it '**Butterfly Blue**'. Subsequent research by marketing consultants informed him that he had unknowingly combined two of the most evocative words in the English language, butterfly and blue. The grace and airy lightness of the butterfly epitomise evanescent moments of summer, and its intricate patterns and sophisticated colour patterns represent high art. He registered **Scabiosa columbaria** '**Butterfly Blue**' as a trade mark. This precluded others profiteering from his promotional work and protected the considerable investment made in publicity and presentation. It was not a new plant, and it could not be established that it had not already been sold, so he could not apply for **Plant Breeders Rights**. It was licensed to other growers around the

world and became a best seller. John Simpson, (his father Ben had a nursery in Armagh), held the licence for South Africa. He reported that he supplied 160,000 to a local golf course. They preferred a perennial display of blue to the seasonal planting of bedding plants. It is a good plant, and it probably would have sold well anyway, even if it had the debilitation of a poor name. Sales were enhanced by Trade Mark protection and the immediate favourable impression of a lovely name.

Shrubs

The early 70's was marked by the retail revolution that container production created. It changed the range of plants. Big blossomed favourites went out of fashion. There were reasons. The sales season changed from the dormant to the growing, garden sizes were smaller and taste changed from the garish to the petite and the perfumed. Plants could now be selected in flower in Garden Centres and not by the poetry of the description in catalogues. Watson's Nursery 1966 catalogue had an insert. "***Shrubs in Containers***" a new venture in Gardening, "means shrubs maybe planted with safety throughout the year, provided the ball of the soil surrounding the shrub is not broken. They will transplant even in full growth". *Potentilla* popularity grew exponentially with the expansion of container production because it flowers profusely for months over the growing season.

Watson's listed 6 cultivars including:

<i>P. fruticosa</i> 'Katherine Dykes'	Large, yellow flowers May-October
<i>P. f.</i> 'Longacre Variety'	Large, soft yellow flowers, May-October
<i>P. f.</i> 'Tangerine' (new)	Most striking flower, tangerine orange
<i>P. f.</i> 'Farreri'	Bright yellow flower from summer until late autumn

The colours were limited really to a palette of yellows. About 1976 Blooms Nursery introduced what they claimed was the first red flowered *Potentilla*, at the Chelsea Show. It was launched with an avalanche of publicity, including the sensational news that there had been an attempt to remove cuttings from the plants on the show stand that was foiled. Thereafter, the plant would be protected by 24 hour security for the duration of the show. Whether it was staged, (as these events often were) or actual is immaterial, news is the best form of advertising and *Potentilla* 'Red Ace' became a household name in gardening within 24 hours. It was a poor plant. The flower did open red, but quickly faded in sunlight. The initial notoriety gave it sales longevity even though its faults were exposed and known. That level of national publicity elevated the recognition factor of *Potentilla* and encouraged an orgy of launches of new selections introduced by more cautious nurserymen now willing to piggy-back on its publicity. Once a genus becomes popular, new introductions aggregate, because a nurseryman has only to market its difference from existing cultivars. *Potentilla* means powerful in Latin.

The Greeks believed that extracts from a plant that flowered profusely for so long had aphrodisiacal properties. *Potentilla* cross breeds promiscuously and indiscriminately. Opportunistic nurserymen made many introductions most of which were of doubtful merit. Watson's catalogue listed 6 *Potentillas* in 1966. Hillier's Manual listed 44 in their 1981 edition and the Plant Finder 1998 listed 230. It was all quantity and little quality. It is instructive, that only 10 of these received the R.H.S AGM (Award of Garden Merit). 'New' and 'different', are words that excite gardeners, as they come with an assumption, not necessarily true, that 'new' means 'better.' The *Potentilla* market reached its nadir when variegated forms were deemed worthy to bring to market!

If *Potentilla* was indecently promiscuous over the past 40 years, ***Choisya ternata***, another beneficiary of container production has been decidedly chaste, producing only 2 new additions. Both received an AGM and were awarded Plant Breeders Rights. ***Choisya ternata*** 'Sundance' was the first plant in the EU so protected. It was found by Peter Catt of Liss Forest Nursery, Hampshire, a discovery that required the eye and mind of a fine plantsman. While taking cuttings from a mother plant, he noticed a yellow twig in the centre of the bush. In there it would normally be regarded as senescent, but he found it was not and so began a new departure in marketing and the promotion of plants. The market for new plants is developed by innovators, but in the absence of the protection conferred by Plant Breeders Rights (PBR), it was often the imitators who generated the profits by 'pirateering' other's property. In fact, it was considered good business strategy to wait for an innovation, identify its weakness, correct that and exploit it. Continental nursery salesmen had a strategy of building up stock of a new plant to 500,000, then go out across Europe and sell it at a premium price as exclusive and rare. Retailers who bought it advertised it as new and exclusive, but found others making the same claim and the market collapsed in one year. The consequence of that strategy is that it discouraged innovation or investment in the provision of information and marketing aids to promote new plants. Costin's Nursery got a sole exclusive licence to distribute it in Ireland but there was no legal protection here. Up until the 1990's Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) covered only agriculture crops, such as malting barley and potatoes but not amenity crops. The Department of Industry and Commerce accepted the alternative that it could be registered as Trade Mark if its use as a plant name did not impinge on other products with the same name. 'Sundance' had been registered as a brand of shampoo and of margarine. It was a cumbersome process, as the agreement of the owners of these products had to be procured. 'Sundance' and 'Butterfly Blue' were the first two trademarks granted to plants in Ireland. In 1993 Costin's obtained a grant from Córas Tráchtála to commission designs for a logo, bespoke labels and 1m² sized full colour marketing boards. These were supplied as a sales promotion package to garden centres who agreed to stock a

minimum number of new and therefore unknown plants (90) instead of the usual (5 or 10), placed in a conspicuous location on a raised platform 1m. above ground level and with a promotion board mounted at the back. This specification was inspired by how supermarkets then displayed and sold baked beans. Garden Centre proprietors wondered if there was any linkage between beans and plants. Most were sceptical and remained to be convinced. Eventually, 15 centres agreed to participate in a nationwide marketing trial but only when offered a sale or return guarantee on the unsold plants. The sales achieved in each centre were collated and shared weekly, first between the participants, then published and later presented at a national conference. The highest number was not sold in a Dublin garden centre as expected. The sceptics had predicted that this sort of gimmick would not succeed in the country. Garden Centres were allowed to set their own price. The stockist who set the lowest prices sold the least, 176. The Garden Centre who set the highest prices sold the most, 522 plants in 4 weeks. This too was not predicted. Garden Centres learned that they did not **have to take the market price**. With new plants they could **make their own price** and sell very large numbers at a premium price. The promotion of new or little known plants became a profitable innovation. The sceptics became enthusiasts and the once cautious now clamoured for more promotions. It worked, because the subject was an exceptionally good plant, frost hardy and looked as good in February as it did in July. The promotion worked because the mass display was eye catching, the design was distinctive and each buyer had sufficient information to make a decision. Proprietors loved it, because for the first time they did not have to sell each plant, every time to each customer. The promotion board did the selling and the customer had sufficient information to make a purchase without assistance.

Photinia

Of the 5 **Photinia** we grew, '**Red Robin**' was the best seller, even though it has the least attractive growth habit of the five, did not have the best colour, but it had the best name, catalysed by an association with our best loved song bird. It is now grown and available in all sizes from hedging plants in 2L pots, to trained semi mature standard trees. It is being planted in excessive numbers as a shrub, hedge, specimen and as a standard tree in both town and country. Nature however has its own remedies to counterbalance excess, and disease often emerges or is imported. At present *Entomsporium maculatum* leaf spot is devastating *Photinia* in the USA. World trade makes its arrival here probably inevitable and it may well be here already but an epidemic would depend on how it survives or thrives in our cold sauna climate. The original plant arose in 1940 as a natural hybrid in Frazer's Nursery in Birmingham, Alabama between a big leaved Chinese species *P. serrulata* (now *P. serratifolia*) and a more refined and petite species of Japanese origin *P. glabra*. Hence the name *P. x*

fraseri 'Birmingham'. It was introduced to the trade in 1955. On June 15th 1963 Sheriff Bulldog O'Connor released his racist police force, fire-hoses and dogs on Martin Luther King's first anti segregation march through Birmingham. He was seeking equal rights. America was so scandalised by the ferocity of the attack that President Kennedy went on TV that Sunday night and promised the nation he would introduce Equal Rights Legislation as soon as it was drafted. Birmingham became a term of opprobrium. This may explain why it is sold as '**Red Tip**' in the USA and not by its original name. We offered it to Garden Centres customers in the UK, but they with a sensitivity to place and name, did not embrace it as a celebration of their city. The British highly developed interest in birds meant '**Red Robin**' was the cultivar chosen without exception with the best sales potential and so it proved to be. '**Red Robin**' arose as a hybrid of the same parents, in a nursery in New Zealand. There, in a climate that is warmer and more benign than ours, their hedgerows of *Photinia* are even more luminous in the countryside. For the majority who are reluctant or coerced gardeners and who are fazed by Latin, a name like '**Red Robin**' is a blessed delivery. Although sold as a shrub, both its parents are trees. Mount Congreve is home to the Irish Champion *P. glabra* at 15m and the tallest *P. serratifolia* reached 14m in the ground in Cashel House Hotel, located on the Atlantic Coast, south of Roundstone, Co Galway. This coastal location suggests a little publicised tolerance to sea salt and Atlantic gales. *P. x frasier* '**Robusta**' has the largest and thickest leaves, but it lacks colour intensity. *P. glabra* '**Rubens**' is the most ornamental of the five we grew. Its orange red, waxy, glistening new foliage is smaller but the colour is more intense, than the purple red of the larger leaved *P. x fraseri* '**Birmingham**'. Variegations are the last throw of the dice as popularity peaks. Most are of dubious garden value, anaemic, unstable and prone to reversion and herald the decline as popularity wanes. Variegated plants however do look well in pots in Garden Centres, have year round appeal and evergreen variegated forms look bright in low light in the duller months of the year. The arrival of pink and cream variegated forms *P. davidiana* '**Palette**' and *P. glabra* '**Parfait**' marked the end. *P. 'Red Robin'* remains the best selling name but whether you get what you order is doubtful. Some nurserymen have no qualms in renaming whatever they grow as 'Red Robin' if that is what is specified. Recently, I segregated four cultivars from a batch of 1500 which were supplied as *P. 'Red Robin'*. This is an old practice. The recent search for the real *Schizostylis coccinea* 'Mrs Hegarty' in these pages arose from nurserymen taking similar liberties with identities.

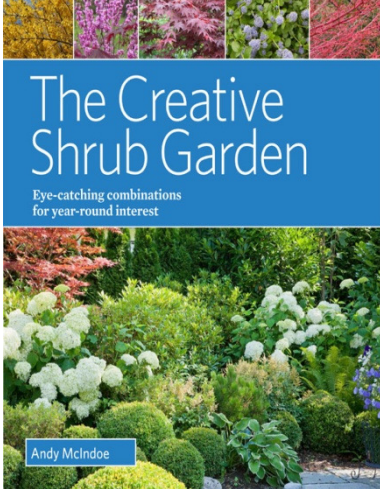
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Worth a Read by Paddy Tobin

Andy McIndoe's face will be familiar to those who are fans of the Chelsea Flower Show as he has been the face of Hillier's Nurseries there for many years, a nursery whose displays at Chelsea have a run of Gold Medal awards going back it seems to the dawn of time. As Managing Director of Hilliers Nurseries it is to be expected that the author has a thorough knowledge of trees and shrubs



but for me it seemed in this book, ***The Creative Shrub Garden***, that it was his Chelsea experience which shone through.

The basic information for each plant – selection, size, soil, maintenance, pruning etc – was succinct and informative but what shone through for me was what the last sentence in each plant description which suggested other shrubs with which each could be combined in the garden. So often I found myself forming a mental picture of the suggesting and being delighted with the vision. This was the great appeal and great enjoyment I found in this book, the tasteful and imaginative planting suggestions and plant combinations and, as well as such comments with each plant in the

comprehensive “Plant Directory” section there are two substantial sections of creating “Moods” and “Styles” which suggest plant selection and illustrate their effect in the garden.

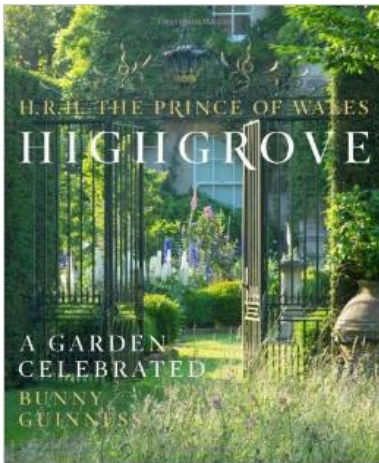
There seems to be a general return to planting trees and shrubs in our gardens and this is the book to have to hand if you are planning or developing your garden.

Timber Press £20.

British Gardens in Time, when we first saw it, was a very enjoyable BBC television programme but you will find this book a pleasure of a far higher order. Gardens and garden design have changed over the centuries reflecting the philosophies and ideas of the time and, of course, the genius of their creators.



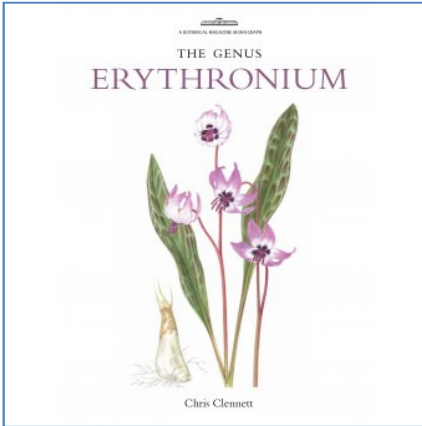
Katie Campbell, after an introductory chapter giving a short history of British gardens, has selected four of the great gardens of England which represent and illustrate their time in gardening history and presents a detailed and comprehensive account of each of these with their history, social context, development and how they are today. The book gives a fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable insight into British gardens through the author's accounts of Stowe, Biddulph Grange, Nymans and Great Dixter, fabulously written and wonderfully illustrated. Frances Lincoln, £20.



H.R.H. The Prince of Wales Highgrove, A Garden Celebrated is too long a title for any book but, fortunately, the book lives up to the grandeur of its cover. This is the gardens at Highgrove, created by Prince Charles over the last thirty years with help from the Marchioness of Salisbury, Rosemary Verey, Miriam Rothschild and Sir Roy Strong, presented in a month by month account, each introduced with a summary of the highlights by Prince Charles and this then fleshed out by Bunny Guinness' text and all illustrated with a lavish selection of photographs. Given the number of people who had a hand in its design it is not surprising that some aspects

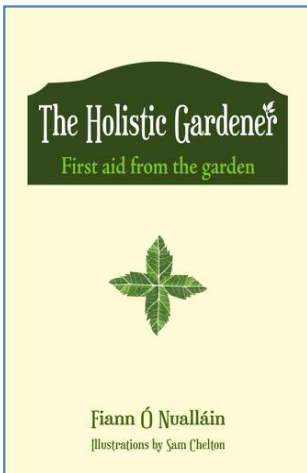
of the garden might appear a little quirky but this makes it all the more interesting. A very enjoyable book, very interesting and insightful.

Weidenfeld & Nicholson, £35.



The Genus Erythronium by Chris Clennett presents a comprehensive account of this wonderful genus which is becoming more and more popular as a garden plant. It is based on the author's work for his PhD and gives the first comprehensive treatment of the genus. The descriptions of the 29 species form the core of the book and each is accompanied by wonderful botanical illustrations and photographs. A later chapter presents garden hybrids. Both the enthusiast and the beginner will find this quite simply the very best book on the subject. It is beautifully produced,

wonderfully illustrated and certainly the most comprehensive treatment of this genus available. It is no surprise that it has been greeted with delighted acclaim by the horticultural world. Despite its academic origins it reads very comfortably for the amateur with a wealth of knowledge and information presented in a very accessible manner so whether you are already an expert or a beginner with this genus you will find this book of immense value. Kew Publishing, £52 – yes, expensive but outstanding! You will find it at kewbooksonline.



Fiann O Nualláin's ***The Holistic Gardener*** gives a list of first aid treatments which we can make from the plants in our gardens and other to-hand materials. There are the usual suggestions for nettle burns and wasp stings along with potions for general wellbeing and some recipes to tempt our taste buds also. It is one of those books which help us feel more at one with our natural world but I felt its credibility was undermined by the lack of bibliography, quoted authority or any references. It is a pleasant read but I won't return to it. Published by The Mercier Press and priced at €12.99



Nepalese Beauty Blooms in Lissarda



Tuesday Feb 5th 2013 was my lucky day. We had a lecture presented by Seamus O'Brien entitled "In search of good garden plants", based around his worldwide travels. Three amazing plants of *Meconopsis paniculata* (nepalensis red variety) were presented to us for the raffle. I invested heavily in same, my number came up and I walked away with my prized possession under my arm. The picture shows it now flowering happily in my garden near Macroom, County Cork.

I now have my sight set on acquiring the white and the pink form of these most amazing plants as I have already grown the yellow variety. Many thanks again to Seamus O'Brien, things going according to plan I

hope to pencil in a visit to the National Botanic Gardens at Kilmacurragh, Co. Wicklow on Sunday September the 14th (I.G.P.S Leinster visit).

Michael Kelleher



A meeting of old friends at AGM 2014

By Ricky Shannon

Oh where, oh where, has my little goose gone,
Oh where, oh where, can she be,
With her steel inside,
And her whiskers wide,
Oh where, oh where, can she be

24 years ago, in the July issue of the Newsletter I started an article with the above ditty. We had just come back from our first participation in the Chelsea Flower show and Mary Davies had asked some of us to share our impressions.

I am delighted to say I found Goosie during the AGM this year. She was looking well at the side of the pond in Janet and David Jeffery's garden in Howth. In 1990 she had been listed in the carnet for the customs officers as "A work of Art". I had travelled with David, in the van, to Chelsea with her at my feet and had upset her "whiskers" every time I moved. In the photograph of the stand she could be seen centre stage with her neck stuck up in the air. If you looked carefully you might have even seen her bronze "whiskers". On our return to Ireland Janet bought it as a present for David.

I was surprised how many other memories came back when I saw her – our joy and excitement at winning a silver medal, the memory of how the whole team, from the 4 corners of Ireland, had worked so well together, the number of people who told us that they had spent their honeymoon in Ireland (they all seemed to have gone to Glengarriff) the pride and joy of some of our emigrants at our success.

It was an unexpected reunion and I went home and read again the impressions of the others who had been to Chelsea to help and celebrate our success.



Regional Reports

LEINSTER

July 5th A visit to Carmel Duignan's Garden

Novice members of the Leinster committee, Sandra Austin and Gary Murphy volunteered to write an account to encourage others to come on garden visits.

SA: “An outstanding range of interesting quality plants, maintained to high standard, with great flair”, the event listing said. That alone would have sold me on this garden visit, even if I hadn't volunteered to help Ricky and Stephen with the meet-and-greet on the day, stepping up to my duties as a new committee member. Carmel Duignan's garden is a short distance from the sea, in Shankill, South Dublin. Close enough to the coast to benefit from its moderating influence, it's far enough away to avoid the scorching salt air. “Just right!” as Goldilocks might say. And this sheltered, south-facing garden is just right for growing the unusual and exotic plants that Carmel has collected.

GM: Once we'd arrived on Library Road, Carmel's garden wasn't hard to find – the towering Echiums soaring skyward were a dead giveaway! Our voyage of discovery began in Carmel's front garden, where the gentle breeze had the delicate wands of *Dierama pulcherrimum* (Angel's Fishing Rod) dancing. To the right of Carmel's front door is a mature *Daphne bholua* 'Jacqueline Postil', which must be a feast for the senses in winter.

SA: I've always had a soft spot for *Melianthus major*, and Carmel has some beautiful specimens in her garden. In the front, *M. major* 'Antonow's Blue' sits happily amid the Fishing Rods, and in the back garden the impressive *M. major* 'Purple Haze' adds a violet glow. Throughout the garden it's the combination of big, large-leafed, structural plants like the *Melianthus*, or the many different varieties of *Schefflera* - with the vibrant colours of summer flowering perennials, that gives a really exotic feel to this garden.

GM: Exotic indeed - moving through the side passage into the walled garden, you arrive into the Tropics of South Dublin! Taking pride of place, a large *Tetrapanax papyrifer*, with its deeply lobed leaves, towers over the natural stone patio. It is complemented by a colourful *Brugmansia sanguinea* (Angel's Trumpet). Also on the patio are a number of containers holding the more tender of Carmel's exotic specimens. These include *Fuchsia boliviana*, *F. paniculata*, *Cantua buxifolia* and one of my favourites, *Salvia discolor*, a perennial with indigo-black flowers and wonderfully aromatic leaves.

SA: Yes, we were trying to identify what exactly that lovely scent reminded us of – we decided it was our favourite cough sweets (very precise horticultural definition there). Carmel’s garden really is full of surprises, and it reveals them gradually, thanks to Carmel’s clever design.

GM: Steps up from the patio lead onto a manicured lawn bordered on either side by a combination of herbaceous plants, trees and shrubs. To the right, cool pinks, whites and blues, in contrast with the hot oranges, reds and burgundies on the opposite side. It’s not until you climb the steps and begin to walk along the lawn that you discover the little paths leading off to the side, inviting you to explore further.

SA: And there was plenty to explore and discover. To be honest, I was a little nervous about this, my first IGPS garden visit. Would I be intimidated in the presence of so many expert plantsmen and women; afraid to open my mouth in their presence for fear of displaying my ignorance? In a word, no. The warmth of the welcome and the easy chat among the visitors soon put me at ease. At one point I asked Carmel, “Um, what’s that thing that looks like a giant dandelion, please?” “Oh”, she replied, “that’s the Giant Dandelion!” As indeed it is, a species of *Sonchus*, or Tree Dandelion, originally from Madeira. Carmel’s cheery answer made me glad I’d asked, and encouraged me not to be afraid to ask again whenever I saw something I didn’t recognise – which was frequently; this garden is a haven of unusual plants, a testament to Carmel’s dedication and expertise.

GM: While exploring the delightful paths that divide the main borders, we noticed some of the visitors disappearing behind a well-hidden shed at the back of the garden. We followed, only to discover an Aladdin’s Cave of plants that Carmel has propagated herself. We were very fortunate to be able to purchase some little rarities.

SA: My only gripe is that we didn’t find it sooner! Many of the ‘old hands’ were clever enough to make a beeline for Carmel’s propagation area as soon as they arrived, and had made off with the most unusual specimens before we got there. I’ll know better next time! Still, it’s all for a good cause, and every August Carmel holds an open day in the garden, with a raffle and plant sale, to raise money for the Blackrock Hospice. We wish her every success. In fact, one of the nicest things about this visit, and the main reason I would encourage you to come along to the next IGPS garden visit, was the opportunity to meet and chat with fellow enthusiasts, to share this beautiful space with people who are just as nutty about plants as I am. Oh, and the food – did I mention the food? How did we get this far into the review without mentioning the food?? No sooner had we arrived then we were plied with the most delicious cream cakes, buns and hot tea and coffee. Nilla and Marie were unstinting in their hard work, and generous with their helpings.

GM: Being treated to tea and cakes on the patio was a great chance for everyone to chat and mingle. The garden certainly gave us plenty to talk about. One plant that was a major topic of discussion was Carmel's *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle Pink', a very attractive hydrangea with large flower heads. Another highlight was the *Stipa barbata* at the lawn's edge, with graceful panicles swaying in the wind, its seed like miniature dreamcatchers. Carmel's garden is spectacular, her great plant selection and hard work make this garden a must-see.

SA: I agree, I will definitely be coming back. Carmel obviously has a wonderful eye; it's not just the tremendous selection of unusual and exotic plants that makes this garden special, it's the clever combinations, the subtle contrasts that create an inspiring tropical haven. What a lovely way to spend an afternoon: relaxing in a beautiful garden, discovering new horticultural gems, making new friends. Can't wait for the next IGPS garden visit, see you there?

Sandra Austin and Gary Murphy

July 12th A visit to Russborough House Walled Garden, Wicklow.

In 2011 The Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland and the Alfred Beit Foundation started a long term arrangement allowing RHSI members to bring the Walled Garden back to life. Since then a dedicated band of volunteers have toiled long and hard, with an awful lot of the work done by hand, so now, a mere 3 years later, they have a remarkably colourful, productive, enjoyable and educational garden.

As with any large task, plans were made, decisions taken, and small areas were tackled first. Half of the garden has been worked on already, an incredible achievement in such a short time. There are rows of soft fruit, lots of vegetables, very full herbaceous borders, new hedges, many apple trees (including some old characters) and a productive greenhouse. As with all such projects much remains to be done. Other greenhouses need restoration, more paths need laying, a failing walnut tree may need felling – a pity, but also an opportunity, and much more planting. Tentative plans include a rose garden, an Irish Heritage Plant garden that the IGPS has been asked to design and maintain, and possibly a South African plant garden within one greenhouse, linking the garden with the work of the Beit family in South Africa.

IGPS members were delighted to have a guided tour, it was excellent to see an old neglected garden return to use and beauty. Well worth a visit, check out the RHSI website. Many thanks to the RHSI and the Walled Garden Team.

Stephen Butler

NORTHERN

June 7th A garden visit to Mount Stewart.

A very wet day had not discouraged a respectable turnout of thirty or so including several children and some members from Dublin. Head gardener and our guide for the visit, Neill Porteus, started the tour in the Mairi Garden; as we gathered in the garden thrills of delight from the children caused a momentary distraction from the drizzling rain - from a hole in a tree three young Blue Tits, with gapping beaks chirped at the children. A Red Squirrel darted out from the undergrowth as if to check out the commotion then quickly disappeared. The rain began to ease and the sun edged from behind a cloud; suddenly the day looked much brighter. The Mairi Garden, in keeping with the original 1925 colour theme, was planted with blue and white irises, azure blue delphiniums and blue Himalayan poppies, all rising out of lush green foliage.

Moving to the Italian Garden, Neill explained that the intention was to keep to Lady Londonderry's original plans, though admitting he was introducing, where he could, something of his own which was, as he says, invariably - "a little whacky". Seven foot high Pelargoniums grown up canes seemed to support that. The garden is divided in two: to the east cool blues with pale yellows echoing a sunrise, while reds, oranges and yellows portrayed a sunset. In the Shamrock Garden we were treated to stories of Irish mythology with Neill explaining the topiary characters shaped from the Yew hedge. Blue Himalayan poppies in the Lily Wood appeared almost luminous against a backdrop of evergreens and dark flowered Rhododendrons like 'Old Port'. Future plans promise drifts of fragrant lilies and Primula.

Making our way up The Drive and skirting the edge of the lake, towards Tír na nÓg, we enjoyed the fragrance of the yellow scented *Rhododendron luteum* and several varieties of scented *Rhododendron maddenii*. We climbed the rough steps to Tír na nÓg, the high walls of the family burial ground draped with blue and white wisterias. Passing through the ornate metal gates we were privileged to be allowed access to a very private and normally restricted part of the garden. Neill concluded the tour with a visit to Mount Stewart's glass houses and propagating area. As a guide he was superb, not only imparting a wealth of horticultural knowledge but entralling us with tales of mythology, history, politics and stories of unlikely visitors: I must admit, until I checked it, I did doubt his story about the German SS troops in Greyabbey but as they say fact can be stranger than fiction. Mount Stewart was looking as good as I have ever seen it in my many visits and all indications are that it has lots more to offer.

Billy McCone

MUNSTER

April 1st *Exotic Escapism* a lecture by Bruno Nicolai.

Shortly after taking over the job of Chairman of the Munster Committee, Bruno Nicolai was able to introduce himself at his lecture *Exotic Escapism*. Helped by the end of our stormy winter evenings, the meeting was well attended by members and visitors attracted by the subject and the speaker. Bruno began with two definitions of exotic: “attractive or striking by being colourful or out of the ordinary” or “originating in or characteristic of a distant foreign country”. He started with details of his background, and with many photographs demonstrated the transformation of his suburban garden over a few years from an uninteresting, largely grassed area into a truly exotic oasis. We were given a list of about 130 plants and his talk featured nine Irish gardens (including his own), and plants were pictured in their native habitat (jungle to desert) and in Ireland. Exotics that can grow in Ireland include trees and shrubs, climbers, cacti, grasses, bananas, hot flowers and cool foliage. The majority are not tender or rare. Bruno showed his city garden, interesting and exotic, with trees, climbers, grasses and flowers for foliage, shape and colour (here for example *Impatiens* and *Digitalis* can be useful). What he has done is an inspiration to all.

His only problems seem to be slugs and the removal of some *leylandii* he has “inherited”. There is a Facebook page *Exotic Gardening Ireland*.

Graham Manson

May 10th Garden visits to “Terra Nova” and “Coolwater” Gardens

In May the IGPS Munster branch had a wonderful day out visiting two very different, but equally inspirational Limerick gardens. Down south we must be a hardy bunch as we had a large turnout despite the wet and windy weather.

In the morning we met at Deborah and Martin Begley’s “*Terra Nova Garden*”. Deborah led us enthusiastically on a tour of this beautifully designed and richly planted half-acre garden, full of beautiful, exotic and rare plants, and imaginative features. As we journeyed through the meandering paths, past hobblins, mini dwellings, optical illusions and through giant doorways, there was a real sense of being on an Alice-in-Wonderland adventure, and a sense that everything had been created lovingly over the years by Martin and Deborah’s own hands. The plant sales area went down a treat for some, while Martin whisked others away to see his fern propagation work.

After a few hours we adjourned for lunch at the Cloister Restaurant at Deebert House Hotel. The food was delightful, with plenty of time to chat providing the perfect opportunity for members to get to know each other that bit better. After lunch we all headed to Kevin Begley's "*Coolwater Garden*". From the moment we arrived it was evident that Kevin has a passion for alpines. The large front garden was almost completely landscaped with stone, gravel and crazy paving, with alpine plants filling every space available. What a sight to be greeted with. As we began to venture around the side of the house the Alpine troughs must have numbered close on twenty, each one miniscaped differently to the next, with an amazing number of plants growing in such compact spaces. At the back of the house we were greeted by a large breath-taking pond, combining natives with more vibrant ornamental perennial, and the overall effect was stunning. To the left was a large succulent area with overhead rain shelter, containing large Agaves and Echeverias. A great day was had by all.

Bruno Nicolai

July 12th Munster Plant Sale at Blarney in Bloom

This year we in Munster decided to shake things up a little bit by moving our annual plant sale to Blarney in Bloom, and what a success it was. We were extremely impressed with members' donations of rare and unusual, good quality plants. Set up began at 8 a.m., and 7 members took turns volunteering on a 2 hourly rota. We were kept busy from start until finish, with people buying our plants and books, and making enquiries about the Society. Many customers left with membership forms, with one person joining there and then. Not only did we raise funds, raise the IGPS profile and gain new members, but we also got chatting to the organiser of Clare Garden Festival, and an ambassador of a new group called The Young Horts. which encourages and supports young people into horticulture. Watch this space!

The Blarney in Bloom festival itself was particularly impressive this year. Internationally renowned garden experts offered insightful and often humorous lectures on a stage surrounded by specialist nurseries, a farmers market, craft demonstrations, a bee keeping display, a birds of prey show, children's entertainment, and live music. Being on the grounds of Blarney Castle and Gardens meant that visitors could explore the wonderful gardens and even climb the castle to kiss the Blarney stone, with proceeds from the day going to the Irish Guide Dogs. What a super event, and one which the IGPS was delighted to be part of. We'll be back!

Bruno Nicolai



Irish Heritage Plants – plants with an Irish connection by Stephen Butler

Many thanks to the people who responded to my article (May 2014), many more responses would be good, though it has been a great year for being out working in the garden so that's understandable. I have briefly repeated the first few paragraphs for new members and for the record, apologies for that but it is the easiest way. Irish Heritage Plants have been central to the work of the IGPS since its formation. Their conservation is listed in our constitution as one of our major aims; we have published "A Heritage of Beauty" to spread information on them and over the years have sought out threatened Irish plants, recorded their whereabouts, propagated and distributed them and continue this work today. We need the full involvement of our members in this work.

Such a task is always a work in progress; we have to keep checking which plants are safe, which are seldom seen and which are quietly joining the ranks of 'not seen for years and where can we find it now'? With web access, checking plant availability is now much easier although not the complete answer. The database we are compiling can be sorted by genus, species, or cultivar name. It takes a few seconds to find all cvs that are, for instance, called "Lissadell" or "Glasnevin". Eventually, with a lot more input, we will be able to sort by garden, or individual that the plant is connected with.

What we would like to do now is build on our survey of 2007, and try to keep an accurate record of who is growing which plant, and where. Members can rest assured that any information received, for example, details of name, address etc, will be kept entirely within the IGPS database and not given out to third parties. If anyone contacts us looking for particular plants we will contact the person growing the plant directly ourselves. We will also be contacting gardens and nurseries, seeking the same information, and encouraging the growing of Irish Heritage Plants.

Starting with May 2014, each newsletter will have a list of Irish heritage plants which our research has shown have limited availability as listed in the Plant Finder. This will be a small percentage of the total number as there are many more not listed at all because they are no longer commercially available.

So please, read through the list below, and let me know if you grow any of them. It would be good to know if you are propagating them or if you would allow propagation material to be taken and maybe even where or who you got the plant from – the more information the better. All details will be kept confidential. Of course if you have any other plants listed in *A Heritage of Beauty* please feel free to list them too.

Listed alphabetically D – L totals 758 plants. Only 148 are listed as available, 73 of these listed below are only available from 1 to 3 nurseries, the other 75 not listed are available from 4 or more nurseries. Within the 73 listed below I see some that I know grow in Irish gardens, but I haven't been told officially! A pleasing 22 are recorded as being grown by members in the IGPS survey of 2007. More worrying is the last listed section, look at how many have dropped off the 'available' list in the past few years,

Please look through the list below, do you like *Dianthus*?? Would you take on the genus and try to collect any with an Irish connection?? The same question with *Dierama*, *Erica*, *Daboecia*, what about *Erythronium*, 3 cultivars with only 1 or 2 nurseries stocking them, is there someone to champion them, take them on, try and propagate and distribute??

Stephen Butler,
Curator of Horticulture,
Dublin Zoo
Dublin 8.
stephencbutler@gmail.com

Available from only 1 nursery

Daboecia cantabrica 'Bicolor'
Daboecia cantabrica 'Celtic Star'
Daboecia cantabrica 'Charles Nelson'
Daboecia cantabrica 'Globosa'

Dahlia 'Matt Armour'
Dahlia 'Truly Scrumptious'

Deutzia pupurascens 'Alpine Magician'
Dianthus 'Duchess of Fife'
Dianthus 'Rachel'
Dianthus 'Spangle'

Dierama 'Blush'
Dierama 'Donard Legacy'
Dierama dracomontanum x *pulcherrimum*
Dierama 'Iris'
Dierama 'Juno'
Dierama 'Papagena'
Dierama 'Papageno'
Dierama pucherrimum 'Falcon'
Dierama pucherrimum 'Flamingo'
Dierama pucherrimum 'Peregrine'
Dierama pucherrimum 'Redwing'
Dierama 'Queen of Night'
Dierama 'Tamino'
Dierama 'Tubular Bells'
Dierama 'Violet Ice'
Dierama 'Westminster Chimes'
Diplarrhena latifolia Helen Dillon's form
Diplarrhena moraea 'Donard'

Erica carnea 'Eileen Porter'
Erica cinerea 'Glasnevin Red'
Erica cinerea 'Purple Robe'
Erica erigena 'Brian Proudley'
Erica mackayana 'Galicia'
Erica tetralix 'Silver Bells'
Erica x *darleyensis* 'Archie Graham'
Erica x *darleyensis* 'N.R. Webster'
Erica x *darleyensis* 'W.G. Pine'
Erythronium 'Flash'
Erythronium revolutum 'Guincho Splendour'
Escallonia 'Donard Beauty'
Exochorda 'Irish Pearl'
Fagus sylvatica 'Birr Zebra'
Francoa 'Ballyrogan'
Galega x *hartlandii*
Garrya x *issaquahensis* 'Pat Ballard'
Hebe 'Headfortii'
Ilex x *altaclernensis* 'Hendersonii'
Iris unguicularis 'Kilbroney Marble'
Juniperus communis 'Derrynane'
Leucanthemum x *superbum* 'Duchess of Abercorn'
Lonicera periclymenum 'Munster'

Available from only 2 nurseries

Daboecia cantabrica 'Praegerae'
Dahlia 'Jim Branigan'
Dierama 'Black Knight'
Dierama 'Milkmaid'
Erica cinerea 'Joseph Murphy'
Erythronium 'Blush'
Escallonia 'Alice'
Escallonia 'Compacta'
Escallonia 'Donard Brilliance'
Euchryphia x nymansensis 'George Graham'
Hedera helix 'Donerailensis'
Ilex x altaclerensis 'Hodginsii'
Iris lazica 'Turkish Blue'

Available from only 3 nurseries

Dierama 'Pamina'
Dierama 'Titania'
Erica x stuartii 'Irish Orange'
Hedychium x moorei
Hepatica transillvanica 'Lilacina'
Hypericum androsaemum f. *variegatum* 'Mrs Gladis Brabazon'
Kniphofia 'Ada'
Kniphofia 'Goldfinch'

Recorded in members gardens in IGPS 2007 Survey

Deutzia purpurascens 'Alpine Magician'
Dianthus 'Chomley Farran'
Epilobium canum (*Zauschneria californica*) 'Glasnevin'
Escallonia laevis 'Gold Ellen'
Escallonia rubra 'C.F. Ball'
Eucryphia x intermedia 'Rostrevor'
Galanthus 'Coolballintaggart'
Galanthus 'Hill Poë'
Galanthus ikariae 'Emerald Isle'
Galanthus 'Straffan'
Garrya x issaquahensis 'Glasnevin Wine'
Gloxinia sylvatica 'Glasnevin Jubilee'
Griselinia littoralis 'Bantry Bay'

Hebe 'Amy' (syn. 'Lady Ardilaun')
Hebe 'Headfortii'
Hedera helix 'Buttercup'
Hypericum androsaemum f. *variegatum* 'Mrs Gladis Brabazon'
Hypericum 'Rowallane Hybrid'
Iris unguicularis 'Kilbroney Marble'
Lilium henryi
Lobelia 'Pink Elephant'
Luma apiculata 'Glanleam Gold'

Not available at present, last listed in Plant Finder in year after name

Daboecia cantabrica 'Cleggan' 2011
Daboecia cantabrica 'Clifden' 2011
Daboecia cantabrica 'Donard' Pink' 2011
Daboecia cantabrica 'Rubra' 2011

Dianthus 'Patricia' 2005
Dianthus 'Chomley Farran' 2006

Dierama 'Oberon' 2010
Dierama 'Ariel' 2012

Erica cinerea 'Little Anne' 2005
Erica x *stuartii* 2008
Erica cinerea 'Atrorubens Daisy Hill' 2011
Erica cinerea 'Colligan Bridge' 2011
Erica cinerea 'Kerry Cherry' 2011
Erica cinerea 'Lilacina' 2011
Erica cinerea 'Mrs Dill' 2011
Erica cinerea 'Rose Queen' 2011
Erica erigena 'Coccinea' 2011
Erica erigena 'Irish Salmon' 2011
Erica erigena 'Irish Silver' 2011
Erica erigena 'Nana' 2011
Erica erigena 'Rubra' 2011
Erica erigena var. *hibernica* 2011
Erica tetralix 'Curled Roundstone' 2011
Erica vegans 'Grandiflora' 2011
Erica vegans 'Miss Waterer' 2011
Erica x *stuartii* 'Connemara' 2011

Erica x stuartii 'Irish Rose' 2011
Erica x stuartii 'Nacung' 2011
Erica tetralix 'Praecox' 2011
Erica mackayana 'Maura' 2011
Erica tetralix 'Ruby' 2011
Erica x stuartii 'Stuartii' 2011

Eryngium x zabelli 'Spring Hill Seedling' 2007
Escallonia 'Donard Gem' 2002
Escallonia 'Donard Rose' 2002
Escallonia 'Donard Scarlet' 2002
Escallonia 'Glasnevin Hybrid' 2002
Escallonia 'William Watson' 2002
Escallonia 'Donard Glory' 2003
Escallonia 'Glory of Donard' 2003
Escallonia 'Donard Surprise' 2005
Escallonia macrantha 'Bantry Bay' 2006
Escallonia 'Erecta' 2009
Eucryphia x nymansensis 'Mount Usher' 2007
Euphorbia characias 'Amber Eye' 2002
Euphorbia characias 'Green Mantle' 2007
Euphorbia characias 'Sombre Melody' 2007
Euphorbia characias 'Ballyrogan Hybrids' 2008
Fallopia japonica var. *compacta* 'Midas' 2004
Geranium x lindavicum 'Lissadell Purple' 2010

Hebe 'Longacre Variety' 2001
Hebe 'Glengariff' 2009
Hebe 'Mauvena' 2011
Hedera hibernica 'Digitata' 2003
Hedera helix 'Dunloe Gap' 2007
Hedera hibernica 'Dunloe Gap' 2007

Ilex x altaclerensis 'Lady Valerie' 2011
Iris 'Mount Stewart Black' 2005

Kniphofia 'Mellow Yellow' 2002
Kniphofia 'Notung' 2002
Kniphofia 'Amber' 2011
Leptospermum scoparium 'Rowland Bryce' 1992
Leptospermum scoparium 'Ruby Glow' 2007
Lupinus 'Golden Spire' 1998



33rd Annual General Meeting May 2014

One of the best attended AGM weekends for years was held in the Howth area on 17th and 18th May. With almost 100 members attending for at least part of the proceedings there was an enthusiastic buzz about the event.

Chairman's Report

In a wide ranging report the Chairman, Paddy Tobin, noted a year of significant and welcome developments. There had been a healthy increase in membership which now stood at 424 subscriptions representing 490 individuals, a net increase of 45 over the year.

A major achievement had been the publication of the Society's Journal, *Moorea*, after an eight year gap; he expressed warm appreciation for the work done by all concerned, especially Anne James as editor, resulting in a high quality publication of which the Society could be proud. He described how the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland (RHSI) had leased the empty walled garden at Russborough House, Co Wicklow, with a view to creating a garden and had invited the IGPS to develop a section showcasing Irish plants. We were fortunate that Anne James, our Vice Chair, was also a leading member of the RHSI and would coordinate matters. Meanwhile Paul Maher, Curator of the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin and long-standing member, had drawn up a plan and is developing a planting list. Funding will be a challenge and may require an approach to members and businesses for sponsorship.

Irish heritage plants had always been a central interest of the Society and the return of Stephen Butler to the Executive Committee had given it fresh impetus. He is compiling a database of Irish heritage plants and comparing it with the plants listed in the Plant Finder in order to identify those Irish plants in danger of slipping out of cultivation.

He thanked the members of the regional sub-committees who were about to or had recently stood down: Marcella Campbell, Ineke Durville, Lorna Hopkins and Anne-Marie Woods of Leinster together with Marion Allen and Patrick Quigley in the North. He welcomed new committee members: Billy McCone and Dawn McEntee in the North; Bruno Nicolai, Rosemary Punch and Adam Whitbourn in Munster, and Sandra Austin, Stephen Butler, Carmel Duignan, Martina Halpin, Gary Murphy, Barbara O'Callaghan and Ricky Shannon in Leinster. He singled out Marcella Campbell, the out-going Chair of the Leinster sub-committee, for her long involvement and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Finance

Introducing the accounts which had been independently scrutinised, the Acting Treasurer Ricky Shannon reported on a satisfactory year. Despite the costs associated with Moorea, there was an excess of income over expenditure of €2,526. While many costs had been similar over the past couple of years, there had been a significant increase in the cost of travel to National Committee meetings as a number of representatives attended from both Munster and the North.

Income	€
Subscriptions	11,650
Plant sales	3,486
Events & raffles	2,402
Sundry	157
Total income	17,695

Expenditure

Newsletter & its postage	3,723
Moorea	3,558
Lectures & visits	3,296
Administration	4,017
Equipment	430
Sundry	145
Total expenditure	15,169

Elections

The Chairman read out the names of the people who had been proposed for the vacant posts as follows: Membership Secretary - Patrick Quigley, Leinster representative - Cliodhna Ní Broín, Northern representative - Hilary Glenn, Committee member - Stephen Butler.

There had been no proposal for the post of Treasurer but Pascal Lynch volunteered his services and these were accepted by acclamation.

The meeting concluded on a happy note with the election of three new Honorary Members in recognition of their outstanding contribution to horticulture in Ireland: Helen Dillon, author, gardener and broadcaster, Joe Kennedy, the breeder of a new strain of Irish primroses, and Pat Fitzgerald, nursery owner with a particular interest in the micro-propagation of Irish plants.

Maeve Bell
Honorary Secretary

For reports and photographs of the garden visits over the weekend see the IGPS website www.irishgardenplantsociety.com



Details of upcoming events

A MESSAGE FROM THE MUNSTER COMMITTEE

All lectures are held in the SMA Hall, Wilton at 8pm. Plant raffles are held on lecture nights. Feel free to donate plants for our three plant sales events. New members are always welcome. Please let the Munster committee know if you would like to receive email and text reminders for IGPS Munster events.

Email address: igps.munster@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 14th Sunday at 2.30 p.m. A guided tour of the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh, Co. Wicklow with Seamus O'Brien.

LOCATION: Kilmacurragh is south of Dublin on the N11. Turn right at the Beehive Pub, c. 1 km. south of where the dual carriageway turns to a single carriageway. Drive 5km. From the South on the N11 turn left at the Tap Pub. Drive 2.5 km. to a T junction. Turn right and drive for 1km, the entrance is on the left. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE SINCE MAY NEWSLETTER.

September 27th Saturday 11a.m. Visit to Blarney Castle Gardens

Be sure not to miss this exciting opportunity to receive a front seat guided tour from Blarney's Head Gardener, Adam Whitbourn. A Fern Garden, Poison Garden, Irish Garden, Bog Garden, Arboretums and Pinetum, are just some of the treats that lie in store. Adam and his team have made so many astounding changes in such a short space of time.... The new Kennedy Primrose bed, large drifts of new Rhodos and Azaleas, a Hosta garden, new bamboos and rare conifers, a new Jungle border, a new waterfall in the fern garden, to name a few, and his latest projects include an introduction of a collection of Japanese Maple varieties, and an amazing Neolithic standing stone circle. With the Stable Yard Cafe within the gardens, there's an opportunity to catch-up afterwards over some refreshments.

Entry: €10. **Meeting point:** 11a.m. outside the main entrance.

Location: From Cork City Centre follow signs for Limerick (N20). Travel for 7 km; exit left (signposted Blarney). Drive through Blarney passing petrol stations. Veer left at fork in road. In Blarney Village Centre take the left before the Village square, then take the next turn right.

October 2nd Thursday 8 p.m. SMA Hall, Wilton "*Bioprospecting in the Andean Highlands*", a lecture by Dr. Barbara Doyle-Prestwich, U.C.C.

The Central Andean Highlands are the center of origin of the potato plant (*Solanum tuberosum*). Ages of mutualism between potato plants and soil bacteria in this region support the hypothesis that Andean soils harbour interesting plant growth-promoting bacteria.

In this lecture, Barbara takes us on a journey from the Andean Highlands to her U.C.C. laboratory, towards the development of more sustainable growing systems using plant growth promoting natural microbial resources.

November 4th Tuesday 8.00 p.m. SMA Hall, Wilton
"The Weird & Wonderful World of a Plantaholic"

Deborah Begley, Terra Nova Gardens. (Members' Plant Sale)

Passionate gardener and long-time IGPS member, Deborah Begley, takes us on a magical tour of her 20 year old, half acre garden, on the Limerick Cork border. Showing what can be achieved despite being on heavy soil in an inland frost pocket, Deborah and her husband Martin have transformed a former field into one of Ireland's most enchanting gardens, brimming with creativity, beautiful and unusual plants, and surprises around every corner.

December 2nd Tuesday 8.00 p.m. SMA Hall, Wilton

Mark Collins, Dhu Varren Gardens "Growing on the Edge".

Mark, a professional Scientist, and passionate collector of rare and unusual plants has, in partnership with his wife Laura, transformed a 2.5 acre derelict farmyard into a botanical garden with thousands of exciting and difficult to find plants. Their Dhu Varren Garden in Co. Kerry has been described by Jimi Blake of Huntington Brook Garden as "one of the exciting and fascinating new gardens in Ireland". The presentation will illustrate the development of the garden over the past 14 years; describe some of the plants and their cultivation and future plans for the garden. Some rare and unusual plants will be available for sale on the night.

December 3rd Wednesday at 7.30pm.

Malone House Lecture (in Association with Belfast Parks)

Malone House, Barnett Demesne, Belfast

IGPS members free, Non-members £3. Refreshments provided.

'The Irish Nursery Trade since 1700' by **Terence Reeves-Smyth**

Terence Reeves-Smyth is the Senior Inspector in the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Historic Monuments Unit. He has published extensively in the fields of Archaeology, Garden and Architectural History, and lectures frequently throughout Ireland. Terence will explore the development of nurseries in Ireland for the past 300 years and their impact on Irish gardens.

PLANT SALE

Saturday, 11th October 2014

11.30am to 1.30pm

at

**TRINITY COLLEGE BOTANIC GARDENS
PALMERSTON PARK, DARTRY DUBLIN 6**

in conjunction with

Botany Department TCD

- HERBACEOUS • SHRUBS • RARE AND UNUSUAL PLANTS • BULBS
• ALPINES • INDOOR PLANTS • RAFFLE • REFRESHMENTS

PLANT CRECHE

~ ADMISSION FREE ~ ALL WELCOME ~

FOR MAP AND DIRECTIONS PLEASE SEE OPPOSITE PAGE

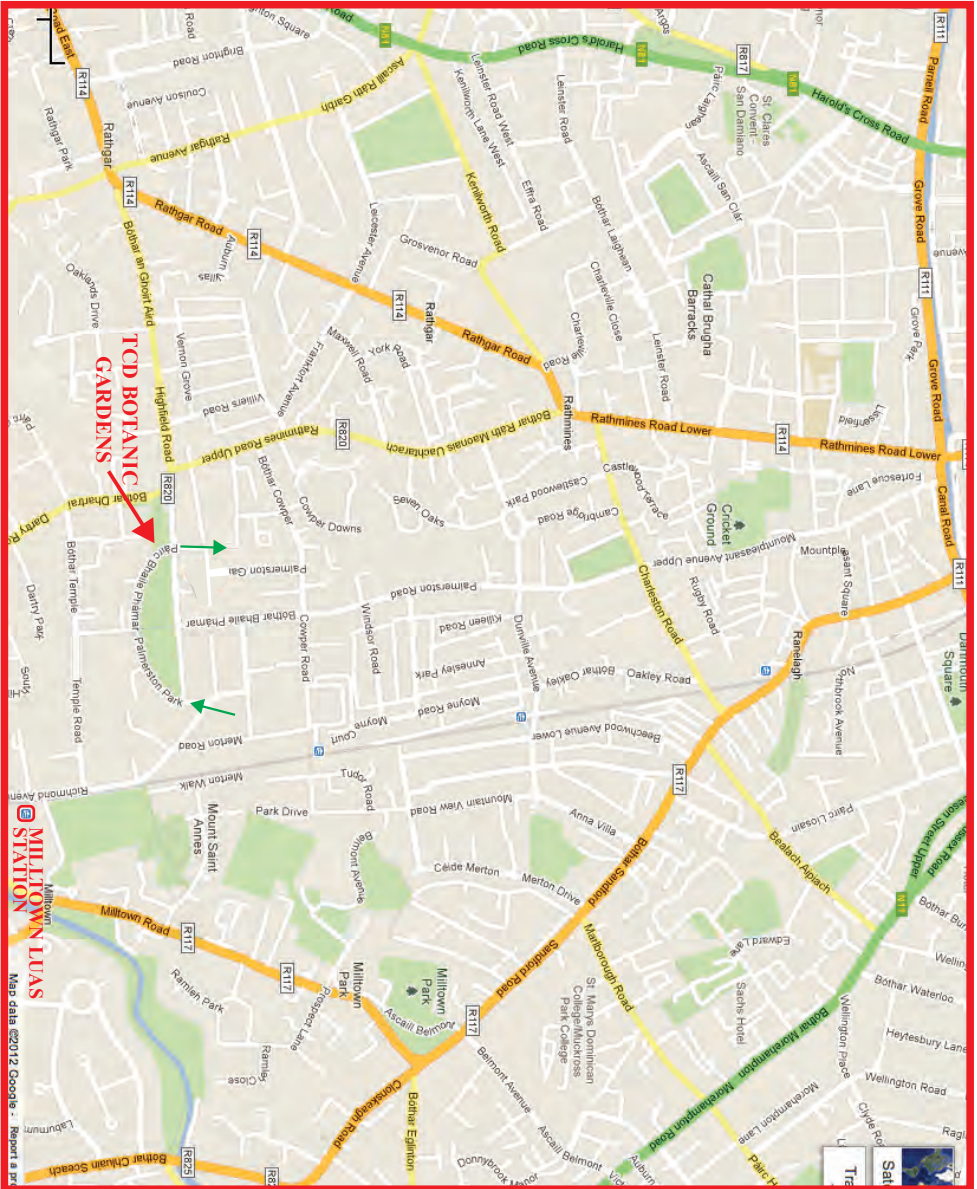
The Annual Plant Sale needs you – and your plants!

We are always keen to welcome new helpers, and of course we need plenty of plants. This is your chance to show how good you are at growing plants from seed and cuttings, don't be shy now!

Please bring plants to Trinity College Botanic Gardens, from 8.30am, looking good, clean and weed free, labelled, and ready for eager plant hunters to snap up. Any Irish Heritage Plants particularly welcome!

Contact igps.leinster@gmail.com or Stephen 086 388 4584

TRINITY COLLEGE, BOTANIC GARDENS PALMERSTON PARK, DARTRY DUBLIN 6



Nearest Luas station: Milltown



The Irish Garden Plant Society

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