

*The  
Irish Garden Plant Society*





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Front cover photograph of *Escallonia* 'Glasnevin Hybrid' courtesy of Pearse Rowe. This is one of a number of *Escallonia* cultivars raised by Charles Frederick Ball at Glasnevin where he worked as Assistant Keeper before joining the 7<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers in World War I. *Escallonia* 'Alice' was named by Ball for his wife, he married in December 1914. The more widely available *E.* 'C.F. Ball' was named in his honour after his death; he died aged 36 years from shrapnel wounds at Gallipoli on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1915. In his obituary he was described as "a delightful companion, unassuming, sincere and a most lovable man".



## Editorial

Dr. Mary Forrest on page 3 writes of a visit to Myddelton House London, the home of E. A. Bowles. In Moorea volume 15 Mary included in a list of horticultural trade organisations of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the Irish Gardeners' Association. I was delighted to receive from Charles O'Byrne an account of the early years of the Association, written in 1945 by his great grandfather Thomas Byrne, a founder member of the Association. Thomas Byrne writes as an introduction "In recording the events written in this book, relating to the foundation of the Irish Gardeners' Association, I wish to state that anything which I have recorded here is all from memory. And I need hardly say that when one comes to just four-score age well ones memory may and does play little pranks. The dates given may not be quite accurate but are as approximate as possible, certainly a year or two different to the best of my belief and memory". Carmel Duignan tells us memories are made of plants on page 24 while on page 36 Edel McDonald and Brendan Sayers share the excitement of the spectacular flowering earlier this year of *Aubrieta* 'Shangarry'. Stephen Butler on page 26 gives an update on the Irish Heritage Plants project and outlines future plans and how members can get involved. Finally, if you are travelling to Kilmacurragh for the guided tour of the arboretum on September 12<sup>th</sup> please note the directions on page 38. They have changed since the last newsletter because of the opening of a new section of the M11.

Mary

The copy date for material for the January Newsletter is December 4th.  
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## A word from the Chair



It seems quite a while since our Annual General Meeting in Co. Donegal but, perhaps, not too late to express the gratitude to the members of the Northern Committee who worked so hard to make it a very enjoyable and smoothly run weekend. The venue for both the AGM itself and the hotel for AGM dinner were both excellent and the garden visits were very enjoyable. Seán Ó Gaoithín, Head Gardener at Glenveagh Castle Gardens, made us especially welcome, providing refreshments, venue, guided tours of the garden and the wonderful souvenir of *Dahlia* 'Matt Armour' for each person attending. These should all be in flower at this stage and I hope you are enjoying them.

At the invitation of Paul Maher of the National Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin a renewed era of activity and cooperation between the Gardens and the IGPS has begun through a sharing of resources both research information and plant material relating to our heritage plants. We are fortunate to have both Paul Maher and Brendan Sayers in the Botanic Gardens as both are not only long time members of the IGPS but among its strongest supporters and promoters over many years. Stephen Butler is acting as liaison with them and with Seamus O'Brien at the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh, to record, source and propagate threatened and scarce heritage plants. This cooperation extends to working with Adam Whitbourn at Blarney Castle Gardens where he is presently establishing an Irish Plant Trail, a project which promises to be of great importance in the conservation of Irish plants and in bringing them to the attention of a wide gardening audience.

Our cooperative project with the Irish Society of Botanical Artists is progressing wonderfully well with a long list of Irish plants allocated to various artists for illustration and, from the preliminary works I have seen to date, this promises to be a beautiful publication and exhibition. In the meantime, enjoy your gardening. We will hope for an autumn of good weather. Do visit our website and Facebook page for update, news etc and if you are out with the society and have taken a few photographs please forward them to me at: [pmtobin@eircom.net](mailto:pmtobin@eircom.net) for use on the internet.

Paddy



# Myddelton House, the garden of E.A. Bowles by Mary Forrest

*Erysimum* 'Bowles Mauve' (syn. *Cheiranthus* 'Bowles Hybrid') a shrubby perennial with grey foliage and mauve wallflowers, is common in Irish gardens. It is one of numerous plants to bear the name of E. A. (Edward Augustus) Bowles (1865 – 1954). Bowles lived all his life at Myddelton House, near Enfield north London. He began working on the garden in 1890, transforming it from parkland to a garden with trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and his particular interest alpine and bulbs. A knowledgeable plantsman, he also had a keen eye for garden design. He was a member of the Royal Horticultural Society for 57 years and a Council member for 36 years. Bowles was also a naturalist, artist and author.

Following his death the garden passed to the Royal Free School of Medicine and the London University School of Pharmacy who constructed greenhouses and used plants from the garden in laboratory work. Lee Valley Regional Park Authority purchased the site in 1968 and work to restore the garden to the style of E. A. Bowles commenced in 1984. In 2009 a significant grant was received from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The E. A. Bowles of Myddelton House Society formed in 1993 and much of their research about the garden and the man who created it is evident in the on-site museum.

In the area in front of the house are two large conifers *Cedrus deodara* (Deodar Cedar) and a *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Redwood), typical of late 19<sup>th</sup> century planting. The lawns beneath are filled with Island beds structured with shrubs such as Rhododendrons and *Viburnum* and under planted with swathes of early flowering herbaceous plants *Lunaria*, (Honesty) *Bergenia*, and *Helleborus kochii* 'Bowles Yellow'. Other beds were planted with early summer herbaceous such as *Iris*, *Campanula*, Tree Paeonia and the yellow flowered *Phlomis russeliana*. Self-seeded foxgloves provided a unifying theme in this area known as the Stone Garden.

Bowles received seed of *Viburnum farreri* from Reginald Farrer. Bean's *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles* states that the fruits are 'said to be a brilliant red'; based on the plant growing at Myddelton House this is the case.

Another Chinese plant nearby was *Buddleja nivea* with large leaves, white beneath and emerging mauve flowers. Before entering the Kitchen Garden, one cannot but notice the huge limbs of a *Wisteria sinensis* to one side and the ornamental Wisteria bridge to the other. Recently reconstructed Victorian greenhouses are filled with fruit trees and plants of pharmaceutical interest. Outdoors there is a collection of *Tanacetum coccineum* (pyrethrum daisy) cultivars and a Plant Heritage collection of Irises which have been awarded the Dykes medal by the American Iris Society. A Plant Heritage Collection of Crocus is maintained by the E. A. Bowles of Myddelton House Society. The associated well managed vegetable garden was planted with potatoes, beans, cabbage and lettuce and the perennials rhubarb and artichokes. While fruit and vegetable beds are often edged with Box, *Teucrium chamaedrys* was used to good effect. A recently constructed archway was lined with fruiting pears, again an unusual feature. *Prunus laurocerasus* 'Camellifolia' is likely present from Victorian times when unusual cultivars were popular.

On a south facing slope at one end of the garden lies the rockery. The rockery which Bowles constructed and planted himself has been cleared. Some large 'dwarf conifers' remain and are now under planted with a collection of *Hosta*. A sign reads, 'strulch', straw/mulch mixture with slug and snail deterrent. To one side of a meadow planted with spring flowering bulbs stands an outstanding example of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. Given that Bowles was a senior figure in the RHS it is possible that he received seed from the original distribution by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1947. Two large examples of *Styphonolobium japonicum* (*Sophora japonica*) and *Catalpa bignonioides* by the New River lawn demonstrate how some trees grow so much better in the warmer conditions of the south east of England than in Ireland. A pergola generously planted with *Akebia*, *Wisteria* and *Clematis flammula* leads from the informal lawn to the formal rose garden. The centre piece of this garden is the Enfield Market Cross which Bowles rescued from demolition. In view of the house Bowles created a puddled clay pond with an informal layout planted in the margins with *Osmunda*, *Gunnera*, *Iris* and *Rodgersia*. In the immediate environs specimens of *Taxodium distichum* and *Liquidambar styraciflua* are reaching maturity.

Bowles had a keen interest in bulbs and wrote *A Handbook of Crocus and Colchicum*, *A Handbook of Narcissus* and books about his garden; *My Garden in Spring*, *My Garden in Summer* and *My Garden in Autumn and Winter* were published in 1914. Thumbing through their indexes and his biography by Mea Allen, in the Library of the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, some names and places well known in Irish horticulture and botany occur.



Making a tour of Irish gardens in 1908 he visited Mr Gumbleton, Belgrove, where he was given ‘a boxful of roots and cuttings’ and his neighbour Richard Beamish, Ashbourne House who was making an alpine garden in a quarry. He also went to see Howth Castle, Mount Usher and the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. He had a great regard for R.W. Burbidge, Curator of Trinity College Botanic Garden and he corresponded with Miss Fanny Currey, Lismore, Co Waterford, a daffodil breeder and like Bowles an artist. Bowles was aware of the work of the botanist Robert Lloyd Praeger, author of ‘*The Way that I Went*’, and he wrote “I hope before long Mr. Lloyd Praeger who is now at work on Sedums, and what a joy it will be if labels need not have more than three words written on them!” Labelling of plants then as now is an issue to be addressed in the management of the gardens at Myddelton House and indeed all gardens.



*Erysimum* ‘Bowles Mauve’ (syn. *Cheiranthus* ‘Bowles Hybrid’).  
The photograph was taken by Mary Forrest in Hyde Park, London, June 2015.



# My memories of the Irish Gardeners' Association by Thomas Byrne

For some time past, the thought has often struck me that it might be of some interest to some of the members in the years to come, when all the old members are gone beyond recall, to have some record of the early days of the society, its history and records of the men who founded and fostered it in its early struggles to make it what it has come to, in our time. They have almost all gone the way, we must all go. I believe I am the only living member today of those who took part in its foundation. I don't know any other member now alive who was at the inaugural meeting when it was first brought into being and I regret some more able pen might have left a record of the early activities of the society such as it was.

Now in the first instance I must tell you the original Gardeners' Association as formed then was quite different to what we know it today. It was merely a social meeting of Gardeners. There were no benefits of any sort, neither unemployment nor mortality. Meetings were held and discussions on various gardening questions, somewhat on the lines of gardening societies in England and Scotland. Nor was it the first of its character in Ireland either. About the latter end of the 1860s or early 1870s there was established a Gardeners' Society in Blackrock, County Dublin.

Well in this Society the members used to meet at different gardeners' houses, each meeting generally once a fortnight, and have a friendly debate on the different subjects, on plants, fruit and vegetable cultivation, and it created a great bond of friendship amongst the members. I knew in my young days a few of those old Gardeners, all great men in their profession. Amongst them was, I may mention, the late Mr. William Watson who founded the well and famous nurseries at Clontarf and now carried on at Killiney by his sons. I knew the late William Watson very well and he often told me the times he used to have in Blackrock. He had come from Scotland to take up the post of Head Gardener at Temple Hill then owned by a wealthy stockbroker, a Mr. Robert Grey. Temple Hill was a palatial residence and had the finest array of glasshouses in Ireland. Well when Mr Watson was leaving to start his nursery, the members of the



Gardeners' Society of Blackrock presented him with a gold watch and chain, engraved on the case, in recognition of their esteem and friendship for him. He often showed me the watch which he always wore and it was, I think, his proudest possession. It may possibly be in his family still. He was a grand old gentleman, one of the best natured and congenial old souls one could meet.

It is sad to an old Gardener to look back and remember all the beautiful gardens that flourished in them days, now all gone, pulled down or turned to other uses. But times have changed, it was a phase of life which has passed away and will never return. Not that the love of flowers and gardening has died but I think rather has increased as one has only to look at all the beautiful small gardens one sees around the outskirts of the city and amongst the working class new buildings. Some years ago, the writer had the pleasure of acting as judge with Mr. P. Murphy and others, judging for the Herald Competition for the gardens in the Corporation building sites, and certainly it was a great pleasure and a great surprise to witness the skill and assiduous toil and care that some of those people displayed in the management and the taste they displayed in their little front and back gardens. The love of flowers and things beautiful still lives and I hope will never die.

However, I am afraid I have strayed away a bit from my main subject, but please pardon an old Gardener for his digression. Early in the year 1898 there appeared a letter signed Thomas Shaw in the 'Irish Farming World', a weekly periodical, mainly devoted to farming and in which appeared frequently garden articles. The letter referred to the absence of any organisation to bring Gardeners together, and asked if it were possible to form a Gardeners' society, where they could come together and have an exchange of views and meet in a social way, somewhat on the lines of the district gardeners' societies or clubs throughout England and Scotland. Almost immediately several letters appeared in the following issues of the paper, warmly supporting the proposal, especially from a Mr. William Russell who at that time was Gardener at Winton House, Merrion, the residence of Sir William Fry also Mr. Gerald Carroll and a few more. Before very long a meeting of those men and several members of the seed trade took place, and the society was launched.

The first meeting was held in the Coffee Palace, a commodious building at that time in Townsend Street near the Theatre Royal. In the meantime a committee had been nominated and at the meeting which was largely attended, nearly 200 were there, a President and Officers were elected. Our first President was a Mr. W.H.A. Watkins, an Englishman, who at that time was manager of Sir I.W. Mackey. The Honorary Secretary was Mr. Thomas Shaw who read the inaugural lecture on 'daffodils'. I think Mr. Russell was the first Treasurer, but I

am not quite sure at this distance of time; however I know he was a very busy and enthusiastic member and spent a lot of time canvassing for members. The subscription was 1 penny entrance fee and 2 shillings annual subscription. This merely covered expenses of hall and stationary, no financial benefits accrued to the members. Meetings were held once a month in the Coffee Palace; however a small fund was built up and we had a few nice social parties, concerts and singsongs.

Things went along thus until 1900. It happened to be the tri-centenary of the introduction of the potato into Ireland and Mr. Shaw conceived the idea of holding a potato show in Dublin to commemorate the occasion. Now at this time there happened to be in Dublin a gentleman who was interested in the potato trade, a Mr. William Cotter, who was called the Potato King. He heard of the project and threw himself wholeheartedly into it, promising any financial assistance that might be necessary. Mr. Shaw who was a wonderful organiser, worked like a Trojan to make it a success. He canvassed all the seed trade and others in England, Scotland and Ireland and got good promises of support and encouragement. The Pillar Room in the Rotunda was hired to stage the exhibits. Suttons of Reading staged a wonderful display of potatoes, nearly 300 different varieties, old and new, all shapes and colours, black, blue and yellow. Also Carter's put up a fine stand, and our Irish firms also supported it. We got the Lord Lieutenant to open the exhibition, Lord Cadogan I think he was. Amongst the exhibits were dishes of cooked potatoes, and in his speech at the opening he remarked about the lovely look of the flowery boiled potatoes he had seen and made the remark "that at his table he had seen a great lot of bread broken but he had never seen a broken potato", some old chap in the audience spoke up and said "you should keep an Irish cook your Excellency, it's only an Irish woman who knows how to cook a potato". His Excellency smiled back and he said "there may be something in what my friend says and I must see to it."

When the potato tri-centenary show and celebrations passed off (I may say it was very suitably celebrated, plenty of refreshments for exhibition friends) and everyone was highly pleased. But unfortunately there was an anti-climax when all was over. As a show and an exhibition it was a spectacular success; but as a financial venture it was a disastrous failure. The charge for admission was a modest 6 pennies but after 3 days showing, the receipts were only a few pounds; something like £2 or £3 altogether. So I need hardly say there were some very bitter hot discussions between the members and the committee. All the funds were 'swanyed' but poor Mr. Cotter came nobly to the rescue and cleared the expenses. Some hard things were said; everyone blaming someone else for the debacle and most of the members left the society.

Mr. Shaw retired from the society about this time. Sir Horace Plunkett had launched his co-operation scheme also about this time and the Irish Agricultural Co-operative Society had been started in Thomas Street. Its first manager was the President Mr. Watkins who had several connections with Sir I. W. Mackey and through his influence Mr. Shaw was appointed as an organiser of the horticultural side and travelled all over the south west of Ireland lecturing on horticulture and fruit, way long before the Department of Agriculture was started.

Well the society was almost moribund, but a few older members held on and it was decided to start a new society on different lines and make it worthwhile for the members to stick together and give them an interest in it. It was decided to make it a benefit society on the friendly society lines. This was early in the year 1900; a new very energetic committee and officers were elected. I cannot just remember who our first President was (possibly Phil Geoghan). Our Honorary Secretary was the late William Hall of Messrs. Thomas McKenzie & Son of Pearse Street and his assistant Mr. Hogan. I must say this, that were it not for the zeal and whole-heartedness that Mr. Hall threw into the work of organising the society there would be no Gardeners' Association today. His work was Herculean and very quickly from a small poor beginning he built up a strong healthy organisation. He never spared and was ably seconded and supported by a loyal set of officers; he steered the ship into safe waters. The meetings at this time were in an attic nearly opposite the Red Bank. Our large meetings were held then in the XL Café, Grafton Street where lectures and socials were held. We had several very interesting lectures here. Mr. Alex Dickson gave one on roses; illustrated with some rose plants showing the proper way to prune and Mr. A. E. O'Neill who at the time possessed a magic lantern gave several lectures, one in particular I remember was on fungi. Then we had several delectable conversations and other years we held very nice Cinderella dances which were a great success.

I omitted to state when referring to Mr. Hall's activities on the foundation of the society, the first thing he did was to circularise all the seed trade both at home and in England including all the gardening publications for monetary support, which to their credit they all very liberally supported for a long number of years by their subscriptions. We had no funds to start with but plenty of courage and we won through. Even with our small resources we carried on and paid our out of work donation of 12/- per week and a funeral allowance of £6 for members at death and £4 for a member's wife. No benefits were paid out for the first year in order to build up the fund. Fortunately we had not many mortalities, and although at the time we had a rule that should the funds not be able at any time to meet those demands, the members were to

be levied to make up the difference. And it tells well for the care bestowed by the committee and officers that this rule never even once had to be called on to make up the allowance. I have no hesitation in saying, and will always maintain that it was principally owing to Mr. Hall's work and enthusiasm that the Association owes its life. And it is with the greatest pleasure and pride that even at this belated time that I wish to pay tribute to his memory which should never be forgotten. Any of the old members I am sure who are living still will I am sure endorse what I say. Peace to his ashes.

One of our first Presidents was the late Mr. John O'Kelly of Dartry who occupied the chair for two years and was succeeded by Mr. F. W. Burbidge of Trinity College Gardens who through Mr Hall's influence became our President after Mr. O'Kelly. I always look on this as the turning point in the Association's success, and through Mr. Burbidge we were able to get Sir Frederick Moore to give his support and countenance. Mr Burbidge presided over our society for two terms and very reluctantly refused a third year of office. Up to this time we were a small body and it was hard to get the 'Big Men' in the garden profession to touch us. But by those two great men lending their names and influence we were able to get a number of higher class Gardeners to join. When Mr. Hall in 1908, through increased business calls, had to relinquish the secretaryship, he was succeeded by the late Mr. James McDonagh of Sir I. W. Mackeys, himself the son of a Gardener, whom I remember well at Woodbrook, Bray. Mr. McDonagh took a great interest in the Society and worked it up wonderfully well. He was very energetic and also a great organiser, one of the most genial and good hearted of men I ever met.

In the early days of the Association, several very successful excursions were held. In October 1902, Mr. Hall organised an excursion to visit the Cork Exhibition, which was a great success. It went in two lots; the first one was led by Mr. McDonagh in order to accommodate some exhibition. Myself and Mr. Jas. Colgan, the famous grape grower, had nearly a week in Cork and enjoyed it. Well I may mention Mr. Colgan and myself were the only exhibitors from Dublin and both of us were very successful at the fruit show which was held by The Department of Agriculture. A large number of members availed themselves of the cheap trip; the weather, although in October, was delightful. Then we had several other trips; one of the first I can draw to mind was to Rush by invitation of Mr. Jas. Robertson to see the bulb farms and we were treated most superbly. I might here mention that we had on our committee at that time Mr. Sinclair, who was manager of Messrs. Hogg & Robertson, Mary Street, a great man. In after years we visited the bulb farms several times and were always treated with the greatest kindness and welcome by Mr. Robertson and most hospitably entertained.

We also visited other places, Howth Castle, The Japanese Gardens in Kildare, Saint Anne's, Clontarf, on invitation of Lady Ardilaun through Mr. Andrew Campbell who was our President. We also went to the College Gardens, Ballsbridge and Mr. Burbidge and Sir Frederick Moore had us to The Botanic Gardens, at all of which the members were entertained splendidly. One excursion I remember very well was to Newry; the first time we went there it was in Mr. Tom Smith's (the founder) time. I have been on several trips to the same place since and no one who took part in any of these outings can forget the lavish entertainment and welcome that was bestowed on them. We always received a great welcome and were treated I might say in a princely fashion. During Mr McDonagh's time he organised an excursion for the members to the Great International Exhibition at Chelsea, London (this was around 1912). A number of members took part in it and had a good enjoyable time. Then we held a very successful dance and supper in the D.B.C. (on O'Connell Street), which was our meeting place for several years. Several functions, similar to this, were held over the years and were a great success. We also had a very pleasant visit to the Pennick Nursery on the invitation of Mr. Jones, the Proprietor, who was the President of the Society at the time and to Clontarf Nursery on invitation of Messrs. Watsons, Mr. George Watson was our Hon. Treasurer at that time. Other places visited were Annesley Park, Co. Down; Mount Annville; Lord Iveagh at Glennon; Sutton House, Portmarnock; Mr. Jameson; Lord Meath; Lord Massey, Kilakee, Rathfarnham; Mr. Childs; Capt. Ryalls, Old Conna Hill and Mr. Vincent and Mr. Gerald Carroll who were both gardeners.

During those years the Society had increased in strength and energy, especially in membership. When the National Health Society was founded by the then British Government, The Gardeners' Association, in common with all other societies of its character, took on this scheme and it was a great success for all the years it was worked by the Society. Very liberal benefits were granted to the members and it tells well for the care and attention the officers paid to it that in several quinquennial valuations, after paying our charges, we had a very substantial surplus in our management fund amounting on one occasion to £32.00 and another time to £34.00. Notwithstanding the fact that we were giving our members the best benefits that any other society of our sort was giving, dental, surgical, optical, hospital and sick benefits. It was a pity the Society had to give it up, owing to later legislation which has not been able to give anything at all near what we paid our members in them days. We had to relinquish this part of our business; we had standing to our credit a very large sum of 2 or 3 thousand pounds. I believe this was all swept away to bolster up other bankrupt societies who had squandered their incomes.

## The Burbidge Library

The library was founded in 1907 to commemorate the memory of Mr. F. W. Burbidge M. A., a great friend of our Society and a past President who had done a very great service to the Society. He was a great gardener, a great friend to Gardeners, who died in 1905 and it was thought that the best way to commemorate his memory was to establish a library. An appeal was made for funds and books etc. and was very well supported by friends both in England and Ireland who knew him, especially the gardening press and horticultural societies. We got a large collection of books both from presents and by purchase. Mr. William Gunn was our first librarian and worked hard for it and collected a very fine lot of books. In those days the library was very largely availed of by the members, a fact I am sorry to have to say is not so today. Reading and studying of garden books seems to have gone out of fashion and maybe the young men nowadays know too much to bother knowing any more. About this time we were housed in the D.B.C. a commodious, very comfortable restaurant in O'Connell Street, nearly opposite the O'Connell Monument. We had our meetings, socials etc. here for some years until the rebellion, as it was called, broke out in 1916, when the British forces bombarded O'Connell Street, set fire to the centre of the city and the D.B.C. went up in flames and our library and books were all destroyed. However when all was over, the British agreed to make good the damage and Mr. McDonagh was instructed to put in a claim on behalf of the Association for the loss of the library books etc. and the outcome was we were awarded about £300. So steps were taken to refurbish the library as it is now, and I hope will long remain to be a remembrance of a good man who befriended the Gardeners' Association.

About this time the writer had to leave Dublin and take up an appointment in the country. But I always kept in touch with the Society and its members until I returned in 1919 and then it was still going on. This was during the Great World War 1914 to 1918, and the country was very disturbed and unsettled. The activities of the Society were rather restricted, however during this time the benefits to the members were increased, the out of employment remained the same but the funeral benefits were increased. Meetings were held monthly as usual but no outings or socials were held. Then came 1922, when more trouble came with the Civil War in Dublin, when during the fighting O'Connell Street suffered another bad disaster when the other end of the street met disaster. The Gresham Hotel and Messrs Sir I.W. Mackeys got burned to the ground and all our books and records belonging to the Association, which were housed in Mackeys were lost. So that finishes my story and record. There is no use in recording anything else as fortunately all the records since 1922 are available in the minute books of the society.





## 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

There was an excellent attendance - 77 members and 14 guests - for the AGM weekend held on 16 and 17 May in Donegal with the actual meeting taking place in the elegant surroundings of the drawing room in Glenveagh Castle.

The Chairman reported that it had been a very positive year with much to celebrate: the financial position was secure, membership had increased for the second consecutive year now standing at 439 which equated to 504 individuals, and there had been some welcome developments towards furthering the Society's aims of growing and conserving Irish plants. He referred to the central aims of the Society; firstly, to provide information and raise awareness about Irish plants and gardens and, secondly, to propagate, grow and conserve them. While over the years there had been progress on the first, there was considerable scope to improve on the second. In recent years Stephen Butler had been compiling a database of Irish heritage plants and identifying those which were no longer stocked by nurseries or by only a very few. He spoke of the intention to pay for the propagation of a number of these 'endangered' plants each year, at least in sufficient numbers to make some available at our plant sales.

There were a number of other significant developments: Blarney Castle & Garden working in conjunction with the IGPS was building a collection of Irish cultivars; over 50 had been planted so far this year and specially designed labels were being put in place; the Irish Society of Botanical Artists intended to produce paintings of Irish heritage plants; we had drawn up a list of suitable plants and will assist in sourcing plant material for the artists; and our involvement with the garden at Russborough being redeveloped by the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland had continued. During the year, Paul Maher, Curator of the National Botanic Gardens and an IGPS member, produced a plan and planting scheme which was passed to the RHSI. Unfortunately the estimated cost was very high and the RHSI had to consider how it might fit into their overall plan for the project. However the Committee had committed a sum of money to source the plants and this work was in hand.

He always felt proud of the garden at Lismacloskey Rectory at the Ulster Folk Museum, maintained on a voluntary basis by a group of members led by Lorna Goldstrom, which now contained a growing number of plants with Irish connections. He thanked Dawn McEntee who had recently stood down from the Northern sub-committee, Yvonne Penpraze who was retiring as its Chair after four very successful years culminating in the organisation of the AGM.

Stephen Butler who continued to organise the seed exchange each year with over 90 members of the Society taking part in it, and Maeve Bell who was standing down as Honorary Secretary in order to avoid a simultaneous departure of both the Secretary and Chairman the following year. He made a plea for the regional sub-committees to plan their programmes further in advance, ideally at least a year ahead and for them to standardise their procedures for managing and accounting for money. Finally he drew attention to the achievements of three of the Society's members: Charles Nelson, a founder member and its first chairman who had been awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal by the RHS, Seamus O'Brien who had been appointed to the RHS Woody Plants committee, and Jane Powers whose book *The Irish Garden*, illustrated by the photographs of her husband Jonathan Hession, had just been published to considerable critical acclaim.

## Finance

The Treasurer, Pascal Lynch, thanked Ricky Shannon his predecessor for helping him when he assumed office and Billy McCone for getting the sterling account into such good order. He reported that during the year he had made arrangements for a new firm, Walsh Gibbons, to act as independent scrutineers of the Society's accounts. It had been a successful year financially with an excess of income over expenditure of €8.8k. The net current assets stood at €36k.

<b>Income in €</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
Subscriptions	12,497	11,650
Plant sales	5,229	3,486
Events and raffles	3,295	2,402
Sundry	477	157
<b>Total income</b>	<b>21,498</b>	<b>17,695</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Newsletter and its postage	3,117	3,723
Lectures & visits	3,327	3,296
Administration	3,397	4,017
Moorea	-----	3,558
Heritage projects	1,000	-----
Equipment	297	430
Bank costs, PayPal etc.	435	-----
Sundry	1,107	145
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>12,680</b>	<b>15,169</b>

## Election of officers

There was just one nomination for the post of Honorary Secretary; Billy McCone had been proposed by Ricky Shannon and seconded by Patrick Quigley and was elected unopposed. Members and their guests then embarked on a busy weekend visiting four very different gardens – Glenveagh, Cluain na d'Tor, Oakfield Park and Dunmore.

Maeve Bell, Outgoing Honorary Secretary

## Glenveagh Castle Gardens

The landscape of north Donegal is wild and majestic with barren slopes of scree rising above sodden bog land. Hidden in its own valley, Glenveagh Castle Gardens provide an astonishing counterpoint: their lushness contrasting with the barren ruggedness, while decades of a designer's eye result in the superb plant content and areas of formality fitting comfortably into the wild and sprawling space. Everyone attending the AGM will have memories of their favourite area – perhaps the Pleasure Grounds with surprisingly modern-looking ground cover planting including swathes of *Rodgersia* under a notable collection of trees or the formal Terrace with its huge terracotta pots of azaleas and hostas framed by four cast-iron benches or the glimpses of wind-whipped Lough Veagh through the shelter belt of pines - but for many of us it was the magnificent Kitchen Garden which combines flowers, vegetables, soft fruit and apple trees, all edged in box, spreading up a gentle incline behind the Castle. To one side is the original head gardener's cottage which is now being used as an archive facility for Glenveagh. During our visit the rare *Paeonia* 'Derek Hill' was in bloom, its petals a rich mixture of crimson and gold; it had been given to Henry McIlhenny, the former owner of Glenveagh, by Lord Rosse of Birr Castle and named in honour of the noted painter who lived close by at St Columb's.

The Head Gardener, Seán Ó Gaoithín, grows a number of Irish apples and potatoes in the potager-style Kitchen Garden as well as the native Gortahork cabbage. He is proud of the other Irish cultivars which are unique to the garden: *Rhododendron* 'Mulroy Vanguard' which was suffused in bloom at the time of our visit, the Mulroy form of *Pseudowintera colorata*, *Olearia* 'Willie Brady' a newly-named sport of *Olearia macrodonta* which has just been named in honour of a former Deputy Head Gardener and which is distinguished by the new season's grey-green growth contrasting with the existing foliage which turns purple over the winter, and finally the vibrant red single dahlia, *D.* 'Matt Armour' named after the former head gardener of the same name. Formerly in very scarce supply, Seán and his team had generously propagated about 60 cuttings which are now flourishing in IGPS members' gardens as a permanent reminder of a memorable visit.

Maeve Bell

## **Cluain na d'Tor Nursery and Gardens**

Saturday afternoon was spent at Cluain na d'Tor (Meadow of Shrubs), the home of garden designer and nurseryman Seamus O'Donnell near Ballyness Bay and Falcarragh village. Respecting the landscape by working with nature Seamus has created not just a meadow of shrubs but with windbreaks providing invaluable shelter a garden of both indigenous and exotic plants all enjoying this seaside location. It includes a bog garden, wild meadow and an exotic garden where amongst the plants that thrive are *Tetrapanax*, *Musa*, and *Dicksonia antarctica*. Our visit in May following a very cold spring saw the garden awakening from its winter slumber with the promise that the best was yet to come. A guided tour made evident Seamus' love of plants and adventurous spirit, his choice of planting, many from the southern hemisphere, has created an eclectic Donegal garden at Cluain na d'Tor. The nursery was an opportunity for members, and not only those with coastal gardens, to purchase plants not readily available. To view the wide range of plants available at the nursery see <http://seasideplants.net/nursery>

## **Oakfield Park**

Sunday morning saw the group descend on Oakfield Park. This Georgian deanery (1739) passed down through the Stoney family and many other owners and tenants until purchased by Sir George and Lady Robinson in 1996. Since that time house, garden and parkland have been under restoration and development. They now look "almost new" with the 100 acres of parkland spreading out away from the house and a view of Croghan Mountain in the distance. "The Long Sleeper", a modern sculpture designed by the same sculptor as "Polestar" in Letterkenny is a focal point between house and mountain. Also, a Nymphaeum in the Roman style (sorry, no nymphs present) nestles on the lakeside and the eye is drawn to a Lebanese cedar and a Spanish chestnut in the Upper Gardens. A Tea House and Walled Garden also feature. A huge amount of work went into the development of the "Garden Rooms" near the house, with soil being replaced, hard landscaping put in place and a huge number of mature trees being installed. The herbaceous planting areas have concentrated heavily on yellow and white colour schemes.

There is also a new vegetable garden, which began only six years ago. This mimics the shape of the flower gardens. Great work had gone on there in a (so far) cold spring – evidence of potatoes, beans, peas, strawberries, tomatoes all "putting on a spurt" for later culinary satisfaction. I was much impressed with the bank of Japanese acers also planted only six years ago, which were thriving and mingling very well. The garden designer was Tony Wright who has worked for the National Trust and his wife Elizabeth composed the original planting scheme. This scheme has since been modified.

The group returned to the bottom of the Upper Gardens and crossed the public road to the Lower Gardens. Here an entirely different concept awaited us – a veritable “pleasure grounds” for families with extensive planting of native trees, wild flowers, an extensive narrow gauge railway, a lake and boat house, a castle, a tea tent. As we chuffed along with Thomas the tank engine we could not fail to be impressed by the many eye-catching features currently in place and the promise of even more pleasure in the future when the planting matures. We really must compliment Sir Gerry Robinson for the work that has been done in the last 20 years and thank him and the AGM organisers for the hospitality we received on a cold May Sunday. Well done to all!

Mary Bradshaw

### **Dunmore Gardens**

The last garden we had the pleasure of visiting on our AGM weekend in Donegal was Dunmore gardens at Carrigans. We were warmly welcomed by the owner Lady Maryette McFadden. IGPS chairman Paddy Tobin made a presentation to Lady Maryette as a token of our appreciation. She then invited us to wander as we pleased and introduced us to Andy, her gardener who was on hand to answer any questions we might have. She stressed however, that he was only on loan for our visit. He has been working at Dunmore for 60 years and that the garden is really Andy's and she was keeping him for a while yet.

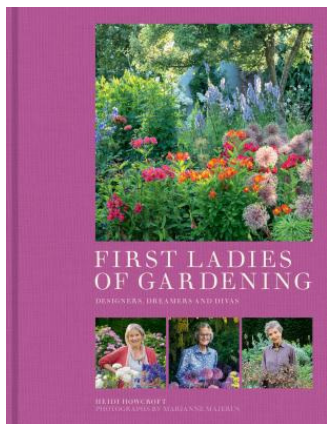
While there were some lovely rhododendrons at the front of the imposing house, it was the walled garden which held the most interest. On entering this large area, your eyes were met by a feast of colour from a large bed of azaleas and rhododendrons. There was a potting shed with tomatoes carefully tended by Andy and lots of seedlings waiting for their permanent positions in the garden. Box hedging cut into the shapes of suits of cards were an interesting addition. There were vegetable and herb beds dotted throughout. The garden had a large pond area with wonderful drifts of candelabra primulas. A regular visitor to the garden was the writer Agatha Christie and a large stone seat at the pond area is where she is said to have done some of her famous work. The garden also boasts some lovely sundials each with its own story for its place in the garden. Members wandered here and there throughout the garden enjoying its many plants and vistas. Andy was always discreetly on hand during our visit should we have any questions. When we were finished our viewing, we adjourned to the house for tea, having been kindly invited by Lady Maryette. It was most welcome as soon thereafter members said their thanks and goodbyes. Then it was time to head home after what was a great weekend.

Margaret McAuliffe



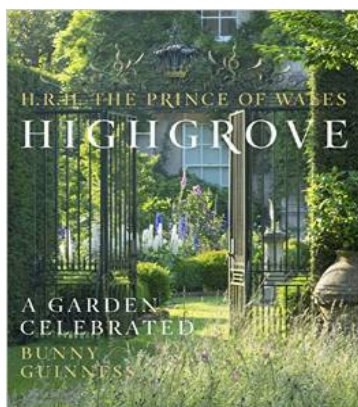
## Worth a Read by Paddy Tobin

I wonder if our volume of reading is inversely related to the length of our days. I certainly read more in the winter than the summer. Could we judge our summer weather by the number of books read? That a greater number read would indicate poorer weather though it could also simply indicate good books! Here is my reading selection over this summer:



This book is a beautiful celebration of 14 wonderful lady gardeners, ladies who have contributed so very much to our joy of gardening, and it is a delight to enjoy them in this book. A great read and a great treat for the eyes! Fourteen gardeners, fourteen gardens, are included, some described under “Pioneers of Design” and others as “New Directions” and each wonderfully described and illustrated. It includes our own Helen Dillon. A topping book!

*[First Ladies of Gardening by Heidi Howcroft with photography by Marianne Majerus, Frances Lincoln, 2015, HB, 176 pages, £20, ISBN: 9-780-7112-3643-1]*



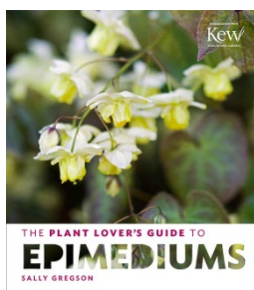
There really is a great delight in peeping over the high wall of a hidden garden and this is what Bunny Guinness presents ever so lavishly here with a month by month description of the various – and they are many and beautiful – sections of the garden. Beautifully written and fabulously illustrated – much from Marianne Majerus again.

*[Highgrove, A Garden Celebrated, Bunny Guinness, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 2014, HB, 240 pages, £35, ISBN: 978-0-297-86935-1]*



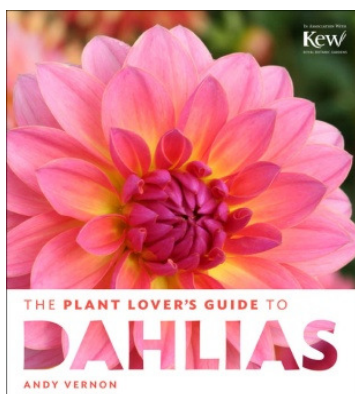
Timber Press publishers have commissioned a number of authors to write on the plant which is their speciality and have produced a fabulous series of books. It is an outstanding example of strong editorial control getting the very best from a series of contributors. You may remember the volume on Snowdrops by Sally Slade which was very well received and as well as these below there are others, waiting in my reading queue, on Sedums, Asters, Salvias and Ferns and I have no doubt these will all be as good and as useful as the ones I have read. Another on Primulas is in preparation as I write.

Each volume gives background history on the plants, deals with the species and the cultivars, has suggestions for use in garden design, a long list of cultivars, a selection of the best, beautifully illustrated and described in detail and then the practical aspects of cultivation, propagation and the unfortunate pests, diseases and how best to deal with them. All in all, each is an excellent treatment of the genus under discussion, pitched at a level to challenge the beginner and be of interest to the enthusiast, and I could not fail to recommend them.



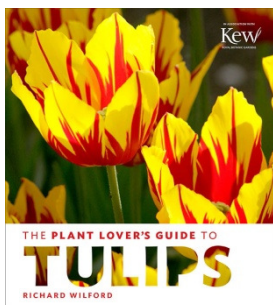
Sally Gregson has her own nursery and, it is fair to say, has been responsible for bringing epimediums from the recesses of the dry shady areas of the garden to a prominent position in the mixed border.

*[The Plant Lover's Guide to Epimediums, Sally Gregson, Timber Press, London, 2015, HB, 238 pages, £17.99, ISBN: 978-1-60469-475-8]*



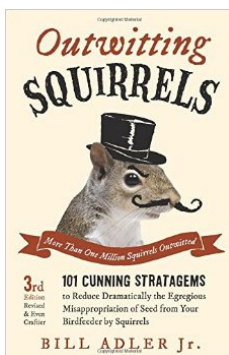
Dahlias are back in fashion but, for some, they never went out of fashion. Andy Vernon is one of these enthusiasts and his hobby interest ran in parallel with his career in television production/direction, following horticultural training in Nottingham, Wisley and Kew. He knows his dahlias and the book is outstanding.

*[The Plant Lover's Guide to Dahlias, Andy Vernon, Timber Press, London, 2014, HB, 252 pages, £17.99, ISBN: 978-1-60469-416-1]*



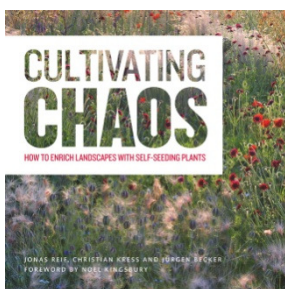
Richard Wilford has worked at Kew Gardens for 26 years and while he had a general interest in bulbs it was when he went to see species tulips growing in the wild that his enthusiasm for them simply exploded and this is obvious from the book.

*[The Plant Lover's Guide to Tulips, Richard Wilford, Timber Press, London, 2015, HB, 222 pages, £17.99, ISBN: 978-1-60469-534-2]*



Anne Wareham, author of “The Bad Tempered Gardener” has returned with another salvo for the gardening world in her latest book, “Outwitting Squirrels”. The book is a tongue-in-cheek, dry-humoured, witty treatise on how to deal with the myriad pests which assail our gardens.

*[Outwitting Squirrels, Anne Wareham, Michael O'Mara Books, 2015, Softback, 223pp, £7.99, ISBN: 978-1-78243-370-5]*



A trio of authors suggest we look at how we view those self-seeding plants in our gardens and, perhaps, embrace the spontaneity they provide and be less ruthless in weeding them out. An enjoyable read!

*[Cultivating Chaos, How to Enrich Landscapes with Self-seeding Plants, Jonas Reif, Christian Kress and Jurgen Becker, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2015, HB, 189pp, £25, ISBN: 978-1-60469-652-3]*

***If you would like to read a lengthier review of any of these books then visit our online blog: <https://igpsblogs.wordpress.com/> and click on the “Book Review” section.***



# Notes on some Irish plants

## by Paddy Tobin

### ***Libertia x butleri***

This name has been applied to acknowledge the contribution Stephen Butler has made to the study of the taxonomy of the various *Libertia* species and cultivars.

Stephen Butler has maintained a collection of *Libertia* at the Zoo for many years. As well as collecting a wide range of these plants he has prepared herbarium specimens and pictures and identified naming issues which all proved a significant help to Julian Shaw, the Royal Horticultural Society's Registrar, who has been conducting a review of the genus *Libertia* over the past number of years.

When *Libertia chilensis* and *L. ixioides* are grown in gardens hybrids regularly occur between them – distinguished by wider leaves than *ixioides* and a much more open inflorescence than *chilensis* – and it is botanically useful to have a name for these hybrids and Julian Shaw has named such hybrids *Libertia x butleri* in recognition of Stephen's work.



Stephen is Curator of Horticulture at Dublin Zoo, Chairperson of the Leinster Branch, a member of the Executive Committee of the IGPS and the person who has organised the IGPS members' Seed Distribution over many years. Well done, Stephen!

### ***Olearia* 'Willie Brady'**

After our Annual General Meeting at Glenveagh Castle in May, Seán Ó Gaoithín brought us on a guided tour of the gardens and along the way pointed out a very interesting *Olearia* to us, a variation on *Olearia macrodonta* which arose in the garden as a seedling and which had been spotted by Willie Brady who was a long serving member of the garden staff.

*Olearia macrodonta* is the most common of the *Olearias* in Irish gardens and it self-seeds generously in the gardens at Glenveagh and this seedling was noticed by Willie Brady, who was then Deputy Head-Gardener, in the shrub borders in the early 1990s.

In almost all aspects of its growth habit and general appearance this shrub behaves like the species but has an interesting and attractive feature in that its foliage turns to quite a deep purple with the onset of the colder weather of winter. This in itself is attractive but when the new foliage emerges in spring there is then the wonderful contrast between this deep purple and the light grey-green of the new foliage.



*Olearia macrodonta* has proved itself as a tough and reliable plant which takes our winter conditions with ease and is particularly suitable for seaside plantings so this new addition not only carries the durability of the species but adds the attraction of interesting foliage. Of course, it also produces the daisy-like flowers of the parent.

In the gardens the plant has been propagated with ease by semi-hard cuttings taken in July/August so, hopefully, this will become more widely available in the near future.



## ***Dahlia* ‘Matt Armour’**

I will quote from the Head Gardener at Glenveagh, Seán Ó Gaoithín, from the article he wrote in Volume 16 of *Moorea*: “This unique clone was first raised from seed given to young under-gardener Matt Armour in 1930 by Lucy Porter. The variety has been in cultivation in the walled garden ever since. A stock of 100 plants is maintained; the tubers over-wintered in storage and planted out in the walled garden in May. The cultivar name *Dahlia* ‘Matt Armour’ was registered with the RHS in 1996 by Seán Ó Gaoithín (head gardener since 1995). The first published description of the cultivar appeared in *The Irish Garden* magazine in 1996. A botanical portrait by Wendy Walsh was commissioned by the OPW (Office of Public Works) in 1996 and published in “A Lifetime of Painting”, a book celebrating her life’s work in 2007. Currently we are in the process of raising 500 clones of *Dahlia* ‘Matt Armour’ that are virus-free material by micro-propagation with the aid of the Department of Agriculture’s Potato Research Station at Raphoe, Co. Donegal.”



On the occasion of our visit to Glenveagh in May, Seán very kindly had a young plant of *Dahlia* ‘Matt Armour’ for each person in our group and I am sure each of these plants went to a very appreciative home and will be treasured for many years to come. I had an e-mail from Victor and Roz Henry recently with an attached photograph of their *Dahlia* ‘Matt Armour’ in flower; the first reported flowering. Well done to Victor and Roz. It is wonderful to see our Irish heritage plants being so well cared for in the hands of our members.



# Memories are made of plants by Carmel Duignan

My garden, like most others, is full of plants. Too full, some would say. I grow these plants for many reasons: because they are beautiful; because they make pleasing combinations with their neighbours; because they are long flowering, large leaved, healthy, beneficial to insects. But I also grow plants because of the memories they evoke, the stories they tell, how they were acquired or the people who gave them to me.

*Deutzia purpurascens* 'Alpine Magician' is a tall, slender, multi-branched shrub that flowers in May, is completely hardy, will grow in most conditions but, unfortunately, is not regularly available. When Dr Charles Nelson was Taxonomist in the National Botanic Gardens in the 1990s he noticed this plant growing in the shrubbery. It was labelled as a variety of *Deutzia discolor* but Dr Nelson doubted the correctness of this name. He researched the records and discovered that the seed had been sent to the Gardens in the early part of the 1900s. It was collected in Burma by the great alpinist, plant explorer and writer, Englishman, Reginald Farrer. Dr Nelson went through the process of

naming the plant and called it "Alpine Magician". Farrer was mostly known for his knowledge of alpine plants and this was the title bestowed on him by Lady Phylis Moore, a noted gardener and wife of Sir Frederick Moore, who was Director of the National Botanic Gardens from 1879 to 1922.

It is a lovely plant with flowers of pure white with a plum-coloured centre.





I first saw and fell for this plant at the IGPS participation as an exhibitor of the Chelsea Flower Show of 1992. I was a member of the committee and helped out with the preparation and staging of the stand. At the end of the show, when we were packing the truck that was bringing the plants back home, the pot containing *D. 'Alpine Magician'* was accidentally knocked over. A small section was broken off. Well, I was hardly going to allow such a piece of interesting plant material to languish on a London street!

Many of my plants were given to me by some great and generous people who are no longer with us. Echioiums are a great love of mine and the first one in this neighbourhood came to me courtesy of the late Dr David Robinson. In the 1990s, when I first met him, they were already a feature on the hill of Howth where they had spread from his garden. They are now well established in my part of county Dublin. The harsh winter of 2010/2011 saw many of the plants perish but the seed was still in the soil and three years later they returned with aplomb! I note that they are hybridising among themselves and producing the usual blue flowers but also pink and white flowers. Another great plant from Dr Robinson's garden that I cherish is a hardy, unnamed *Fuchsia*. It has large velvety, grey-green leaves and long tubular orange-red flowers. In a harsh winter it can be cut back to the base but always returns.

*Rosa 'Bengal Crimson'* carries memories of the late Rosemary Brown and her great garden in Bray, Co. Wicklow. It is an old China rose with large single red flowers and no scent. It flowers here four times a year and is always in flower on Christmas Day. It can be grown as a climber – one in Helen Dillon's garden reaches over 5 metres on a wall – or as a large standard bush. The foliage is good and doesn't suffer from blackspot which is a big problem with roses in my garden. It is easily propagated from semi-ripe cuttings and should be more easily available. Its unfortunate correct name of *Rosa × odorata Sanguinea* Group 'Bengal Crimson' probably doesn't help its popularity.

One of my fondest memories is of the late Kitty Reardon – an indomitable woman who kept a great garden and grew some special plants. She was my mentor when I began to get interested in plants and I am so grateful to her for all the knowledge and plants she gave me. *Pelargonium 'Apple Blossom'* lingers on in my greenhouse (I wish I could be better at growing indoor plants) and I never see that beautiful plant *Prostanthera rotundifolia* without remembering how exquisitely she grew it.

There are many other memories in my garden; many other generous gardeners and special events commemorated; but they will keep for another chapter.



# Irish Heritage Plants Update

We have always said this is a work in progress, so it is good to report progress!

Several members have kindly sent in lists of Irish Heritage Plants they are growing, some with excellent notes on source, and if there is material for propagation. One member sent in a list of 30 Heritage Plants, with full details of where purchased over the past 30 years. Compiling these lists we have about 220 that we now know we have, and where they are. Of these about 90 are not listed in any nursery, and these have been prioritised for propagation, another 40 or so are only listed in one or two nurseries. Some of course are frequently seen and are not a worry.

There are plans for collections of Irish Heritage Plants at some well known gardens too, details later, and there is an Irish Heritage Plant trail now at Blarney Castle. We have started contacting nurseries to see what Heritage Plants they are propagating and selling. Kilmurry Nursery (IGPS visited here last June) for instance has a list of 26 Heritage Plants, including 7 of their own selections. We also have some being micro propagated by Fitzgerald Nurseries (visit planned for September 26<sup>th</sup>), a rapid way of increasing stocks.

We are keen to develop a list of members who are willing to propagate some of these plants, especially anything woody, please contact us at below if you have room and skills to divide herbaceous material, take woody cuttings, or maybe just grow on small plants for later distribution.

We will happily mention any nurseries or garden centres that are actively engaged in propagating, selling, and highlighting any Irish Heritage Plants, please contact us at [igps.heritageplants@gmail.com](mailto:igps.heritageplants@gmail.com)

Stephen Butler Irish Heritage Plants  
Curator of Horticulture,  
Dublin Zoo,  
Phoenix Park,  
Dublin 8



# Seed Distribution Scheme 2015/16

What a summer.....or is that stretching the definition of the word too far! Cold start, very dry (in the east anyway) later, very wet in the west, and cold cold cold, so not a great year for seed, but I fully expect to get a good amount in as usual from our determined and prod

uctive band of seed collectors. 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.
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, we all forget plant names.
7. Allow the seeds to fall out naturally, some you will need to argue with.
8. Try to clean off as much chaff and debris as possible before sending.

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. Some seeds are ejected by the plant once mature. *Euphorbia* has exploding seed pods that propel seeds several metres, collect when the first pods go, put in a folded over paper bag and let dry. Geraniums catapult their seeds when ripe, again collect when only 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, if you want the seed you need to get there first! Always please record the full plant name, there is little point in sending seed in as e.g. ‘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 the end of November 2015, to Stephen Butler using the address on page 26.**



# Regional Reports

## LEINSTER

### **June 27<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am Kilmurry Nurseries, Ballymoney, Co. Wexford.**

They say that first impressions are important and if that is true, Orla and Paul Woods of Kilmurry Nurseries certainly got it right. We were greeted by a wonderful display of herbaceous plants on arrival – all colours, shapes, sizes and heights – and every one in good condition. But we were not allowed to loiter (with intent) for too long as Paul gave us a short history of their business. They had started in 1998 as a wholesale and landscape enterprise and then started to exhibit at many of the major shows in England. This gradually changed until they now have their home and retail business near Ballymoney in Wexford and also supply many landscape businesses with stock. They grow over 1,500 varieties.

This was followed by a tour of their garden. The house, built in the last few years looked as though it had been there for years. One of the gable ends of the house was covered in *Rosa* 'Kiftsgate' reaching up to the roof. More roses were in evidence in the garden – I was delighted to see a lovely specimen of 'Iceberg' with its very dark green leaves as it was a rose I had many years ago, also many fine peonies were dotted around the garden – on every side there were good examples of plants well grown. The far end of the garden has yet to be developed – there are plans for ponds and major shifting of earth to create raised walks. According to Paul no big deal when you have a mini digger to hand and the know how!

Tables for 4 and 6 were arranged for lunch and it was nice to be able to sit and chat to some new members or renew friendships. A most enjoyable meal was had and I enjoyed the warm beetroot salad so much that I got the recipe – to be tried when my beetroots are ready for eating. The serious business of the day then commenced and hard decisions had to be made as to what one just could not live without. I was delighted to find a very tall *Alstroemeria* in a particular shade I had been looking for and *Lychnis* 'White Robin' was just the right plant for a birthday gift for a friend. I even saw one member with a wheelbarrow full being loaded into the boot of the car. The Nursery does not have a catalogue but has a very good website listing their plants which they update on a regular basis.

Ricky Shannon

## June 27<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 pm The Bay Garden Camolin, Co. Wexford

Travelling south a short distance beyond the village of Camolin we arrive at Frances and Iain MacDonald's Bay Garden. Both are well known horticulturalists and tour guides and their garden reflects influences from European gardens they have visited. Each room has a distinctive style of planting drawing your eye around and teasing you into the next space. Living in the sunny south-east, Frances and Iain can grow most plants as their soil is acid, free-draining loam over a marl and shale base.

A small gate at the back of the house leads into the *Serpentine Garden* with its meandering lawn divided by borders of mainly herbaceous plants. Frances explained that the ground here was so overgrown when they moved in 1989 that the first thing they did was rotivate it and plant a lawn to get rid of the perennial weeds. Gradually borders were added. Now this lawn is adorned by the most splendid *Cornus kousa* 'China Girl' with its creamy leaves under planted by violet *Geranium pratense* 'Splish-splash' and the architecturally striking *Phlomis russeliana*. *Phlomis* is a great plant to attract bees, its leaves are favoured by flower arrangers and even in winter is a delight to watch as hungry birds dine on its tiered seed heads. A sunken seated area next to the house enjoys the backdrop of *Rosa* 'Rhapsody in Blue'. *Clematis* 'Arabella' grows on a low wall, chosen by Iain as this is not a vigorous climber.

Leading off this lawn to one side is the *Front Garden* where *Wisteria floribunda* frames the front door while a holly, fuchsia, roses and box pack this small space. On the other side of the *Serpentine Garden* you are drawn to the clipped scented hedge of *Thuja plicata* and into the geometric *Rose Garden*. Here I spotted *R. gallica* 'Versicolor', the yellow clustered *R.* 'Arthur Bell', the scented *R.* 'Buff Beauty' and the double flowered *R.* 'Cardinal de Richelieu'.

A framed doorway in the hedge brings you into the next garden, known as the *Funereal Border*. Designed by Frances it consists of dark leaved plants such as *Sambucus nigra* f. *porphyrophylla* 'Black Lace' which produces the aromatic pink elderflower cordial. Also here is the maroon velvet coloured *Pelargonium* 'Lord Bute' and *Lathyrus odoratus* 'Midnight'.

Facing Frances' funerary border, across a small lawn, is Iain's *Hot Border* of red flowers such as *Rosa* 'Florence Mary Morse', a favourite at Great Dixter and the red and cream Spanish Flag, *Ipomoea lobata*. From hot and dark our feet take us into the cool of the *Pool Garden* with its silvery foliage and lily pads. The *Barn Garden* at the back of the property has the wow factor with a vista extending to fields and woodland beyond. Here *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' and 'Overdam'; *Stipa tenuissima* and *Miscanthus* billow in the

gentle breeze. Together with the sharp leaved *Cortaderia richardii* and the deciduous *Rhus typhina* 'Dissecta' the *Barn Garden* is at its most glorious in the fading autumn light. As you wind your way back you pass an outbuilding adorned by *Rosa* "Phyllis Bide", a favourite of Frances.

The final section is a *Woodland* which leads to boggy marsh. The pretty white flowering *Styrax japonicus* caught my eye. *Rhododendron* 'Moser's Maroon' was still in flower and perhaps worth considering in other gardens to extend the rhododendron flowering season. A kaleidoscope of *Primula bulleyana* awaits you on the way down to the gazebo before the gentle climb upwards again to the tea room, nursery and potager. This is a garden where the skill and expertise of Frances and Iain shines through in each of the garden rooms. It is a garden which can be enjoyed as much for its design as for its plants. It is a place that draws you in and encourages you to explore and then to go back and revisit to rediscover what you have missed! A garden where Frances and Iain made all of us feel most welcome.

Anne-Marie Woods

### **July 16<sup>th</sup> Evening Tour of Dublin Zoo**

As someone who has visited Dublin Zoo many times as a parent, I have admired the planting schemes over the last 10 years. So, when Stephen Butler offered to give members of the IGPS a back stage pass, who could resist? Despite nasty wet weather, our journey started off in the African Plains. An additional 30 acres were added to the zoo in 2001, these were quickly transformed to house among others, the new Gorilla Enclosure. In keeping with the natural feel of a rainforest, purple leaved foliage plants like *Rodgersia*, *Phormium* and *Lobelia* are planted among Bamboo and tall herbaceous plants such as *Inula*. Tree cover of *Liriodendron*, *Populus lasiocarpa* and *Catalpa* will eventually give much more cover. On the Gorilla island itself the overall design with ridges gives a quiet, sheltered and varied habitat for the Gorillas and Mangabeys that live here. What is fascinating about each plant species chosen is the thought process behind it, many edible, some unpalatable so not touched, giving a natural appearance to the habitat. None of the plants made it here by accident!

The brand new Pacific Coast Sea Lion and Flamingo habitat has been dug out from the original lake. The planting here is fresh with many newly planted conifers including *Abies*, *Picea*, *Podocarpus* and *Tsuga*. *Gunnera manicata* planted on mounds either side of the pathway will in time grow over your head as you walk on through, no doubt dwarfing the visitor. Tree cover including *Sequoiadendron* and *Acer macrophyllum* will in time close in and give the desired effect.

Our final port of call was the Elephant enclosure. Pathways through bamboo hide both the visitor and the elephants from each other encouraging you to look closer. On this particular walk one roar from mama elephant told us exactly where they were! Time lapsed at this point but with interest sparked the next visit will have to be sooner rather than later.

Michelle Nolan

**PS from Stephen**, may I add, the weather was continual rain, heavy at times. We had a great umbrella and rain gear collection, everyone was smiling. Thank you everyone who attended for your patience and cheerful endurance!

## NORTHERN

### May 23rd Stranmillis Stroll Belfast

It's not often that IGPS members are treated to half a dozen exceptional gardens and perfect weather conditions in one afternoon. Careful planning by the Northern Committee and the garden owners led by Maeve Bell and Adrian Walsh ensured a large number of people moved seamlessly around the leafy avenues of South Belfast. For this report we have tried, with some difficulty, to select just one outstanding design feature and one outstanding plant or plant combination from each garden.

Adrian Walsh's garden was the first port of call where visitors registered and picked up maps and directions for the afternoon. In this small, tightly designed garden, Adrian has created the feeling of space and movement with choice of paths and seating areas, trees including a Katsura or *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* and a *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy', shrubs, lots of grasses and perennials. It is a layered garden.....as one season retreats, the next one is bursting through the older foliage. It is also very much a working garden with pots of emerging dahlias fronting those containing spent tulips which had been cut back and removed to the edge of the patio. From here the visitor can have an overview of the whole garden: centre stage was the beautiful silver multi-stemmed *Betula jaquemontii* under-planted with white foxgloves and a blue haze of forget-me-nots with other combinations to follow.

Just a short walk away was Maeve Bell's garden where a well-stocked plant stall did brisk business all afternoon. This garden is also full of design features. Two red brick pergolas, softened by white wisteria and climbing roses, mark the beginning and end of the garden. Within this framework, three circular lawns and deeply scalloped borders give the impression of continuity accentuated further by the box spheres planted round the main lawn.

In contrast, a deep straight bed at the back of the house is planted with upright specimens including *Taxus baccata*, holly and *Pittosporum* with the verticals further enhanced by stainless steel spirals. Of the various colour-themed planting schemes, one area stood out where the purple-headed *Alliums* swayed above the glowing orange of *Geum* 'Princes Juliana' and *G.* 'Tangerine'.

Around the corner, David and Linda Hewitt's front garden could be viewed from the pavement. This garden is just in its second year and is already packed with colour and interesting plant combinations. Most effective was the screening of bamboo giving privacy around the front door. In the centre of the garden were two large blue pots planted with *Erysimum* 'Bowie's Mauve' framed by two specimens of flower-laden *Olearias*. Large pots of blue hostas completed the picture.

Hilda and Chris McHale's cottage-style garden was full of spring colour with camellias, rhododendrons and a magnolia under-planted with bulbs. A large pond at the back of the house which has replaced two mature ash trees is a new feature; built of red brick into a corner of the garden, it is at chest height allowing the owners to view wildlife activity at close quarters. At the back of the pond are several terraces newly planted with cascading plants; of particular note is a fine specimen of *Acer palmatum* 'Inaba-shidare' with its arching branches dipping towards the water.

Garden No 5 belonging to Anne McBrien is a modern, designed city garden displaying bold geometric features of natural limestone and lawn. The strong design features of the slate stone wall around the patio area and the black painted fence verticals were softened by a stand of black bamboo which also gave a feeling of seclusion to the area. In the front garden, the effectiveness of the black fence as a backdrop for plants was well illustrated where the blue flowered *Ajuga* was growing with blue anemones giving a stunning combination.

Finally we arrived at Vivienne Kirk's mature garden where everyone enjoyed a cup of tea. It has a variety of features: a pond, a potager and an extensive lawn surrounded by mature shrub borders including Japanese maples, azaleas and rhododendrons; where any soil remained visible, perennials have been planted to good effect. Vivienne makes good use of her greenhouse, growing much from seed to fill the potager and planters. In one corner of the garden she pointed out a lovely planting combination where white tulips and the white daisy flowers of *Anthemis punctata* subsp. *cupaniana* were brought alive by the startling blue of *Salvia patens* while towering above was *Crambe cordifolia* about to burst into a frothy mass of blossom.



We thank all the garden owners for putting on such an inspiring afternoon, appreciating how much work had gone into making the gardens look beautiful in spite of a cold, late spring.

Yvonne Penpraze and Barbara Kelso

### **June 6<sup>th</sup> Taughlea, County Down**

Many of us dream of a country retreat where, free from city constraints, we create a garden sitting comfortably within its rural surroundings. Berkley Farr didn't have to escape as he still lives in the family home amid the rolling drumlin landscape near Downpatrick and with his wife Mary, has developed a quintessentially country garden. The grey former farmhouse is anchored by extensive foundation planting with climbing hydrangea, roses, ivy, and a variegated *Euonymus* at the front while the back wall supports two wisteria, a white and the plum-purple *W. 'Black Dragon'*, above a collection of herbs which would delight any cook at the south-facing back door.

The original front garden, though north-facing, contains many choice shrubs and rhododendrons which benefit from a shelter belt of tougher specimens although a well-shaped *Cornus controversa 'Variegata'* is flourishing despite its exposure. Progressing around the side of the house we came face-to-face with a magnificent bank of bluebells, its azure sheen punctuated with hostas, *Geranium phenum* and peonies. From here, a 200 year old sunken lane bordered with wild flowers including cow parsley, stitchwort, buttercups, and ragged robin led to an area of woodland which Berkley planted 17 years ago.

The one acre field is now home to 500 trees which were planted as whips; 13 different species are represented, mainly natives such as oak, birch, rowan and crab apples but there is also an occasional exotic such as *Davidia involucrata*. Other gardens within the garden include a back lawn high above the house on top of the bank, a grassy area with a circle of stones, and a large water garden created about 10 years ago. Some of the Irish plants, either cultivars or plants with Irish associations, grown by Berkley and Mary include *Eucryphia x intermedia 'Rostrevor'*, *Luma apiculata 'Glanleam Gold'*, *Itea ilicifolia* and *Romneya coulteri*. It was a treat to visit in late spring but clearly with its extensive range of plants and sense of place it will be rewarding throughout the year.

Maeve Bell



# A Wonderful Project – Plandaí Oidhreachta

The Irish Society of Botanical Artists and the Irish Garden Plant Society are cooperating on a very interesting project which should reach completion in the autumn of 2016. Over sixty artists, members of the Irish Society of Botanical Artists, the group which produced the wonderful “Aibitir” exhibition which is still touring the country, have begun painting a selection of Irish garden plants. These will form their next exhibition of paintings which will have an accompanying exhibition catalogue but will also be used as illustrations for a book on our Irish heritage plants which will be published to coincide with the exhibition.

The artists have begun painting and a number of contributors have been invited to submit articles about Irish plants for this book. These contributions are planned to cover topics such as Snowdrops, Primroses, Daffodils, Irish Dahlias, and Sweet Pea. Other articles will deal with garden plants derived from native plants, trees and shrubs and, possibly, one that focuses on gardens and nurseries. It promises to be both an outstanding exhibition and an excellent publication and will be of particular interest to members of the Irish Garden Plant Society. This book will be a limited print run and will not be on general release. Because of this and because we know that IGPS members will wish to obtain a copy we hope to have a facility for pre-booking a copy in advance of the publication date and will keep you informed of this as that time approaches.

The ISBA committee have had the experience of organising a large group of their members to produce a volume of work to a set theme, set specifications and fixed deadlines. They have also been through the very demanding process of scanning original paintings to the very highest standards and preparing these for printing both as full-size copies and also for inclusion in various publications. This group of people, lead by Jane Stark, has already begun work on the present project and have already produced mock-up layouts for the planned book.

Brendan Sayers and Alexandra Caccamo of the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin are acting as team leaders in a co-ordinating role for the project, keeping all parties informed, motivated and moving and also providing extraordinary help with the selection of plants and provision of plant material for the artists. This is a project which will give great publicity to our heritage of garden plants in a most beautiful and attractive way and so will be pleasing not only to IGPS and ISBA members but also to members of the general public and in this manner will spread word of the work of both societies.



*Primula* 'Dunbeg' reproduced here with the kind permission of the artist, Holly Somerville, an example of one of the paintings which will be included in the coming exhibition and in the book to accompany it.

**Paddy Tobin**



## *Aubrieta* 'Shangarry'



Photographs: Marie Hourigan

A plant of *Aubrieta* 'Shangarry' grew in the Rock Garden at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin in 1994 and was for some years propagated and distributed at IGPS plant sales. In *A Heritage of Beauty* Charles Nelson quotes the Ballawley Alpine Nursery catalogue, from where the plant was purchased, as *Aubrieta* 'Shangarry' having “double blossom reminiscent of Parma violets”. The photograph in *A Heritage of Beauty* shows a relatively tight budded plant, a bit of a disappointment -when compared to the description.



This disappointment was also described by R. Ginns of Hampshire, England writing in the January 1955 *Bulletin of the American Rock Garden Society* (Vol. 13, No.1). In an article titled 'Double flowers in the Rock Garden' he refers to his plant of *Aubrieta* 'Shangarry' as “fully double, but the flowers form such a tight rosette that they are quite inconspicuous and it is necessary to look twice to make certain that the plant is in flower”.

This spring has been kind to the plants of *Aubrieta* 'Shangarry' at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. On public display in the Alpine House and also displaying themselves in full glory in a plunge bed in the Propagation Nursery, they have opened their flowers like we have never seen before. What the exact reason is we do not know but we suggest that if your plant is a disappointment in the garden maybe it just needs a better position in which to express itself fully. Youth may also be a contributing factor, the plants were raised from cuttings a few years ago.

Edel McDonald  
Propagation Foreman

Brendan Sayers  
Glasshouse Foreman

National Botanic Gardens  
Glasnevin





# Details of upcoming events

## NORTHERN

### SEPTEMBER Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm

Kilmacurragh Arboretum, Kilbride, County Wicklow

ADMISSION: IGPS Members free. Non-members £4.00

**DIRECTIONS:** Drive southbound on the M11 passing the junction for Ashford/Mount Usher. Continue south passing the NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS KILMACURRAGH sign to Junction 18, exit left. At the BEEHIVE PUB roundabout turn right. Drive straight through the two new roundabouts following the **FLOWER SYMBOLS** on the brown direction signs. Drive straight ahead for 2.5 miles. Estate gates are on left-hand side.

### OCTOBER Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

Autumn Lecture, (in Association with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council) Clotworthy House, Antrim, BT41 4LH

Admission: IGPS Members Free, Non-Members £3 Refreshments Provided

#### **John Anderson – Three Gardens along the Gulf Stream.**

John Anderson, Head Gardener of the spectacular 200 acre Exbury Gardens, Hampshire, world-famous for the Rothschild Collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, rare trees and shrubs. The lecture will focus on the three very different gardens where John has been Head Gardener during the past 30 years and all influenced by the Gulf Stream.

**Mount Usher Gardens**, Co. Wicklow, a 20 acre Robinsonian Garden, with good collections of *Nothofagus*, *Eucryphia* and *Eucalyptus*.

**Inverewe Gardens** in western Scotland is the jewel in the crown of the Scottish National Trust. This 100 acre garden with dramatic seascapes on the north west of Scotland is often referred to as the 'Tresco of the North' with an extensive collection of Southern Hemisphere plants including *Meconopsis*, Rhododendrons, *Magnolia* etc.

**Exbury Gardens** a 200 acre woodland garden in a 250 year old landscape garden by the River Beaulieu in the New Forest, renowned for its huge collection of spring flowers followed by large drifts of Hydrangeas and summer colour, leading into a blaze of autumn colour.

## **DECEMBER Wednesday 2nd 7.30pm**

Malone House Lecture (in Association with Belfast Parks)

Malone House, Barnett Demesne, Belfast, BT9 5PB

**Brendan Little – Gardening for Wildlife.** Brendan is currently Head Gardener of Carrablagh House garden in Portsalon, Co. Donegal, a well-established country garden dating back to the mid-19th century. He contributes regularly to BBC Radio Ulster's Gardeners' Corner and also works as a freelance gardening advisor and horticultural tutor. Plant collecting expeditions have taken Brendan to Ecuador, the Galapagos and the Pacific Northwest. He currently lives with his wife Paula and their two children in Donegal where he has his own two acre garden. Brendan will give an illustrated talk providing an insight into gardening for wildlife.

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

## **MARCH Wednesday 16th 7.30pm**

Spring Lecture (in Association with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council)

The Old Courthouse, Market Square, Antrim, BT41 4AW

**Jimi Blake - New and exciting Herbaceous Perennials from around the World.** Irish horticulturist, teacher, plantsman and creator of the excitingly contemporary Irish garden Hunting Brook Gardens, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

This lecture is a breath-taking journey through the newest and most exciting perennials in Jimi's collection in Hunting Brook and from his travels to gardens and nurseries around the world. Be prepared for your plant wish list to explode!

Admission: IGPS Members Free, Non-Members £5 Refreshments Provided.

## **MUNSTER**

**Lectures take place at 8.00pm in the SMA Hall, Wilton, Cork.**

**SEPTEMBER Saturday 26th** Autumn Garden Visit to Mount Congreve, Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford. Described as one of the great gardens of the world, Mount Congreve's awe-inspiring vistas and impressive plant collections are a must-see. Guided tour beginning at 10:30am.

Member's €10, Non-members €15. (Min. of 10 people required).

Please book by emailing [igps.munster@gmail.com](mailto:igps.munster@gmail.com)

**OCTOBER Tuesday 6th Neil Porteous - Circe's Garden: The Collections at Mount Stewart.** Mount Stewart reflects a rich tapestry of design, planting artistry and allegory, bearing the hallmark of its creator, Lady Londonderry. Her passion for bold planting schemes coupled with the mild climate of Strangford Lough allowed rare and tender plants from across the globe to thrive in this celebrated garden. Join us as Head Gardener Neil Porteous shares with us the inside story and images of the impressive plant collections of this magical garden. Plant Raffle on evening. Members Free. Non-members €5.

**NOVEMBER Tuesday 3rd Helen Dillon - Keeping the Show on the Road.** The IGPS are delighted to welcome the renowned and hugely entertaining Helen Dillon to Cork. Helen's beautifully designed, ever-changing garden filled with rare, exotic and unusual plants is one of this country's horticultural gems. This wonderful evening is bound to leave you with lots of tips, techniques, plant lustings, and re-invigorated creativity for your own garden. Members' Plant Sale & Plant Raffle. Members €5, Non-members €10.

**DECEMBER Tuesday 1st Hester Forde – It's All About Plants.** In this lecture Hester shares with us her insatiable appetite for plants. Her garden 'Coosheen', is situated on the Lee estuary in Cork harbour and houses an amazing collection of plants for its size. Described as "a woodland garden in a suburban space", the garden has become well known for being worthy of visiting at any time of year. Hester will have some plants for sale. Members Free, Non-members €5. Plant Raffle and Seasonal Refreshments.

**FEBRUARY Tuesday 2nd Stephen Redden - Kew Gardens and the Chelsea Physic Garden.** Members Free, Non-members €5.

**MARCH Tuesday 1st Oliver Schurmann - Prairie Style Gardening in the Irish Climate.**

Oliver will have some plants for sale. Plants can also be pre-ordered from Mount Venus Nursery. Members Free, Non-members €5.

## **LEINSTER**

**OCTOBER Thursday 15th 8.00pm National Botanic Gardens Glasnevin. Susan Band - Growing Lilies and Relatives in Scotland.** A joint lecture with the Alpine Garden Society. After running her alpine nursery in Perth for 30 years Susan 'retired' and concentrates now on growing and selling bulbs, and producing seed for Jelitto. Some bulbs will be available.



**OCTOBER Saturday 17th 12 noon to 2.00pm LEINSTER PLANT SALE,**  
Trinity College Botanic Garden, Dartry Road, Dublin 6

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 Garden, 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](mailto:igps.leinster@gmail.com) or Stephen 086 388 4584

**The following events take place at the Visitor Centre,  
National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin:**

**OCTOBER Saturday 24th NB 2.00pm Carl Wright - Between a Rock and a Hard Place, the Story of Caher Bridge Garden.** Removing, controlling and in places editing hazel scrub, finding, improving, and creating soil pockets for plants, building sympathetic walls and hard landscape and plant selection were all essential for Carl to carve a garden out of the limestone pavement surrounding his cottage near Fanore in the Burren. An afternoon lecture, why not come early with friends and enjoy lunch at Glasnevin first.

**NOVEMBER Thursday 19th 8.00pm Bruno Nicolai - Exotic Escapism**

For Bruno, Chair of the Munster IGPS Group, gardening isn't just about producing something nice to look at. It's about creating a world to experience. Using hardy and tender, common and rare, this self-confessed plantaholic has developed colourful planting schemes oozing with exoticism, all within the confines of his Cork City garden. Join us as he shares with you some of his favourite plants and takes you on a journey from desert to jungle.

**DECEMBER Thursday 3rd NB EARLY START 7.30pm Conversazione**

An informal evening for all, please bring pictures and stories, and share experiences with fellow members.

**JANUARY Thursday 14th 8.00pm Matthew Jebb, Director NBG - A view from the Palm House.** A wide ranging talk about Greek education, plant evolution, the 1801 Act of Union, St. Patrick's flag, Dublin's two names, Viking agriculture, alien invasive plants and climate change.



# *The Irish Garden Plant Society*

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