



Irish Garden Plant Society

Newsletter
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Issue 154

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Copy for the April Issue **as soon as possible** please
and no later than **1st March**.

Cover: Kells Bay Gardens, Co Kerry. Photo courtesy of
Michael Herrmann. Grateful thanks to our horticultural advisors:
Stephen Butler and Brendan Sayers.

Welcome



I have to tell the truth: January is the month when I spend the least amount of time working in the garden, but I do go out and inspect each and every snowdrop. Paddy Tobin has written a delightful account of some of the very best Irish snowdrops — as he says, it is the stories and the connections which make them so special.

Also very special is having a plant named in your memory. Read the poignant story of how Charles Nelson found a completely new iris and named it for his wife.

Our dramatic cover is of the tree ferns in Kells Bay Gardens in Co Kerry. Many congratulations to the owner, Billy Alexander, on winning a Gold Medal at the 2021 Chelsea Flower show last autumn, a stellar success for Irish horticulture, and a big thank you to Billy and to the photographer Michael Herrmann for allowing us to use his pictures.

One of the great things about gardening is that, regardless of age or experience, a new year brings the prospect of a new start. Several members share their plans but, even if your horizons are more modest than theirs, why not try something new from seed? Many thanks to the generous members who supplied seed and to Debbie Bailey who has compiled a terrific list for us to choose from. Remember the SAE — stamped addressed envelope.

Finally, while my name goes on this page, can I say a big thank you to Stephen Butler, Mary Davies and Brendan Sayers who provide all sorts of advice and support in our efforts to produce an interesting and high quality Newsletter. I hope you enjoy the issue. Please take a moment to let me have your views maeve.bell@btopenworld.com. I'd love to hear from you.

Maeve Bell
Editor

A Note from the Chair



At time of writing in the autumn, two lectures 'Pollinators in your Garden' by Mary Montaut and 'The Artist as Gardener' by Steven Desmond have taken place via Zoom. What struck me was how the topics overlapped. The stunning photographs of pollinators demonstrated Mary as artist while the artists selected by Steven had illustrated the work of pollinators in their paintings. Zoom lectures require both planning in advance and management on the evening of the lecture, so thanks are due to the Zoom experts on the regional committees.

What have the Irish cultivars *Crocsmia* 'Rowallane Yellow', *Osteospermum* 'Lady Leitrim' and *Dianthus* 'Chomley Farren' in common? Each featured in newspaper articles about the award by Plant Heritage of National Collection Status for the Dispersed Collection of Irish Heritage Plants. Stephen Butler and Brendan Sayers wrote about this in the last Newsletter. Since then, Adela Cragg from Plant Heritage, in collaboration with Stephen, Brendan and myself, issued a press release to gardening correspondents in Ireland and the

UK. Perhaps you have read the articles which followed in Irish newspapers — John Manley (*Irish News*) and Fionnuala Fallon (*Irish Times*)? English magazines noted the Society's achievement too, *County Life*, and articles are due in *The Garden* and *Plant Heritage*. The press release was also noted by two horticultural trade publications *Horticulture Week* and *Growtrade*. ie. The press release issued by Plant Heritage is on the IGPS website.

Having an interest in both Irish Heritage Plants (IHPs) and plants for general landscape use, I keep an eye out for IHPs in landscape schemes. Some examples come to mind, an Irish yew, *Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata' in a local churchyard, *Mahonia* 'Charity' lining LUAS tram tracks and *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Silver Queen' enclosing an outdoor restaurant. If you have examples of IHPs which have 'leapt the fence' from the confines of a garden to grace the wider landscape, let us know. Similarly, suggestions for lectures and garden visits are always welcome. The Society's contact details are printed on the back page of this Newsletter.

Mary Forrester
Chairman

Irish Snowdrops

by Paddy Tobin

For this article I have selected what might be called 'the great and the good' of Irish snowdrops — those which are well-established, deeply loved and appreciated, and reasonably readily available. I am not trying to present a comprehensive listing of Irish snowdrops, simply a selection of some favourites.

When first introduced in 1884, and being considered an autumn-flowering form of the common snowdrop, *Galanthus* 'Rachelae' was a sensation. The bulbs I now grow under that name came to me from the garden of the late Primrose Warburg, through the kindness of two great snowdrop enthusiasts. However, its history and connections with Sir John Pentland Mahaffy, Provost of Trinity College, and Frederick Burbidge, Director of the Trinity College Botanic Garden, make a potful of them a treasure in my eyes. It was subsequently realised that it was a new species, *Galanthus reginae olgae*.



G. 'Rachel Mahaffy'

The late Mrs Cicely Hall and now her son Robin, of Primrose Hill in Lucan, Co Dublin, have played a pivotal role in Irish snowdrops. Snowdrops have always been given free rein in the ample grounds of Primrose Hill and nature, plus careful selection, led to many of what Mrs Hall would call 'Primrose Hill Specials' although she never applied the name to any particular snowdrop; it was simply her turn of phrase to describe a good seedling. The snowdrop bearing Mrs Hall's name, G. 'Cicely Hall', is certainly the very best of the Irish snowdrops, a strong-growing erect plant whose large flower has fully green inner segments of a deep rich colour.



G. 'Cicely Hall'



G. 'Ruby Baker'

David and Ruby Baker were regular visitors to Primrose Hill and when Ruby admired an especially attractive seedling Robin named it G. 'Ruby Baker' for her. It would appear to be a hybrid between *G. elwesii* x *gracilis* with an attractive rounded flower shape, a strong green basal mark to the inner segments and small marks on the nicely flared apices. David and Ruby Baker have introduced a number of excellent Irish cultivars. The late Dr Keith Lamb had spotted an attractive snowdrop in flower before Christmas, when visiting the old home of Sir George and Lady Mahon in Castlegar, Co Galway; it caught the eye of David and Ruby when they visited Keith and they brought bulbs back to the UK where enthusiasts considered it worth naming, particularly so as it flowers reliably in early December. Dr Lamb named it 'Castlegar'.

On another visit in 1995 they wandered off the beaten path and got lost somewhere in Co Kildare, stopped at what looked like the



G. 'Castlegar'

remains of a gatehouse and found several different snowdrops in the derelict garden. One was a fine tall snowdrop with green on the outer segments and this they later named G. 'Kildare'. It is a large-flowered snowdrop, noticeably upright in habit and often producing a second scape. The outer segments are long and slim with thin green lines along the veins.



G. 'Kildare'

The story of the finding of G. 'Kildare' has always brought a smile to my face as does the naming of G.

elwesii 'David Shackleton'. It was attributed to his wonderful garden, Beech Park, Clonsilla, Co Dublin and named for him, but he scoffed at the idea. Nonetheless, his name is now attached to an especially beautiful snowdrop which flowers late in the season displaying pristine clear flowers which have an olive-green marking on the inner segment as well as a distinctly olive-green ovary. The whole plant, foliage and flower stalk, has an eye-catching upright habit.

It was at Straffan House in Co Kildare that G. 'Straffan', often regarded as the champion of Irish snowdrops, arose. It is thought to be a cross between *G. plicatus* that Major Eyre Massey brought back from the Crimea and *G. nivalis* already in the garden. Each bulb produces a secondary flower a little later than the first significantly lengthening the display. As 'Straffan' has been with us such a long time and passed around so many gardens, it is no wonder that other names have been attached to it over the years; both 'Coolballintaggart' and 'The O'Mahony' are regarded as synonyms though some would regard them as separate.



G. 'Hill Poe'

G. 'Hill Poe' was first noticed in 1911 at another of the old Anglo-Irish houses, Riverston, the home of James Hill Poe in Nenagh, Co Tipperary. This double snowdrop is a little jewel, usually with five outer segments and approximately twenty inner segments, perfectly regular, so neatly and so tidily arranged. A late season flower, small in stature, it is certainly one of the finest double snowdrops, and deserves to be placed in a choice position where it can be admired.

Greenfields, also in Co Tipperary, was the home of Mr W B Purefoy and, though the garden is now long gone, it was in its day regarded as outstanding. Liam Schofield was Head Gardener at Greenfields and took a special interest in snowdrops. He sent one especially good seedling, a *G. nivalis* x *plicatus* cross with a deep-green, large heart-shaped mark on the inner segment, to the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin and to Brigadier L W H Matthias of the Giant Snowdrop Company and from there it came into general circulation as G. 'Greenfields'. I find it an especially good grower, healthy and reliable



G. 'Greenfields'

and wonderful in a good drift. The green-flushed *Galanthus* 'Emerald Isle' was found by Megan Morris at Drew's Court in Co Limerick. A gently coloured flower, it is invariably admired by all who see it. The one bulb I received in 2002 increased only slowly but has the compensation that, as a clonal variety, it comes true from seed. Rubbing salt in my wounds, in its original location it grows happily along 30 metres of a field ditch among briars, brambles and nettles, trodden on by cattle, and without the attention of any gardener.



G. 'Emerald Isle'

It has been impossible to confirm the origins of G. 'Brenda Troyle', though there is a general acceptance that it originated in Ireland and it is usually suggested that a Brenda Troyle worked at Kilmacurragh in Co Wicklow. Fairly similar in appearance to that great snowdrop, 'S. Arnott', it gives a reliable and attractive display in the garden, being of good size and bulking up well.

It pains me that this short article does not allow a more



G. 'Brenda Troyle'

comprehensive listing of Irish snowdrops for there are quite a number of other excellent cultivars: 'Green Lantern' and 'Skyward' from Altamont Gardens, 'Blaris', 'Waverley Aristocrat' and several others from Harold McBride in Lisburn, 'Pat Schofield', another of the Greenfields seedlings, 'Drummond's Giant' from the late Mrs Stasia O'Neill, 'Brocklamont Seedling' from Margaret Glynn in Ballymena, 'Lady Moore' which was given to me by a lady who received it from Lady Moore's hand, and the late Angela Jupe's 'Jupe's Belle'.

Connections! Provenance! The joy of snowdrops — and stories for another day!

Post Script: Following discussions with snowdrop experts familiar with Primrose Warburg's garden, it was decided that it would be better to rename the snowdrop which came to me as Galanthus Rachelae as Galanthus 'Rachel Mahaffy'.

[This article first appeared in the RHS Daffodil Snowdrop and Tulip Yearbook 2020.]

Iris lazica 'Sue's Memory'

by Charles Nelson

My first encounter with this late-winter/spring-flowering, hardy, evergreen iris was at The Glebe House, Lusk, County Dublin, around three decades ago. The late Wendy Walsh had what is best described as a colony growing on a pile of soil mixed with old rubble at the back of the house. She had grown it for at least two decades before showing it to me, the plant being raised from seeds her son, Michael, had collected in northeastern Turkey during a plant-hunting expedition with Dr Martyn Rix. In the late 1980s, *Iris lazica* was a very rare plant in gardens and little had ever been published about it, so we decided that Wendy would paint it and we would try to get the portrait into *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* (16: 14–19, tab. 357. 1999. See also *A Heritage of Beauty*, p. 119. 2000).

Her seedling had proliferated, as the species does, by surface-rooting, branching rhizomes and had formed a large circular colony. Propagation is easy by detaching pieces of the spreading rhizomes and allowing these to form new roots. The plant grown by Wendy was somewhat different from the clones of *Iris lazica* known in British gardens at that time — there wasn't any other clone in Ireland then — so it was given the name 'Turkish Blue' when her portrait of it was published. At the time the cultivar name was not registered, an omission recently rectified: 'Turkish Blue' has now been formally registered with the British Irish

Society and the American Iris Society (*Yearbook of the British Iris Society* 2020: 101. [Registration number 20-0415]).



Iris lazica 'Turkish Blue'

When I moved to East Anglia in 1996, I brought quite a few good Irish plants with me — 'Turkish Blue' was one of them. Taking Wendy's colony as an example, the offshoots were planted in gravel over what is essentially builders' rubble in a redundant piece of the driveway. For a decade or so the plants grew and expanded into extensive patches, but for some unknown reason, possibly shade, they dwindled to nothing. "It died on me", as we say.

Sometime later, I noticed a small plant of an iris with similar evergreen foliage appearing from under an old ceramic sink that contained alpine and dwarf bulbs. It wasn't shaded and seemed to relish the spot that it had 'chosen' beside some of Wendy's autumn-flowering snowdrops. When this plant eventually bloomed, its pale lavender-blue flowers were distinctly larger than those of 'Turkish Blue', with broader falls, as well as being paler. Like 'Turkish Blue', this clone comes into flower as early as November, producing blossoms sporadically until April. As we had never had any other clone of *Iris lazica*, nor any other winter-flowering iris (such as *I. unguicularis*, the closely related species familiar to gardeners) in the garden, the inescapable conclusion had to be that 'Turkish Blue' had produced seeds by self-pollination and one of these had germinated by the old sink. Up to then, I had never seen any fruits on 'Turkish Blue' but they would undoubtedly have been concealed among the evergreen foliage. And, like the seeds of some other plants — cyclamens and hellebores, particularly — the seeds must have been spread by the ants. (Ants are the only explanation for cyclamens sprouted from cracks between the house's walls and the surrounding concrete paths.)

The pale-flowered seedling has been thriving now for at least a decade, and offshoots have been passed on to other plantsmen so the clone has been named in memory of my wife, Dr Susan Elizabeth Nelson.



Iris lazica 'Sue's Memory'

The cultivar name 'Sue's Memory' was also registered with the British Iris Society and the American Iris Society (*Yearbook of the British Iris Society* 2020: 101; [Registration number 20-0416]; see also E. C. Nelson, *Iris lazica* 'Turkish Blue' and a seedling. *The review. The group for beardless irises* no. 13 (Autumn): 12–13. 2016).

Iris lazica is hardy in Ireland and Britain and is tolerant of lime. It thrives in a stony or gravelly soil in full sun; good drainage seems a requisite. Propagation of named clones must be done by division, but, as noted, seed can be produced although seedlings will not be identical with the parent clone.

What's for the Chop

by Doreen Wilson

Recently I really got into salvias, taking cuttings from friends' plants and buying new ones. Now I need to transfer them from the numerous pots scattered around the garden into a new bed or border. With this in mind, I took a walk around the garden recently to mark out what I thought could be cut down or moved to provide a new space.

First in my view was a handsome 20ft high *Lonicera nitida* which had accompanied us when we arrived here forty odd years ago. It was a rooted cutting that my mother had taken from the tree at the front door of my father's family home in Gloucestershire; evidently she used

to park my pram under it so that is a long time ago. The *Lonicera* has handsome, dark-green, glossy-leaved evergreen foliage and is covered with tiny cream flowers in spring which the bees find delicious. Over the years the crown has been raised and the multi-stemmed trunk is very attractive. It will have to stay.

Further along the driveway is a *Podocarpus salignus*, another evergreen tree but this time with long, narrow leaves giving it the common name of the willow-leaved podocarp. It is much sought after by flower-arranging friends and frequent trimming has kept it to a manageable 10-12 feet high. I can't



The oak

dig it out and disappoint my flower arrangers. Keeping the *Podocarpus* company in the island bed is a particularly nice *Cotinus coggygia* 'Grace'. Not as dark-leaved as the popular 'Royal Purple', this one goes through several colour changes from aubergine to mahogany before dropping its lovely large leaves in autumn.

At the gate is a majestic oak tree and, no, we don't live on a grand estate. Ours is a modest, one acre, un-designed and overplanted garden. Again my mother is to blame; she planted an acorn in December 1975 on the day that our younger son was born. The acorn came from one of the oak trees in Killynether Wood at Newtownards; I like to think that it may have been one of the trees planted originally when Killynether Castle was built about the middle of the 19th century for Lord Londonderry's land agent. Anyway, its history ensures that the tree will not be cut down so it will continue



Lomatia ferruginea flower:
photo courtesy of Stephen Butler

to be the bane of the life of various delivery drivers.

In the long border I have a *Ginkgo biloba* which took a long time to establish but now appears to be growing well, although it and the oak tree are going to compete for space in a few years time. The Ginkgo leaves are beautifully shaped, and turn a warm buttery colour in the autumn that brightens up the corner with the Leyland hedge in the background. Further along the border is a *Lomatia ferruginea* that never appeared happy in the garden and had several moves until I discovered it didn't like compost. It belongs to the group of southern hemisphere plants like *Banksia*, *Protea* and *Grevillea* for which phosphates and high levels of nitrates are like poison. And there I was, feeding it the best homemade sieved compost! It is now happy and showed its gratitude this year by putting on a display of dusky red and yellow pea-like flowers and a profusion of new fern-shaped foliage. It would be cruel to consign it to the waste bin after all this effort.

Close by the *Lomatia* is an *Emmenopterys henryi*, which I first saw in Italy, a towering tree with deciduous foliage. The young, oval-shaped leaves are a rich bronze colour as they unfold. I searched and found this one in Cornwall; it looked like a stick when it arrived in 2010 and even now it is only about six feet high. The tree in Italy was the first one to flower in Europe but not until it was 75 years old. Described by Ernest Wilson, the plant hunter,



Emmenopterys henryi in the wild : photo courtesy of Seamus O'Brien

as 'one of the most strikingly beautiful of Chinese trees' and named for the great Irish plant explorer, Augustine Henry, I don't think I will ever see it flower but it would be nice to leave it for the next occupants of this house.



Luma apiculata

Closer to the house I have a *Luma apiculata*, a South American evergreen tree first introduced by William Lobb in the middle of the nineteenth century. It has masses of fluffy white blossom in early

summer followed by shiny black berries which can be used in jam making. I tried that one year, but the effort of picking the small black fruits and the resulting tiny jar of jam ensured the event has never been repeated. Instead I decided to have a go at cloud pruning. I saw this being done when we were in Japan, and it looked easy — it may be easy, but one needs the patience of Job to go along every branch and cut out the shoots. In the end I removed quite a few of the small branches to expose the beautiful gingery coloured bark and the tree now stands out against the surrounding paler-leaved shrubs. After all that effort, the tree is definitely staying!

I'm afraid my walk around the garden didn't reveal any suitable candidates for the chop. It looks like it will have to be another severe edging of the lawn to give me a border for the salvias.

Members' Memories

by Finola Reid



I blame Charles Nelson for my becoming a member of the IGPS!

In 1981 I was working in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. One day a shadow fell across the glass door of the Geranium House, a polite knock and, to my surprise, there was the taxonomist, Dr E C Nelson. What was rare was wonderful; he had never previously called to see me, so I thought: "Oh, oh, what's up!" Plant labels wrong? Plant names misspelt? I went on red alert ... however a brief chat resulted in him suggesting that I join the newly-formed Irish Garden Plant Society. Whew! He briefly outlined what the aims and ambitions of the new society were. Those who had already joined were a short but interesting list of notable plantspeople, amateur gardeners and horticulturists. I was hooked and enlisted; I am so glad that I did because I was festering in Glasnevin and joining a society of like-minded gardeners was life changing. So Charles can take great credit for opening my head and heart to a world of wonderful other gardens and new gardening friends.

I've always found the IGPS to be a friendly bunch, everybody no matter if they had just a window box or a substantial acreage was welcomed. It didn't matter as long as you were keen and interested and prepared to muck in. Having members from all corners of Ireland meant we chatted and bonded and shared plants and wisdom and anecdotes. I learned how to sip gin and tonic and discuss trilliums at the same time! I've never looked back.

On reflection the IGPS has been a huge influence on me in many ways. I progressed to being a committee member, then fixtures secretary, then chairman (or chairperson if you wish) for two stints 1990-1992 and 1992-1994, if my memory serves me right. It all contributed to an ever-widening circle of friends and colleagues.

In 1989 I attended the Chelsea Flower Show and I distinctly remember standing in front of the NCCPG (now Plant Heritage) exhibit and taking it all in. Then, without as much as a sip of Pimm's in my system, I thought: 'We could do this!' And we did. It was utter madness but after a chat with my friend Mary Nash of Bord Failte we hatched a plan. The 'we' became a small dedicated group of fellow IGPS members as well as friends who, over the next ten months, succeeded in putting together an exhibit, 'Exotics in Ireland', in time for the 1990 Chelsea Flower Show.



We trawled for plants from members from the four corners of the island, the staging and graphics we designed ourselves, and a small team volunteered to travel to Chelsea and set up and 'man' the stand. We won a Lindley Silver Medal, a first for Ireland. Boys oh boys! Two years later we tried again and won a Flora Silver Gilt Medal and a third attempt in 1995 won another Silver Gilt. We paved the way for others to follow and indeed a few years later the National Botanic Gardens/IGPS team won a Silver Gilt Medal for a brilliant exhibit on Augustine Henry.

For the first number of years the programme of evening lectures, garden visits, annual plant sales, and annual garden luncheons were all organised through a single committee and were all well attended. As membership grew, so did the need and demand for regional committees and now the IGPS is organised by several committees, each providing a schedule of lectures and events tailored to its regional membership.

In my time on the committee we strove to find lecturers and topics that stretched the brains of our members and fostered a good knowledge of plantsmanship with taxonomy, botany, plant geography and research thrown in. We were lectured by notable and brilliant experts on diverse and sometimes obscure topics. The feeling was that other garden societies and clubs catered well for beginners or novice gardeners and our activities should not interfere with theirs. I hope this approach still draws in new blood and replenishes the Society as the first wave of members or 'founding members' becomes old and crabby — or indeed venerable specimens.



Rosa 'Souvenir de St Anne's'
propagated by Neil Murray: photo
courtesy of Peter Beales Roses

To go back to 1981 for a moment, we should remember that the IGPS was formed out of the need "...to assist in the conservation of garden plants, especially those bred and raised in Ireland" and to take "...an interest in and raise awareness of other aspects of the preservation of Ireland's garden heritage".

Initiatives undertaken by members and committees have certainly played a vital role in sourcing, finding, propagating and distributing cultivars and varieties of 'Irish' garden plants. The early years of the annual plant sales always had generous donations of old varieties from members' gardens. Nurserymen members snapped these up and were responsible for propagating and selling the ones previously considered lost to cultivation. It's a pleasure to find Irish garden plants so readily available and enjoyed by all who grow them. The Society has achieved great success in all its endeavours; its consistently good newsletters, the excellent journal *Moorea* and the work put in by individual members and successive committees since 1981.

In 1982 when the Society published Volume 1 of its journal *Moorea*, the opening paragraph by Charles Nelson explained the title.



Goosie, a feature of the Chelsea exhibit, now residing in the Jeffrey's garden, Howth: photo courtesy of David and Janet Jeffrey

The Moore family brought honour and glory to the botanic gardens at Glasnevin and enriched our gardens in their several and diverse ways. I would add the contribution Charles himself has made to horticulture in Ireland by his tireless research and writings on Irish plants and gardens, their owners and history. The IGPS is more than a gardening club; it is an island-wide institution which has been and should continue to be a major influence in the conservation and preservation of our heritage plants and gardens. We must continue to fly the flag for Irish horticulture.

I've gone through all 17 volumes of *Moorea* many times and again this week and to my delight its articles are still as fresh and relevant as ever. *Moorea* and forty years of newsletters is as good an archive of Irish gardens as anybody would want. I look forward to another few decades of IGPS activities. Well done everybody!

In Praise of Pots

Nicola and Peter Milligan

Some people may think that putting plants in pots is indicative of not having a garden, that perhaps you are restricted to a patio, a balcony, or even a window box. We are lucky in our current garden as we have sufficient space to enable us to have a small orchard, a side garden divided into two sections one of which is fenced and used as a potager, a gravelled terrace with beds, and a large front lawn bordered with mature trees and rhododendrons. Given the luxury of this space, why would we bother with pots?

At some point in the mid 20th century, the house was modified and the surrounding higher ground excavated resulting in retaining walls and several sets of steps. The entrance to the house lies down steps from the forecourt and has a patio area immediately outside the door. Rather than leave this empty, we have made good use of this space by introducing a number of pots and some old pot stands to act as the base for a changing display.



Galanthus 'Remember, Remember'

During the autumn the display will begin with pots of some of the early snowdrops, e.g. *Galanthus elwesii* 'Donald Sims Early', 'Rainbow Farm Early', and 'Remember, Remember'. These will be followed in December with pots of *Galanthus* 'Broadleigh Gardens', *G. elwesii* 'Santa Claus', and *G. plicatus* 'Three Ships'. In January and February we will bring in more snowdrops and add some favourite crocus to lighten the scene such as *Crocus mathewii* 'Dream Dancer', *C. tournefortii*, and *C. 'Silver Linings'*. Early daffodils such as the very well known *Narcissus* 'February Gold', 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation', and 'Tête-à-tête' are another obvious choice at this time of year. All of these are available from most garden centres and nurseries for you to choose your own favourites; we prefer the smaller varieties.



Crocus tournefortii

As the year progresses we bring down pots of trilliums including *Trillium grandiflorum*, *T. grandiflorum* 'Flore Pleno' (Bloom's Form) and

T. grandiflorum f. *roseum*. Having plants from one 'family' but with differing flowering forms adds a real note of interest. We add pots of epimedium, for example *Epimedium* 'Amber Queen', *E. pinnatum* subsp. *colchicum*, and *E. versicolor* 'Sulphurea' and will enhance the colour with some containers of our favourite roscoeas: *Roscoeas auriculata*, *R. cautleyoides* 'Kew Beauty', and *R. 'Wisley Amethyst'*.



Epimedium pinnatum subsp. *colchicum*

A real favourite are the hostas. There are so many of these it can be difficult to choose: the 'dinkies' as we call them (the miniatures such as the Mouse series) look well and of course larger species and forms can be used.

Summer colour is available with any of the readily available bedding plants — I like stocks for their scent but again chose your own favourites. Autumn colour is added to the

patio by pots of nerines including favourites such as *N. bowdenii* 'Castlewellan', 'Mount Stewart' and 'Fenwicks Variety' and some hesperantha including *Hesperantha coccinea* 'Ballyrogan Giant' and 'Mrs Hegarty'.

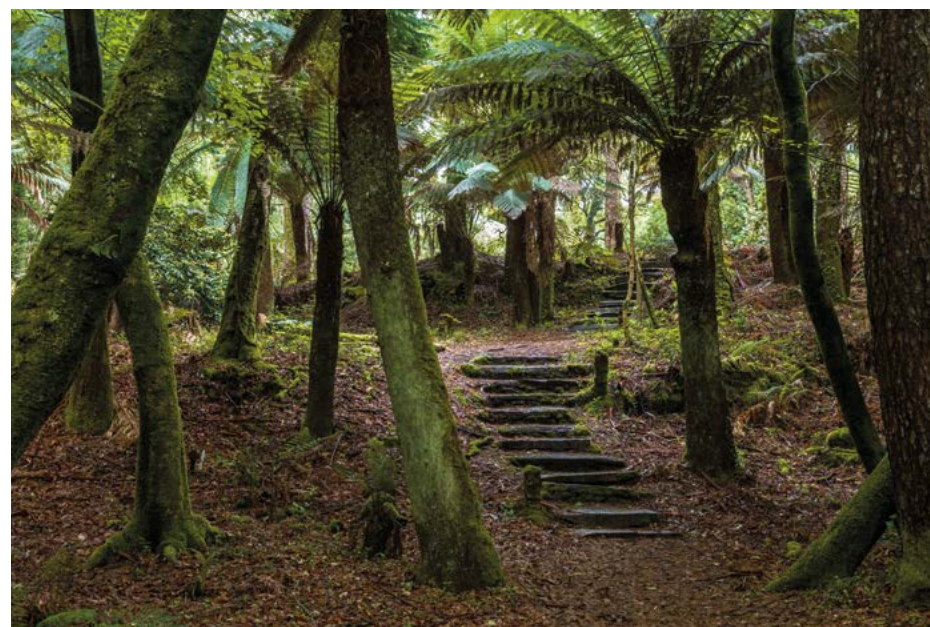
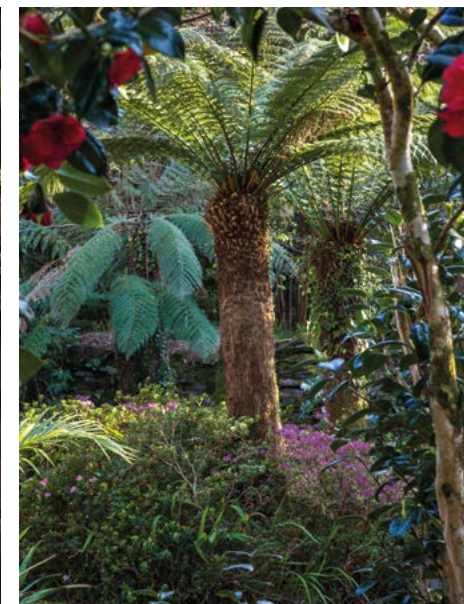
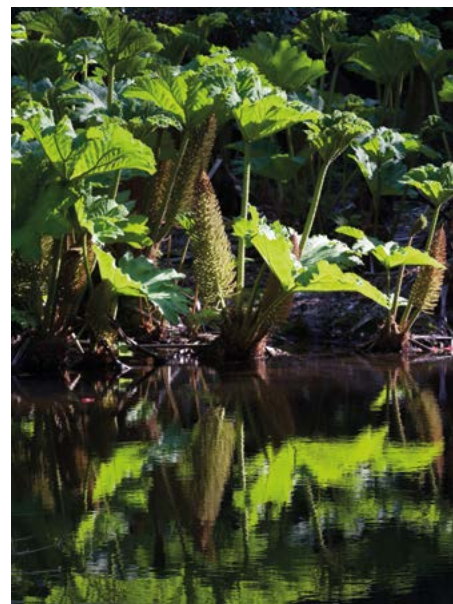
In the medium-term we plan to make use of a north-facing retaining wall by placing a paved edging and pots. It's long been a dream to be able to look directly into the nodding flowers of the increasingly beautiful array of hellebores now on offer, and this seems the perfect solution.

There are lots of Irish cultivars that will do well in pots including as mentioned above some of the snowdrops, nerines, agapanthus, and crocsmia. We hope this example of what we do to add a touch of colour to our patio will encourage you to do the same. So if you have not tried gardening with pots, go out buy a few plants or lift some divisions from your garden and get potting!



Trillium 'Snowbunting', an unusual multi-petalled form

Photos of Kells Bay Gardens, County Kerry



By kind permission of owner Billy Alexander and photographer Michael Herrmann

Grow an Irish Plant

by Brendan Sayers and Paddy Tobin



Bergenia purpurascens 'Irish Crimson'

Bergenia purpurascens 'Irish Crimson' is an exceptionally attractive plant in winter when its foliage turns an intense rich red with the onset of the first frosts while its spring pink/ruby red flowers above neat, narrow and upright foliage give another display of exquisite beauty. Given its small stature, it is best enjoyed in a position to the front of the border.

There is a lack of clarity regarding the origins of this plant but it is certain that it was growing in the gardens of the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, and in many of the older Dublin gardens. Helen Dillon distributed it generously; indeed, it was known for some time as *Bergenia* 'Helen Dillon' or as *Bergenia* Helen Dillon form. She passed material to Beth Chatto and it gained wider and well-deserved distribution

through her nursery in Essex. The Royal Horticultural Society has recognised its superb quality as a garden plant with its Award of Garden Merit. **PT**

Ruscus aculeatus 'John Redmond'



Ruscus aculeatus is notable as having cladodes rather than leaves. The cladodes are a spine tipped, flattened section of stem and it is

on these cladodes that the flowers appear. Although minute, the resulting fruit of the fertilised female flowers reveals their presence. Having escaped from gardens, it occurs in various places across the island but has been present for more than two centuries in the Muckross area of Killarney, Co Kerry. It is more often used in gardens for its ability to survive in areas with low light levels or as a plant to deter man or animal.

The species grows to a little more than a half metre tall but the cultivar of Irish origin is a more compact plant moving it from the category of 'deterrent' to 'sharp but worth it'. As a hermaphrodite form of the species, *Ruscus aculeatus* 'John Redmond' reliably produces berries which are long lasting and bright red.

In Newsletter No 111, January 2009, correcting the entry for the cultivar's origin in *A Heritage of Beauty*, the late Ed Bowden tells the story of how John Redmond came across the cultivar in St. Joseph's Church, Berkley Road in Dublin, its propagation and the application for Plant Breeders' Rights by Laddie de Jong of Marian Nurseries, and stated that the original plant could still be seen in the grounds of the church. I checked recently and it is still there. The Royal Horticultural Society was so impressed by its performance that they awarded it an AGM. **BS**

Primula 'Lady Greer'



Primula 'Lady Greer' is a plant that has graced our gardens for around 100 years. This beautiful, mid-spring bloomer originated at Mrs Johnson's garden in Kinlough, Co Leitrim some time in the early 1900s and was named in honour of Lady Olivia Greer of Curragh Grange, Co Kildare.

My garden is neither landscaped nor manicured but nonetheless it has some very fine and aristocratic residents. *P.* 'Lady Greer' presently forms a block 1m by 0.5m in an old potato bed. The flower stems grow to 30cm in sun and even taller in shade. The lightly corrugated, crimped-edged foliage is the support for the stems with whorls of up to 30 creamy, pink-tinged flowers. The pink-tinge is elusive, fading

as the flowers age, and is possibly intensified by cold nights. It is a delight for your garden; all it needs are good soil, ample sun and shade and a re-homing every few years.

Charles Nelson, in his encyclopaedia of plants with Irish origins and connections, informs us that Cecil Monson records *P. 'Lady Greer'* as an excellent candidate for breeding purpose. When I look at *P. 'Carrigdale'*, I wonder if our great primrose breeder, Joe Kennedy, had *P. 'Lady Greer'* in the breeding line?
BS

***Garrya × issaquahensis* 'Glasnevin Wine'**

Garrya × issaquahensis, a cross between *G. elliptica* and *G. fremontii*, is an evergreen shrub with wavy-edged, leathery foliage which makes a very pleasant contribution to the late-winter/early spring garden when both the tassels and young growth are flushed an attractive wine colour. It will grow to three metres in height



and width and looks best when given room so that the tassels can be fully enjoyed.

The late Lord Talbot of Malahide Castle received seed from this *Garrya* hybrid from the University of Washington Arboretum, Seattle, and he grew on 26 hybrid seedlings. He named one of these *G. × issaquahensis* 'Pat Ballard' as the seed had originated in the garden of Mrs Page Ballard, Issaquah, in Washington State, USA. In the 1980s Charles Nelson had a female plant of *G. × issaquahensis* in his garden in Celbridge which did not produce fruit until he fertilized it using catkins from a plant of 'Pat Ballard' which was growing at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. One of the resulting seedlings was more distinctly flushed red than 'Pat Ballard' and was named 'Glasnevin Wine'. **PT**

New Year, New Beginnings

with Tim Guilbride, Roz & Victor Henry, Christine Linehan, Rosemary Maye and John Peacocke

Christine Linehan from Mallow in Co Cork is going to tie up some loose ends.



We need to concentrate on completing what we have already started in previous years so the main focus will be on finishing re-roofing a large barn with old salvaged slates; it's a rather tedious job as every single slate needs to be sized and cut before nailing it down with copper nails. Then we need to complete a cobble path between the barn and the front lawn which leads to a soon-to-be patio area which will overlook our little valley.

There are two trees in our garden whose lives are hanging by a thread. A fruiting quince tree has suffered severe bouts of powdery mildew during the year, consequently losing all its leaves and looking rather miserable for most of the time. It is a classic case of the wrong plant in the wrong place and unfortunately this can't be corrected. A more sunny and ventilated area is definitely to be sought if we ever wanted to grow

a quince again. The other tree that is getting the chop is an apple tree that grew from a core thrown into a pile of rubble over 15 years ago. Five individual stems rose from the pile, intertwining and growing out of control. Without any chance of getting on top of the pruning regime, it produced few flowers and no fruit in recent years. The successors are already lining up for the vacant spaces!

Roz and Victor Henry who garden in Newtownards, Co Down have the environment on their minds.



Climate change must surely provoke some thoughts amongst us gardeners. Firstly a 're-wilding' of the garden, where the winter tidy-up might be reconsidered; this would be particularly beneficial in creating habitats and food sources for our feathered friends and insects and, let's be honest, save ourselves some

time and effort. Composting as much as possible of our garden waste will reduce the amount of commercial products which otherwise might be required for mulches and potting up. The heaps will also create great homes for all sorts of critters and maybe a hedgehog or two if we are lucky.

We have tried over the years to grow a wide range of species, as well as Irish cultivars of course, with the desire not only to create an interesting garden but to test the types of exotic material which can be grown in this area. Our birds go wild for cordyline seed.

In keeping with our policy of having an annual garden project, we have decided that the pond would be a suitable candidate for a rehash. Due to the scale of the work and the fact that I have already fallen in several times, we reckon that a professional approach is called for this time. We seem to have lost our frog population and the newt numbers have exploded (are they eating the spawn?) but as a protected species they have to stay.

“Let’s get winter done” as someone we know might say, and start enjoying the garden again.

Rosemary Maye, The Insomniac Gardener, is going to reorganize her collection of dahlias.



I love dahlias and over the years have collected quite a few varieties. Some have flowers the size of dinner plates and others are more like tiny pom-poms. They also come in almost every colour of the rainbow from vibrant pinks and reds to cooler shades of yellow and whites. I noticed this year that the ones I planted in the ground performed so much better than those in pots and it gave me an idea. Some old veg beds near the meadow have seen better days and take a lot of work to keep weed free so I’ve decided to make it a dahlia patch instead. It’s ideal as it’s in full sun and on the top of a terrace so they’ll have good drainage too, all important when planting dahlias. It’s going to double up as a tulip bed with mostly Darwin Hybrids planted in the hope that they’ll persist in the ground for a few years.

After over-wintering the tubers in boxes of sawdust, I’ll pot up the dahlias in early spring and allow them to put on some nice top growth

before planting out in the gaps I’ve left in between the tulips. My cunning plan is for the lush foliage of the dahlias to hide the dying leaves of the tulips which I leave as long as possible to feed the bulb for the following year. I’ll plant them out in my new patch by early May once all the tulips have begun to fade and there’s no risk of a late frost.

Tim Guilbride is planning an Italian ambiance for Co Roscommon.



Rush Hill will meet 2022 running, as we start planting up a new Italian-ish garden with bare-root trees. The oval lawn at its centre will be framed by four groups of columnar conifers — Irish yews, various junipers, *Cupressus sempervirens* ‘Gracilis’ and the rare *C. austrotibetica*, plus *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* ‘Wisselii’ to play safe. The vista to the fields will be framed by banks of *Viburnum rhytidophyllum* and hydrangeas such as *Hydrangea aspera* Villosa Group — too big for most gardens but ideal here — with a few deodar cedars,

Athrotaxis cupressoides and *Sciadopitys verticillata* to draw the eye.

Usually I would leave planting until the very end of February, but already growers’ stocks seem to be dwindling fast, so the Christmas break will be a short one this year! It will feel strange planting the sort of ‘exotic’ cultivars I have always avoided, but the garden needs a group of strong verticals in that area to disguise an electric pole, which they tell me cannot be moved. With luck, bearing in mind that the oval lawn was conceived as a location for cocktail parties, no-one will notice the pole after the first martini.

If the builders ever finish the restoration of the stable block, my other project for 2022 is a cutting garden. Designed with raised beds in a geometric pattern, each with a different type of soil, and centred on an obelisk for sweet-peas, it promises a constant supply of beautiful flowers for the house. However, although the builders worked solidly through September, they have been AWOL ever since — par for the course with heritage builders — so I won’t start ordering seeds quite yet!

John Peacocke from Downpatrick plans to build a new home for alpine.



We have had work done in our rear garden in order to level a dangerously sloping lawn. This has resulted in a crescent-shaped bed at waist height, backed by a rendered retaining wall about three feet high. It is aligned north to south; facing the house, the morning sun takes a while to come around so it would seem to be an opportunity for beginner's alpine. We will certainly have to do something with it before next spring, because it is right in front of our hall door and it really is a bit of an eyesore.

We would not wish to have a plum pudding-type of rockery with odd shaped stones sticking out at random but we have a mountain of cracked and broken clay pots which could be used at the sunlit end and maybe fractured slate at the cooler end.

Agnes has been successful in growing small alpine in troughs and clay pots, and some of the more vigorous ones already need to be relocated; they include hepaticas, *Cyclamen cilicium*, *Myrteola nummularia*, and *Anthyllis hermanniae*.

I would like to be able to grow some plants with an Irish pedigree and would cherish donations of any unwanted seedlings or sprigs which might come my way. After all, there is about 50 square feet of ground to cover.

Will be Missed

We regret to report the death of George Seastopulo, a long-standing member of the Society, noted alpine gardener, and much loved companion and husband of our Honorary Member, Rose. In addition to his contribution to the academic life of Trinity College, Dublin, George contributed to many horticultural groups and was always generous with his time and advice to students, colleagues and gardeners, both amateur and professional.

Anisodonteia 'El Rayo'

by Carmel Duignan

It was late summer in 2011 when Helen Dillon and I took the ferry to Holyhead on our usual annual trawl of some good English plant nurseries. These were pre-Brexit times when it was permissible to import plants from Britain and its specialist nurseries were full of goodies. It was in the beautiful Vale of Evesham at Cotswold Garden Flowers — an establishment owned and run by a great plantsman called Bob Brown — that I came across a pink mallow called *Anisodonteia* 'El Rayo' although the plant is now usually called 'El Rayo'.

Whatever about confusion over its name, this is a wonderful plant. It is a South African mallow that grows to several metres high and wide and it carries small, mallow-like pink flowers with a dark red centre all year long. The soft mid-green leaves are

lobed and evergreen. The flowers are attractive to bees and other pollinators. It can be propagated easily from semi-ripe cuttings. It does not seem to be fussy about soil type although its origins would suggest that it prefers well-drained spots. It is quite hardy; I have given it to friends who garden in much colder gardens than mine and it has thrived. I find that this paragon of a plant only has one fault. It is shallow rooted and will not appreciate a windy position. I first planted it in a fairly exposed border and found that it had trouble getting through some rough winds so I moved it to a bed next to a sheltered wall.

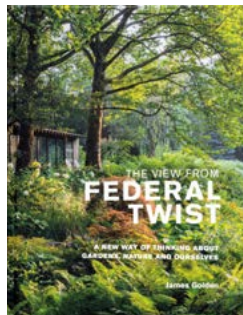
Some ten years later I still grow this same plant. It has been in flower every single day of those ten years. It flowers on Christmas Day and on Midsummer Day. It is remarkable.



Anisodonteia 'El Rayo'

Worth a Read

by Paddy Tobin



The View from Federal Twist: A New Way of Thinking about Gardens, Nature and Ourselves
by James Golden

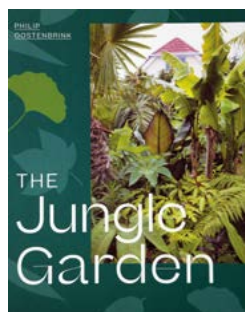
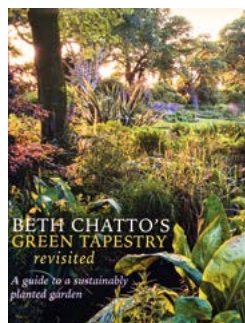
Filbert Press, £40, ISBN: 978-1-9997345-7-2

Federal Twist, a house and garden in a clearing in the woods, is, in a simple sense, a classic, archetypal American garden but James Golden has lifted the classic to levels not previously imagined and has shown the way forward for gardeners who wish to create an ecological garden in tune with the environment. We have a modern garden classic!

Beth Chatto's Green Tapestry Revisited
by Beth Chatto, David Ward and Asa Gregers-Warg

Berry & Co, London, £30, ISBN: 978-1-9999631-6-3

Now, over thirty years since *Green Tapestry* was first published, we have an updated and revised edition with additional material from David Ward and Asa Gregers-Warg, who both worked for many years with Beth Chatto and continue to work in the gardens today. It has been a pleasure to read again Beth Chatto's original words and to be brought back to memories of visiting her gardens and of being in a very special place, a garden which felt so perfectly natural, the work of a great gardening artist and plantsperson.



The Jungle Garden
by Philip Oosterbrink

Filbert Press, £25, ISBN: 978-1-9997345 -6-5

The aim of the book is to convince us of the value of foliage in the garden and of the superbly pleasing and aesthetic results we can achieve and it does that very effectively; it is superbly presented with excellent photography by Sarah Cuttle.



Ferns for a Cool Temperate Climate
by Martin Rickard

The Crowood Press, £25, ISBN: 978-1-78500-890-0

The book has that very pleasant blend of presenting comprehensive information and guidance in a perfectly accessible and readable style. There is an excellent introduction and overview, advice on selecting the plant which most suits the conditions of your garden, and a listing of some two to three hundred with recommendations of those most likely to succeed. The enthusiast will not be disappointed while the beginner will be encouraged. Few authors fuse these difficult to accommodate requirements quite so successfully as Martin Rickard does in *Ferns for a Cool Temperate Climate*.

The Star Nosed Mole: An Anthology of Scented Garden Writing
by Isabel Bannerman

Pimpernel Press, £20, ISBN: 978-1-910258-45-3

Scent Magic was a triumph and this latest publication by Isabel Bannerman is a further gem of horticultural literature, an exquisite collection of quotations from great writers organised by month. Each is introduced with a passage from the author and all are beautifully illustrated by her unique plant photographs. Fragrance was more obvious previously than nowadays, it has been masked by the chemistry of modern life. This book will surely alert the reader to what we have lost and the value of what remains.



Pure Style in the Garden: Creating an Outdoor Haven
by Jane Cumberbatch

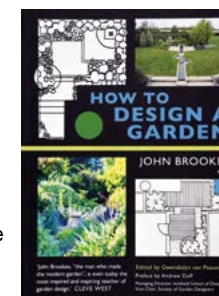
Pimpernel Press Ltd, £20, ISBN: 978-1-910258-06-4

This book is one of attitude, approach and mindset rather than a how-to gardening book. In one sense it lacks content and in another it deals with the most important content of all, that of our attitude and approach to our gardens, guiding us to be more relaxed and to enjoy our gardening more. That's the real style!

How to Design a Garden
by John Brookes, edited by Gwendolyn van Paasschen

Pimpernel Press, £20, ISBN: 978-1-901258-91-0

This volume is a reminder of the enduring relevance of John Brookes's work and design philosophy and of the underlying thinking and issues that formed it. He was a genius and colossus of garden design, and in this volume Gwendolyn van Paasschen has edited a collection of his papers and presents perhaps the best synopsis of his work. An enjoyable and informative read.



Meet the Committee

**Áine-Máire Ní Mhurchú —
Honorary Secretary**



I was born into a farming family in north County Dublin and now live and garden with my family in Meath, close to the beautiful Hill of Tara. With a working background in Architectural Technology, Landscape Design and Project Management, I have a great love and respect for our natural environment and wild flowers. I joined the IGPS in 2015 and really enjoy the emphasis on conservation and being able to share in the wealth of knowledge of so many passionate plant experts. Many of the plants in my garden are a testament to the generosity of gardening friends; my favourite are snowdrops and primroses, in particular those with an Irish connection, and I also collect aconitiums.

I love to forage so there is always something brewing, bubbling or fermenting in my kitchen. When I'm not working or gardening, I love to travel around the country exploring our magical Irish landscape.

**Caroline Maher —
Committee member**



I am married to Sean, have two grown-up daughters and a grandson, and live in Lucan where we are surrounded by beautiful parks. I have worked in Dublin City Council since I left school and have moved around various departments, the most recent being the Parks Department, which has just increased my passion for gardening.

I took a garden design course and spent many hours researching and completing assignments before realising it is the other side of gardening I really like — the sort where I get my hands dirty. What I love most about gardening is watching the growth from seedlings and cuttings to plants and trees. I like unusual foliage, such as *Tetrapanax*, and, fascinated by how different they all can be, have started a little collection of Japanese maples.

I worked with the late Ed Bowden, who was a long-standing and enthusiastic member of the IGPS, and it was he who encouraged me to join the IGPS.

Aconitum 'Newry Blue'

Many of us will have had the experience of asking the name of a plant and, when told, we exclaim: "But mine doesn't look like that!" The problem has been reported in this Newsletter over the years, and is a perennial issue for those involved in the conservation of heritage plants. Over time and all in good faith, a plant may have been distributed with an incorrect name for all sorts of reasons. However Irish cultivars found to be 'not fitting the original description' is an issue we need to publicise and address to ensure we are distributing only correctly identified cultivars.



Autumn-flowering aconite;
photo courtesy of Maeve Bell

Some time ago it became apparent that there were considerable differences in plants labeled *Aconitum* 'Newry Blue' with one which was circulating at Northern region plant sales being markedly different from those seen at sales

in the Dublin area. The autumn-flowering Northern plant has turned out to be a cultivar with *Aconitum carmichaelii* in its parentage. The correct *Aconitum* 'Newry Blue' is a cultivar with *Aconitum napellus* and *Aconitum variegatum* in its parentage. An error but all in good faith. A small number of aconites with apparently good credentials have been sourced from gardens close to the site of the former Daisy Hill nursery and from key Dublin gardens and a trial is underway. Further information about the search for the genuine plant and the result of the trial will be reported at a later date.

BS & MB



An aconite in the trials: photo courtesy of Brendan Sayers

Society Snippets

Welcome developments at Kilmacurragh

Built in 1697 and one of the few Queen Anne-style structures remaining on the island of Ireland, Kilmacurragh House in Co Wicklow has been a shell since devastating fires in the 1970s and 1980s. Recently the Minister of State announced a project to conserve and preserve the house. The first phase will weather-proof the building by re-roofing the structure, stabilizing the walls and restoring the doors and windows.

Only the Lonely

The plant sometimes termed 'the loneliest plant in the world' — *Encephalartos woodii* — has been growing at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin for more than 100 years. Wood's cycad, to give its common name, has been found just once in the wild in South Africa. There were only male plants so reproduction can only be by offsets of mature plants. Now extinct in the wild, about 500 survive in gardens and greenhouses around the world.

Cycads produce cones rather than flowers. The plant at Glasnevin has been of particular interest as there is no record of it ever producing cones leading to some speculation about its gender. However, in September, the plant finally produced cones and revealed itself as a male plant. The coning may be attributable to the Glasshouse team's decision to apply a wood ash dressing to the root system in March 2021.



Encephalartos woodii cone: photo courtesy of Brendan Sayers

Developments at Mount Congreve Gardens

Mount Congreve house and gardens closed last September for major developments including the construction of a visitor centre, provision of family-friendly facilities, the repair of the historic greenhouse, and improved access to the grounds and pathways. It is due to reopen this coming summer.

National Gardens Scheme Northern Ireland

Gardeners will be delighted to learn that a new organization has been set up in Northern Ireland to co-ordinate an open gardens scheme affiliated to the well-known National Gardens Scheme, publishers of *The Yellow Book*. Full details of the 20 or so gardens which will open during the year are included in the 2022 *Yellow Book* and will be found online.

Dates for your Diary

While every effort will be made to hold in-person events, such events are subject to prevailing COVID restrictions. At the time of going to press, the lectures (not visits) below will take place via Zoom. Please keep an eye on the IGPS website, inserts in the Newsletter or emails from the IGPS for notification of any changes.

Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 8pm Exploring Northern Vietnam and the Blarney Vietnamese Woodland with Adam Whitbourn

There is a huge diversity of plants in the mountains of North Vietnam, many of which are endangered. Because the plants at Blarney have been collected mainly high in the mountains, the plants are generally hardy in Irish conditions. *Aesculus wangii* produces impressively large 'conkers' and is now growing happily alongside varieties of *Shefflera* and many other species including acers, oak and magnolia. The Vietnamese woodland in Blarney is an ex-situ conservation project developed from the wild-collected seed.

Adam Whitbourn trained at Askam Bryan College in York. He joined the team at Blarney in 2005 and became the Head Gardener in 2009. Adam has been on expeditions to Northern Vietnam four times in the past 10 years, the last in 2019. He has been an IGPS member for many years.

Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 8pm Snowdrops – White Gold with Hester Forde



Hester will cover how best to incorporate snowdrops into your winter/spring garden and will suggest some great plant combinations. Her talk will include a brief background to snowdrops, the different species, some of the best cultivars, and tips for growing feeding and propagating them.

Hester Forde gardens near Cork. She is a plantsperson, lecturer and garden writer who is well known for her part in organising the Annual Snowdrop Gala held each February in Co Carlow.

Tuesday 1 March at 8pm
Five Great Northern Irish Gardens
— Mount Stewart, Rostrevor,
Rowallane, Castlewella and Brook
Hall — past and present
 with Neil Porteous



The story of great Irish gardens is often one of highs and lows, the flourishing of a vision coupled with the money to make it happen sometimes followed by decay or almost total erasure. Find out more about Mount Stewart, often acclaimed as one of the best gardens in Britain and Ireland, the significance of Rostrevor now sadly lost, and the exciting new developments planned for both Castlewella and Brook Hall in Derry.

Neil Porteous is a plantsman and historic gardens consultant. He was formerly the National Trust's Gardens Advisor and Head Gardener at Mount Stewart. Recently he has been advising on the restoration of Annes Grove garden in Co Cork.

Tuesday 5th April at 8pm
Logan Botanic Garden, Scotland
 with Richard Baines



Logan Botanic Garden, situated on the Mull of Galloway just 20 miles across the Irish Sea from Co Down, is one of four gardens comprising the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. It was voted 'Best Garden in the UK' by Which? in 2021. Richard's presentation will focus on the southern hemisphere plant collection, the garden landscape, plant acquisitions and plans to maximise any potential from climate change.

Richard Baines won a year-long scholarship to Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania before training at Kew. He was appointed Curator of Logan Botanic Garden in 2006 where he has expanded the collection from 1000 to over 2000 species. He has written a book *Plant Explorer* and is much in demand as a lecturer.

Saturday 23rd April,
 time to be confirmed.
Visit to Coolcarrigan House and
Gardens, Naas, Co Kildare

Meet our Contributors

Carmel Duignan is a gardening writer and a keen plantswoman whose Dublin garden is full of plants of all kinds from the rare and exotic to the ordinary and useful.

Nicola & Peter Milligan garden at Mount Stewart on the shores of Strangford Lough in Co Down. Both are past members of the IGPS Northern Committee.

Charles Nelson VMM FLS is one of the Society's Honorary members; he was the first Chairman (1981-1984) and editor of *Moorea* vols 1-10 (1981-1993).

Finola Reid is a historic gardens and demesne landscape consultant. Over the years she has held several positions in the Society and was Chair from 1990-1994.

Brendan Sayers is Glasshouse Foreman at the National Botanic Gardens and has spent almost 30 years working there; he specialises in orchids, both native and tropical.

Paddy Tobin, a former Chairman of the Society and Editor of the Newsletter, lives in Waterford and is in charge of the Society's website and Facebook page.

Doreen Wilson is a garden historian with an MA from London University. Now in the final year of her PhD, she has turned her attention to nineteenth century Irish landscapes.

Many thanks to **Tim Guilbride, Roz & Victor Henry, Eva-Christine Linehan, Rosemary Maye and John Peacocke** for letting us know about their plans for 2022.

Photos are by kind permission of the authors unless otherwise attributed.

While every effort is made to ensure that content is correct at the time of printing, views expressed in the articles are those of the author(s) and may not reflect those of the Society. Any factual errors will be corrected as soon as possible.



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