

Irish Garden Plant Society

Newsletter - April 2023



Issue 158

Irish Garden Plant Society

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Copy for the September issue as soon as possible please and no later than **20 July**.

Cover:

***Primula auricula* 'Old Irish Scented':** photo courtesy of Áine Máire Ní Mhurchú. Grateful thanks to our horticultural advisers: Stephen Butler and Brendan Sayers.

Welcome

For years we probably took our AGM and its unrivalled opportunity to meet each other for granted. After a three year hiatus due to Covid, we can now look forward to seeing each other again on Saturday 20th May at Ardgillan near Balbriggan, County Dublin — see page 30 for the formal notice of meeting and the programme for the day.

Read about the demesne on page 15 and join the tour to discover not only the National Collection of *Potentilla fruticosa* with Irish cultivars, *P.* 'Sophie's Blush' and 'Longacre Variety', but collections of Irish apples and Irish-bred dahlias and roses.

One of the important recent developments in the Society is a renewed attempt to meet our main aim of conserving Irish plants. There have been regular initiatives over the years but this one is different in that it is a bottom-up approach. A very limited number of genera have been chosen where there are already enthusiasts and their collections to build on. Small core groups of members have come together for each group of plants to try to locate the Irish varieties, grow them, propagate them, find homes in safe havens, and generally distribute them to secure their survival.

The following have been chosen: snowdrops, *Agapanthus*, *Bergenia*, *Crocsmia* and *Rodgersia*. See page 11 for more information about *Rodgersia*, a lush, large-leaved herbaceous plant well suited to our damp climate.

More good news is the recent propagation workshop organised by the Leinster committee and led by Rosie Maye; thanks to the plant material contributed by a number of enthusiasts up and down the country, several Irish plants should be more widely available in a few months time. And Dates for your Diary include an exciting garden visit to Inchydoney House in County Cork in July.

I am looking forward to the AGM at Ardgillan and hope to meet many of you there. In the meantime, enjoy your garden.

Maeve

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A Note from the Chair

With the advent of COVID, the words 'zoom' and 'in-person' have come to the fore as the IGPS holds its lectures and committee meetings.

There are advantages to zoom lectures: no travel, a comfortable chair from which you can be swept over the internet to gardens in Northern Ireland and Cornwall. In January, Neil Porteous spoke about some well-established gardens in Northern Ireland such as at Mount Stewart. Catherine Cutler, from the more recent Eden Project, introduced us to its large Rainforest and Mediterranean biomes or greenhouses constructed in what were once china clay pits.

The advantages of 'in-person' lectures are the sense of occasion, the immediacy of the speaker and the opportunity to chat with other members. So it was, when Seamus O'Brien took us on 'A Summer Visit to the Deserts of Ladakh'. His audience included IGPS members who had travelled with him to the high altitudes on the border of India and Tibet.

Bergenia 'Ballawley' is one of the well-known and widely available Irish Heritage Plants. *Bergenia* is one of the genera which is the subject of a new Special Interest



Group (SIG). The other genera are snowdrops, *Agapanthus*, *Rodgersia*, *Crocasmia*, with a new group on Irish Primula being formed. These groups are recent developments within the Society and bring together members who share an interest in a particular genus with a view to collecting, cultivating, propagating and, when available, sharing plants with others. If you have a keen interest in any of these genera and would be willing to help, please contact igps.heritageplants@gmail.com.

Elsewhere there are details of the AGM, it is very much an 'in person' event this year. We definitely need more volunteers. Please come forward with nominations to the National Executive Committee, for yourself or prompt other members. The regional committees also welcome members to join them in organizing events in their areas.

Mary Forrest, Chairman



Little Pots of Pleasure

by Christine Linehan

It must have been ten years ago when I spotted the most irresistible and colourful looking little flowers. At one of the Fota Plant Fairs, I instantly fell in love with the auriculas (*Primula auricula*). I knew they could be a little tricky to grow but that didn't put me off; one always likes a challenge.

Auriculas derive from the European alpine regions and belong to the genus *Primula* just like the cowslip and primrose. The auriculas that we are familiar with and grow in our gardens are actually hybrids known as Florist auriculas and are broken into four classes which include the show, alpine, double and border (or garden) types.



P. auricula 'Rondy' a green-edged show auricula.

The show auriculas are definitely seen as the aristocrats with very dense farina (powdery white substance) covering a white central ring and most times the leaf rosettes as well. Within this class, there are the self (one colour unshaded), the edged and the rather rare striped varieties. Rain can easily spoil their looks. Therefore show auriculas are preferably grown either under glass or displayed in so-called auricula theatres.

The alpine auriculas have mostly gold or cream centres with some variations due to crossbreeding. These are by no means of a lesser standard than the first group and are fancy looking in their own right.

I have a mixed auricula collection. This includes a few show, one double and several alpine varieties. I put the hardy border auriculas in pots as otherwise they would look lost in any of my large herbaceous borders. I haven't found a permanent spot for my small collection yet and so far they all share a place on a vintage shop shelf under the eaves of a weathered cottage roof. They've recently been moved from a west facing stone wall to the easterly aspect which suits them better.

Being alpine plants in origin, they prefer a cool climate and good drainage, especially during the wet winter months as root rot seems to be one of the main reasons for



P. auricula 'Prometheus' a double auricula

a premature death of these little divas. They do seem to thrive best potted up in porous terracotta pots but might need some misting during dryer summers. A little tidying of aged leaves will maintain good plant hygiene and will avoid any nasty fungal diseases setting in, particularly if grown under glass. Other threats would include the dreaded vine weevil but thankfully they don't seem to bother me here in County Cork.

Once a year, preferably in early September, I repot all auriculas into some fresh compost but I am careful not to overpot them as this may lead to the roots sitting in poorly drained, wet compost. Every auricula grower swears on their own special potting mix but as long as it is a free draining medium there are many

options. I usually use an equal mix of grit, vermiculite, leaf mould, home-made loamy compost, a handful of blood and bonemeal, and potash. At the same time as re-potting I split bigger clumps as this is the only way to reproduce an auricula true to its parent. Just remove all the old compost, tease the rooted plantlets away from the main root and pot up in 7-9 cm pots cutting off some of the fleshy and fibrous roots.

If you are charmed and wish to start your own auricula collection, look out for some Irish-bred cultivars like *P.* 'Old Irish Green', 'Old Irish Blue', 'Old Irish Scented' and 'Queen Alexandra'. I might even be tempted to obtain one myself as 'Old Irish Scented' (pictured on the front cover), which is available from Peninsula Primulas, in County Down has caught my eye.



P. auricula 'Old Irish Blue' photo supplied by Stephen Butler

Scruffy Maybe, Essential Definitely

by Mary Montaut

I expect that you will be asking why I am writing about a leggy, rather dull, type of lavender as the plant I couldn't do without. After all, there are many better forms of lavender, both for prettiness and hardiness.

First of all, I am sentimental about it because it grew outside my father's house in Mount Eliza, Victoria, Australia. When I was visiting him, I would pick a head of lavender every morning and put it into my pocket for the pleasure of its scent throughout the day. I still associate that special lavender scent with him.

Secondly, I am a beekeeper here in beautiful County Wicklow, close enough to the sea for *Lavandula dentata* to flower all year round as it did in Oz. This is of the most immense value to bees, wild or kept. My hive in the garden shows me that honey bees may come out for a snack at any

time of year, and I have seen some of my bees on the lavender at the end of December. Clearly the bees should not have been out then, but they found enough nectar in the lavender flowers to make leaving the hive worthwhile.

The photo is of a bumble bee queen, *Bombus lucorum*, taken on this lavender in December. Her need of nourishment was much more critical than of my honey bees. She too should not have been out in the depths of winter but hibernating using the minimum of energy; however a mild spell of winter weather, so common nowadays, had tempted her out and her need to top up her energy was critical. There was my scruffy old *Lavandula dentata* still flowering where she could refresh herself and survive the dark days until the spring.



Irish Rodgersia - Ripe for Conservation

by Nicola & Peter Milligan

As mentioned in both the Welcome page and the Note from the Chair, several special interest groups (SIG) have been formed with the intention of collecting, propagating, and distributing the Irish Heritage Plants (IHPs) that occur in certain genera or groups of plants.

The Rodgersia group is interested in finding all of the seventeen known Irish cultivars and bringing them back into general cultivation. To date, some ten have been located and are being propagated ready for distribution to selected safe havens.

The ten safely collected are
Rodgersia aesculifolia 'Castlewellan'
R. pinnata 'Irish Bronze'
R. pinnata 'Mount Stewart Form'
R. pinnata 'Perthshire Bronze'
R. pinnata 'Superba'
R. podophylla 'Slieve Donard Form'
R. 'Fascination'
R. pinnata x *podophylla* 'Koriata'
R. 'Panache', and *R. 'Red Dawn'*.

A number of these cultivars are listed in Charles Nelson's well-known book *A Heritage of Beauty* and some have been identified since this text was published in 2000.



Rodgersia pinnata 'Superba'

In an earlier article (Issue 153 September 2021), we wrote of the beauty of colour and form of these excellent garden plants. The foliage in all of its stages — early, mid, and mature — is wonderful offering varying tints of green, red, and bronze, and many have towering flower spikes which add height and form to the herbaceous border.



Rodgersia podophylla 'Donard'

The cultivars include some well-known favourites such as *R. aesculifolia* 'Castlewellan', named for the arboretum at Castlewellan where the plant was found; *R. pinnata* 'Irish Bronze', distributed by Alan Bloom of Bressingham Nursery after he obtained material from David Shackleton of Beech Park who in turn had obtained material from Ballawley Park; *R. pinnata* 'Perthshire Bronze' introduced by

Helen Dillon from the garden of her family home at Dunning, Perthshire; and the wonderful *R. pinnata* 'Superba', true plants of this distinct form will have been distributed from Rowallane in County Down.

Obviously, we wish to find the missing seven cultivars. Two are no longer listed in the *RHS Plant Finder*. These are *R. aesculifolia* 'Pink Form', introduced by Gary Dunlop of Ballyrogan Nurseries, Newtownards, and *R. pinnata* 'R Coey Hybrids', listed by Ballawley Park Nursery in the 1940s.

Four are listed in *The Plant Finder* but have no nursery/supplier listed, these are

R. pinnata 'Rosea' which was sold by Daisy Hill Nursery in the mid-1930s and a further three, all introduced by Gary Dunlop, as follows:

R. sambucifolia dwarf form, pink flowers,

R. sambucifolia dwarf form, white flowers, and

R. sambucifolia large form, green stem.

The remaining cultivar, *R. sambucifolia* large form, red stem, which was introduced by Gary Dunlop is listed and has a nursery/supplier mentioned but, to date, we have not been able to obtain a plant from them.

If you have any of these plants growing in your garden or you know of someone who may be growing one of them, please get in touch as we would love to be able to collect divisions of the missing Irish plants and see them back in our gardens again. Contact igps.heritageplants@gmail.com.

Making The Cottage Garden

by Lyn Brookes

We moved to Ireland in 2008 from Berkshire, England. The first thing I wanted to do was to plant a *Prunus cerasifera* to the side of the house. Everywhere I tried to put a spade in the ground I hit rock.

I sat and cried wondering what on earth we had done. Seven years ago, we were given a digger to store and use if we wished. Instead of digging drains, we had noticed that the ground around our stone cottage was starting to get more uneven so we decided to level it. As we did, hundreds of building stones were removed from the ground: the previous owner had flattened the old farm buildings.

The next phase was to terrace the steep slope from the road down to the house and build a retaining wall with some of the stones that had been dug up. The remainder were piled high at the side of the house until we could decide what to do with them.

The flat area we had created at the back of the house lent itself to becoming a tropical garden paved with local sandstone and containing three stone-edged flowerbeds and a fishpond. The central round bed has a tree fern in the middle and I have planted *lochroma*, *Woodwardia*, *Hedychium*, euphorbias and some of my collection of crocosmia — I have about 100 named varieties.



The area to the side of the house where we piled the stones is now home to circular 'flintstone' beds made with large boulders dug from the ground. There was no prospect for putting a spade in the ground; the only way was up and we filled them with the topsoil we had retained. Still more of the leftover stone has been made into a very large, sweeping flowerbed and another semi-circular bed in front of part of the stone wall. I will be filling this with the various plants I have been collecting; it will feature *Tetrapanax papyrifer* 'Steroidal Giant' and *Euonymus planipes* along with many other perennial plants.

An area I grandly call the glade will be filled with different kinds of ferns and a gravel walk up to the terrace above the tropical garden where we have placed feature rocks and excavated stones. We also have a large vegetable garden with raised beds, a 1.5 acre natural wildflower meadow and a mini woodland.

I am very keen to hear from any members in Leitrim who may be interested in opening their garden as part of a secret garden initiative. I hope to open my garden in 2023 and, if a few more people in the area were to open, we could make it more of an event. Contact me at steveandlyn@live.ie



Introducing Ardgillan

by *Dominica McKevitt*

I am a passionate gardener and have been lucky enough to have been head gardener at Ardgillan for over 30 years.

Ardgillan Castle was originally called Prospect House which is not surprising due to its spectacular views eastward to the Irish Sea, north towards the Cooley and Mourne Mountains and south to Skerries. The castle itself was built in 1738 and was owned privately until 1982 when it was bought by Dublin County Council. The Council opened the 194 acres demesne comprising woodland, open parkland, wildflower meadows and gardens as a regional park in 1985. There are approximately 40 acres of wildflower meadow and the 26-acre field on the western side of the demesne has been a wild flower meadow since 1982.

There has been a long history of gardening at Ardgillan evidenced by the walled garden being dominant on Roque's map of 1760. The gardens adjacent to the house were completely revamped in the 1860s with a formal design. When constructed in the 1850s, the glasshouse would have been considered among the finest in the country and it did not take long for the head gardener at the time, Mr Johnston, to win prizes for his black grapes at Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland (RHSI) shows.

Dublin County Council commenced restoring the gardens in the late 1980s. They began by planting roses in the flower beds in the terraced garden and also established a rose garden in what had been the Victorian formal gardens. The rose

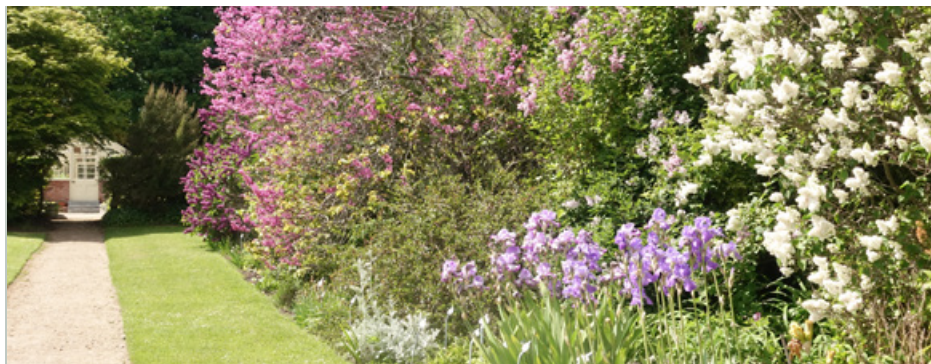


garden was originally planted with floribunda and hybrid tea roses with the garden divided by an avenue of climbing roses on poles and ropes. In the past 10 years many of the rose beds have been replanted with varieties of roses bred by Dickson in Northern Ireland. All the Irish rose varieties are being highlighted and it is hoped that most future replanting will be with Irish varieties where possible.

The restoration of the walled gardens, comprising an inner walled garden with an outer slip garden, began in 1990 with most of the planting being completed before the official opening in May 1992 by President Mary Robinson. The inner walled garden is subdivided by two freestanding walls, one of which is an alcove wall facing south for the purpose of growing fruit. Beech hedges were planted to connect the freestanding walls and create an enclosure which contains a herb garden, a vegetable garden and an Irish garden. The Irish garden is planted in a cottage style although its 'Irishness' is currently more an aspiration rather than a reality. The dream is to plant it with plants that are native Irish or found or bred by an Irish person.

The outer walled garden has a fruit garden and three other ornamental areas. The main feature of the fruit garden is the collection of 30 varieties of Irish apples, all espalier trained. The borders along the walls of this garden are planted with ornamental plants and climbers, many of which are considered tender but flourish in Ardgillan's mild climate due to its proximity to the sea.

The National Collection of *Potentilla* was first planted in 2002-2003 and propagated and replanted a decade later. It consists of 240 different varieties of *Potentilla fruticosa* including Irish, English, European and American varieties, giving the full range of colours from white, lemon and yellow to pink, orange and red. There is also a magnificent herbaceous border, under-planted with spring bulbs, on the south side of the outer wall of the courtyard; this runs parallel to a line of 21 Irish yew trees which were planted in the 1860s along the top of a ha-ha. Following restoration in 2021-2022 and their official opening last year, four splendid glasshouses are yet another major feature. The gardens are now in the care of Fingal County Council.



A Fine Jasmine with Irish Connections

by E Charles Nelson

In the early 1990s and for some decades before that, there was a jasmine on the perimeter wall of the Alpine Yard in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

Few paid much attention to it: it seemed to be just another jasmine, a rambling mass of stems that was pruned annually to keep it under control. In May 1992, however, in *The Kew Magazine* vol 9 (which for a few years was the designation of the famous *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*), an article by Peter Green illustrated with a fine watercolour by Christabel King attracted my attention and, as the Glasnevin jasmine was then in bloom, I decided to compare it with the one Christabel had painted that

originated from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. They were quite similar, but not identical.

I knew Peter Green well; we had often corresponded and occasionally met when I was visiting the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. One thing about his account struck me: he stated that the species “rarely [sets seed] in cultivation because, like most members of the genus *Jasminum*, it is self-incompatible ... and rarely is there another compatible plant within pollinating distance”, and that “*Fruit* [was] not known”. I had already noticed that the Glasnevin plant did produce fruits and, indeed, there were some self-sown seedlings around its base. I arranged for some of these



Jasmine officinale 'Crimson Bud'

seedlings to be lifted and, when next travelling to Kew, I brought a few with me and gave them to Peter. He planted one in his own garden, had another planted in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and gave several others away. In June 1995, Peter wrote to me saying that his seedling had just bloomed. He admired the “good contrast between the red exterior of the corolla and the pure white interior”. Indeed, this is the remarkable characteristic both of the clone he had described and named ‘Inverleith’ – the one Christabel had painted – and the Glasnevin jasmine.

When I left the National Botanic Gardens (NBG) at the end of 1995, I was given a young plant of the jasmine for our garden in Norfolk, and the plant thrived there. When I had to move to my present home last year, I carefully brought an offset of it with me: it readily produces ‘suckers’ from the roots that can be separated and potted on to produce new plants. I now have it confined in a large terracotta pot.



Jasminum officinale ‘Crimson Bud’ produces clusters of 4–6 (–10) flowers at the tips of side shoots, the lower two flowers on separate stems in the axils of a pair of leaves, but sometimes these are 3-flowered. Flowers with prominent stigma at the mouth of the corolla which is pure white inside, and crimson outside (including the tube); thus buds are dark red becoming paler towards anthesis. Leaves with (3–) 5–9 (rarely 11) leaflets, and thus clearly differentiated from ‘Inverleith’ that has only 3–7 leaflets. [Cultivar name established here; standard (cult. Sutton St Edmund, Lincolnshire; June 2022) deposited in DBN.]

This is the first jasmine cultivar with Irish connections that I am aware of. While the original, wild source of ‘Crimson Bud’ is not known, it is more than likely to have reached Glasnevin as seed from one of the collectors active in China in the first half of the twentieth century. NBG Glasnevin received many packets of seeds from collectors including Tse Tsun Yü (1908–1986), and any seedlings, when old enough, were planted in the borders and shrubberies where many survived for decades. While travelling in China, Roy Lancaster saw plants with similar characteristics, near Dali in Yunnan. It is known that Tse Tsun Yü collected in the same general locality in 1936. Among plants at NBG Glasnevin from Tse Tsun Yü’s Yunnan collections was a fine evergreen species of a new *Cotoneaster* that was named *C. astrophorus* and this jasmine may also have come from him.

Greener Gardening

by Rosie Campbell

I love my garden. It is a little pocket of solitude that cocoons me from the chaos of the outside world. In the grand scheme of things, it is small but mighty and my husband, Mark, and I are keen to tread lightly as we have become increasingly aware of the importance of adopting sustainable practices and greening our gardening.

Last spring, we chose to lose a little bit of our lawn in an area to the back of our garden where we concentrate on no-dig vegetables and have a few fruit trees. This part of the garden now has a looser and less manicured feel yet is very beautiful, awash with wildflowers and teeming with life — pollinators, birds and even the odd frog.

Raising some of our own food is essential to us; we even managed to dine solely from the garden on a few occasions last year, although Mark did miss the meat course in his dinner! We created our vegetable plot about four years ago using the no-dig method, utilising waste cardboard, reclaimed decking boards and well-rotted horse manure from a local stable. No-dig is a great option for time-poor gardeners and can be used to create ornamental borders too.

Many of the things we grow in the garden can be used to ward off various pests. I always grow rosemary in the vegetable plot and mixed borders as it's a deterrent to lots of flying insects and spiders.



Nasturtiums look fabulous among the vegetables and lure hungry caterpillars away from brassicas, while garlic has a strong scent which is repugnant to aphids and repels a variety of mites, moths and beetles.

By encouraging a diversity of native wildlife, we hope to keep pest populations in balance but haven't quite got this balance in the slug department yet! I find the most effective way to make an impact is to go on a slug hunt on a damp evening as the light fades. I also use beer traps much to my husband's dismay, but have recently found that blackcurrant cordial is cheaper and works just as well.

A brief word on weeds: for me, they are basically plants in the wrong place. I have learned to tolerate

them and found by weeding less you sometimes get surprising rewards. Last year I had a lot of self-seeded *Nigella* that might have otherwise been plucked out at an early stage. We find mulching a great way to suppress weeds and hold moisture in the soil.

Water management is becoming a big issue as our climate changes. In Ireland we have a multitude of opportunities to store and conserve rainwater which is more beneficial for the plants. Mark and I try to use the water we store wisely in dry spells. We group pots together as they help to keep each other cool and require less watering, and I am beginning to use bigger pots as they dry out more slowly. If you are a wine drinker, the corks make a great alternative to heavy crocks in the bottom of your pots.

We have learnt that if you want healthier plants it's much more

effective to feed your soil than your plants; it's easier too. With this in mind we compost whatever we can so we can top up our beds once a year. As we have two log burners in the house, we add ash from the burnt wood which is a great way of adding potassium to our compost. Also, living near the coast, we make a batch of seaweed feed each year. We watch out for a high tide and collect the seaweed that has been washed up on the shoreline.

Another fabulous way to reduce our environmental footprint is by propagating our own plants through cuttings and letting things go to seed. As I write this, my package of seed from the IGPS seed scheme has arrived and I am excited to see what it will produce this year. A big thank you to Debbie Bailey for her diligent work and to all the members who kindly donated to the scheme this year.



Historic *Hemerocallis*: The National Collection

by Caro Skyrme



The collection at Broadward Hall

October 2022 marked our first anniversary as holders of the National Collection of Historic *Hemerocallis* which comprises the Brummitt, Coe and Randall cultivars from 1959 to 1979. The three breeders were nurserymen or amateur horticulturists who were active in the mid 20th century. Many of their cultivars are now rare.

I have always loved *Hemerocallis*, or day lilies, and previously had over 40 modern varieties, many being American and German cultivars, with a wonderful range of colours and forms. I would say that they are showstoppers in a border, some growing to more than four feet tall, with each scape bearing multiple buds and flowers; consequently they are almost theatrical when a number of flowers are in bloom. Of course there is the added bonus of the scent; on a warm day in the walled garden, perhaps after a

summer shower, this can be quite intoxicating!

The conservation organisation, Plant Heritage, knew of my love and trusted my ability to keep this large collection together. They were originally collected by Gerald and Mary Sinclair in Oxford where they ran a nursery in the 1970s. When they retired, Waterperry Gardens near Oxford kindly kept the plants for a few years as it was difficult to find anyone who was able to take them all and keep the collection together.

National Collection plant holders must be vigilant to ensure the safety and continuation of the plants they hold. Primarily we aim to document the various taxa we hold, propagate and give them to other gardens where they can be cared for, listed, increased and protected.

Last summer wasn't without its challenges for all of us but, despite

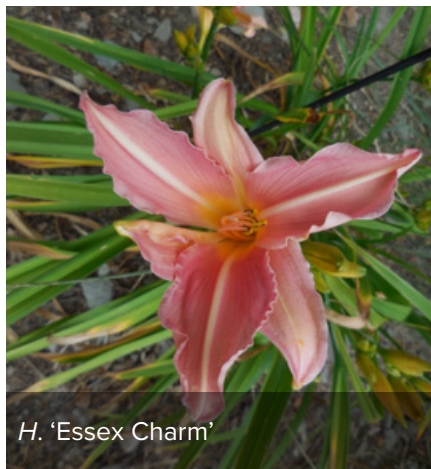
the soaring temperatures hitting over 35 degrees against the south facing wall of our walled garden, every one of the plants gave us a breathtaking display of beautiful blooms and tolerated the heat and much less water than usual.

A big attraction of day lilies is that they are relatively easy to grow, undemanding and reliable, provided one keeps a close eye out for bugs and diseases. They give weeks of repeat flowering which is an enormous boon to any garden welcoming visitors throughout the summer. From the first one I planted in the early 1970s, before we were troubled by so many of the bugs and diseases we are experiencing today, I have sought those which are late season bloomers to give us a breathtaking August and September display when many other blooms are going over. Even in November we still have quite a few flowers and buds. These will continue until the first hard frosts. Last year *Hemerocallis* 'Banbury Copper', a 1962 Brummitt cultivar, was still going strong in mid-November.



H. 'Banbury Copper'

The more modern American-bred *H.* 'Eye-Yi-Yi' (bred by Mrs McCroskey of California in 1988) takes the prize as the latest bloomer, lasting until the end of November in each of the past three years. Although not part of our National Collection, it is a stunner and has been a very good 'doer' all the years I have had it in my herbaceous border.



H. 'Essex Charm'

The thing to remember when choosing day lilies is that the later blooming plants are safer against some diseases as, by the time they begin to push up afresh each summer and form buds, the Gall Midge season is over. But nowadays we also need to be vigilant about the *Xylella* bacteria which is spreading in Europe and America from some imported day lilies. June Colley of the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society (BHHS), a source of excellent advice and expertise, has told me that the German hybridiser, Dr Tom Tamberg, is using old cultivars to create strong, new hybrids to avoid importing new plants which might carry the bacteria. This has inspired me to begin to consider developing some of our own cultivars.

Grow an Irish Plant

by Seamus O'Brien &
Maurice Parkinson

Cornus capitata **'Kilmacurragh Rose'**

Cornus capitata is long established in Irish gardens; the original introduction from the Himalaya grew at Fota as early as 1825 and there is a fine tree by the pond at Glasnevin that delights visitors every year with its myriad of creamy-yellow bracts that surround the inconspicuous flowers in mid-summer. These are followed by large strawberry-like fruits, giving two seasons of interest.

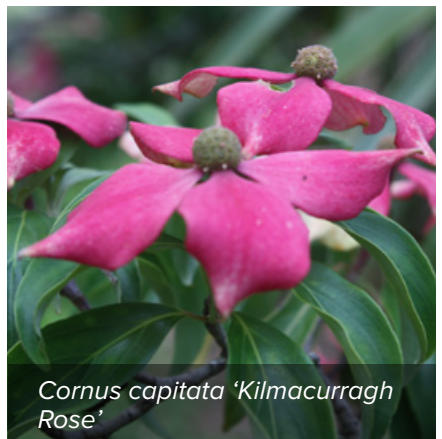
Coming from the Himalaya and the mountains of western China, this species grows best in sheltered woodland gardens. In 1998, while on a visit to Kilmacurragh, I gathered seeds from an old, bedraggled tree surrounded by a sea of Japanese bamboo. It is thought that this old tree may have been raised from collections made in Yunnan province in China by the Scottish plant hunter, George Forrest. Captain Charles Annesley Ball-Acton, who inherited the Kilmacurragh Estate in 1908, swapped plants with J C Williams who gardened at Caerhays Castle in Cornwall. Williams sponsored Forrest's botanical work in China and so the old Kilmacurragh tree, now vanished, may have come from this source.

I returned a seedling to Kilmacurragh a few years later and, when I moved to manage the gardens in 2006, I had it planted on the Pond Vista. There was great excitement in the summer of 2010 when it produced its very first blooms. Unlike the typical form

which bears sulphur-yellow bracts, those of the Kilmacurragh tree aged to a deep rose hue, the first colour break in this species.

It needed a name and I chose the self-explanatory *Cornus capitata* 'Kilmacurragh Rose'. There is no point in naming cultivars unless plants are made available in good numbers to keen gardeners, so we sent cuttings to that wizard nurseryman, Jan Ravensberg, who could probably root a pencil. Jan had masses of plants for sale within a very short time and it is now available in good garden centres across our island.

Because of its evergreen nature *Cornus capitata* 'Kilmacurragh Rose' needs shelter from wind, full sun and a moisture retentive soil; it's not fussy about pH, being equally happy in the alkaline soil of Glasnevin as in our acidic soil here at Kilmacurragh. It will eventually form a small tree and should prove long-lived like the species. **SO'B**



Cornus capitata 'Kilmacurragh Rose'

Rosa ‘Our Molly’

We have quite a few roses in the garden here at Ballyrobert Cottage Garden but *Rosa ‘Our Molly’* is the rose most frequently asked about by visitors to the garden. They admire the bright red, single flower with its white eye and, towards the end of the summer, the presence of a stunning crop of hips. Perhaps surprisingly, they often ask who Our Molly was.

I was fortunate to know the late Molly Frizzell who was a charming lady with a vast knowledge of roses; in particular of the species and cultivars of the older types. She was a senior figure in the World Federation of Rose Societies, a Chairman of the Rose Society of Northern Ireland and, to add to her stature, she was the composer of the Women’s Institute of Northern Ireland’s Country Women’s song.

I met her very soon after she was informed by Colin Dickson (of Dickson Roses of Newtownards who bred the rose) that he was naming it in her honour. To say she was overwhelmed is an understatement.

This is an outstanding, repeat-flowering rose, typically shrubby in nature, not very tall or vigorous and it attracts very few pests or diseases. It is a perfect plant for a hot border. We use it throughout the garden as a highlight in its own right, but it is also a perfect companion for many plants including two of our favourites being *Astrantia* ‘Hadspen Purple’ and *A. ‘Roma’*. It is an outstanding Irish cultivar — a red, red rose of distinction — named appropriately in honour of one of our own. **MP**

[The rose is still available from Dickson Roses.]





The Lure of a Plant Sale

...Twenty years on, having planted seedlings and small shrubs, the messy divisions have spread to fill out my borders and the tiny sticks have grown into fine trees...

by Rosie Maye

Who doesn't love a good plant sale? They come in many guises: local plant fairs, charity and gardening club plant sales, rare and unusual plant fairs, plant swaps and specialist nursery plant fairs.

I always try to arrive at a plant fair as soon as it opens to maximise my chances of finding a treasure. They can be incredibly good value and we all love to get a bargain. Over the years I've acquired small hellebores and potted-up bulbs for incredibly low prices and within a few years they've established well. I remember almost knocking someone over in my race for an *Aeonium* cutting at a plant fair. I did apologise and offered them first dibs but they were after the plant beside it so we both went off happy.

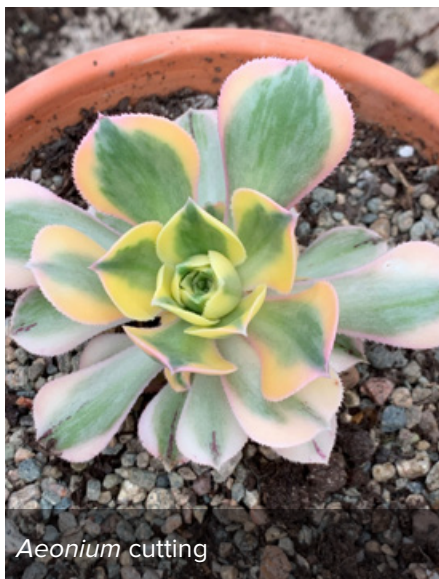
I've come home from plant sales with many dubious-looking plants having

been assured that they would take off once I got them in the ground. Having been used to buying from a garden centre, this took a lot of trust on my part which has been more than repaid over the years. Twenty years on, having planted seedlings and small shrubs, the messy divisions have spread to fill out my borders and the tiny sticks have grown into fine trees. My garden is not finished and I don't think it ever will be, but now I have become the gardener making divisions, taking cuttings and saving seeds for plant sales.

Once bitten by the gardening bug, it's hard to resist the temptation of a sale — that feeling of anticipation as you arrive and begin to scour



the benches laden with generous divisions, cuttings or unusual plants grown from seed by experienced gardeners or specialist growers all over the country. There's a great sense of camaraderie as you meet like-minded people all with the same goal in mind. I think plant fairs also encourage a thirst for expanding your horticultural horizons and trying new things. I've found unusual salvias, fuchsias and a few choice hellebore seedlings that I've never seen anywhere else.



Aeonium cutting

All of these sales can open up a whole new world to the beginner gardener accustomed to buying plants only in garden centres. While their wares are mostly fine specimens, they're generally sold in season when the plant is at its absolute best. However, many plants are not grown commercially as they don't look good in a pot for long.

Equally you can get a plant with so many varieties that it wouldn't make sense to stock them all. Think of the sunflower family, *Asteraceae*, with about 24,000 species! This is where the specialist nursery fairs are wonderful as they sometimes sell a variety you wouldn't otherwise find. They're also not afraid to offer plants for sale out of season and sometimes even pruned back really hard. They trust that the people at the fair are there for one thing which is to find something more unusual and interesting. More often than not the growers themselves are there which gives you the opportunity to get hints and tips on how to get the best out of their plants which in itself is most valuable.

Plant swaps at gardening clubs are also a great experience. Before the event people can list what they have on offer on the club's social media or WhatsApp group and other members can request you keep one for them. You don't necessarily have to swap with the same person, just offer some plants of your own for other people to request. It's a system that seems to work well. It always pays to be generous because, if you happen to lose a plant, you can always ask for a cutting or division back from the person you shared it with.

In my experience plant sales encourage you to think for yourself, to borrow from years of combined experience and to question more about how a plant grows. Everyone starts somewhere.

Worth A Read

by Paddy Tobin

Brilliant English Gardens

is as beautiful a book as one is likely to find. It is a collection of exquisite garden photographs produced at a size (33 x 27cm) where they are wonderfully impressive, all full-page or double-page spreads printed without margins so as to fill each page with beauty. Twenty seven gardens are presented, each introduced by a single page of text which is followed by glorious full-page images.

Flicking through the book reveals Clive Nichols's favouring of that golden light of early morning which imparts a wonderful warmth to garden scenes but, for me, it is also a clear indication that he is willing to go to great lengths and effort to take the best photograph possible of the gardens he visits. It is no surprise that his name is listed so frequently as the photographer in all the major gardening magazines and this book brings us a collection of the very best of his work. It is an outstanding collection of garden photographs.

Brilliant English Gardens, Clive Nichols, Clearview Books, £60.

Eden's Keepers recounts an extraordinary love story in remarkable times. Humphrey Waterfield (1908–1971) spent his early years between his parents' winter home on the French Riviera and education in England, including Christchurch College, Oxford, where

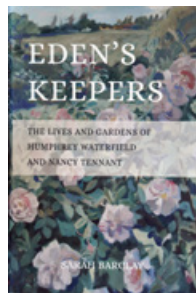


he was awarded a first class honours in history. Nancy Tennant (1897–2003) was born to a wealthy family and is possibly best remembered for her extensive voluntary work, particularly for her role in the Women's

Institute. Humphrey and Nancy met in 1932 when he was 24 and she 35. A strong friendship developed as they shared a passion for art, nature, gardening and travelling but marriage was not imaginable. Nancy was, by the mores of the time, past marrying age and Humphrey, had he lived in more liberal times, might have sought male companionship in life.

The garden at Hill Pasture was their Eden, planned and started together just as the Second World War broke out. After the war they were able to turn their attention to their garden in Menton, creating one of the horticultural jewels of the Riviera. Their relationship continued for the rest of their lives, an unconventional one but an extraordinarily happy one nonetheless. It is a moving account of two wonderful people, richly revealed through previously unpublished material, letters and photographs, to which the author was given access by the families. I found it a very heartening and moving read.

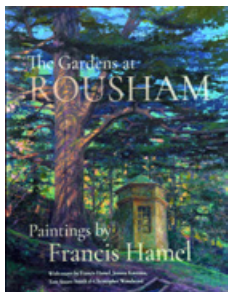
Eden's Keepers, The Lives and Gardens of Humphrey Waterfield and Nancy Tennant, Sarah Barclay, Clearview Books, £25.



The Gardens at Rousham

are among the greatest gardens of Britain: I found them the most magical I have ever visited. The manor house was built around 1635

and the grounds were remodelled by the gardening genius William Kent in the 1730s. It has remained in the ownership of the original family since first built and is presently in the care of Charles and Angela Cottrell-Dormer who continue the gentle philosophy of keeping things as they have always been.



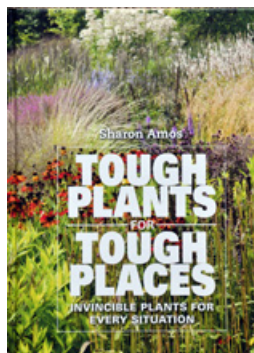
Artist Francis Hamel has lived on the estate for the past 25 years but confinement during Covid focused his attention on the beauty which surrounded him. His paintings and text are at the heart of this volume, while essays from three others, Joanna Kavenna, Tom Stuart Smith and Christopher Woodward, contribute a wonderful richness of insights and of reactions to the garden and add greatly to the reader's understanding, enjoyment and appreciation.

These lines from Christopher Woodward capture the essence of this book: "No one claims to own the genius of Rousham: no historian, designer, or artist believes that he or she has the key to its secrets. Hamels' eighteen month of lockdown are the most intensive analysis of its effects yet undertaken."

The Gardens at Rousham. Paintings by Francis Hamel. With essays by Francis Hamel, Joanna Kavenna, Tom Stuart-Smith & Christopher Woodward. Clearview Books, £30.

Tough Plants for Tough Places

lists and describes 100 plants which will not only survive but will also look beautiful in those challenging places in our gardens — sun, shade, dry, damp, exposed or seaside. An excellent book for the beginner, for the best way to avoid disappointment in the garden is to put the right plant in the right place.



Tough Plants for Tough Places, Sharon Amos, Pimpernel Press, £20.

Gardening in a Changing World

is an intense read as the author outlines the fearful consequences of climate change but also shows how the

salvation of the planet rests with plants, gardens and gardeners. It examines how we have arrived at our present situation and recommends changes which can lead to a sustainable future.



Gardening in a Changing World, Darryl Moore, Pimpernel Press, £20.

A Gardener's Eye

by Mary Davies

Driving along the North Wales coast on the way to Holyhead a decade or so ago, I detoured up the Conwy valley to visit the famous Bodnant Gardens. It was May, and the ideal time to enjoy a feast of plants set against the backdrop of Snowdonia's high mountains. Bodnant is home to many spring-flowering trees, including the National Collection of Bodnant Rhododendron Hybrids, and the grounds were full of colour.

The hope was to catch in full bloom the much photographed Laburnum Walk — said to be the earliest and grandest of its kind. In fact its multitude of pendent 'chains' were only in bud, showing the first glimmers of gold: I was too early. But the day provided a different treat. At the entrance garden centre, a shrublet covered in small yellow-red tubular blooms caught my eye. *Justicia rizzinii*, the Brazilian fuchsia, was ready for a new home. I carried it triumphantly to the car, and was gratified when it was admired by the customs lady at Holyhead.

Once back in Ireland the *justicia*, described as frost-tender, was found a sheltered place outside my rear windows, where it has thrived in the semi-shade of a mixed border. It cannot be described as growing in 'my' garden, as strictly speaking the border is a communal one. But except for the occasional attentions of the weekly landscapers, I use it freely as a form of 'guerrilla gardening'. Mature shrubs from before my time grow there, closely clipped, and over the years smaller plants have joined them: the *justicia*'s evergreen foliage makes a useful foil to foxgloves and white Japanese anemones, self-sown aquilegia, and agapanthus in several shades of blue.

But the Brazilian fuchsia is a short-lived shrub and this one has reached its full height at 60 cm or so. Its once nicely rounded bushy shape is giving way to old age. The leggy bare twigs can perhaps be disguised, but not for long. It is time to propagate it.



A photograph of a garden path in spring. The path is a dark, narrow strip of ground, possibly asphalt or a well-trodden path, winding through a dense carpet of small, light blue flowers, likely bluebells. The path is flanked by lush green foliage and trees. In the foreground, there are some white, bell-shaped flowers. The background shows more trees and a glimpse of a green lawn. The overall scene is a peaceful, natural setting in a garden.

Inside Track

Spring in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin
photo courtesy of Marie Hourigan

News and Notice of AGM

Notice of the 41st Annual General Meeting of the Irish Garden Plant Society to be held in Ardgillan Castle & Garden, Balbriggan on Saturday 20th May 2023 at 11.15am

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM held on 7th May 2022 (via Zoom)
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's report
To note the report
5. Treasurer's report and accounts for 2022-2023
To adopt the accounts
6. Election of Officers and Committee Member(s)
Vice Chairperson
Committee member
Regional representatives
7. Discussion of any other business



The National Executive Committee 2022–23

- Mary Forrest, Chairman
- Vacant, Vice Chairman
- Áine Máire Ní Mhurchú, Honorary Secretary
- Nichola Monk, Membership Secretary
- David Grayson, Honorary Treasurer
- Breda Cummins, Leinster representative
- Billy McCone, Northern representative
- Stephen Butler, Committee and Plant Heritage representative
- Vacant, Munster representative
- Vacant, Committee member

The positions of Vice Chairman and a Munster committee representative and for a further committee member are currently vacant. Nominations are sought for these positions.

Nominations may be sent by email to igps.ireland@gmail.com or by post to IGPS, Honorary Secretary, c/o Áine Máire Ní Mhurchú, Croí Áirmid, Slanduff, Walterstown, Navan, Co Meath C15HKD1, to arrive no later than close of business on **5th May 2023**. Nominations must include the name of the candidate, names of a proposer and seconder and a statement that the candidate has agreed to stand for election.

All members are entitled to attend the meeting free of charge and vote.

Booking is via Eventbrite.

Timetable for Saturday 20th May: AGM and visit to Ardgillan Castle and Garden, Balbriggan, County Dublin

10.30 – 11.00

Registration, tea & coffee

11.15 – 12.15

Annual General Meeting

12.15 – 13.00

Talk by Dominica McKeivitt,
head gardener at Ardgillan

13.15 – 14.15

Lunch

14.15 – 15.45

Guided tour of the Gardens at Ardgillan
with Dominica McKeivitt to include the
National Shrubby Potentilla Collection

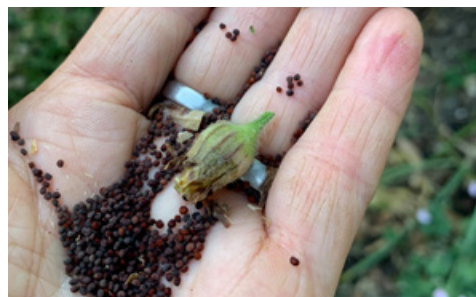
Big demand for seeds

Debbie Bailey writes:

The mad flurry of order forms that invariably arrive almost as soon as the Newsletter is dispatched has calmed down to a more manageable trickle. This year our contributors to the scheme sent a wonderful variety of seeds; the quality and variety get better every year and members are to be thanked for taking the time to gather, clean, package and label the seeds. In particular I would like to thank the very many members who enclosed lovely notes with their order forms.

It is always interesting to see which seeds are the most popular and therefore run out first. This year some of the more unusual annual seeds such as *Eschscholzia* 'Pink Champagne', the lupins, the violas, and the colchicum corms were the first to go.

At the time of writing in February, there have been well over a hundred orders received and completed. There are still plenty of seeds so if you have not yet found the time to send in your order, please don't think it is too late. I would be happy to email the list of those seeds still in stock, just drop me a line: debbiebailey797@gmail.com



Congratulations

Many congratulations to Seamus O'Brien, head gardener at the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh, on his election as a member of the Linnean Society. Founded in 1788, it takes its name from the Swedish naturalist, Carl Linneus, and its vision is a world where nature is understood, valued and protected.

Our website – can you help?

The Society is looking for one or more members to take over responsibility for our website and our Facebook page. If you would like to volunteer or to get further information, please contact Mary Forrest, our Chair, telephone +353 1298 5099 or email igps.ireland@gmail.com.

Garden for Spinal Cord Injuries Unit

An appeal has been launched by Horatio's Garden, a charity which creates beautiful and accessible gardens in NHS spinal injuries centres. It was recently announced that Andy Sturgeon, the leading garden designer with a string of Chelsea gold medals to his name including winning the accolade of 'Best in Show' no fewer than three times, will design the garden currently being built at Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast. For more information about Horatio's garden and the appeal, check out www.hortiosgarden.org.uk.

Presentation to Mike Snowdon

Mike Snowdon, pictured here with his wife June, was recently presented with a rose bowl by Chairman, Mary Forrest, to mark his honorary membership of the

Society. Already a head gardener with the National Trust, Mike came to Ireland in 1981 to revitalise Rowallane Gardens and he joined the fledgling IGPS soon after. He served on the committee as the regional representative for several years and has continued to support the Society and individual gardeners with warmth and humour ever since.



Conference in Letterkenny, County Donegal 5th to 7th October

'Robinsonian Gardening — a living legacy' is the theme of the annual conference of the NI Heritage Gardens Trust. The ideas of William Robinson (1838-1935), the Irish gardener, journalist, author and editor, made a huge impact in late Victorian times and still influence our gardens today. As well as featuring a distinguished array of speakers, the conference will include visits to two 'Robinsonian' gardens nearby. For information and to book this exciting conference, please see www.nihgt.org.

Around the Regions

Members from all parts thoroughly enjoyed two excellent and very different lectures via Zoom in January. The first was by garden consultant Neil Porteous who introduced us to the quirks and personalities of the owners and makers of five great Northern Ireland gardens, some still flourishing (Mount Stewart and Rowallane), one now sadly gone (Rostrevor), and two others about to embark on new chapters in their development (Castlewellan and Brook Hall).

Catherine Cutler introduced us to the Eden Project in Cornwall. The photographs which Catherine showed were thrilling. The transformation of the former white, sterile clay pit into a thriving green valley was explained, and her experience in developing the project offered many ideas for improving our own gardening methods. It was informative and inspiring with at least some of us resolving to go and visit.

February saw us return to the National Botanic Gardens to listen to Seamus O'Brien talk about Ladakh, a high altitude region in Kashmir. Seamus gave us a feast of new and old botanical information as well as a hugely enjoyable account of the expedition. His team voted *Rosa webbiana* (Capt. Webb's Rose) as plant of the trip. This is a beautiful and generous rose, giving single pink to dark pink flowers, followed by flask-shaped hips which rival those of the rugosa roses.

Many thanks to Mary Montaut for her reports.

Will be Missed

Ricky Shannon, who died in January, was elected an honorary member of the IGPS in 2017. As a member commented at the time: "Every society needs its organiser, the one who is not afraid to say things as they are. Ricky is ours!"

What an organiser she was! When the IGPS exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1990 and 1992, Ricky did the paperwork — travel tickets, plant licenses and so on. During construction she kept the team supplied with tea and cakes and conversed with all who viewed the award-winning exhibits.

Ricky was Treasurer of the Society for many years. She also organised the finances at plant sales, issuing floats and collecting cash from the various stalls. She had a knack of discovering gardens and the all-important caterers for the summer lunches. Her organisational skills were also employed in the planning of AGM weekends, the most recent being the AGM in Birr in 2017. To mark her honorary membership, I had the honour of presenting her with a rose bowl last December which she insisted her sister Jackie kept filled with roses. She will be missed not only by her family but by her many friends in the IGPS.

MF



Dates for your Diary

Meconopsis henrici 'Slieve Donard' photo courtesy of Maeve Bell

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 27th May
from 11am to 3pm

Spring Plant Sale at Clotworthy House

Antrim Castle Gardens
Antrim BT41 4LH

Organised by the Northern Committee, this is an early season opportunity to buy a wide selection of mainly herbaceous plants but it will also include shrubs, ferns and some Irish cultivars. There is ample parking close by, a cafe serving teas, coffees, lunch and other refreshments, and an opportunity to enjoy the historic Castle Gardens.

Saturday 3rd June
from 2pm to 4.30pm

Visit to James Burnside's Garden

117 Kilrea Road, Upperlands
Maghera BT4 6SB

An acre of a flower arranger's garden, it has a maturing tree canopy which protects an array of mixed planting including shrubs, herbaceous plants, a large hosta collection, a pond, bog area, alpines, terracing and a meandering brook. There is plenty to catch the eye — strategically placed urns, seating, art installations. The overall feel is one of calm, of nature at ease with itself and of a place to restore the soul. The garden is on two levels with some narrow gravel paths and steps. There are some visible tree roots.

No booking required.
Members free, guests £5



**Saturday 24th June in both the
morning and afternoon**

Garden Visits and Summer Lunch in Co Laois

Gash Gardens, Castletown
Co Laois R32K068

At 11.00am, Mary Keenan & Ross Doyle will welcome us with tea/coffee and a scone before leading a tour of their 4 acre garden which has wonderful planting and is always evolving and responding to changes in climate and their current enthusiasms. There will be plenty to tempt you in their well-stocked nursery.



Gash Gardens

Dates for your Diary

Another treat is approximately 20 minutes away...

Clonohill Gardens

Coolrain, Co Laois

Enda Thompson-Phelan has developed this 1.5 acre country garden in the foothills of the Slieve Bloom mountains with the eye of a floral artist. Herbaceous borders should be at their prime while mature trees provide shade for woodland treasures. Lakes used for angling add the element of water.

Lunch on arrival with plenty of time to explore afterwards.

Booking and further details including cost will be via Eventbrite from 22nd May 2023.



Clonohill Gardens

**Saturday 22nd July
from 2pm to 4pm**

Visit to Inchydoney House

**Inchydoney Island, Clonakilty
Co. Cork P85 X771**

Inchydoney House consists of 33 acres of natural landscape with formal and informal planting. Thanks to the mild coastal climate, a large variety of plants is being grown including some unusual and rare specimens. The most important feature is a recently restored 2 acre walled garden with dry stone terracing, glasshouses, cold frames, a polytunnel, potting sheds and ponds. The layout of the walled garden includes a flower/vegetable/fruit production garden, Italian garden, rose garden, exotic borders and informal wildlife pond. Other features of the property include lawns, mixed borders, several ponds, a saltwater lagoon, woodlands, courtyard garden and wild flower meadows.

No booking required. No fee but an opportunity to make a voluntary contribution to the chosen charity of the owner, Jerome Lynch.



Inchydoney House

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 5th August
from 2pm to 5pm

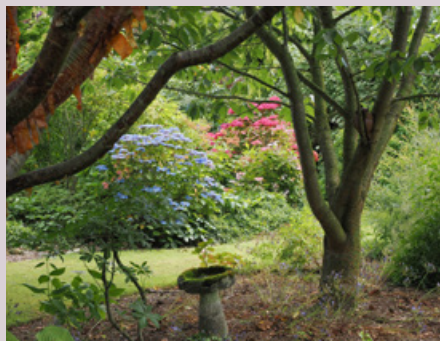
Visit to Anne and Danny McCaughan's Garden

**20 Circular Road East
Hollywood BT18 OHA**

This large, mature garden is in Cultra just a short distance from the shores of Belfast Lough. Anne has a passion for hydrangeas and grows 10 different species and 115 named varieties, but the garden is also home to interesting trees and shrubs while herbaceous planting and late flowering clematis will add to the seasonal interest.

Plant stall. Park on the roadside. If coming by train, it is six minutes walk down the hill from Cultra station.

No booking required. You are welcome to bring a picnic. No fee but an opportunity to make a voluntary donation to Anne's chosen charity, Dundonald Food Bank.



Saturday 19th August
**Garden visits in both the
morning and afternoon**

The Walled Garden at Russborough House

**Blessington
Co Wicklow
W91W284**



The tour of the 18th century walled garden starts at **11.00am**. RHSI volunteers have helped to restore the garden with a view to echoing the original planting. Plants thrive in the sheltered microclimate created by brick-lined walls.

Plants for sale, also vegetables and jams. A tour of the House can be booked privately at 10.00am. The Café will be open for snacks and lunch.

Just 20 minutes away you will find...

Dates for your Diary

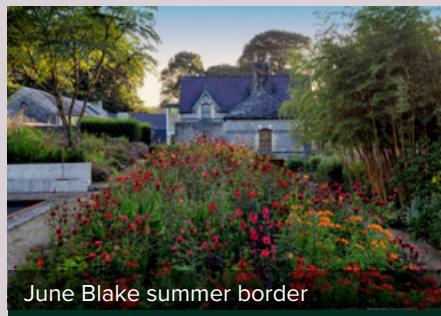
June Blake's Garden

Tinode, Kilbride

Co Wicklow, W91EC90

Our guided tour of this 3 acre contemporary garden surrounded by recently restored, award-winning farm buildings and Steward's House starts at **2.00pm**. We will enjoy the fabulous late summer colour which June is famous for.

Booking by Eventbrite in July. More details via the ebulletin.



Saturday 16th September,
see below for times

Visit to
Conrad McCormack's garden
13 Blackpark Cottages
Ballyvoy
Ballycastle
BT54 6RR

Filled with jungle-like plants, the lush growth in this garden is a show stopper while the various shades of

green provide contrasting textures from smooth large-leaved plants to those with long, slim fronds and the lacy look of ferns.

Pre booking is essential. The cost is £5 booking through Eventbrite. The times are 11am to 12 noon and 12.30pm to 1.30pm with a limit of 20 people per visit. Park on the roadside.



Thursday 19th October 2023
Two lectures

AGS/IGPS joint lecture **in Dublin**
and Claire Woods, head gardener,
Hillsborough Castle Gardens lecture,
in Antrim.



Sunday 22nd October 2023
Plant Sale in Blackrock,
Co Dublin

Organised by the Leinster committee, this annual extravaganza should not be missed.

Thanks to our Contributors

Lyn Brookes came to Ireland more than a decade ago and along with her husband has developed a garden in County Leitrim.

Rosie Campbell gardens with her husband in County Down and has recently taken over as editor of the ebulletin.

Mary Davies, an honorary member and former Chairman of the Society, co-founded *The Irish Garden* magazine and continued to write for it until very recently.

Christine Linehan grows a wide range of plants in her large garden in County Cork.

Rosie Maye, also known as the Insomniac Gardener, gardens near Slane and writes a column for *The Irish Garden* magazine.

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

Dominica McKeivitt acquired her love of gardening from her mother and qualified at An Grianán College of Horticulture, Termonfeckin, County Louth. She has been head gardener in Ardgillan Castle Gardens for the last 31 years.

Charles Nelson VMM FLS is one of the Society's honorary members. He was Chairman from 1981 to 1984 and again from 1992 to 1994 and editor of *Moorea* vols 1-10 (1981–1993).

Mary Montaut is a beekeeper and is passionate about wildlife in the garden. She is a member of the Leinster Committee.

Seamus O'Brien manages the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh, Co Wicklow. He is a long standing member of the IGPS, a former committee member, an author and serves on two committees of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Maurice Parkinson, along with his wife Joy, created Ballyrobert Cottage Garden and set up the nursery of the same name. He was formerly Head of Parks for Belfast City Council.

Caro Skyrme grew up in the north of Ireland; she and her husband regularly open their garden, Broadward Hall in Shropshire, for the National Gardens Scheme.

Paddy Tobin, a former Chairman of the Society and Editor of the Newsletter, lives in Waterford and writes a column for *The Irish Garden* magazine.

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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