

# Irish Garden Plant Society

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*Newsletter - September 2023*

Issue 159

# Irish Garden Plant Society

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Copy for the January issue as soon as possible  
please and no later than **15 November**.

Cover:

**Dahlia 'Matt Armour'** courtesy of Paddy Tobin — for further information, see [www.irishgardenplantsociety.com](http://www.irishgardenplantsociety.com) under Irish Plant Portraits. Grateful thanks to our horticultural advisors: Brendan Sayers and Stephen Butler.

## Welcome

**What do you think about rewilding? Are we doing something wrong if we do not let dandelions and ragged robin displace daffodils and roses in our borders? Earlier this year I read an article which said that if we don't make at least some small changes to how we garden, we are complicit in the destruction of our natural environment. That brought me up with a jolt.**

Given the IGPS is an organisation with conservation at its heart, this issue — rightly I think — is slightly different through its focus on sustainability. Hopefully we can move beyond an unhelpful 'them and us' argument and keep making small contributions to the environment while maintaining high standards of horticulture. We may even create something greater than just a garden — a home for other living creatures.

Read what two of our members, both noted for their beautiful gardens, are doing. Prompted by thoughts of the world their grandchildren will have to live in, Paul Maher tells us about a number of actions he and Edel are taking to garden with a lighter touch. Meanwhile Paddy Tobin dismisses the ever-so-fashionable 'meadow' but he and Mary have developed a beautiful area of their garden called simply The High Grass.

Not new but recently found again having been thought lost to cultivation is an entrancing wood anemone, *Anemone apennina* 'Ballyrogan Park'.

Andrew Gee tells the story on page 14. Peter Milligan is on the hunt for Irish agapanthus and implores us to check our gardens and records to see if an agapanthus, like the anemone, may be hiding in plain sight.

Many thanks to our authors, photographers and the backroom team especially Adrian Walsh and Andrew Gee who have helped with this issue. I need to step back a bit over the coming months; could you be the one to take over — or to join me in a job share? Please get in touch if you can. Happy gardening.

*Maeve*

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# A Note from the Chair

Over these past few months I have been able to join members on visits to gardens located from southwest Cork through counties Laois, Wicklow and Dublin to Holywood, County Down. In each place we were met by knowledgeable and enthusiastic owners or guides who paid Society members a compliment by acknowledging how keen we are. That keenness was expressed in good humour as people named plants or shared cultivation advice or gardening tips with others. Reports on these garden visits appear elsewhere in this Newsletter.

If there is one lesson to be learned from IGPS plant sales, it is to arrive early or preferably be involved in the event and have a preview of what is on the sales tables. By the time fellow member Anne James and I arrived at the Spring Sale at Antrim Castle Gardens, purchases were in members' baskets.

A word of warm appreciation to all those members who have assisted with the garden visits and the other activities of the Society these past months. More volunteers are always needed to assist at lectures and plants sales. Could you help? Please get in touch if you can; our contact emails are printed on the back page.



Looking ahead, the regional committees are planning lectures for the autumn and winter months. At the AGM there was a request for more lectures via Zoom. In response, both 'in person' and lectures via Zoom have been arranged. More details of lectures and a plant sale in Dublin can be found in Dates for your Diary and the monthly e-bulletin.

The e-bulletin is issued in the first week of the month. Some members have said that they have not been receiving it only to find that their computer had placed it the Spam or Promotions box. Be sure to check.

Since the last Newsletter there have been changes to the Leinster committee: Breda Cummins has retired as the representative to the Executive Committee and Theresa Crothers as Chair. Our appreciation and thanks to both and a warm welcome to Sarah Earle.

Regarding the Newsletter, Maeve Bell, the current editor, is handing in her red pen. Do contact Maeve or myself if you would take on this job.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary".

Mary Forrest, Chairman



## The Garden at Ballinagam the Future

by Paul Maher



**Creating our new garden has been an enlightening process. It raised new questions such as what our truly loved plants are and could we accommodate them in the heavy clay of Ballinagam, could we create a garden that would be manageable into the years to come, and how to work with and benefit our troubled climate? The latter is an aspect Edel and I have focused on in earnest.**

We know that our climate is getting more adversarial and we face the challenge of heavy downpours and what seem to be continual gales. Our garden is a place where grandchildren come and run about. We cannot but contemplate what kind of world they will meet in adulthood in terms of the climate.

When I engage with people about climate change, it is remarkable how opinions vary. There are still some who think it is a myth saying the climate is always changing, while others realise it is a problem.



Trees and porous paths

There exists also a feeling of helplessness and we hear comments like “I’m doing all I can and it’s still not making any difference.” It is an undeniable fact that there is a change and we are the cause of it.

In our lecture entitled ‘The Delights of Gardening, Past, Present and Future’, Edel and I tell the story of our careers to date and of the restoration of our garden at Ballinagam. We mention our adoption and adaptation of the principles contained in the Royal Horticultural Society’s Sustainability Strategy, a document I would urge everyone to download and read. At Ballinagam we have set targets for ourselves to care for our world. We have developed an ethos whereby we will do small things and encourage others to do likewise. Taking small persistent steps along with many others, we will turn the tide.

Today we hear much about mindfulness for a healthy body. We think of our approach as mindful gardening for a better world and we have pledged to do the following.

- **Plant trees and woody shrubs**

Woody stems are a great way of capturing carbon. Trees and large shrubs usually form a permanent presence in the garden quietly working away benefitting you and the environment. In advising people who may say that space is a problem, we suggest sponsoring a tree somewhere else.

- **Reduce hard surfaces and plant more**

It is essential to have some paved areas in the garden for enjoying good weather outdoors; we have designed these to suit our purposes but also to allow for water run-off to planted beds ensuring rainwater stays within our site. All our garden paths are of a solid but porous material. This is achieved with a compacted quarry dust.

- **Go peat and pesticide free**

Seek out peat-free compost, it is out there and will ensure we are all doing our bit in preserving what is left of our precious peatlands. Use as many natural methods of controlling pests as possible.



- **Make your own compost**

There are several handy composters on the market; with a little research you will find one suitable for your space. As we have space for composting, we use a three bin system, the first takes all current material, the second bin is for maturing compost and the third is for using in the garden. If you are undertaking heavy pruning or clearing, ensure all material is managed in a green waste facility. All material pruned during the restoration of Ballinagam was chipped and shredded on site, rotted down and used as mulch.



- **Electrify your garden**

Many modern battery-operated machines are comparable with the petrol-driven ones. They are a pleasure to use, no fumes and less noise. We have to make an exception for petrol-driven heavier machines. We power these with Alkylate fuel. It is far less harmful than petrol fuel with fewer emissions. It also has a shelf life of five years. A huge benefit is that you don’t need to drain the fuel tank at the onset of winter and

when you take your machine out after the winter it starts first time. It is however more expensive than normal petrol.

- **Grow cut flowers**

It is amazing how many cut flowers you can grow in your own garden for a large part of the year. Plant to cater for this, look at seed catalogues and select what you might like and try them. A great way to appreciate flowers is to cut flowers for your home. Gardeners tend to be far too busy dashing about the garden to stop and look. If you have to buy in cut flowers, ask your florist about local growers.

- **Plant hedges and green up vertical structures**

Hedges and wall plants provide shelter for the garden and a home for wildlife. Choose species wisely as hedges can get out of control and they require work. Wall plants always benefit from good wall wiring preferably with stainless steel fixings.

- **Eat more home grown fruit and vegetables**

We do our best to feed ourselves with fresh greens from the garden through late spring and summer even though we have a postage-sized vegetable garden. We achieve this with the use of a small polycarbonate house. Salad leaves are sown and harvested as cut and come again.

- **Protect and encourage wildlife**

The bee population is of particular concern and we plan our planting to provide nectar and pollen for them from the first warm days of spring

through summer and autumn. It is a joy to watch them as they feed on what we are growing knowing that they are being well catered for, and we will continue to provide a menu that suits their future survival. We are slow to do an autumn clean up and don't fuss about piles of leaf debris over winter as it provides a home for them in the harsh weather.

The mission of the Irish Garden Plant Society is to promote an interest and take a lead in researching, finding and propagating Irish plants to ensure their survival. Perhaps we should also engender the idea that we too must play a part in safeguarding our environment allowing us create gardens in which Irish plants can survive and feel at home in our climate into the future.



# Irish Agapanthus

by Nicola and Peter Milligan

**The agapanthus has a long history of cultivation in Ireland. This should not be surprising given the contribution this plant can make to any border. In terms of height, you can find tall, medium and small plants that will fit in the back, middle and front of any border. Add in the effect to be had from the narrow or broad leaves and the range of available colours and you are spoilt for choice.**

Among the first plants to be named in Ireland was *Agapanthus campanulatus* 'Mooreanus' sent as a gift to Sir Frederick Moore at Glasnevin and named in his honour. Jump from the 1870's to more recent times and there was a positive avalanche of cultivars raised by Gary Dunlop at his famous Ballyrogan Nursery in County Down.

Sadly, with the closure of many nurseries including Ballyrogan, the survival of many agapanthus

cultivars is in doubt. For this reason, the IGPS started the Special Interest Group (SIG) programme (mentioned several times in the last Newsletter Issue 158, April 2023) and, not surprisingly, the desire to conserve many of the Irish agapanthus cultivars made this an easy group to choose for the programme.

At this stage Nicola and I have identified some 58 cultivars and have managed to collect 26 of these. We hope that at least some of the remaining 32 that we have not come across as yet will be growing in a member's garden, or available from some small nursery or specialist plant centre.

Among the cultivars we have been able to collect are some real beauties, e.g. A. 'Helen' raised and introduced by Gary Dunlop, A. *coddii* 'Lady Edith' named for Edith, Marchioness of Londonderry, the creator of Mount Stewart Gardens,



*Agapanthus* 'Nigel Marshall'



A. 'Plas Merdyn White' from the garden of the late doctors Bill and Greta Lennon of Holywood, County Down, and A. 'Slieve Donard' introduced by the late Michael Wickenden of Cally Gardens in Dumfries and Galloway. As can be seen from the photographs, these are wonderful plants.

The same can be said of all of the old cultivars: they are full of interest in terms of leaf forms and colour and are a very important part of our horticultural heritage.

It would be good to be able to list and illustrate all of the cultivars we hold but space prevents that approach. Instead lists of all the plants we have, and the plants we are seeking, will be found on the IGPS website (<https://irishgardenplantsociety.com>) and we encourage all members to read these and see if any of the ones we are missing can be located.

Of particular interest among our missing cultivars are some of the harder to find older cultivars such as two introduced by the famous Daisy Hill Nursery, A. 'F. W. Moore' and A. 'H. C. Hart'. These would be real finds. Additionally, Gary Dunlop's cultivars are much sought after and, being of more recent introduction, may still be growing in someone's garden, e.g. A. *praecox* 'Donard Giant', A. *inapertus* subsp. *inapertus* 'Cyan', A. 'Silver Sceptre' and A.

'Titan' would make very welcome additions to our collection.

Finally, please consider searching out and growing one of the Irish agapanthus. They are relatively easy to grow; originating in a hot climate they will appreciate a sunny spot in the garden. We grow ours in both full sun and partial shade — those in partial shade tend to be the lighter coloured cultivars which we find tend to burn in strong sunlight. An annual application of some well-rotted manure will keep them well fed. As clumps get larger they can be lifted and split; we find this encourages flowering.



Clockwise from the top left:  
A. 'Helen', A. 'Plas Merdyn White',  
A. *coddii* 'Lady Edith' and  
A. 'Slieve Donard'.

If you have any of the cultivars mentioned 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](mailto:igps.heritageplants@gmail.com).

## The High Grass

by Paddy Tobin



**There has been no shortage in recent years of magazine articles and books on how to create a wildflower meadow or something similar. If the advice is followed, I'm sure it will lead to some sort of flowery space though I doubt if the word 'wild' would have any application. When it came to making such an area in our own garden, we simply allowed things to happen bit by bit and feel that the much misapplied modern gardening term 'wildflower meadow' is certainly not applicable here. Nowadays, we refer to this area as "The High Grass" though at one time it was more glamorously called "The Bulb Lawn".**

There were two large beds in the lower end of the garden running more or less parallel to each other leaving a grassy area of 15 x 8 metres between. Mary and I thought this might be developed to

make it more interesting so it was with the idea of doing something different, of introducing a change, that we started on this project about ten years ago. We had admired plantings of bulbs in lawns in several gardens such as Coolaught Gardens and Garden Centre, but it was the offer to take a few thousand bulbs of the common snowdrop from a long-abandoned garden that spurred us into action. We planted over 4,000 snowdrop bulbs into this area along with some crocus and a pinch of *Fritillaria meleagris* and that was the start.

The snowdrops came into flower in late January followed by the crocus with the fritillaries continuing in early April. We had our Bulb Lawn — it's amazing how enthusiasm will butter one's judgement! However the snowdrops haven't really thrived in this area while a few which were left over and put on a boundary

ditch have multiplied wonderfully. The snowdrops survive and the crocus the same — I think it is too wet for them — but the snake's head fritillaries have thrived, self-seeded and grown hugely in number. Obviously, the conditions in this area resemble a damp riverside meadow, perfect for the fritillaries but not ideal for snowdrops and crocus. The old daffodil *Narcissus* 'Van Zion' loves the conditions and does well here but bulbs of *N. pseudonarcissus* and *N. poeticus* don't.



As with all bulbs it is necessary to allow time after the flowers have gone over for the bulbs to build up for the following year and their foliage is best allowed to die down naturally. Meanwhile the grass grows so this area soon became the High Grass and so it has continued. As the grass grew, so did the 'weeds' — genuine, native Irish wildflowers rather than some pretend-wild, foreign-sourced seeds of some of our natives. These came unbidden, uncultivated, unhindered. Daisies were among the first to thrive, there were some dandelions though not many, later some plantains, both the broad and the narrow-leaved species, and there were some surprises. One year the entire area was a haze of light blue,

a complete covering of forget-me-nots, which never again gave such a generous colouring but it was an absolute delight that year. Creeping and meadow buttercups now colour the entire area each year.

The appearance of these wildflowers, and others of a more delicate nature such as lady's smock, prompted a slight change in management. We scattered seed of yellow rattle, which is a semi-parasitic plant on grass roots, to weaken the grass and give the wildflowers a greater chance. Around this time, we also added a number of plants of the common spotted orchid, some from a friend who had them growing in her lawn and others which I rescued where machinery was about to flatten them. These have done well and have even produced seedlings but they have also influenced how we work the area. Before their introduction we used to cut the grass at the end of July or in early August but, to allow the orchids to set seed, we now don't cut until mid to late August.



*Camassia esculenta*  
'Blue Harmony'.

This late flowering of the orchids and our change of routine to accommodate them left a bit of a gap after the fritillaries had finished and I chanced a few *Camassia* bulbs one year to see how they would do. We had a big spread of a nice short one already in the garden, *Camassia esculenta* 'Blue Harmony', and I put a few dozen into the grass to see how they would manage: they were perfect, holding their blue flowers just above the level of the grass. I added more in following years. My planting method for bulbs is simple: I use a dibber to poke a hole in the ground and just drop the bulb into the hole; if the ground is soft, it is easy to close the hole with one's boot and, if not, I use some sand or old potting compost to fill it. I think the dibber is less likely to damage any existing bulbs I might hit upon than if I used a trowel. There is a sprinkle of other bulbs in the grass, scillas and muscaris among others, but they don't make a significant contribution and are not increasing.

The grass is cut in August and then as often as the rest of the grass in the garden for the remainder of the season. The sward is too thick for a lawnmower to manage so I knock it back with a strimmer. Some years I simply put the grass on the compost heap, in others I have left it to dry on the ground. I collect seed from the fritillaries and the yellow rattle every year. The *Fritillaria* seed is spread immediately in areas where they are sparse; it germinates easily and will flower within a few years while I add the yellow rattle seed in spring.

So the Bulb Lawn became the High Grass; the snowdrops and crocus were not a brilliant success but the fritillaries, camassias and orchids were, and the wildflowers behaved wildly. Its performance can vary from year to year depending on which wildflowers do well and it is both interesting and enjoyable, but it is not a wildflower meadow!



The High Grass with *Fritillaria meleagris*



# Finding *Anemone apennina* 'Ballyrogan Park'

by Andrew Gee

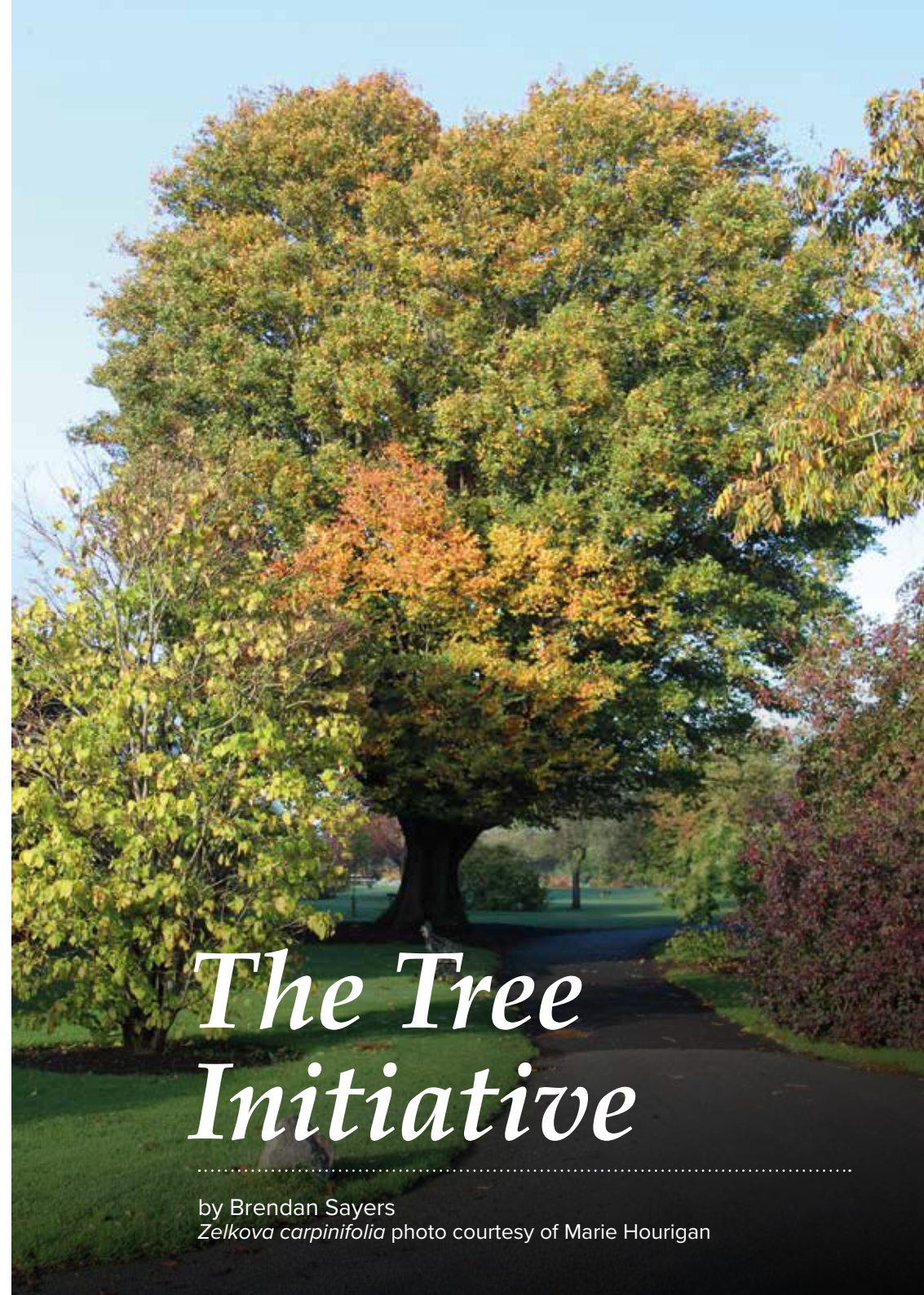
**An exciting find was made recently with the identification of an Irish Heritage Plant, *Anemone apennina* 'Ballyrogan Park'.**

This is an unusual, double-flowered selection of the species which produces a profusion of blue-white flowers, occasionally with a hint of green too, in spring. The flowers can be quite variable, depending on light and moisture, therefore one photo is not entirely representative. It was named by plantsman Gary Dunlop of the former Ballyrogan Nurseries in Newtownards, County Down. When I was researching various Irish heritage anemones, this particular one was of interest because of its mention in the *RHS Plant Review* by Wim Boens (March 2022), in which he described most of the known selections of *A. apennina*. Boens suggested in his article that 'Ballyrogan Park' "may no longer be in cultivation" since he could not find any record of the plant currently being grown. In addition to 'Ballyrogan Park', Boens included two other selections from Northern Ireland named by Mark Smyth of County Antrim: 'Branwen' and 'Ostara'.

The anemone turned up in the garden of a neighbour of Gary Dunlop's, IGPS member Doreen Wilson, who has had several plants from Gary Dunlop over the years, but was unaware of the significance

of this particular anemone. This was an exciting find when Doreen and I were looking at woodland plants in spring. As with many other anemones, *A. apennina* grows best under deciduous trees which allow for light and rain to reach the plants below in spring, whilst subsequently providing shade and drier conditions in summer. A mulch of leaf mould benefits them greatly.

I have since been propagating this plant by splitting the rhizomes to ensure its survival in cultivation. A few have been passed to other IGPS members who will, hopefully, be able to further distribute this plant in time, so that more of us can enjoy this special Ballyrogan anemone in our gardens.



## The Tree Initiative

by Brendan Sayers  
*Zelkova carpinifolia* photo courtesy of Marie Hourigan



Recent articles in both this Newsletter and the e-bulletin have celebrated *Zelkova carpinifolia* 'Glasnevin'. Propagated from the stately specimen at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin and named by Jan Ravensberg of Ravensberg Nurseries, County Offaly, his "about a baker's dozen" of grafted trees were the first outcome of the new IHP Working Party's focus on trees. The purpose of the initiative is to try and secure the future of the rarest of our trees as best we can.

*Zelkova carpinifolia* at maturity is a very large tree and the group decided that choosing a number of selected gardens with suitable space was the appropriate course of action for distribution. The six trees available to the Society were presented to Ardgillan Castle and Gardens, Birr Castle Demesne, Blarney Castle and Gardens, Castlewellan Forest Park, Hillsborough Castle and Gardens and Malahide Castle and Gardens. Hopefully members will be able to see for themselves how this impressive Irish Heritage Plant (IHP) progresses when visiting these gardens.

Over the course of our four and more decades, members have propagated and distributed many plants, but of course recording progress in the propagation and distribution of IHPs is also fundamental to the Society's purpose. To protect members' privacy and the locations of our rare plants, Stephen Butler, Heritage Plants Coordinator, is the only person to receive the



Lord and Lady Rosse planting *Zelkova carpinifolia* 'Glasnevin' at Birr Castle photo courtesy of Mary Forrest

data and update the database of our dispersed collection of IHPs under the Plant Heritage National Collection programme. However, these records could be much more comprehensive if more members sent information about the Irish plants they are growing to Stephen. It is a priority that we are able to account for our efforts; it is not only a record of our achievements as a Society but also an incentive for members to become more involved and actively preserve our heritage plants.



Propagation underway

Our IHP trees are a highly suitable target for conservation. They are long-lived and often make for prominent elements in our garden landscapes. The disadvantage is that many of them cannot be accommodated in members' gardens. Among the list of IHP trees there are some where only a single specimen is known to be cultivated. These are the highest on the priority list of trees that need attention.



New foliage showing the attractive variegation

Charles Nelson records in *A Heritage of Beauty* the sole named specimen of *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Newryensis' which grows in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin. It gets its name from Newry, County Down, home of the Daisy Hill Nursery which introduced it about 100 years ago. Attempts at its propagation and successful culture over the last 20+ years have failed — until now. In early March this year scion wood,

the small stems of the plant you wish to propagate, was delivered to Oliver Sheridan at Teagasc's Ashtown campus in County Dublin. Oliver quickly grafted the scions to rootstocks of the common sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus*. They were then placed on a hot pipe callusing system where the graft union is kept warm while the roots and buds are kept cool. In late May I received a call to say that there were some successes and in June I collected the results of Oliver's knowledge and work.

It is gratifying to know that there is now more than a single specimen of *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Newryensis' in existence. The next challenge is to use the fresh, young, vigorous growth to propagate more 'Newryensis' with its attractive silvery variegation. There is also a challenge as to how the Society can best organise the distribution of our heritage trees. Unlike our herbaceous and shrubby material, they do not easily fit into the boot of a car!

# Starting to Show

by Áine-Máire Ní Mhurchú

I've been an avid gardener for many years but this was my first year to enter the world of showing plants. I am a member of the Alpine Garden Society Dublin Group as well as the IGPS and there is active encouragement to enter plants for the Dublin and Ulster shows. With superb support from expert growers and some back-to-basics teaching on seed sowing and the specific requirements of alpine plants, I have learnt a lot this year.

The biggest lesson is that it is a lot more difficult to grow successfully for show dates than for the garden. The plant must be at its peak. It must be worthy of standing in its own space without the benefit of supporting or complementary planting. Seed-sown varieties must be noted with their date of sowing written clearly. Rules on pot size must be adhered to. I am passionate

about primulas and in particular Irish heritage varieties so I was keen on showing these. *Primula* 'Lady Greer' and *P.* 'Julius Caesar' both won a first in the novice category. I also entered a floral display with *P.* 'Dark Rosaleen', 'Claddagh', 'Avondale' and 'Glengarriff' which also took a first place.

I have learnt to plan ahead and choose plants likely to be at their best at the time of the Show dates. Choose a selection of plants as this provides options when temperatures and much loved family pets have a detrimental effect on the best laid plans. Keep notes on growth habits and flowering times so that you can improve the following year. Most of all engage with those expert growers and listen to the nuggets of information and tips they generously share at meetings and around the show bench.



# The Power of One

All of us have probably heard the phrase about taking one small step when embarking on change. Here are ideas from some of our members of small changes they have embraced to garden in a more eco-friendly way.

**Rosie Maye aka The Insomniac Gardener recommends a comfrey feed.**



Comfrey makes a great potassium-rich feed for any flowering plants in the garden. Cut off the comfrey leaves and put them in a bucket having discarded the stem and flowers, weigh the leaves down with a stone, cover them with water and leave them to rot down. As comfrey has very deep roots, it has access to minerals that other plants don't and these nutrients are stored in the leaves. Cover the bucket if possible as the mixture gets a bit smelly. When it is ready after six to eight weeks, store it in old milk containers

and use as a liquid feed using one part comfrey to 10 parts water. Wear gloves when handling the leaves as there are tiny spines on the back of the leaves which can irritate the skin.



**Dave Victory of The Victory Garden in County Dublin adds advice.**

The best comfrey variety to get is *Symphytum x uplandicum* 'Bocking 14'. This was selected in trials in the 1950s as being sterile so it doesn't seed about. Propagate it by root cuttings or division.





**Marie Curran who looks after the Society's website uses generous helpings of cardboard to control weeds.**

In my wet garden here in the west I use a lot of cardboard and grass clippings. Having dug holes for the plants, I put a layer of cardboard around the holes, followed by about an inch of grass clippings. The clippings do two things for me: they keep the weeds in check — for a while — and they feed the plants. Creeping buttercup loves my boggy soil so the less I dig the better. If I have the money, I cover the grass clippings with a layer of bark mulch; this is the best finish as it looks well and really does keep the weeds down. How long the weeds are suppressed depends on the time of year. Starting in winter it can be May before I have to weed but, if I start in late spring or early summer, it's only a matter of a month or six weeks before the weeds re-emerge. I try to have a stash of cardboard in the shed, and I've been known to rummage through the recycling bin of my local shop in search of cardboard — with their permission of course.



**When not working on our monthly ebulletin, Rosie Campbell endeavours to reduce the County Down slug population.**

By encouraging a diversity of native wildlife, my husband Mark and I hope to keep pest populations in balance but haven't quite got this right 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. Get the rubber gloves on, collect them in a compostable bag and put them in your green waste bin. I also use beer traps but have recently found that black currant cordial is cheaper and works just as well.

**Containers give impact but demand a lot of water; Elaine Butler shares some ideas. See her hints on [www.livinglightlyinireland.com](http://www.livinglightlyinireland.com)**



Photo courtesy of Rosie Maye

Use bigger pots as they dry out more slowly and group them together to keep them cool in order to reduce the need for watering. Avoid dark coloured pots as they absorb more heat and will require extra watering. Have a "canary plant", that is a plant that shows water shortage quickly; this is typically a soft-stemmed plant with big leaves that will droop when in need of water. This provides an early alert and will avoid other plants getting damaged from drying out. Bishop's weed or *Aegopodium podagraria* is mine. [Bishop's weed also known as ground elder is considered by some to be a pernicious weed. Ed.]

**A pond is the top recommendation from Kevin Begley of Coolwater Garden in Limerick.**

Coolwater's Water Garden has brought an enormous amount of wildlife into the immediate area. The pond, ninety feet long, and planted with 95% local vegetation (such as weeping sedge, bulrushes, reeds, water mint, purple loosestrife, bird's foot trefoil, bog bean, marsh marigolds, purple vetch and yellow flag irises) is home to moorhens, sticklebacks, dragonflies, damselflies, birds such as Wagtails and Swallows, frogs, newts and, my favourite of all, whirlygig beetles. Coolwater has more ponds situated in the West Garden which are totally crammed with newts. They must be very gregarious. Every garden that has a natural pond will contribute greatly to the variety of wildlife in the local area.



# Worth a Read

by Paddy Tobin

## **The Biodiversity Gardener**

I imagine that it is only a very few who are unaware of the need and vital importance of encouraging biodiversity in our gardens yet many struggle with how best to go about achieving this aim. There are the regular trends: 'No Mow May' being a recent example, a call to inaction with only very vague information on what might be accomplished or how any gains achieved might be continued, little more than a fashionable online/social media bandwagon! It is wonderful to come on a book which takes encouraging biodiversity in the garden as its theme and addresses it in a manner which I can describe as wonderfully comprehensive.

After an education in zoology, a career as a wildlife photographer and author (more than 50 books), and a lifetime interest in natural history, Paul Sterry came to appreciate that his half acre garden in north Hampshire was a fascinating microcosm of the greater natural world; with his help it became an even richer one. The book combines the joy and fascination of one who loves all things in nature, describes his efforts to better accommodate and encourage nature in his garden, and is fabulously interesting, beautifully presented and particularly



encouraging to others to make an effort in their own garden. As might be imagined, given the author's career, the camera is ever at hand and all those wonderful moments of nature are perfectly captured for our enjoyment. The range of plants, insects, animals, fungi etc recorded and presented is hugely impressive, such that the book would well serve as a general introduction for the reader to wildlife in general.

*The Biodiversity Gardener, Establishing a Legacy for the Natural World*, Paul Sterry, Princeton University Press, £25.

## **The Hidden Company That Trees Keep**

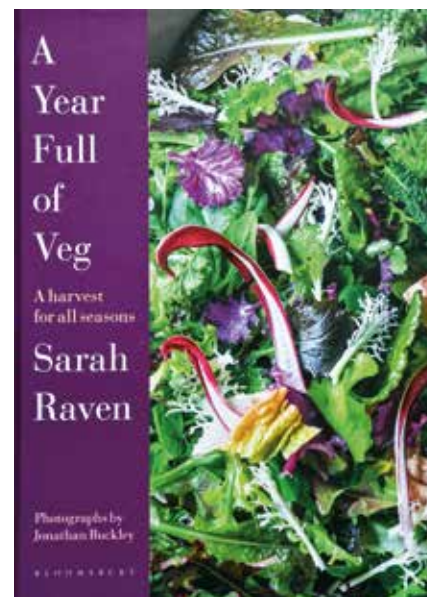
This is, in my mind, the perfect route to encouraging conservation. Rather than haranguing the reader with dreadful doomsday predictions, it presents an insight into the communities which surround our native trees such that the reader is fascinated, amazed and wonderfully appreciative of nature's work. All is told in a marvellously enjoyable style and illustrated by amazingly detailed and informative illustrations.

*The Hidden Company That Trees Keep, Life from Treetops to Root Tips*, James B Nardi, Princeton University Press, £25.



## **A Year Full of Veg**

This is a companion/complimentary book to Sarah Raven's previous book, *A Year Full of Flowers*, and is again a book of the very highest quality, of the best practical advice, clearly and concisely written and wonderfully illustrated. Rather than attempting an encyclopaedic approach, she has distilled her considerable experience and selected those vegetable varieties and cultivars which give most return in the smallest space, an approach which gives the book relevance to those with gardens big or small.



The book is organised as a month-by-month presentation, each with an introduction and celebration of all that is best that month: the vegetables to be harvested, seeds to be sown, seedlings to be transplanted, maintenance of all aspects of the gardens, flowers to be appreciated, and very practical

advice with basic techniques explained and illustrated along with guidance to get the very best from your efforts.

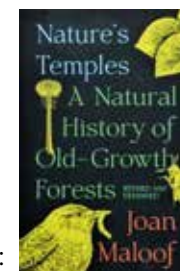
Another masterpiece of practicality and beauty which I am certain will inspire the beginner to give it a go and the more experienced gardener to broaden and enjoy their work in the vegetable garden. An excellent book.

*A Year Full of Veg, A harvest for all seasons*, Sarah Raven with photographs by Jonathan Buckley, Bloomsbury Publishing, £27.

## **Nature's Temples**

This book examines how the life forms in ancient undisturbed forests differ from those in a forest manipulated by humans. The conclusion is simple: more species exist in old-growth forests than in those we manage and some species exist only in older forests. The author calls on a multitude of studies as well as on her own experience to reveal the wealth of biodiversity in natural forests and compares this with managed woodland. The important and central lesson is that we must do all we can to preserve these important ecosystems as we can never entirely replace them should we lose them. It is an informative, encouraging and inspiring read.

*Nature's Temples, A Natural History of Old-Growth Forests*, Joan Maloof, Princeton University Press, £16.99.





# A Gardener's Eye

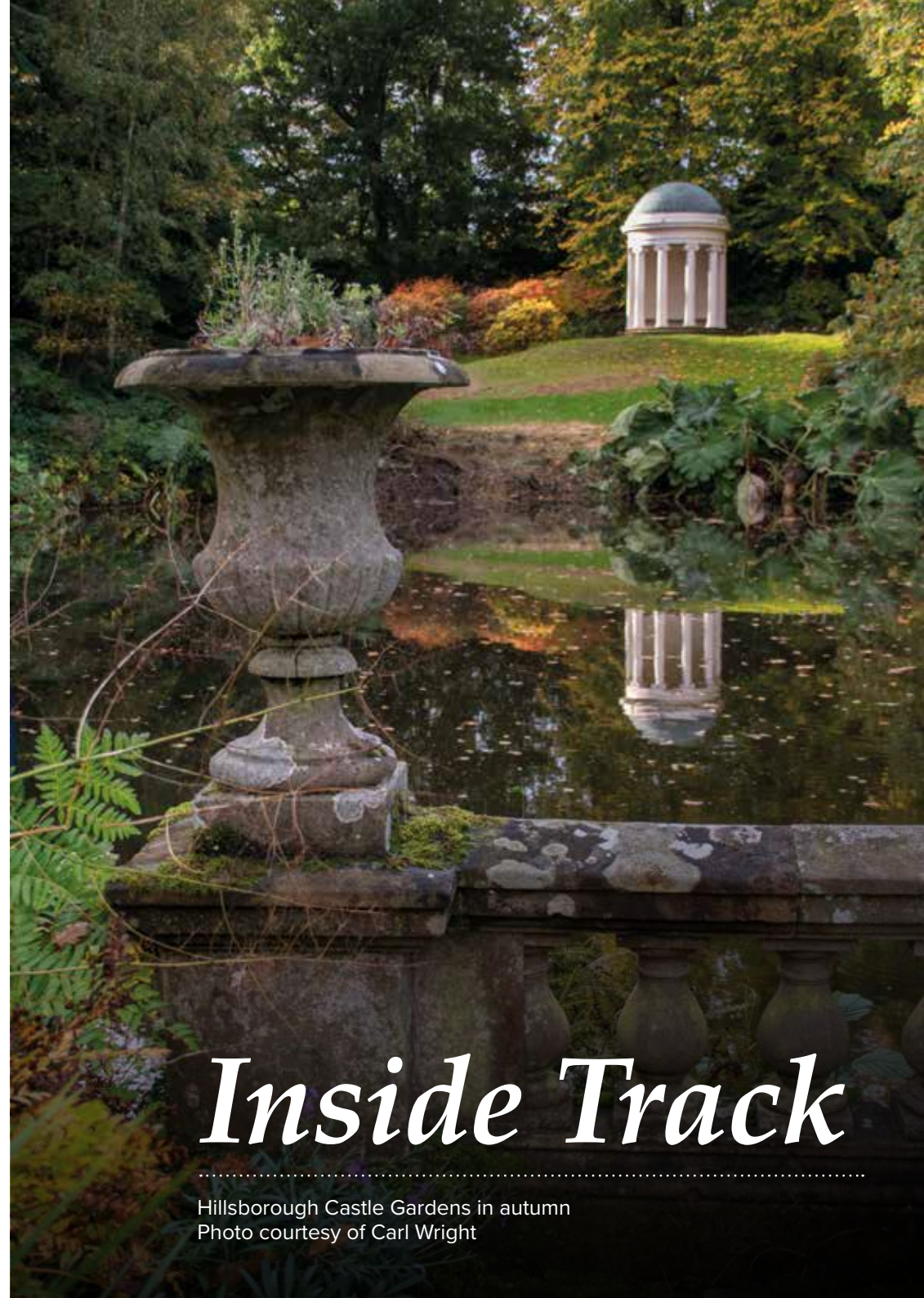
by Carmel Duignan

There is a charming Carnegie Library that was built in 1912 in our suburb in south east County Dublin. Its well-kept garden now boasts of several tall towers of *Echium pininana* plants — all in full flower and buzzing with bees. I first saw these exciting plants many years ago in the garden of the noted horticulturist, the late Dr David Robinson.

I learned that these echiums, native to the Canary Islands, had been grown in a few climatically-favoured gardens in Ireland, but they were rarities until Dr Robinson introduced them to his garden in Howth where they gradually spread over his and neighbouring gardens. I was enchanted with them and, thanks to the generosity of Dr Robinson, I went home with a few seedlings. These young plants were the first to be planted in my area and, as in Howth, they spread their wings and in subsequent years appeared in neighbouring gardens. So I can claim some link with the library plants.

*Echium pininana* is a biennial (sometimes triennial) plant commonly known as viper's bugloss. It starts off as a small hairy-leaved seedling that in early spring starts to grow rapidly into a cone-shaped plant that can reach to over three metres in height. The blue flowers open at the bottom of the plant and rapidly spread to the top. It is much visited by bees and pollinating insects and, after setting seed, it

dies off in the late autumn. Not everyone loves this plant. One of my neighbours described it as 'a Spanish weed' and indeed it is endangered in its native habitat. I love it and I have found that gifts of seedlings are especially welcomed by young people. Some years ago I gave a seedling to a young neighbour and now learn that he is competing online with growers in Cornwall as to who grows the tallest echium. And winning!



## Inside Track

Hillsborough Castle Gardens in autumn  
Photo courtesy of Carl Wright



## AGM 2024 – Save the Date

Next year's AGM will be held on **18 and 19th May** in north County Down. Further details will follow in January.

## Congratulations

Many congratulations to the following members: Claire Woods, Garden Manager at Hillsborough Castle Gardens (and member of the Northern Committee), on the award of the MBE; Andrew Gee, who looks after our Facebook and Instagram presence, on his outstanding results in his A level exams (Leaving Cert equivalent), and to long-standing enthusiast Margaret Casey, founding and honorary member Mary Davies, and author and proprietor of Tullyally Castle, Thomas Pakenham, all of whom celebrated their 90th birthdays earlier this year. And while not a member, our congratulations also go to Billy Alexander on winning not only a Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show but the President's Award for the best exhibit in the Great Pavilion.

## Plant Sale

Well done to the Northern committee who raised an impressive amount of around £1700 after expenses at their plant sale on 27th May.

## Do you grow *Potentilla* 'Sophie's Blush'?

*Potentilla* 'Sophie's Blush', which originated at Baronscourt, County Tyrone in the 1970s, was the featured IHP at our AGM this year, but currently the only place known to be growing it is Ardgillan Castle. With masses of small, pale pink blooms and flowering in both late spring and August, it is a robust, garden-worthy shrub. Surely it must still feature in a member's garden? Please get in touch with Stephen Butler at [igps.heritageplants@gmail.com](mailto:igps.heritageplants@gmail.com) if you know of it.

## Collect Seed Now

The Seed List coordinated by Debbie Bailey is a key membership benefit. Debbie is inviting more members to collect and share seed. You can help even if you haven't contributed before: 1) just collect the ripe seeds on a dry day, 2) put them in a paper bag or envelope labelling it with the variety right away, 3) once dry, clean the husk and other debris from the seeds, 4) put them in a clean envelope having written the name of the seeds on it and 5) send it to **Debbie Bailey, Clonguire, Ballynacarrig, Brittas Bay, Co Wicklow** to arrive with her no later than **1st December**.

# Report of the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting

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by Áine-Máire Ní Mhurchú

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General meeting of the Society was held at Ardgillan Castle and Demesne on Saturday 20 May 2023. It was attended by Executive Committee members: Chairman - Mary Forrest, Treasurer - David Grayson, Secretary - Áine-Máire Ní Mhurchú, Membership Secretary - Nichola Monk, Leinster representative - Breda Cummins, Northern representative - Billy McCone, and a further 42 members.

## Summary of the Chair's Report

Chairman Mary Forrest welcomed members and reviewed the activities of the previous year including lectures, garden visits, newsletters and e-bulletins. The website was revamped and there were successful plant sales in Antrim Castle Gardens and in Blackrock, County Dublin, while the seed exchange resulted in 256 kinds of seed supplied by 23 members being distributed to 135 members.

A key aim of the Society is the conservation of garden plants raised in Ireland, now known as Irish Heritage Plants (IHPs). Progress in this regard included setting up a new Working Group to coordinate various initiatives, such as Special Interest Groups to source, propagate and distribute certain groups of plants; currently these are *Rodgersia*, *Agapanthus*, *Crocasmia*, *Bergenia* and *Galanthus*. Informal groupings dedicated to primula and

heathers are in their early stages. The Working Group has updated the Society's earlier Plant Conservation Strategy for consideration by the Executive Committee. It will be available to members via the website by the autumn.

A further important initiative related to IHP trees. Scion wood from the *Zelkova carpinifolia* growing at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, was propagated by Jan Ravensberg of Ravensberg Nurseries and six young trees of *Zelkova carpinifolia* 'Glasnevin', the cultivar name given by Jan, were given to the IGPS. These trees had been presented to Blarney Castle in County Cork, Birr Castle in County Offaly, Malahide Castle and Ardgillan Castle in County Dublin, Hillsborough Castle and Gardens and Castlewelling Arboretum in County Down. Another tree where only one specimen was known to exist, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, 'Newryensis', was currently being propagated by Teagasc.

Publicity and promotion of IHPs took place with articles in each issue of the Newsletter, coverage of developments in the e-bulletin, and a growing section of plant profiles on the website. Two new cultivars were officially named in the Newsletter: *Jasminum officinale* 'Crimson Bud' and the heather



*Erica x stuartii* 'Mysterious Colleen'. Members continued to acquire and cultivate Irish Heritage Plants and this work was continuing at the Lismacloskey Rectory Garden, Cultra, County Down, and at Pogue's Entry in Antrim.

Mary reported that the membership was as follows: Leinster 276, Northern 256, Munster and Connacht 132, and a further 15, totaling 679 members in all. At the year's end the membership had increased by 47.

Mary warmly thanked the many volunteers; as many as 45 have designated roles within the Society. She appealed for more members to volunteer to help and ideally in time to take over these roles.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Accounts for the year 2022-2023 were presented by the Treasurer, David Grayson. David reported on a positive year with subscriptions up from €13.5k to €16.5k which, when added to other income, brought the total income up to €29,874 compared with €17,260 the previous year. Reflecting the increase in activity post-Covid, overall expenditure rose from €15.6k to €31.3k. The major increases related to the Newsletter, an increase from €3.5k to €7.3k, lectures and visits €5.2k to €9.6k, accountancy and the database where there had been no expenditure the year before to €2.4k and €1.2k respectively, and the website from €0.5k to €1.3k. Overall there was a small deficit of €1,385 but this was satisfactory given the Society's overall reserves of €44k.

The accounts were formally adopted.

### **Election of Officers and Committee members**

Vacancies existed for:

- Vice Chairperson
- Leinster and Munster Representatives
- Committee Members.

Rosie Campbell was nominated as a committee member and welcomed onto the Committee. The Leinster representative, Breda Cummins, had stepped down; the meeting thanked her for her contribution to both the NEC and Leinster committee in recent years.

**Other business**, Mary Tobin raised concerns about the lack of a Munster committee. Mary Forrest replied that she had contacted all Munster members with an email address to try to form a committee and she was continuing to try and resolve this. Meanwhile two members in Munster had invited us to visit their gardens.

Paddy Tobin made a plea for more Zoom talks to facilitate members all around the country to avail of lectures.

Following the AGM, there was a free draw for all present to choose an Irish plant, a lecture by Head Gardener Dominica Mc Kevitt on the development of the gardens at Ardgillan Castle, and a presentation of a number of Irish cultivars to Kevin Halpenny of Fingal County Council for Dominica to add to Ardgillan's collection.

### **Membership of the committees and other positions as of May 2023**

#### **National Executive Committee**

Chair - Mary Forrest  
Honorary Secretary  
- Áine-Máire Ní Mhurchú  
Honorary Treasurer  
- David Grayson  
Membership Secretary  
- Nichola Monk  
Northern sub-committee representative - Billy McCone  
Committee member  
- Rosie Campbell

#### **Northern Sub-Committee:**

Chair - Robert Logan  
Joanna Loane  
Billy McCone  
Claire McNally  
Helen Murphy  
Agnes Peacocke  
Maureen Reid  
Robert Trotter  
Adrian Walsh  
Claire Woods

#### **Leinster Sub-Committee:**

Chair - Theresa Crothers  
Edith Brosnan  
Mary Montaut  
Michelle Nolan  
Anne-Marie Woods

#### **Munster Sub-Committee:**

Vacant

**Website** - Marie Curran

#### **Facebook and Instagram**

- Andrew Gee

**Ebulletin** - Rosie Campbell

**Newsletter Editor** - Maeve Bell

#### **Heritage Plants Co-ordinator**

- Stephen Butler

#### **Seed Exchange Organiser**

- Debbie Bailey

**Editor of *Moorea*** - Peter Milligan



Photo courtesy of Donal Jennings

# Meet the Committee

**Debbie Bailey**  
*Seed exchange organiser*



As is very often the case for gardeners, I probably got my love of gardening from my mother and my grandmother who were both passionate gardeners. Long before making a career of horticulture, I relished gardens, plants and the green outdoors. Having had the opportunity to train at the National Botanic Gardens as a mature student and then work as both a horticultural consultant and therapist, I feel privileged to be immersed in gardening professionally and personally.

We moved from Dublin to Wicklow a few years ago and I now have an outdoor space (not yet a garden) to try and tame. It is hilly, beside the sea and full of rocks and rabbits, so I am learning to live and work with, rather than try to overcome, these challenges. I took over the IGPS seed distribution scheme from Stephen Butler some years ago and through this work have met many passionate gardeners which has been very rewarding.

**Rosie Campbell**  
*E-bulletin editor*



My most enduring memory as a child is of being in the garden with my father. He truly had green fingers and was way before his time when it came to sustainability. His purpose-built glass house was constructed using old windows and he never bought plants, he raised everything from seed and cuttings or 'slips' to use his phrase.

Sadly he is no longer with us but the passion for plants he instilled in me is very much alive. Now that my children have branched out from home to University, I have found time to do what I truly love. I am fortunate to have the companionship of my husband, Mark, in my gardening exploits and together we have started our own business making plant supports and garden metalcraft. Joining the IGPS has instilled in both of us the desire to introduce as many Irish cultivars into our garden as we can. This is fuelled by the inspirational people we have met, the wonderful garden visits and plant sales!

# Around the Regions

**Garden Visits and Summer lunch on 24th June**  
**Gash and Clonohill Gardens**

Nestled in the beautiful rural location of Castletown, Co Laois, Gash Gardens is a gem. Almost 40 years after her father turned four acres of grazing farmland close to the River Nore into an inspirational garden, daughter Mary Keenan along with her husband, Ross Doyle, both qualified horticulturists, have continued to develop and nurture it with a beautiful array of trees, shrubs, plants and flowers. Not only do you get to experience beautiful design and landscaping but the clever placing of plants and shrubs that surround the family home also provides great inspiration for your own home and garden.

A nice feature of Gash Gardens is the onsite nursery, which contains a large collection of quality plants, most of which you will see in the garden. So if you spot a plant that you like, it will be available to purchase directly from the nursery at the end of your visit.  
*Struan Bickerton.*

Following the visit to Gash, we drove in convoy on narrow winding roads to Clonohill House and garden, home of Enda Thompson Phelan, where we were greeted warmly and served a beautiful lunch before touring the different areas of the garden.

Starting in the woodland area, Enda pointed out plants that do well in shade including *Beesia*. We moved along a narrow pathway edged with interesting plants to the front of the house to be dazzled by a great stand of *Delphinium* while gleaming white birch trees framed the view of the Laois countryside and the herd of Jacob sheep. We admired a selection of large hostas and miniature ones too, all virtually untouched by snails. We then walked to the weed-free walled garden to see another selection of choice plants including peonies, blue poppies, *Mitraria*, *Ramonda* and *Tropaeolum*. We enjoyed Enda's no-nonsense approach to gardening; she has favourites like her trilliums while phormiums are her pet hate at present.

*Margaret Fitzpatrick*





## Open Day at Pogue's Entry, Antrim on Friday 7th July

The small walled garden in Pogue's Entry, owned by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and developed and maintained by the Society, showcases many Irish Heritage plants. *Patricia Kernohan's* full report will appear in the e-bulletin.



IGPS volunteers at Pogue's Entry: Patricia Kernohan, Yvonne Penpraze, Robert Logan, Billy McCone and Libby Searle. Photo courtesy of Barbara Kelso.

## Ballyedmond Castle Gardens, County Down on Saturday 8th July

Wedged between the Mourne Mountains and Carlingford Lough, Ballyedmond has undergone some interesting changes since the last IGPS visit five years ago. At the rear of the castle, grassy banks have been removed, lots of hardcore added and Mediterranean-style planting established. Remarkably the lowest temperature this area has recorded since construction is -1°. *Cycas revoluta* along with other subtropical plants thrive here.

Compare this to Belfast where it resides in the Tropical Ravine. A large wildlife pond has been dug and newts are thriving. No frogspawn has been seen as yet probably because it has been top of the newts' menu.

I particularly enjoyed the "Leaf Garden", a garden within a garden. A two metre high *Griselinia* hedge encloses plants with distinctive foliage, e.g. *Acacia pravissima*, *Tetrapanax papyrifer* and *Amicia zygomeris*. It gives a calm and intimate space as does the stumpy with its descending path and high sides allowing the visitor to examine ferns at eye level. Overall the garden has matured softening and complimenting the statuary and hard landscaping. Many thanks go to our hostess Lady Ballyedmond and gardeners Ian, Andrew and Jacob for making our visit so memorable. *Arlene Welsh*



Photo courtesy of Rosie Maye

## Inchydoney House, Clonakilty, County Cork on 22nd July

Following the kind invitation of our member, Jerome Lynch, members enjoyed a special treat visiting Inchydoney House and its gardens located minutes away from Clonakilty. Thanks to the mild coastal climate, many varieties of plants are being grown including some unusual and rare specimens. While the landscape and structures are centuries old, in reality the gardens are relatively new or recently regenerated including a two acre walled garden with dry stone terracing, glasshouses, cold frames, polytunnel, potting sheds and ponds. The walled garden includes exotic borders and flower beds, vegetable and fruit production, an Italian garden, a rose garden and an informal wildlife pond. Other features of the property include lawns, several ponds, a saltwater lagoon, woodlands and wild flower meadows.

*Mary Forrest*



## Anne and Danny McCaughan's Garden, Cultra, County Down on 5th August

Situated in coastal Cultra near the shores of Belfast Lough, this is a mild, one acre garden which provides just the right environment for Anne's enormous collection of *Hydrangea* and other special plants. Stretching almost all the way along the driveway was a huge stand of mophead hydrangeas which were very impressive. One highlight of this surprisingly large genus (Anne has 115+ different varieties) was *H. aspera* 'Hot Chocolate', with dark burgundy leaves and contrasting pink sepals. Aside from the hydrangeas, Anne and Danny have developed a variety of planting areas, ranging from a woodland area, two boggy sites for moisture loving plants, and a meadow. The meadow incorporates perennials such as *Alchemilla*, *Astrantia* and species *Gladiolus* which provide additional interest and seem to grow just as well, if not better, than in a conventional border. There are numerous choice woody plants, one of which was an unidentified, late-flowering, large-leaved magnolia with marvelous golden yellow blooms; it was a treat to see as Anne explained its flowers rarely manage to fully develop.

*Andrew Gee*



*Hydrangea aspera* 'Hot Chocolate'

### The Walled Garden at Russborough House on 19th August

Originally built in the 1700s, the grand house and garden has been managed by the Alfred Beit Foundation since the 1970s. The walled garden was in complete disrepair until 2011 when the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland (RHSI) took on the task of restoring it. We were met by one of their volunteers who explained that the garden is open two days a week and all the work is on a voluntary basis.

Half the area has been restored into a kitchen garden with an amazing array of fruit trees and soft fruit canes. A very large but elderly glass house runs along the left hand top wall; inside was an exotic array of tender flowering climbers as well as tomatoes and other fruits. Of particular note were a beautiful pink *Lophospermum erubescens* and many pots of cannas. The smell was jungly and heavenly! Outside were herbaceous borders lining the garden edges with a summery display of dahlias and a pergola with roses. The other half of the garden has been hedged into quarters with future plans for a rose garden.

### June Blake's garden also on 19th August

For those who haven't had the chance to visit, the style of the garden is contemporary with dazzling colour, architectural planting, a calming pool within rusted steel edging, altogether a really special garden to visit.

Beside June's house is an area absolutely jam-packed with colour. A huge golden bamboo dominates the centre of the space but at the same time provides the perfect backdrop to the colourful planting. This is in raised beds which allows dahlias — over 1000 are planted every year by June and her helpers — and monardas to enjoy the free drainage. Planting for the most part is in blocks of colour; vibrant yellows, flaming oranges and hot pinks are bursting out everywhere you look. It is also tall and you feel enveloped into the colour and smell and texture. Plants I noted were *Patrinia monandra*, *Calamagrostis* 'Overdam', *Bistorta amplexicaulis* 'Fat Domino', *Dahlia* 'Bright Eyes', *Nepeta* 'Blue Dragon' and a large *Hydrangea aspera* 'Spinners' with its vibrant purples. *Oonah Stringer*



# Dates for your Diary

*Agapanthus* 'Patent Blue' photo courtesy of Nicola Milligan



# Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 19 October  
at 7.30pm**

## **A Year at Hillsborough Castle Gardens**

with Claire Woods MBE  
Venue: Antrim Old Courthouse,  
Market Square, Antrim, BT41 4AW.

Formerly a lecturer in horticulture at CAFRE probably better known as Greenmount College, **Claire Woods** has been instrumental in the transformation of Hillsborough Castle Gardens since she was appointed Garden Manager five years ago. Claire is a member of the Northern regional committee. The IGPS recently presented a young plant of *Jasminum officinale* 'Crimson Bud' (see Issue 158 p15) to the gardens.



**Thursday 19th October  
at 8pm**

## **Creative Gardening with Bulbs**

with Christine Skelmersdale,  
Venue: National Botanic Gardens,  
Glasnevin, Dublin, D09 VY63.

Organised jointly with the Alpine Garden Society Dublin Group, Lady Skelmersdale's talk will focus on using bulbs in the garden.

**Lady Christine Skelmersdale** is the founder and owner of Broadleigh Gardens in Somerset which specialises in smaller bulbs, species peonies, woodland and foliage plants. She is a former member of the RHS Council, a former President of The Friends of Bristol Botanic Gardens and is a frequent contributor to several horticultural magazines.



# Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 22nd October  
from 11am to 1pm**

## **Plant sale**

Venue: Newtownpark Parish  
Pastoral Centre, Newtownpark  
Avenue, Blackrock, County  
Dublin, A94 VF74.

Organised by the Leinster committee, this is an unrivalled opportunity to buy a huge range of plants including many rare or uncommon plants and Irish Heritage Plants.

**Saturday 25th November  
at 2pm**

## **Trees for the Future**

with John Anderson, Keeper of the  
Gardens, Windsor Great Park and  
the Savill and Valley Gardens.  
Venue: National Botanic Gardens,  
Glasnevin, Dublin, D09 VY63.

Climate change has impacted on our gardens and has opened our eyes to the challenges we are facing. John Anderson will suggest the trees we should look to for the future.

Having trained at Glasnevin and then Kew, **John Anderson** has had a stellar career being head gardener at Mount Usher, Inverewe on the west coast in Scotland and Exbury Gardens in Hampshire. In 2016, he was appointed to the prestigious post at Windsor Great Park.



# Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 7th December  
at 7.30pm**

## **The Annesley Garden and Arboretum at Castlewella**

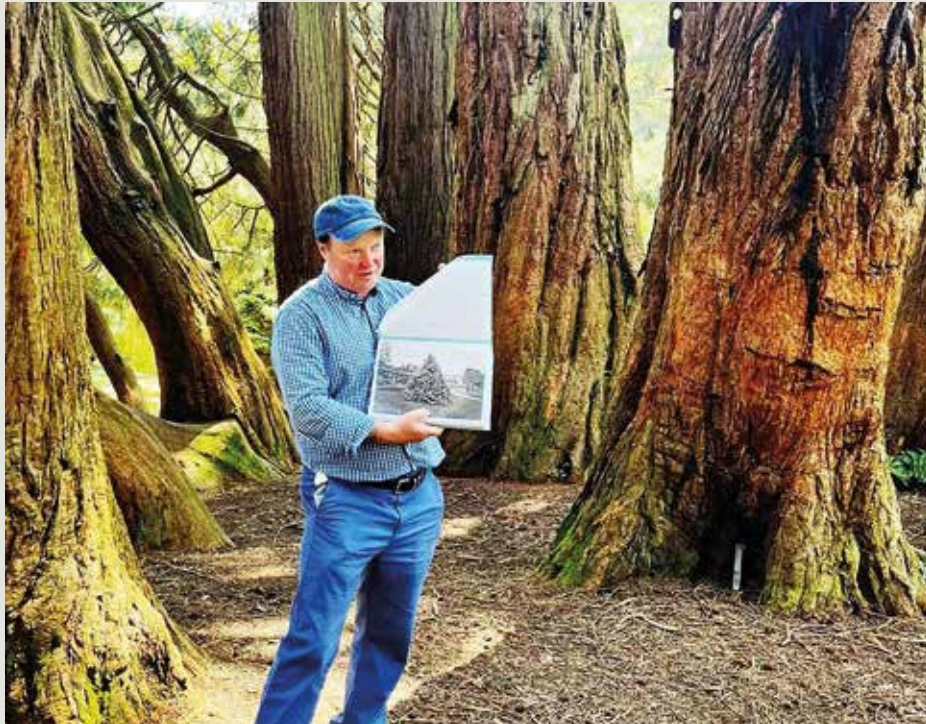
with Alwyn Sinnamon  
Venue: Malone House,  
Barnett's Demesne, Malone Rd,  
Belfast, BT9 5PB

The Walled Garden at Castlewella dates to the 1750s but it wasn't until the late 1800s with the 5th Earl, Hugh Annesley, that Castlewella went from a small, unknown garden

to being world famous. Hugh Annesley with the help of his head gardener, Thomas Ryan, transformed Castlewella into a stunning collection of exotic trees and shrubs from many corners of the world.

This was Castlewella in its heyday.

**Alwyn Sinnamon** is the Head Gardener at the Annesley Garden and Arboretum where a major programme of restoration is currently under way.



# Thanks to 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.

**Andrew Gee**, a geography student at the Queen's University of Belfast, gardens in Bangor, County Down. He looks after the Society's social media - Facebook and Instagram

**Áine-Máire Ní Mhurchú** was elected honorary secretary of the Society in 2021. She lives and gardens in County Meath.

**Paul Maher** retired recently as Curator of the National Botanic Gardens. He is a long standing member of the IGPS, served on the committee on two occasions and also edited the Newsletter for several years.

**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.

**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. He is a long standing member and former committee member.

**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.

Many thanks to the following members for their contributions:

**Kevin Begley, Struan Bickerton, Elaine Butler, Rosie Campbell, Marie Curran, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Barbara Kelso, Patricia Kernohan, Rosie Maye, Oonah Stringer, Dave Victory, and Arlene Welsh.**

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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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