

## Key Dates

Please note that these events will only take place if Government restrictions to halt the spread of Coronavirus permit. Please contact the event organiser for the latest information.

September



### Garden Holiday

Dates: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>

Venues: The Gardens of Kent and Sussex

**Organiser:**

**Julia Chant (01503 220081|07425 141871|chant1960@btinternet.com)**



### Day Trip by Coach

Date: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>

Venues: Burrow Farm Gardens and Prospect House, Axminster

**Organiser:**

**Catherine McDonald (01872 272800 or 07909 544931|taddymcd@hotmail.co.uk)**

The booking form is available as a download from our website or in hard copy upon request.



### Self-drive Visit

Date: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>

Venues: St Michael's Mount, Marazion and The National Dahlia Collection, Penzance

**Organiser:**

**Louise Thomas (07966 897561|louise.trewidden@gmail.com)**

The booking form will be available nearer the time.

**Next Issue** - If you would like to contribute to the September 2020 issue, please contact Jilly Easterby by 1st August on membership@cornwallgardensociety.org.uk or 07743164434.

To make provisional bookings for day trips by coach and garden holidays, please contact Mary Hutt, Bookings Secretary on 01872 863735 or via patfward@hotmail.com

To find out more about the CGS, please contact Jilly Easterby, Membership Secretary on 07743164434 or membership@cornwallgardensociety.org.uk

You can also like us on facebook.com/CornwallGardenSociety, follow @CwlGardenSoc on Twitter and Instagram, or visit [cornwallgardensociety.org.uk](http://cornwallgardensociety.org.uk)

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# Cornwall Garden Society Newsletter

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## Chairman's Corner

Dark times. The pestilence that stalks the land has inevitably caused a massive disruption to our activities, first and foremost, the cancellation of our Spring Flower Show, which had promised to be so exciting. This enforced cancellation at such a late stage has been costly for the Society. We have also had to cancel self-drive visits and more distant trips. But all is not doom and gloom. To quote the Monty Python team "always look on the bright side". And to quote another but rather more venerable source, Harold Macmillan, our Prime Minister in what seems a very distant era, our gardens "...have never had it so good". Excellent growing conditions, plenty of rain earlier in the year, although we cursed it at the time, followed by the blissful weather in April, and then the "soft refreshing

rain" as we entered May, followed by day after day of sun. Also, of course, our gardens have benefitted from the amount of time that under home confinement we have been able to devote to them, and are looking at their very best. The only sadness is that we can't share the pleasure that they are giving us.

But let us hope that normal service can be restored before too long; and that you all stay safe and well.

**Sir Robert Owen**  
**Chairman**

### Spring Flower Show Update

As I write, it is seven weeks since we had to take the very difficult decision to cancel our 2020 Spring Flower Show. This was truly saddening as we were on track for a hugely successful occasion, generating proceeds to go towards the many initiatives that CGS supports and attracting ever greater numbers of show-goers and traders. As it turns out, it has been a bumper year for our exhibition species and, of course, the weather was amazing during our show weekend. Not only this, but my team had put together a really magnificent visual feast and were, as always, working tremendously hard to deliver a great event.



All this said, the team's spirits are indomitable! We are already well into the planning for 2021. The themes remain extant. We plan to provide the opportunity for show-goers to participate in one of the first competitive exhibitions of spring flowers in the UK horticultural calendar. We aim to gather together the best and most diverse selection of nurseries and traders in one place at a time when gardeners are keen to replenish their gardens with quality plants. We intend to offer a full day experience of things to see, items to purchase, interesting talks to listen to and delicious food and drink to kick off the new gardening year and champion Cornwall's floral wealth. We hope to see you there.

**Dickie Trant**  
**Show Director**

## Cornwall Professional Gardeners' Group Virtual Flower Show



**The People's Choice:  
Ned Lomax's rhododendron**

It's a strange world! In March, with my Trewithen hat on, I entered the West Cornwall Spring Show. Who knew it would be the first, last and only flower show of spring 2020? As Coronavirus took hold, it became increasingly obvious that all such gatherings, including the CPGG's calendar of events, would be cancelled.

At Trewithen, staff were furloughed and I was the only gardener remaining. Even during the world wars, we had at least two.

The CPGG was established to encourage head gardeners to meet up, share ideas, chat and eat pasties. With lockdown, this was impossible.

This got me thinking. What if we ran a virtual show along the same timeline as a real show? I worked out the logistics with Ben Probert, who helps to organise the CPGG alongside Ned Lomax and John Lanyon. We would run it on the CPGG Facebook page with a schedule of five classes, involving selecting a flower during your "walk for exercise," "picking" it (taking a photo), "staging" it (sending it in) and awaiting the judging the following weekend. Ben would be chief judge. We would give out emoji medals to the winning entries and a People's Choice award to the one with the most likes.

The RHS came on board because Trewithen is a partner garden, and we received entries not only from Cornwall but the wider UK, Portugal and Italy!

We are now running a show per month on the CPGG Virtual Flower Show 2020 Facebook page with one class and a single theme. Categories have included "Feeling Hot" for tropical plants that participants have spotted during their daily exercise and "Lightening up Lockdown" for the one plant that is helping you through these troubled times.

We hope you will join in the fun.

**Gary Long**  
**Cornwall Professional Gardeners' Group**

## On the Lookout for New Lecture Organisers

Elizabeth Wilton and Judith Hancock have announced their intention to step down as our Lecture Organisers in December after many years of distinguished service. We are most grateful to them for attracting speakers of national and international renown to inform and inspire us.

We now seek two successors to continue their outstanding work so if you possess excellent organisational skills and would enjoy curating our future lecture programme – which comprises twelve talks by six speakers between October and March at The Alverton in Truro, Penventon Park Hotel in Redruth and St Mellion International Resort in Saltash – I would be delighted to hear from you.

Lecturers are booked for next year so this would initially involve running confirmed events from January 2021 whilst arranging new speakers for 2022 and beyond from published lists or by personal approach to interesting horticultural professionals.

Please contact me if you would like more details about this opportunity to make a positive contribution to the Society's offer.

**Sir Robert Owen**  
**Chairman**  
**01726 885031|robert.owen@btinternet.com**

## Garden Holiday Update

As a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the holiday to Highgrove and the Cotswolds that we had planned for June 2020 will not go ahead.

Brightwater, who organised the trip, are working on rescheduling it for 2021, and deposits paid by those who had booked for this year will be carried over.

For those who do not wish to go on the trip next year, Brightwater will issue a credit voucher for the deposit paid to be redeemed against any Brightwater holiday, valid for two years.

The holiday to Kent and Sussex, scheduled for September 2020, will be reviewed nearer the time but those who have booked are advised not to pay the balance until they receive an update from me. Your health and safety are our top priority, and we continue to monitor the situation carefully with Brightwater.

**Julia Chant**  
**Garden Holidays Organiser**  
**01503 220081|07425 141871**  
**chant1960@btinternet.com**

## Self-drive Visits to be Rescheduled

Unfortunately, we have also had to cancel our self-drive visits to Botallick and South Bosent on 6<sup>th</sup> May; Bonython Estate Gardens and Cross Common Nursery on 11<sup>th</sup> June and Hidden Valley Gardens and Tregrehan on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June, as a result of the pandemic.

We can only apologise for any disappointment – it wasn't the start to our tenure as self-drive visit organisers that we had planned, but hope for better fortune in the future!

We have contacted all those who had booked and plan to reschedule these visits for 2021.

**Elizabeth Harris (01736 332396)**  
**elizabeth@boscrowan.co.uk**

**Michele Richards (07854 950646)**  
**michele.l.richards@gmail.com**

**Louise Thomas (07966 89756)**  
**louise.trewidden@gmail.com**

**Self-drive Visit Organisers**

## Day Trips by Coach Postponed

Our coach trips to National Trust Buckland Abbey and National Trust Saltram on 22<sup>nd</sup> April; to Marwood Hill Garden and Upper Gorwell House on 10<sup>th</sup> June and to National Trust Coletton Fishacre and Middle Well on 7<sup>th</sup> July have suffered the same fate and will be rescheduled for 2021.

I have contacted everyone who had booked and will confirm new dates as soon as known.

**Catherine McDonald (01872 272800)**  
**taddymcd@hotmail.co.uk**  
**Day Trips by Coach Organiser**

## Digital Communications

With the Society's increasing emphasis on sustainability and conservation, and the annual cost of mailings running to thousands of pounds, the time seems right to canvass your views on reducing our reliance on paper communications, especially when so many of you have email addresses.

Please could you spare a moment to complete the short Mailchimp survey that we have sent to those of you whose email addresses we hold or call the Membership Secretary on 07743 164434 if you do not have access to email and would like to take part?

We can then evaluate your feedback and decide upon the best course of action.

## Reasons to be Cheerful

Three things to cheer us up during lockdown: the wealth of stunning imagery from Cornwall's gardens and growers on Facebook and Instagram; the virtual RHS Chelsea Flower Show, and the fact that garden centres and nurseries were permitted to re-open from 13<sup>th</sup> May provided social-distancing and safety guidelines are followed.



**Tom Raffield's 2018 Main Avenue garden in collaboration with CGS Trustee, Darren Hawkes**