Laurus nobilis 'Angustifolia' ('Salicifolia')

Laurus nobilis 'Aurea' ('Aureum')

Laurus nobilis azorica (canariensis)

PLANT HERITAGE SUSSEX GROUP

Autumn 2010 *Number 80*

Brassia verrucosa 'Peterborough'

PLANT HERITAGE SUSSEX GROUP

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The species are unusual in having three distinct leaf patterns on the same plant, unlobed oval, bilobed (mitten-shaped), and trilobed (three pronged). The young leaves and twigs are quite mucilaginous, and produce a citrus-like scent when crushed. The tiny, yellow flowers are five-petaled and bloom in the spring; they are dioecious, with male and female flowers on separate trees.
The Sassafras dried root bark produces an essential oil consisting mostly of safrole that once was extensively used as a fragrance in perfumes and soaps, food and for aromatherapy. Sassafras extract is a primary ingredient in root beer. Commercial "sassafras oil" generally is a by-product of camphor production in Asia. Safrole is a precursor for the clandestine manufacture of the drug MDMA (ecstasy), Sassafras roots were chewed on the Roman route marches and everyone was happy!

Order:	*Laurales*
Family:	*Lauraceae*
Genus:	*Cinnamomum*

Cinnamomum camphora Camphor tree, Camphorwood or camphor laurel
Camphor is a white crystalline substance, obtained from Cinnamomum camphora. Camphor has been used for many centuries as a culinary spice, a component of incense, and as a medicine. Camphor is also an insect repellent and a flea-killing substance. It was used medicinally and was also an important ingredient in the production of smokeless gunpowder and celluloid. In the ancient and medieval Middle East and Europe, camphor was used as ingredient for sweets, camphor was used as a flavoring in confections resembling ice cream in China during the Tang dynasty (AD 618–907).
Cinnamomum verum
It was written by Herodotus, Arabia was the source of cinnamon: giant Cinnamon birds collected the cinnamon sticks from an unknown land where the cinnamon trees grew and used them to construct their nests; the Arabs employed a trick to obtain the sticks. Though in the first century, Pliny the Elder had written that the traders had made this up in order to charge more.
The Old Testament makes specific mention of the spice many times: first when Moses is commanded to use both sweet cinnamon and cassia in the holy anointing oil; in Proverbs where the lover's bed is perfumed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.; and in Song of Solomon, a song describing the beauty of his beloved, cinnamon scents her garments like the smell of Lebanon. It was so highly prized among ancient nations that it was regarded as a gift fit for monarchs and even for a god: a fine inscription records the gift of cinnamon and cassia to the temple of Apollo at Miletus. It was too expensive to be commonly used on funeral pyres in Rome, but the Emperor Nero is said to have burned a year's worth of the city's supply at the funeral for his wife Poppaea Sabina in A.D. 65.
What the Lauraceae family has done for mankind is unforgettable. Drugs and the Olympics!! all date back to the Roman era -who said drugs and sport was a modern phenomena?

Throughout history references have been made of the Bay
In the Bible, the sweet-bay is often an emblem of prosperity and fame.
In Christianity, it symbolizes the Resurrection of Christ and the triumph of Humanity thereby.
In Chinese folklore, there is a great laurel tree on the moon, and the Chinese name for the laurel, (traditional Chinese: 月桂), literally translates to "moon-laurel". This is the subject of a story of Wu Gang, a man who aspired to immortality and neglected his work. When the deities discovered this, they sentenced Wu Gang to fell the laurel tree, whereupon he could join the ranks of the deities; however, since the laurel regenerated immediately when cut, it could never be felled. The phrase (simplified Chinese: 吴刚伐木) ("Wu Gang chops the tree") is sometimes used to refer to endless toil.
The leaf and berries of Bay Laurel are on the U.S. one-dollar bill, two bunches of bay laurel leaves with berries prop up the oval, which contains George Washington.
Bay laurel leaves are used in the design of the 10-yen coin in Japan.
The National Emblem of Greece consists of a blue escutcheon with a white cross totally surrounded by two laurel branches.
The Scottish Clan Graham considers this plant to be its clan plant.
The shield on the Flag of the Dominican Republic consists of one bay laurel and one palm
"I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree." Psalms 37: 35
'Neither witch nor devil, thunder nor lightening, will hurt a man in the place where a bay tree is.'
~ Culper 17th Century.
A medieval French saying, quoted by Corneille in Horace, was 'foudre ne chiet sur le lorier' ('lightning does not fall on the laurel').
Every stately home had a bay tree planted in the garden, but these trees have grown and grown into fine specimens with fantastic life spans. And if you are ever in Chichester a visit to the Bishop's Garden will demonstrate how long they have been around. The trunks still in situ would indicate a very long life span of a the Mediterranean plant in England. This plant can easily live to two hundred plus years.
The aromatic bay leaf can be put to many uses not just in cooking. They repel ants, moths, and grain worms, also makes a great anti-dandruff remedy. They can make a good smelling and attractive addition to homemade potpourris. Chewing on a bay leaf may relieve flatulence.

Order:	*Laurales*
Family:	*Lauraceae*
Genus:	***Sassafras***

CONTENTS

Malva sylvestris
All illustrations by Jenny Stewart

Welcome to New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members. We hope that you will be able to participate in the varied activities offered at local and national level and that some of you may ultimately be able to contribute to extending the range of plant collections within Sussex;

Mrs M Anderson
Mrs Jane Annis
Mrs Christine Barker
Ms Julia Fogg
Ms Lizzie Hawke

Chairman's Report
Gary Firth

We are delighted to welcome two new contributors to this edition of the Newsletter, both of them extremely knowledgeable plantspeople. Jean Levy is our newest National Collection Holder in Sussex and here she describes how her interest in the genus Mentha started. Hopefully there will be an opportunity to view her extensive collection next year. Mandy Burgess is developing a collection of Bay Trees (Laurus) in the walled garden at Chichester High School for Boys. Although still fairly young, the plants are growing well and it is hoped that these will form the basis of an application for National Collection status within the next couple of years.

This has been a busy year for the Sussex committee. We have attended a total of five shows this year, more than ever before. Tilgate Park, Ardingly, Stansted Park, Parham Park and the Midhurst Shows all produced a small profit for the group (that is if you don't count the cost to those involved in growing plants and travel costs, all of which have been given freely). We can always do with more volunteers to grow plants for us and to man the sales tables. It is generally great fun and you do get to see the rest of the show for free. We shall be reviewing the venues and number of shows for next year (and still looking for good venues in East Sussex) so please do let us know if you would like to be involved.

The programme for next years national AGM in Worthing is now largely complete. Space limitations preclude us from printing the programme in this issue but you will find the full details together with booking form in the Autumn edition of the Plant Heritage Journal. It should be an interesting programme which will attract members from across the country. This will be our opportunity to showcase some of the many great Gardens and National Collections in Sussex so do please come and support us if you can.

Unfortunately, owing to family commitments Stephen Harding has had to give up (for the moment, at least) the role of Collections Co-ordinator for East Sussex . Stephen has done a great job during his relatively brief time in this role and we hope that he may be able to return to it at some time in the future. Fortunately he will retain his very valuable links with Plumpton College (see page 6). Maria and I are keeping a watching brief on the East Sussex Collections for the moment but if any other member is interested in supporting this role please let me know.

Sussex Group Events

2010 October 30th. Autumn lecture and AGM, Haywards Heath. See centre pages.

2011 May 27-29th, National Plant Weekend and AGM, The Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing. See Autumn Plant Heritage Journal for full programme and booking form.

The first Laurus to be known dates back to before the Ice age when the Mediterranean Basin was covered with Laurisilva forests. These died back when the Basin became drier. The Madeiran laurisilva forest, the largest remaining stand, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999.-The predominant lauraceous trees in these forests include Til (Ocotea foetens), Loureiro (Laurus novocanariensis), Vinhático (Persea indica), a valuable hardwood, and Barbosano (Apollonias barbujana)

During 1500bc the Syrians were bathing with soap produced from bay and olive oil. This is thought to be the start of the hard soap manufacturing industry still in existence today. Laurel oil is very expensive, and obtained, through various means, from the fruit. It is thought to have high antiseptic and antioxidative qualities.

The Greeks were the next civilisation to acknowledge the bay and Ovidius wrote about it in the mythological story of Apollo's unsuccessful pursuit of Daphne. In the myth the supreme god Zeus is said to have changed the priestess Daphne into a laurel bush to avoid Apollo's amorous advances. As such Daphne became the Greek name for the bay tree and the Bay leaf became one of the symbols for Apollo. During the Greek Pythian Games , in honour of Apollo, a wreath of bay leaves was given as the prize to sportsmen and poets,(poetry was included in the Olympics) thus the title Poet Laureate. These prizes awarded must of saved on the gold, silver and bronze! maybe something we could re introduce to our Olympic Games!

It was perceived as a symbol of immortality in ancient Greece and Rome, from birth to the grave, bay leaves have often been found in coffins as a connection through to the after life.

By the Roman days the Laurus had been assumed to be a lightening rod, there to protect the Roman emperors from being hit by lightening. Traditionally the Romans had a bay tree planted in the garden thus preventing a lightening strike to their home and also placed a bay tree on each side of the door to ward away evil spirits. And we just thought it was for decoration!!

And if you felt the lightening might strike while you were out on your travels the circular coronet of bay leaves on your head was said to prevent this. Those Roman emperors were very superstitious!!

During the Roman era it began to symbolise glory, winners and nobility, Roman generals sent news of their victories in messages wrapped in laurel leaves, delivered to the Senate known as "Laureate letters".The Laureate crown of woven of sprigs of laurel and was worn on the brow of each triumphant Roman general as he rode his chariot around the Circus in celebration. It was perceived as a symbol of immortality from birth to the grave and at funerals it expressed the hope of resurrection, and often bay leaves have been found in coffins.

Conversely, a withering or diseased laurus was believed to be a sign of a looming disaster, perhaps of a strike of lightening!

crispa wavey leaf edges

Galan Spanish bred

variegated yellow & green
Pride of Provence New Zealand bred just beginning trials

Cinnamomum camphora
Laurus x Umbellularia

Lindera benzoin Spice bush
obtusiloba
erythrocarpa

Neolitsea sericea

Persea Americana haas Avocado

Sassafras albidum

Umbellularia californica Californian Bay

Cryptocarya alba in Belgium

What do we know about Laurus nobilis? The catalogues say
'A conical tree or large shrub with highly aromatic narrowly ovate, glossy dark green leaves. In spring bears clusters of tiny greenish yellow flowers. A good looking specimen but also handy for cooking.
It can grow to a height of 7 to 9 metres and can endure a temperature down to -5°C. It originates from the Mediterranean area. Laurus is a dioecious plant (mainly male plants are used for cultivation). The flowers are yellowish green in colour. Small blue black drupes appear late summer, these fruit are not suitable to consume but will elude oil for soap making.

What a boring plant! Until you investigate further, and then you are sucked in to its charm, magnificence and grandeur, like thousands before, over the centuries.

Brassia verrucosa 'Peterborough'
Gary Firth

Brassia verrucosa is an epiphytic orchid originating from South America and is one of about thirty species in the genus 'Brassia'. The sweetly scented flowers are carried on graceful sprays of up to a dozen blooms per spike during early summer. The sepals and petals are long and narrow, giving rise to the common name of 'spider orchid'.
This plant arrived as part of a collection of twelve young plants from Burnham Orchid Nurseries of Devon in September 1982. It was grown conventionally in a pot for a number of years, first flowering in 1985. However it had a habit of slowly climbing out of the pot and so was supported by a moss pole over which it gradually grew. The pot was eventually removed and it has been grown just on the moss pole since then. It is hung from the apex of my intermediate temperature greenhouse (minimum temperature 55 F) and sprayed with rain water most mornings. I have found from previous experience that it is also essential to thoroughly soak the plant once every other week to ensure that there is no build up of salts or decay products from the remaining moss. It was awarded Best Amateur species at the 2009 Peterborough International Orchid Show when it had 7 flower spikes but this year had double the number of spikes. It was again shown at this years Peterborough Show where it was awarded a Certificate of Cultural Commendation from the RHS.

Plumpton College visit, 20th July 2010.
Stephen Harding

Members present:
Gary Firth
Hugh and Pam Seymour
Steve Harding
Jenny Stewart
Maddie and Peter Ward
Rollo Piper (FERA field officer)

Gary Jones welcomed us all at 2pm in the winery, with tea and coffee. He explained how the college had wanted a National Collection for several years and although they knew nothing about Hebes, they are all willing to work towards National Collection status with The Douglas Chalk Hebe Collection.

We walked down to the Hebe beds and spent about an hour looking at the plants. One of the Hebe Society members very kindly took photographs of any plants people asked about, especially those in flower. There weren`t many flowering on the day, but those that were provoked the usual lively discussion as to correct naming and garden worthiness.

The college staff know that some of the plants are closely planted at present and it is hoped that with careful pruning, they can be controlled. There is ample space on an adjacent bank to move plants if spacing becomes an issue.

The plants are planted in mixed beds and no two similar types are planted in the same bed. This caused major headaches at Rosewarne (the original home of the collection), trying to sort out the four different Wand series in the same block.

Each variety is planted in groups of three, with plastic botanical labels screwed onto wooden posts planted in front of each group. The labels are positioned at an angle so that you do not have to bend down to read them. The timber edged beds are finished off with a gravel mulch.

Although the plants are small at present, you get a real sense that the college is committed to the future of the Hebe collection with various students giving up their summer holiday to water and tend to the plants free of charge.

We wandered back to the impressive winery building for a quick tour and a talk on how different wines are made, before the highlight of the day, the wine tasting! We sampled a couple of wines which the college produce themselves, along with their home made cheese. Both can be recommended.

On the whole, everybody had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and Gary Jones should be commended for not only arranging the day, but for all his efforts in helping to find another home for the Hebe collection. It is also hoped that the collection of Sussex Black Poplars may well be considered for National Collection status.

Chichester High School for Boys collection of Bay trees
Mandy Burgess

"resting on one's laurels" this is certainly something we cannot be found guilty off. At the school we have planted a selection of Laurus and Lauraceae.
Our unique collection was planted last Spring (09) and now boasts 13 Laurus (& another 2 to come from Belgium) plus a further nine Lauraceae specimens including Sassafras albidum. (but don't tell the teachers)

Family:	Lauraceae
Genus:	***Laurus***

Laurus

azorica (canariensis) Azores Laurel not very hardy
novocanariensis Madeira and Canary Laurel

nobilis Bay Laurel, True Laurel, Sweet Bay, Laurel Tree, Grecian Laurel, Laurel, or Bay Tree

f. angustifolia (Salicifolia) willow shaped leaf
f. angustifolia var Chichester this is a variegated sport of the angustifolia, grown by our Flemish friend Geert de Vries. This was donated to the school to name.

Aurea green/yellow leaf colouring
Saratoga (in Belgium) hybrid cross with L. azorica from California
Brilliant Time (in Belgium) Yellow sport from Japan
Junior Bay Junior' another new variety from Geert. Slower growth with full dense foliage and smaller leaves, super for delicate topiary pruning.

Popeye Popeye is another new variety displaying a more compact growth 'stocky but well formed and tough'.
Waasland Creme var. Dutch found white and green variegation

Vegetative propagation of selected stems remains the most effective way of maintaining the genetic integrity of a particular *Mentha* variety. But when combined with self-seeding this disappearing underground has another consequence for the harassed taxonomist. Having a hybrid gene pool, there is little likelihood that varieties might breed true, so that seed (nutlets) if produced may well fall into the mass of stems that are dying back for the winter. New seedlings will then contaminate, even over-run the parent plant. This situation could be controlled by isolating plants if self-fertilization is not likely or cutting off the flowers, which is undesirable and also reasonably impossible with a collection of 250+ cultivars in triplicate, which is the stage I have reached with my collection. Could this be too many, I ask myself? Certainly in the early days a new self-seeded, slightly unusual plantlet was a blessing . . . now I find myself dreading finding any mint-like seedling in the shingle around the Mint House. But when I do it's still a tiny blessing . . . even if I'm not sure who it's parents are.

At this point one can see the clear need for accurate recording of morphology, not only photographic but also via a revival of those wonderful old *accurate* words like decussate and acuminate and protogynous that modern botany seems increasingly to eschew. I had a dream at the beginning of this whole taxonomic exercise that I would take this difficult genus, and classify it according to its morphological characteristics . . . the way taxonomists used to in those halcyon days of field botany. I have watched with frustration the slow dissolution of those skills as they are replaced by ripping a plant from the ground, crushing it, dissolving it, centrifuging it and converting its remains into chromatographic patterns or protein patterns in electrophoretic gels. But, after twenty-five years, I have to admit that the genus I love is working against me on this one. So perhaps a hybrid approach is necessary: I'll concede that biochemists provide answers as long as they look at the plants before they squash them.

I am now, as a new collection holder, preparing myself to open my collection next year, to the public. I look forward to this with trepidation. Not only do I fear each year that every single one of my plants will die back and never reappear in the Spring (an unnecessary paranoia), but also I have nightmares that people will come bearing pocket-sized secateurs and help themselves to small pieces of my mints until they become little bald stumps (this might be the way I myself have acquired certain varieties in the past). I am also bracing myself for questions such as "Aren't all mints the same? . . . Which one do you use for mojito? . . ." and my all-time favourite, "Why don't you collect plants with flowers?". Meanwhile I will continue to nurture my charges and catalogue their activities . . . And if anybody has a mint from Norfolk, I'd be very grateful for a cutting. It would seem to be a hole in my collection.

Illustrations to accompany article on page 15

Laurus nobilis 'Crispa' ('Undulata')

Laurus nobilis 'Waasland Creme'

POPULAR HOUSEPLANTS FOR WINTER

By David Fitton, Garden Advisory Service

My previous article was a review of some of my favourite exotic plants from around the world. This is a brief care guide for popular houseplants given and received as presents, especially throughout the Christmas and New Year period. Particular care needs to be given to their position in the room, watering requirements and needs after flowering to keep these plants year after year.

Cyclamen persicum (Cyclamen)

This perennial is one of the favourite winter pot plants. Its origin is a wild flower from the Mediterranean, but improved forms selected for large colourful flowers have been cultivated for many years. It prefers bright indirect light such as a north facing window sill in a cool room 10-15C (50-60F). Keep the compost moist and feed regularly when in growth. After flowering stop feeding, reduce watering and store in a cool, dry place until August. Repot in fresh compost and grow on.

Schlumbergera truncata (Christmas Cactus)

These epiphytic perennials come from tropical rainforest in Brazil where they grow attached to tree branches. Provide a well lit position, but not in strong sunlight. Whilst in growth and flower a temperature of 15-21C (60-70F) is required. Between June and September put out in the garden in a shady spot, keep moist and feed regularly. After flowering the plants benefit from a rest period from February to March; but from April onwards water and feed as normal.

Solanum capsicastrum (Winter Cherry)

Originating from Brazil this plant is a familiar sight bearing tiny star-shaped flowers followed by green berries which change to green-orange fruit as winter approaches. Bright light with some direct sun is preferred. Keep cool at a temperature of 10-15C (50-60F). The compost should be moist and mist the leaves frequently for best results. Start feeding as soon as the flowers show colour. Prune back the stems to half their length in late winter and keep the compost dry until Spring. Repot and stand the pot outdoors in a sheltered spot during the summer. Bring indoors in the Autumn to grow on.

Over the last few decades horticulturists have fallen upon this *Mentha* complex and have developed and promoted a vast range of different varieties. Over the last twenty years mint has become one of those plants that people collect and collectors interests have extended beyond the traditional apple mints (*suaveolens* derivatives) and silver buddleia mints (*longifolia* derivatives). New cultivars have been imported into the indigenous British gene pool, and the diverse morphology of these new varieties has added to the taxonomic burden. In the last decade hybrid varieties such as Asian, Hillary's Sweet Lemon, Julia's Sweet Citrus, Algerian Fruity, Moroccan, Swiss Ricola, and Betty's Slovakian have been added to the RHS list, with British plant hunters adding Tashkent, Newbourne, Guernsey and so on. I have a few of my own collected from around the UK but I see no point in adding mine to the confusion. Often the provenance of these new listed varieties is difficult if not impossible to determine. Were *M. spicata* 'Greek', *M. spicata* 'Austrian' and *M. spicata* 'South of France' collected from the wild or were they purchased from supermarkets or garden centres all of which might have imported them from Belgium or Holland . . . or even the UK?. They all look pretty much the same. And the names of these new varieties, officially listed, reveal their incompatibility with the existing taxonomy: *M.* 'Berries and Cream', *M.* 'Sweet Pear' and *M. Verona* declare no taxonomic affinities.

In addition to the confusion caused by widespread hybridization, both natural and artificial, the identification and classification of this burgeoning *Mentha* complex is made more difficult due to extrachromosomal factors. Many of the new varieties are distinguished by morphological characteristics which may well be controlled by non-chromosomal genes. Obvious examples are the variegated mints, *M. x piperita* 'Logee's', and *M. spicata* 'Small Dole' (possibly synonymous with *M. spicata* 'Variegata', also listed by RHS). The variegation in both of these varieties would seem to be extra-nuclear so that often a perfect variegated plant reverts to non-variegated foliage whilst perennating. I dare to suggest that other less obvious characteristics might be inherited in this manner, so that what dies back in the winter might not, absolutely, resemble what reappears in the spring. It all pivots upon the distribution of genes in the underground stems. Incidentally, the variegation seen in the variegated apple mint *M. suaveolens variegata*, sometimes referred to as pineapple mint, is a far more stable affair.

In Mint Condition
Jean Levy, National Collection Holder

Throughout the war years my elderly grandfather worked, in some capacity or other, for the Great Yarmouth Council, and one of the perks of his job was, apparently, a limitless access to cement. As a consequence of this privilege, my grandmother's garden became increasingly replaced by concrete so that, by the time of my mother's annual trips home to visit relatives, all that remained of nature in that Norfolk garden was a small patch of earth, probably six foot square, in which my grandmother religiously cultivated mint. That small aromatic patch was where I played and, as I played, my childhood fantasies were acted out upon a menthol-soaked blanket of trodden mint. Now, sixty years later, the scent of crushed spearmint still evokes holiday memories of scary aunts, sandcastles and cucumber sandwiches.

It was, therefore, quite inevitable that, as an aspirant middle-aged taxonomist in search of a project, I should alight upon the genus *Mentha*. I felt that, after such a baptism, I must already know the subject well. Little did I know my folly. I carried out some preliminary research and concluded that, yes indeed, the genus was in urgent need of assessment. I visited garden centres, collected ancient floras, befriended elderly gentlemen, grubbed around in the undergrowth, and thereby I started to accumulate varieties. Five years into the project, with around fifty cultivars established, I began to feel that I had bitten off more than I could chew.

Essentially, *Mentha* is reported as having anywhere between 10 and 25 distinct species worldwide, although the biological identity of these species is doubtful, often fanciful. It is clear that individual species within this complex hybridize freely. Indeed, many of the recognized species would seem themselves to have arisen by interspecific hybridization followed by polyploidy and genetic stabilization. For example, spearmint *M. spicata* is thought to have originated from a cross between *M. suaveolens* and *M. longifolia*, with two subgroups, *M. spicata* subsp. *spicata* and *M. spicata* subsp. *glabrata*, indicating a morphological and aromatic tendency towards one or other of the parent species. Separate cytogenetic studies have revealed the *spicata* complex as having two major cytotypes (2n = 36 and 2n = 48) but these have not been convincingly correlated with the subgroups. Similarly, black peppermint, *M. x piperita*, is believed to have arisen from a cross between water mint, *M. aquatica,* and the hybrid *M. spicata*. Accordingly *M. x piperita* is recorded as having two corresponding cytotypes (2n = 66 and 2n = 72). An additional species, *M. arvensis*, the field mint, has joined this complex, hybridizing with *M. spicata* to produce the ginger mint, *M. x gracilis*, and at some point the intrusion of the M. aquatica genome into this *arvensis* x *spicata* hybridization produced the stable hybrid *M. x smithiana*, or red mint – a truly stately variety. These various stable hybrids may well hybridize with either of the parents so that, for instance *M. villosa* is regarded as a backcross between *M. spicata* and *M. suaveolens*. These backcrosses may be sterile or subfertile but they are able to persist by vegetative propagation.

Euphorbia pulcherimma (Poinsettia)

A native shrub from Mexico with decorative red, pink or green bracts which have become part of Christmas celebrations. It requires bright light maintaining a temperature of 15-18C (60-65F) during the growing season. Water well, but allow to dry out between watering. Mist regularly if in a centrally heated room. Cut the plant back to 10cm (4") from the compost level in the late winter and keep just moist in a shady position until May. Increase watering and feed regularly to produce 3-5 main stems. From September cover the plant with a black plastic bag from 6pm to 8am to reduce the day length for about six weeks. Grow on away from draughts for best results.

Azalea indica (Indoor azalea)

This evergreen shrub comes from China. It prefers bright indirect sunlight such as an east or north facing window. The secret is to keep them cool at 10-15C (50-60F) in an unheated room. Must be kept moist in ericaceous compost using rain water (or boiled and cooked tap water). Mist daily or place on a pebble tray to give high humidity. Feed with Iron Sequestrene in Spring and Summer. After the danger of frost has passed move to a shady spot in the garden. As the temperature begins to fall in the Autumn bring the plant indoors.

Footnotes

As a general rule a high potash feed is recommended for these flowering houseplants, When repotting a suitable growing media is usually proprietory houseplant compost or John Innes potting compost No 2 (with the exception of the *azalea* already described). Buy your plants from a reputable garden centre or nursery. Remember to check for pest damage before purchase.

PLANT HERITAGE, SUSSEX GROUP

AUTUMN LECTURE & THE 29TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2010
COMMENCING AT 2.00PM

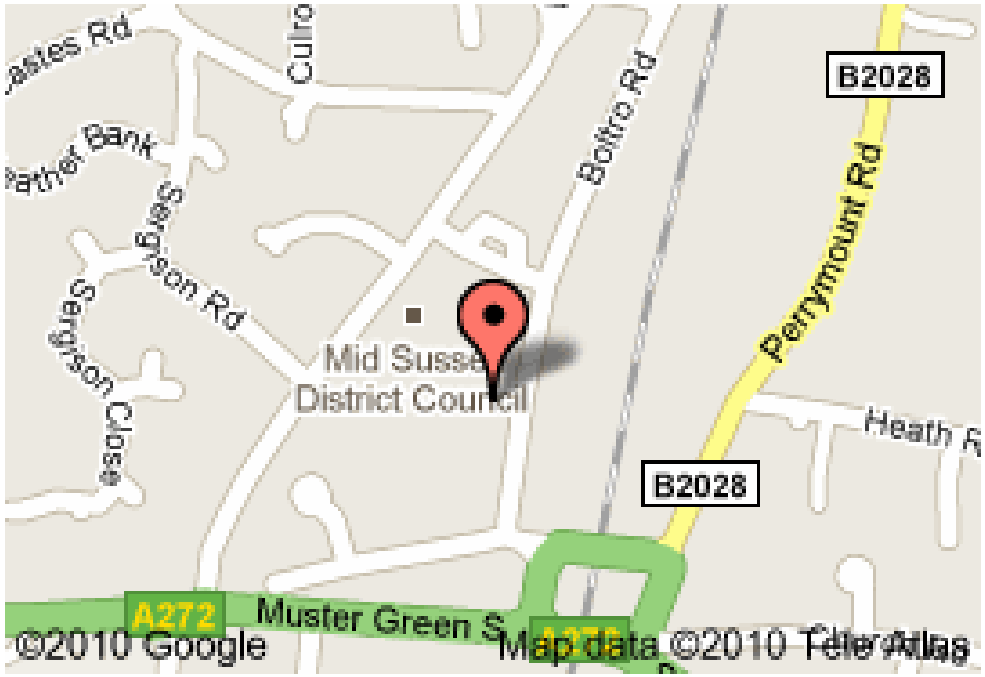
AT HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN HALL
(BOLTRO ROAD, HAYWARDS HEATH)

LECTURE: LEWES TO LANDS END

BY DAVID LANG

TEAS PLANT SALES RAFFLE

TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 29th Annual General Meeting of the Sussex Group of Plant Heritage will take place at Haywards Heath Town Hall on Saturday 30th October 2010 commencing at 3.30pm.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of the 28th AGM 2009**
3. **Matters Arising**
4. **Chairman's Annual Report**
5. **Treasurer's Report and Accounts 2010**
6. **Report from Sussex Plant Co-ordinators**
7. **Committee comments on the past year**
8. **Election of Officers and Committee 2010/2011**
9. **Any Other Business**

Committee

The members of the committee can be found on the inside front cover. Other than the Chairman committee members are not bound by constitutional rules on length of service. Stephen Harding has unfortunately had to stand down as the East Sussex National Collections Co-ordinator because of family commitments. Nominations for this post are welcome.. However, nominations for all posts are invited and should be submitted to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Proposer and Seconder.

Bonsai Cotoneaster 'hybridus pendulus'