

Spring 2010

 12 Home Farm
Loseley Park
Guildford, GU3 1HS
Tel: 01483 447 540

Newslines

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE PLANT HERITAGE NATIONAL OFFICE

Well, spring is finally here and fittingly I can announce a whole host of new things!

We are all delighted that Alan Titchmarsh has accepted the title of President of Plant Heritage. Alan was a great friend and admirer of the late Robin Compton and we are sure that he will be an equally effective and persuasive ambassador for the cause with which Robin was so long associated.

Jamie Compton, Robin's son, has agreed to be a Vice President of Plant Heritage.

We all welcome them to Plant Heritage and look forward to working together



As she mentioned in the last issue of Newslines, Genevieve is now on maternity leave until mid-summer. She gave birth to Giselle Alice (a whopping 11lb 14oz) on the 19th January. Mother and baby are both well. (See announcement below.)

You will already have noticed that we have a new website, we are having some teething problems with the database that supplies the collections information at the moment, but we hope to get these sorted out as soon as possible.

Many of you may be aware that our Threatened Plants Project Coordinator, Peter Halliwell left at the end of January. We have now successfully recruited a replacement and Sarah Barton will start in the position after Easter.

Mercy Morris



Colin, Genevieve and Luc announce the birth of

Giselle Alice Melbourne SPENCER

Born Tuesday 19 January 2010

At 3.49pm weighing 11lb 14oz (5.4Kg)

Fundraising and shows



Joanna Jones
Fundraising

More grants for the Threatened Plant Project

So far this year a total of £15,000 has been received from Trusts, this doesn't include the Esmée Fairbairn first tranche of funding of £28,851.

Chelsea Cloakroom 2010 ROTA FULL!...

Thank you to 100s of you for responding to this plea to help manage the coats/bags/picnic hampers at Chelsea Flower Show, the rota is now FULL.

Plant Heritage Marquee at Hampton Court Palace Flower Show Tuesday 6th to 11th July, 2010

So what's the news in the marquee this year?

- James Wong from the BBC TV programme 'Grow Your Own Drugs', to open the marquee on Press Day Monday, 5th July.
- Matthew Biggs is designing and building (with help from Surrey members, Judith Smith and Michele Riding) a central display entitled 'The Vanishing Garden'. The theme is taken from Chris Brickell's book of the same name written some 30 years ago. The feature will depict a landslide of plants disappearing into a big black hole.
- SEED SHOP – Janet Wright is again coordinating this very popular area in the marquee, which last year made £1,500. (All proceeds go to PH.) Janet asks for any seeds you have to make this another fantastic and diverse shop. Please send through to Jo in the office, carefully marking with the correct plant name.
- A diverse range of Collection Holders ranging from *Asclepias* to *Hosta* to *Hedychium*



Rachel de Thame purchasing poppies from Sandy Worth on Press Day last year

We would love to hear from anyone interested in helping with either build up or show days. Please email Jo on joannaj@plantheritage.org.uk.

Remembering the Future - Giving a Memory

For every £5,000 bequest, a new cultivar will be named in your memory

This legacy leaflet is now available. Do let Jo know if your group would like to receive a few copies for display purposes. So far this year Plant Heritage has received **£11,800** from gifts in Wills. These bequests play such an important part in supporting the core costs of the charity.



Companies offering match funding schemes to charities

We would be interested to hear from anyone who works for a company which operates a 'matched funding' opportunity; whereby for every pound one of their employees raises for their chosen charity, the company will match that donation. The limit tends to be about £750 and is operated by the larger companies (such as Barclays and BP). We could help with your project, i.e. organising a plant sale, sponsored walk, coffee morning etc.

Brother UK Ltd

Brother UK Ltd will again sponsor the Collection Holder Bursary scheme in 2011 offering **£2,000**. Application forms will be available in November 2010 and are open to all National Plant Collection Holders to apply.

Successful winners of the 2010 Brother Bursary go to :

Aesculus, Robert Grimsey

Agapanthus & Tulbaghia, Steve Hickman

Hosta, Ian Scroggy

John Bartram Heritage Collection, Kath Clark at Painshill Park, Surrey

Rhododendron spp, *Magnolia* spp & *Camellia x williamsii* cvs, Wentworth Castle Gardens



David Stephens, NCH *Crocus* in Dorking. All 1,500 plants painstakingly labelled using a small Brother labelling machine. Images are to be used towards a case study in one of the Brother brochures.

Shopping with Plant Heritage at www.plantheritage.com



The **shop** on our new website allows you to **join as a member**, **renew** your membership or buy books from the varied selection of plant monographs written by National Collection Holders.

Membership

Thank you for your support of the National Plant Collections through your membership of Plant Heritage. Your local group is a vital element in the conservation of cultivated plants, from the plants you buy at our specialist plant fairs, to the input of the National Collection Coordinators in the accreditation and monitoring of the Collections.



Gillian Spencer Gill Groombridge
Membership

In common with many organisations our membership numbers have decreased over the last couple of years and this is where **you** can help. We know that generally members stay with Plant Heritage for longer if they join because a friend introduces them to the organisation.

So, please remember this when you are organising your social calendar and invite a friend along to your group plant fair, talk or outing.

They can join by picking up a membership leaflet from your local group, or visiting the shop on our website www.plantheritage.com, or by ringing us on 01483 447540.

To remind you, activities in 2009 included:



Plant Fairs - Surrey Spring Plant Fair



Volunteering at shows – Chelsea cloakroom



Collection Holder Open Days – National Collections of Araliaceae, *Eucalyptus* and Podocarpaceae, Hampshire September



Garden visits – Hatfield House June



Special events – Sponsored Walk April



Herbarium Workshop for Collection Holders

Public Relations



Nicola Savage
PR Officer

Since the last Newslines the new website has been constructed, cargoed with information and launched on the World Wide Web! Like all new vessels, www.plantheritage.com has experienced some ups and downs since February 4th, of which the most obvious have been glitches in transferring the Collections listings to the new website. The original Collections database had served us well but had become overwhelmed by the sheer volume of Collections information we hold, so it has been both essential and cost effective for us to combine replacing that database with creating the new website. Most of these issues have been sorted out now but please let us know if you come across any others.

On the upside, you will be pleased to hear that the new website is already starting to pay for its keep, with a surge in orders for our publications flowing into our online shop from new customers all over the world. That's the power of the Web!

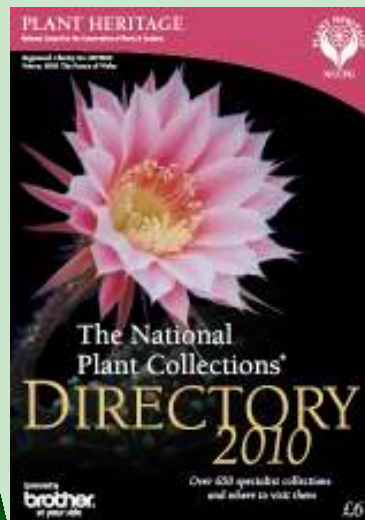
Most of the Groups have now successfully got to grips with their sections of the website and started customising their pages to their needs with local information and some lovely photographs. The National pages will grow as time allows, so please send me your thoughts on what you'd like to see; ideas for features; your articles and photographs. (Email: profficer@plantheritage.org.uk)

Publications



Our increased range of publications (15, plus the directory) is now available to purchase through the website: www.plantheritage.com.

Publications now include:



Conservation



Mercy Morris
Plant Conservation Officer

Reviewing collections for the future

Many of our older collections entered the scheme under very different requirements to those we use today. Through the Plant Conservation Committee, we strive to ensure collections are comparable in meeting standards but sometimes the coverage of the newer collections can be very different to that of the older ones. We know this can cause confusion to the public. It can also present problems for the PCC when approving applications for new collections. The PCC has agreed to address this problem and review the scope and coverage of collections in 2015.

Initially some members of the PCC have volunteered their collections to be used as examples. This will help to understand how collections may change over years and highlight the issues many of us face.

Woody collections, for example, require space and it may not be possible to continue to add new material. In this case a revision of the collection scope, which defines what is included in it, might be appropriate and a better reflection. Collections held by an institution offer continuity but interest in the collection may wane as staff leave, skills are lost and priorities change. We will report on our findings and development of a protocol over coming issues so we can offer any necessary help and advice. We hope this will ensure we can continue to maintain the quality of collections within the scheme.

New For Spring

John Vanderplank, the collection holder for *Passiflora*, has told us about the opening of the 'Butterfly Effect' at Kingston Seymour (North Somerset) on April 2nd. In a new tropical butterfly house, there are 50 species of the world's most beautiful butterflies and moths which can be photographed and studied. For more information, go to: www.butterfliesandmore.co.uk

