

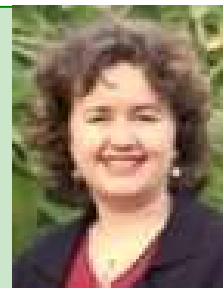
Winter 2009

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Tel: 01483 447 540

Newsletters

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE PLANT HERITAGE NATIONAL OFFICE

As I clear my desk before going off on my six months maternity leave, an email comes through to confirm that the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation will fund our Threatened Plant Project to the sum of £72,000 over the next three years



Genevieve
Melbourne Webb
Executive Officer

This is very exciting news as the Threatened Plant Project is our first major research project, during my time at least, which will provide solid information about the state of play of cultivated plants. Not only will it determine which cultivated plants are actually at risk but it also seeks to involve as many different plant organisations (such as HPS, AGS, RHS Lily Group and Saxifrage Society etc) as possible who will be part of the assessment process. Whilst Plant Heritage is taking the lead on the project, the involvement of the whole horticultural community will be necessary in order to produce the comprehensive action plans that will tackle the problem of those plants identified most at risk.

We are particularly grateful to the RHS, the National Trust and Cambridge University Botanic Garden for their support in our application for funding.

So hopefully by the time I return, we will have several plant groups going through the different stages of assessment with more concrete results in sight than a certain climate change conference one could mention. If you would like to know more or want get involved, researching your favourite plant group, please get in touch with Peter, the Project Coordinator, on peterh@plantheritage.org.uk or 07548 942882.

With thanks to you all for your support of Plant Heritage, we wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Robert Compton

On Saturday, 14 November Robin Compton, our President since 1994 died at the age of 87.

Robin's original association with Plant Heritage began in 1988 when he was appointed Chairman. A keen and expert gardener, he and his wife, Janey, restored the spectacular but neglected gardens of his family home in Yorkshire, Newby Hall, establishing a National Collection of *Cornus* along the way.

There will be a Memorial Service on Wednesday 3rd February 2010 in Ripon Cathedral at 2.30pm.

He will be greatly missed by all at Plant Heritage.



Fundraising and shows

RAFFLE - raises £4000

Despite the financial downturn this year, our raffle still raised **£4,000** – so huge thanks to all for your support. All details of the winners can be found on our website/news page. The lucky winner of **£350** cash (donated by HATTS QUALITY TRAVEL) goes to Daphne Johnson from Ross on Wye. Congratulations to Daphne and to the other 11 winners.

HATTS QUALITY TRAVEL : If you are interested in organising (or thinking about organising) a horticultural trip – either in the UK or Europe; Pat Cooke from HATTS Travel would be delighted to hear from you. Tel : (0)1249 740444, Email: pat.cooke@hattstravel.co.uk.



Joanna Jones
Fundraising

ALL WELCOME on Sunday 25th April on our next Plant Heritage Sponsored walk.

With the year drawing to an end, I would like to thank our valued **SPONSORS and SUPPORTERS**, and wish them a very Happy Christmas.



We also thank the following Charitable Trusts for their generous support of the scheme so making it possible to carry out vital conservation projects in 2009 :

Charlotte Bonham Charitable Trust
Eranda Foundation
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Finnis Scott Foundtion
Goulburn Trust
Hawthorne Foundation
Jeremiah Colman Trust

John Spedan Lewis Foundation
Margery Fish Charitable Trust
RHS Bursary (The Coke Trust)
Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust
Tanner Trust
Topinambour Trust
Viscountess Boyd Charitable Trust

Chelsea Flower Show - Tuesday 25th - Saturday 29th May 2010

As a thank you for your help in the cloakroom, every volunteer will receive a **FREE** pair of garden gloves (courtesy of Globus Stowa).

In line with the RHS Health and Safety guidelines, everyone must wear sturdy/ suitable footwear, and will receive a quick demonstration on manual handling prior to their shift.

We are still looking for helpers on the following dates/times:

Friday, 28th May & Saturday, 29th May

Please contact Jo for more information and exact times available.



Local Group Funding Available

Sandra Tognarelli's article in the recent Plant Heritage Journal drew attention to the **Awards for All scheme**. If any group is seeking funds, for example to purchase equipment, to hire a venue or book a lecturer, then do submit an application to Awards for All. As Sandra writes in her article, the money is easily obtained, as long as you stick to their criteria, as follows:

- * Submit at least three months before the project is planned to start
- * Project between £300 and £10,000 (In Wales, the amount is only up to £5,000)
- * One organisation cannot receive more than £10,000 in any two year period
- * Complete the project within one year of being awarded the grant

The project needs to meet **at least one** of the following outcomes:

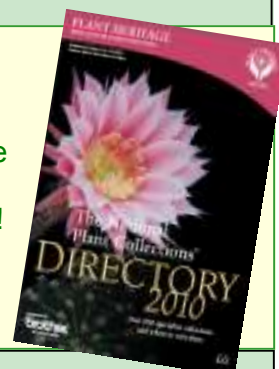
- * People having better chances of life with better access to training and development to improve their life skills
- * Stronger communities with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems
- * Improved rural and urban environments which communities are better able to access and enjoy
- * Healthier and more active people and communities

For further information, refer to www.awardsforall.org.uk, or call the advice line on 0845 4102030. In addition, Monica Vidal (m.vidal@vasws.org.uk) is available to give advice on applying



Advertising

Still advertising space available in the Directory and Plant Heritage spring Journal. Would love to hear from anyone interested in advertising in our Journals next year – very cheap rates available!! 01483 447540 for details.



Legacies

Did you know a staggering £1.9bn was left to UK charities through legacies in 2009? However Plant Heritage received no legacies in the last year.

Just a reminder that every gift, no matter how small, makes a huge difference to the core work of the charity. After taking into account your family and friends, please consider Plant Heritage when next making or changing your Will.

Message from Judith

December has been a busy month for Genevieve and Judith preparing the National Office end of year accounts prior to the Christmas holiday and Genevieve's maternity leave.

Much thanks must go to the 35+ Group treasurers, some of whom are new faces this year, for sending in their group accounts quicker than normal. When going to press we only have 5 groups' figures outstanding for the consolidation. I hope the use of the standard spreadsheet and the inclusion of last year's figures has made this process smoother.

We must also recognise all our groups who have so splendidly supported central funds this year. Not only do groups support their local collections and organise events for members, they also donated just over £45,000 centrally for Plant Conservation this year. Thank you for everyone for your support.



Judith Wiles
Bookkeeper

Membership

Life Membership

In response to recent queries, Plant Heritage is now offering the option of Life Membership. It costs £1000 for an Individual and £1250 for a Joint Life Membership. Besides helping to assure the long term future of our work in plant conservation, your group will still receive their annual local contribution to support the National Plant Collection scheme.



Gillian Spencer Gill Groombridge
Membership

If you would to know more or pay by credit card, please ring Membership on 01483 447540. Alternatively you can send a cheque (payable to NCCPG) with your application to the address on the front page.

Hello from Nicola Savage

Plant Heritage's new Public Relations Officer

From doing City based PR to a conservation charity is not quite as big a jump as it might seem. I've spent most of my working life helping companies structure deals and communicate persuasively with their shareholders and the media. Plant Heritage's year may revolve around the growing seasons, rather than the financial calendar, but we still need to tell our members, Collection Holders and the world around us all about our goals and achievements.



As a charity with very limited funds, we can't attract attention by big budget advertising campaigns, so 'free' publicity is my objective – taking every opportunity to reach new audiences and tell them why plant conservation and biodiversity matter in this age of short attention spans and disposable fashions. Over the coming months we'll be exploring 'new media' (as well as more familiar methods) to reach more people and stay in touch with our supporters – from social networking sites to newsletters. Some will work and some won't! I will be relying on your help in this – so tell me all about your news and achievements and send me your ideas for the new website (more in the next newsletter)! Email me at: profficer@plantheritage.org.uk - I mainly work on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tidnor Wood Orchards' Limited Edition Cider Cup

Having a collection is not always just about the plants - the *Malus* National Collection in Herefordshire have come up with a novel way to publicise their collection by producing a perfect drinking cup (from the bone china specialists, Dunoon Ceramics) from which to drink their cider.

The cup incorporates and names all thirty of the cider apple varieties painted by the orchard artist Jonathan Latimer. A limited edition of just 250, the cup has two handles, as is the cider tradition, and holds 0.3 litres.



Cups are £12.99 each, plus £2.99 P&P (only one P&P per multiple purchase). To purchase, send cheques payable to Tidnor Wood Orchards CIC to : Tidnor Wood Orchards CIC, Knockmoyle, Strone, Dunoon PA23 8TB or email : henrymay@tidnorwood.org.uk for further information.

Conservation

Have you ever published a book about your collection?

For the 2010 Plant Heritage marquee at Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, we plan to do a display featuring all the books published by our National Collection Holders to demonstrate how important and vast is the knowledge held by the scheme's experts. We would also like to feature this information on our new website.



Mercy Morris
Plant Conservation Officer

At this stage, we are looking for books specifically written by yourself (or your institution) about your National Collection.

So, to help us collate the information, if you have published a book solely or jointly, privately or through a publishing house, please could you send the details to Gillian Spencer (membership@plantheritage.org.uk) **by 30 April** including year of publication, ISBN, price and whether the book is still available and if so, from where. If you had a copy of the cover or could do a scan to send to us, that would also be very helpful.

What would you do with £400?



Brother UK Ltd, along with additional funds from new Friends of Plant Heritage, are supporting the 2010

National Collection Holder bursary scheme.

There are four grants of £400 available for collection holders who will need to demonstrate how the monies will be used to benefit the collection.

Full details and application form can be found on the website (under "News") – the closing date is midday, Monday 11 January.

Further support for Collection Holders

Earlier this year, the Tanner Trust provided seedcorn funding to enable Plant Heritage to purchase the necessary licences for Collection Holders to access JSTOR.

JSTOR (short for *Journal Storage*) is a US based online system for archiving academic journals.

JSTOR was conceived as a solution to a problem faced by many libraries in being able to afford and then store a comprehensive collection of journals. Digitising journals and sharing the information across libraries was the key and by September 2009, the database contained 1,079 journal titles in 18 collections representing 51 disciplines, and 262,042 individual journal issues, totaling over 33.7 million pages of text (Wikipedia).

As you can imagine, this accessibility is invaluable to Collection Holders research and recently the Shropshire Group provided additional funds to extend our subscription.

So in addition to Ecology & Botany, African Plants 19th Century British Pamphlets and the Ireland Collection, Collection Holders can now access Arts & Sciences III and Biological Sciences.

Further information is available from Mercy Morris.

In 2009, Liz Powney (*Tulbaghia*) applied for funding for a macro lens for camera in order to record the morphology of her collection. She is thrilled by the results.

