

Autumn 2009

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

Newsletters

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE PLANT HERITAGE NATIONAL OFFICE

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. Well, in terms of the economy, money is tight for everyone but in my 7 years at Plant Heritage, financial constraints have always been the case, so nothing new there!



Genevieve Melbourne Webb
Executive Officer

So we are very grateful to all our members and group volunteers who, despite the recession, continue to support and raise money for plant conservation.

Best of times? Well, we have a strong National Collections scheme, a supportive board, a dedicated staff team and a new conservation project called The Threatened Plant Project - on page 6 you can read Peter's hello. We have already raised over £30K from trusts specifically for the project but will need another £50K+ for next three years. We have also started to talk to our friends at the Hardy Plant Society to explore how we might all work together on the project, assessing exactly which plants need to be at the top of our "to save" list. You will hear more on this in the coming months.

If you would like a copy of our free fundraising pack with ideas of different fundraising events



a coffee morning here, a car wash there

- they all add up -

please get in touch.



Gift Membership

Why not give a friend or fellow plant enthusiast something different for Christmas this year?

Gift membership of Plant Heritage costs £25 for an Individual membership and Joint membership



is £40.

Gift memberships can be sent direct to the recipient with a welcome letter, a membership card, Directory and the current issue of Plant Heritage. They will also be given a free packet of seeds from Johnsons (while stocks last).

Plant Heritage membership is a great gift as it allows the recipient to attend any group event across the UK. Just ring Gill or Gillian on 01483 447540 or email membership@plantheritage.org.uk to arrange this unique gift.

Fundraising and shows



Joanna Jones
Fundraising

Charitable Trust Donations 2009

Donations received in 2009 from Charitable Trusts so far total: **£33,200**



Ilan Cross, Marketing Manager,
Johnsons' Seeds

Johnsons' Seeds

During a recent visit to the Gardening Exhibition at Birmingham (GLEE), Jo met up with Ian Cross of Johnsons' Seeds who kindly confirmed sponsorship of the next membership/marketing leaflet for 2010. They will also continue to promote Plant Heritage membership by offering **5 packets of Johnsons' Seeds from the World Botanic range** for EVERY new member in 2010.

So tell your friends to sign up now!

THANK YOU to JOHNSONS

2009 Raffle

Since 2007, the support from our members for the Plant Heritage raffle has raised approximately £10,000 towards the core work of the charity. Thank you ALL so very, very much for your support.

In every members' Plant Heritage Journal, you will find 10 raffle tickets, giving you the opportunity to win 10 prizes in this year's raffle.

1st prize: cash prize of £350, sponsored by **HATTS Quality Travel**.

2nd prize: cash prize of £150.

3rd Prize: Two nights B&B for 2 at a Farmstay Property anywhere in the UK (courtesy of **NFU Mutual**).

Additional prizes:

Bosch Ciso secateurs (approx. retail value £50).

Brother P-Touch professional labelling machine (approx. retail value £32).

We are delighted to welcome HATTS Quality Tours as new sponsors of Plant Heritage. Pat Cooke from Hatts Quality Travel is happy to organise specialist horticultural trips for members – completely tailor made. Do contact her for more information: ring 01249 740444, or email pat.cooke@hattstravel.co.uk or horticulture@hattstravel.co.uk

Chelsea Flower Show Cloakroom for a THIRD Year

Tuesday 25th - Saturday 29th May 2010

So we are on again for 2010!!!!!! Are we mad, or just plain stupid? The rota will be put together by Suzy Hughes (suzyhughes@businessetiquetteint.com) – please either email Suzy or myself for further information.

IMPORTANT - Please be aware that the work IS physically demanding as people bring their overnight suitcases, and even golf bags! Please only volunteer if you can stand for up to 4 hours and move heavy bags.



Brother UK Ltd



The Brother Bursary helped 9 Collection Holder projects in 2009.

News of how to apply for a BURSARY in the 2010 **Brother Bursary** will be sent out to Collection Holders soon.

One very happy Collection Holder...

"The Brother Bursary has enabled me to upgrade my rainwater harvesting system so helping to store more water and support more plants in the collections." Mark Haslett, *Dionaea & Sarracenia* Collection Holder.

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

Everyone that went to this year's event knows what a fantastic success it was. And we are extremely proud of this,,,. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard.

If you haven't received an application pack from Steve Cope of RHS Shows to apply for space in the 2010 Plant Heritage marquee, please contact me: joannaj@plantheritage.org.uk or 01483 447540.

The deadline for return of submissions is 14th October – with the deciding date for selection meeting on 22nd October.

Next year we are going for Gold - so be sure to be there.



Legacy Appeal...

With help from a small legacy forum committee consisting of Helen Moorcraft, Sandra Tognarelli, Janet Wright and Peter Halliwell, the wheels are in motion to produce a new, revised legacy leaflet.

Please remember Plant Heritage when making, or changing your Will.

No gift is too small.....



Free Laptops from BT Community Connections

BT Community Connections is an award scheme which enables community and charitable organisations to get online. Groups can apply for a laptop and a year's free broadband connection. Award packages will be given to groups who can demonstrate how an award will benefit their work and the local community.

Any organisation, working in any field of community benefit such as conservation organisations have been successful. To find out more visit www.btcommunityconnections.com The deadline for postal applications is 5 January 2010 and for online applications is 7 January 2010.

BT Community Connections
www.btcommunityconnections.com



Membership

Scottish Membership Workshop

Gill and Gillian attended the All Scotland Groups Meeting in Perth on Saturday 26 September 2009 and ran a Membership workshop.

We discussed our current membership with particular reference to Scottish membership, why people join organisations and methods of membership recruitment and retention. Delegates enjoyed being able to exchange ideas at the workshop with the other group officers and feedback thoughts to Gill and Gillian.



Gillian Spencer Gill Groombridge
Membership



Participants at the Scottish Membership Workshop

Revised Speakers' List

There is a new electronic Speakers' List available, detailing National Collection holders who can talk on Plant Heritage and other topics. For a copy, please contact Membership.



giftaid it

Thank you to all those members who have signed a Gift Aid declaration. Gift Aid allows us to claim an extra £7.05 on an

Individual Membership and £11.28 on a joint membership from HMRC. In tax year 08/09 we have reclaimed £17,250 in Gift Aid. If you are a UK tax payer and wish to sign a Gift Aid declaration please ring Gill or Gillian on 01483 447540 or email membership@plantheritage.org.uk

If you are no longer a UK tax payer, please inform us so that we do not claim Gift Aid on your subscription.

Finalist in BBC Gardeners' World Gardener of the Year competition!

Helen Brown (a coordinator in Devon) is one of five finalists in this prestigious competition. Congratulations to Helen, and we hope she will be following in Diana Guy's footsteps (the Chairman of East Dorset) who was a previous winner! Voting is open till the 9th October. Visit www.bbc.co.uk/gardenersworld for further details.

New Heritage Collection at Hampton Court Palace

The membership team is now working with Mercy, assisting with the administration of new collections. As part of the training for this new role, Gillian Spencer attended a Plant Conservation Committee meeting held at Hampton Court Palace so that they could view and assess **Queen Mary's Exoticks Collection**.

As this type of collection is an unusual one for the scheme, Gillian has given some background to its new status:

"When William III and Mary II became joint monarchs in 1689, they brought to the English Court a passion for collecting and for displaying collections – from porcelain and rare birds to tender exotic plants. Queen Mary II in particular loved plants from all over world; exotics from the Mediterranean, Virginia, Mauritius and the New World were brought to Britain by the Dutch East India Company and displayed at Hampton Court Palace. Mary II selected an area in the South Gardens, the warmest part of the gardens (and formally Henry VIII's pond yard) to set out her collection. A specialist Dutch carpenter, Heindrik Floris, built three glass houses or 'stove houses', believed to be amongst the earliest forms of greenhouse used in England. The fish ponds were landscaped, drained and terraced in order to display the exotics during the summer months.

Mary's collection comprised 2000 different species and was so vast that she employed her own botanist, Dr Leonard Plukenet, to catalogue and maintain the plants. At this point, the collection was one of the largest private collections of tender exotic plants in the world containing 1000 orange trees – a symbol of the House of Orange dynasty, to which William III belonged.

The collection died out during the First World War, as the war effort and lack of manpower meant relevant care and attention was not available.

The re-introduction of tender exotics was inspired by the restoration of the Privy Garden in 1995. Using Dr Plukenet's catalogue and pictures of other gardens at that time, the team has been able to recreate a garden representative of how it would have been in the early 18th Century."



Message from Judith, our Bookkeeper

We are quickly approaching October which will see the Group Treasurers receive their end of year paperwork from Judith (Bookkeeper) at National Office. Once again individual spreadsheets will be produced for each group showing last years figures together with the Group Subs received from National Office and Donations to National Office for 2008-2009.



Judith Wiles
Bookkeeper

We would be very grateful if the treasurers could complete the paperwork as soon as possible and before the 14 December deadline. If they need any help or encounter any problems please give Judith a call on 01483 447540 or email her on accounts@plantheritage.org.uk. It is not necessary to await AGMs to present accounts before submitting.

At present the groups have donated £37,000 to central funds. Any further donations (by mid October, please) to help us reach last year's figure of £58,000 would be much appreciated. (It makes the accounts much easier if they appear in the bank before the year end.)

Thank you for your generous help and support.

Conservation

Autumn always makes me think of new beginnings: a change in the air; spring bulbs to plant, a whole winter ahead to plan the next year. We have a lot of things just starting here as you can see - a new member of staff or two, a new project, and a baby on its way.

Looking further afield there is the concern that we will lose some of our colleagues (and their knowledge) at the RHS. We are very grateful for the support and friendship we have at Wisley in particular, and would be very saddened to have that reduced.



Mercy Morris
Plant Conservation Officer



Having spoken to quite a few people in the last week about the view of Plant Heritage from the 'outside'; it is apparent that we don't blow our own trumpet about what we do. We spend a lot of time chastising ourselves for being a relatively small, cash-strapped charity without the appeal of the big hitters in the field. We need to spend a lot more time telling people how proud we are of the success that we have in the field of conservation, education, shows, and just staying afloat while many around us are sinking.

So that is why our new projects and staff are more outward-facing. Our Threatened Plants Project Coordinator, Peter Halliwell, is a great addition to our team. However, this 'red list' project is for everyone, it is not just a 'conservation' project, or just a plant heritage project. It is a project for everyone who is interested in garden plants in the UK, whatever plant they are interested in, and whatever group or society they belong to.

Our new public relations officer (starting November) will also (at last) be able to work to get our message out there, so give her all the support she needs. It is a part-time role and we are a big organisation, so let her know what is happening in your area.

A 'Hello' from Peter Halliwell

With a background in client management and reporting, after many years working within finance I decided to retrain within horticulture. After studying Garden Design at Capel Manor College I went on to complete a degree in Horticulture at Writtle College where my awareness of the importance of conserving our gardens and the plants within them was heightened. Upon graduation I was glad of the opportunity to see the commercial side of horticulture through employment by a wholesale nursery. Now having been given the responsibility of coordinating the threatened plants project in this its year of inception I'm really looking forward to ensuring that it gets off on a firm footing and to getting to meet as many of the volunteers and regional groups as possible who will bring so much to the project



I can be contacted at peterh@plantheritage.org.uk or on 07548 942882

Other staff changes

In the first half of next year, Genevieve will be on maternity leave from January to June. Mercy will cover some of her role with the rest of her work being spread across the team.