

RHODODENDRON & CAMELLIA GROUP

Bulletin No. 3 May 1977

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

At a committee meeting on 29th March, I was delighted to hear our Honourary Secretary report that there was still a steady flow of applications for membership, and that there are already over 300 paid up members.

To help explain the aims and objectives of the Group, a leaflet is being prepared which will also contain a form for application for membership of the Group. This should be of great assistance to members opening their gardens, and those of us who wish to bring the Group to the notice of interested people not already members.

The first regional event took place on 25th March, when the Regional Organiser for Cornwall, Mr Jack Page, took a party of 15 to two superb gardens near Truro. Trewithen and Chyverton. One member came from Wiltshire two from Somerset and three from Devon. Mrs Johnstone herself took us all around Trewithen, a very mature garden now, which she has seen develop from almost nothing at the time of her marriage in 1910. Inevitably, we were told that the magnolias had been better the week before, but they were still breath-taking when we saw them. Some fine camellias including the deep red form of *C. saluenensis* referred to in an article on camellia breeding in 'Rhododendrons 1976', and of course splendid rhododendrons, and some rare and interesting trees. There was a splendid selection of choice plants for sale, and very few members went away empty handed.

At Chyverton, Mr and Mrs Holman took us round and we saw a fine display of slightly younger magnolias, including the very fine *M. dawsoniana* 'Chyverton' A.M. In a small walled garden, near the house, we saw several of the Kunming *C. reticulata* cultivars thriving out of doors, and a fine *C. reticulata* 'Capt. Rawes' against the house.

All members of the Group are completely free to attend any event or meeting in the various Sub-groups and will be most welcome by the regional organisers.

We have been referring so far to Regional Sub-groups, but it might be simpler to call them Branches. The East Anglia, Sussex and Cornwall Branches have made a start and their organisers are now 'ex officio' members of the Group's committee. For the time being the Greater London Branch does not seem feasible, but a new Branch is being formed for the Surrey/ Hampshire area, possibly to be called Wessex, the organiser, Mr R. Dudley-Cooke, who has moved recently to Montclare House, Greenhill Rd, Farnham, Surrey. Enquiries should be sent to him direct.

LAMELLEN. CORNWALL

WALTER MAGOR

RHODODENDRON & CAMELLIA GROUP ANNUAL TOUR 1977. SUSSEX

The suggested visit to Lorient on the 28th April will not now take place. It had been intended as an addition to, rather than as a part of, the tour. Members

of the Group wishing to take up Mr Mayer's invitation to see his collection of rhododendrons and conifers, should make an appointment direct (Tel. Wadhurst 2045); it is understood that he will have returned from the U.S.A. about the middle of April.

Instead, arrangements have been made for members of the Group to visit the famous gardens at Nymans, by kind permission of the Countess of Rosse and the National Trust. Members of the Group are asked to assemble at the main entrance at 2 p.m. on Thursday 28th April where they will be greeted by Mr Cecil Nice, the head gardener, who has kindly agreed to take us around the gardens and show us some of the outstanding plants.

Members who have already intimated their intention of going on this tour, are being notified direct of this change of plan. Tea is being provided at South Lodge on Friday 29th and at Borde Hill on Saturday 30th April.

#### SOCIAL GATHERING & GROUP EXHIBIT

It is hoped that members will support the Group Exhibit of Rhododendrons, at the Royal Horticultural Society Show at Vincent Square in London on Tuesday 14th June 1977. The Group Exhibit is being organised by Mr John Bond and Mr Alan Hardy, who will welcome contributions of all rhododendrons, whatever the size. Dr James Cullen, Assistant Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh, will give a talk on 'Rhododendron Work now in Progress at Edinburgh' and this will be followed by a cold finger Buffet Supper in the Restaurant, which has been reserved for the Group from 6.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. There will be room for a limited number of guests, in addition to wives and husbands of members of the Group. Tickets at £3 per head which includes the lecture, wine with supper, are obtainable from Mr J. Waugh Owens, Cherrydown, Forest Drive, Kingswood, Tadworth, Surrey, before the 27th May (tickets will not be sent out until the beginning of June).

Please read the full details of the Group Exhibit later in this Bulletin and send your pro forma off to Mr Bond immediately.

#### WESSEX RHODODENDRON & CAMELLIA GROUP

It is proposed to form a local Group from members of the main Rhododendron & Camellia Group resident in Surrey, Hampshire, Dorset and Berkshire, and to operate the local Group along the lines of those already formed for Sussex and Cornwall, etc.

It is hoped that by having a local Group in addition to the Rhododendron & Camellia Group as a whole, closer co-operation and communication between members within the local Group will result. Group meetings can be easily facilitated by reason of the closer proximity of the members and hopefully, there will be a freer exchange of ideas and information between members able to meet fellow members in their immediate locality. Group visits to gardens within the Group area can also be organised on a regular basis and it has also been suggested that a local show could be staged to encourage more members to participate in exhibiting.



Over 80 members of the Group are eligible to join the local Group. In order that members of the Group may have an early opportunity of meeting, it is proposed to organise a Group outing on Sunday 22nd May at 2 p.m. to Hethersett, Littleworth Cross, Farnham, Surrey, by kind invitation of Lord and Lady Adam Gordon. Any members who have not received prior information and would like to attend, are asked to contact Mr R. Dudley-Cooke, Montclare House, Greenhill Rd, Farnham, Surrey.

#### EDITORS DESK

Following on so soon after Bulletin 2, I fear that it has been quite a rush to get this edition into print. Members have been very kind and we have some more excellent contributions which will appear in future editions.

Taken on my weekly shopping expedition to Bournemouth, my despondency was swept away by a wonderful tree of *Magnolia campbellii*, sub. sp. *mollicornata* in full flower behind the super-market. Even Cornwall could not beat this plant with a fine specimen of *M. campbellii*, itself not yet in flower, beside it. Fed up with the doom and gloom on the B.B.C., I rang them up and told them all about these two wonderful plants and suggested that they took their cameras down to photograph such a wonderful sight. The delightful girl in their News Room asked me to explain what a magnolia was and, suitably satisfied, said would it be alright if they came down next week! I explained to her that if she was prepared to risk a frost - good luck! After asking me if we were going to have a frost that night, I suggested she ask the Weather Man - but she did not seem too hopeful! Next morning they did photograph the plants and showed the film which was quite beautiful, with the news the same evening. Mr Roy Lancaster explained to viewers all about the plants. So many people commented upon the film and little groups gathered around the plants, with such obvious pleasure at one of the beauties of nature they might never even have noticed. It reminded me of a visit to Trewithen when all the magnolias were in full flower and the gardens empty. Mr Michael Taylor, the head gardener, said, 'I feel that I ought to hire a loud-speaker van and drive around Cornwall shouting - come and see the magnolias!'. If you have a beautiful plant, tell your friends - but don't forget to tell us first!

Verwood. Dorset April 1977

John Gallagher

#### REVISED PROGRAMME OF GROUP EVENTS 1977

Saturday	16th April	<u>East Anglia Branch</u> meet at 54, Woodlands Rd, Hoxley, Essex, at 3 p.m. by kind permission of Mr D. Fox
Tuesday	19th April	<u>Rhododendron &amp; Camellia Shows</u> at the R.H.S. Hall,
Wednesday	20th April	Westminster, both days. On Tuesday a lecture in the Lecture Room "The Ludlow & Sherriff Rhododendrons" by Mr G.A. Hardy
Friday	22nd April	I.C.S. Sussex Tour until Monday 25th April
Thursday	28th April	<u>SUSSEX RHODODENDRON &amp; CAMELLIA TOUR</u>
Friday	29th April	<u>SUSSEX RHODODENDRON &amp; CAMELLIA TOUR</u>
Saturday	30th April	<u>SUSSEX RHODODENDRON &amp; CAMELLIA TOUR</u>

Thursday	5th May	Cornwall Garden Society spring Flower Show, Truro
Friday	6th May	City Hall. Two days.
Saturday	14th May	<u>Cornwall Branch</u> visit two gardens west of Truro
Tuesday	17th May	
to		<u>CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW</u>
Friday	20th May	
Sunday	22nd May	<u>Wessex Rhododendron &amp; Camellia Group</u> outing to Hethersett, Littleworth Cross, Seale, Farnham, Surrey at 2 p.m.
Saturday	28th May	<u>Sussex Rhododendron &amp; Camellia Group</u> outing to High Beeches, Hand Cross.
Tuesday	14th June	R.H.S. Early Summer Show with Rhododendron classes. <u>Rhododendron &amp; Camellia Group Exhibit</u> , <u>Lecture</u> and <u>BUFFET SUPPER</u> at 6 p.m.

#### TREMEER

Members of the Group will be interested, perhaps sad, to learn that Major-General E.G.W.W. Harrison has decided to give up his famous garden at St. Tudy in North Cornwall. There is a small manor house in good condition and eight acres of very beautiful gardens, containing a magnificent collection of camellias and rhododendrons, including a number of award plants, some from Tower Court, and many of his own raising. The collection of camellias is wonderful, as well as the acers, eucryphas and hydrangeas. The garden is open to the public several days a week this year, possibly for the last time. The sale is in the hands of agents Strutt & Parker, asking price £75,000 - including the contents of the garden and the gardening books in the house. This is an opportunity for someone perhaps near retirement, wanting a ready-made rhododendron and camellia garden.

#### THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB

Arising from Bulletin 2.

Mr Cyril Barnes of 55, Jesmond Park West, Newcastle-upon-Tyne has sent me the schedules for the Scottish Rock Gardens Club Shows in the North of England and Scotland. There are some very interesting classes especially in Section V of the Glasgow Show, held in Knightswood Community Centre, 201, Alderman Rd, Glasgow, on Saturday 7th May 1977 from 12.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m. admission charge 20p. Thirty one classes for rhododendrons are included in this Show in addition to one hundred and sixteen classes for other plants. Mr Barnes has very kindly sent me a lot of very informative information on Northern activities which we hope to print in a later Bulletin.

#### SOUTH LODGE

The history of the garden begins soon after my father F.D. Godman bought South Lodge and rebuilt the house in 1883. Prior to this there was no garden except a few small rose bushes with three little fields beyond on the north side. In one of the fields he dug stone and when this area was incorporated in the garden he "wondered what to do with the awful hole he had made."



This subsequently became the rock garden and was planted with alpines, flowering shrubs and later with dwarf rhododendrons. The huge clump of red arboreum opposite the front door may have been planted by him or even earlier and must have been contemporary with the red arboreum walk (later cut and replanted as the azalea walk) which by the early nineteenth hundreds had grown into a tunnel of rhododendrons with arching branches and ten inch trunks, thereby cutting the garden in half. It may seem incredible that the clump too had spread so tremendously that some years ago we had to remove 96 self-made layers because their vigorous growth was swallowing up the older flowering branches. The Himalayan bed was certainly one of my father's first plantings with the large leaved *falconeri* and *hodgsonii* contrasting with *thomsonii*, *campylocarpum* and *cinnabarinum*, plants reminiscent of his earlier travels in Northern India with his brother-in-law, the great naturalist and collector Henry Elwes. *Eximium* - probably killed by last year's drought - he used to point out as the counterpart of *falconeri* but growing 1,000 ft higher up at the greatest altitude attained by any similar rhododendron. The latter years of the last century were those for the making of gardens, and especially for the planting of 'American Gardens' with shrubs and daffodils. *Magnolia campbellii* *soulangeana* and *lennei* fortunately date back to these early days for *campbellii* took 25 years before it attempted to flower. During the following three years the flowers were ruined by frost and it was not until it reached the age of 29 that it was absolutely covered with about a thousand glorious pink blooms. Unfortunately, this species flowers in March, so early that most years, even despite the experiment of lighting little fires to give a glimmer of warmth on frosty nights, the flowers are usually spoilt before the buds are fully open and it is only once that we have attained to about two thousand blooms in perfection. *Soulangeana* also leads a precarious existence but flowers so freely, with its highest branches even overtopping the tall rhododendrons that many days of enjoyment generally precede the final disaster of frost damage. *Lennei*, a much later flowerer remains intact with its splendid big lilac cups opening wide.

Mr Luscombe of Coombe Royal in Devonshire was a friend of early days and presented my father with his finest form of the pink '*Luscombei*' (*fortunei* x *thomsonii*) and also red '*Luscombei*', the reverse cross (*thomsonii* x *fortunei*) one of the most vigorous of growers. Mr Mangles of Vale Wood near Haselmere who was within reach by horse and cart presented my father with a load of his rhododendron hybrids including a unique cross of *wightii*, believed to have been made by a bumble bee with *fortunei*, a great improvement on the struggling habit and one-sided truss of the named parent, but although it is a beautiful and showy garden plant, unfailingly covered year by year with large creamy blooms, the trusses are still insufficiently compact to make a show specimen. Amongst Mr Mangles' unflowered hybrids was a splendid white rhododendron of unknown parentage. My father later gave a plant of it to Sir Edmund Loder who showed it to other gardeners in Cornwall and without a recognised name it came to be known as 'Loders White'. This quickly growing hybrid soon became a feature of the garden at South Lodge easily layered and flowering abundantly



every year regardless of weather and the fact that it is classified as "Class C" (H 3).

Sir Edmund did much in hybridizing in the early years of the century, but my father never undertook this wide field of cultivation, which needed vast areas for growing on the seedlings up to the minimum flowering age. I remember Mr Crossfield of Embley whose seedling hybrid bushes spread all up through a wood saying that out of nearly 100 plants raised only about three were really worth growing. My father did however, provide Sir Edmund with the pollen of *R. aucklandii* (later known as *Griffithianum*) a very fine form grown in a cold greenhouse which he crossed with a good fortunei of his own and so produced the first plants of the world-famous *R. Loderii*. Sir Edmund later made the same cross again with different parents and obtained other named varieties of *Loderi*. Probably *aucklandii* and *fortunei* were two of the species most used for the early crosses and Mr Millais' book gives descriptions of many of them, which formed a foundation of the garden. Waterer provided many of the "hardy hybrids" un-named or with names long since forgotten, which helped to fill the garden with colour, against a background of ponticum hedges which had been the first essential to provide adequate shelter for any rhododendrons. Later Slocock's hybrid added enormously to the variety and from the large flowered China onwards they seemed to thrive as well or better at South Lodge than even in their original home at Woking.

A new tide of rhododendrons came with the distribution of the seed collections from China, such as Forrests Kingdon-Ward's and others and in many of these expeditions my father had taken a share. This brought the many tiny Chinese rhododendrons into cultivation, more reminiscent of the heather covered mountain slopes than of the well-known larger leaved members of the genus, but with them came also Chinese forms of their Himalayan counterparts, the large flowered *discolor* and *decorum* the arboreum-type *niphargum* and the yellow *wardii* and a whole generation of promising garden plants. One of the finest forms of *sutchuenense* 'Geraldii', with a splendid dark blotch, long disputed as a variety, but later considered a hybrid with *praevernium* was grown at South Lodge and received an A.M.

The introduction of *R. griersonianum* brought a new element into the rhododendron world with its late flowering and gorgeous scarlet colouring and immensely widened the scope for hybridization and greatly extended the flowering season. Although most of the plants for new beds and borders in the "forest garden" were transplanted from other parts of the garden, gifts from friends made a valuable diversity of hybrids, such as Mr Rothschild's *Naomi*, Captain Collingwood Ingram's fine hybrid 'Calfort' and Major Hardy's crimson 'Van Thom'. Perhaps one of the more distinctive assets came from the seed collector's *R. irroratum* in its various forms. By severely weeding out the "poor" and "fair" forms we were left with a quantity of early flowering though allegedly tender bushes, but although these unfailingly floriferous plants are often caught by frost in March or April the long period of 4 - 5 weeks flowering gives a welcome show despite some disasters. Their tenderness has frightened gardeners from using

irroratum as a parent, but its texture and durability are a compensation and Leonardslee have produced one of their best hybrids by crossing it with Loderi and thereby producing an almost invariable prize-winner of exceptional texture and beautifully shaped truss under the name of 'White Glory'. Its weakness is in its virtues as the plant may almost exhaust itself by trying to produce both the size of Loderi and the prolific flowering of irroratum. For some years after the death of Sir Edmund, Leonardslee sold some of the plants they had raised and we were fortunate in being able to obtain two forms of this hybrid as well as a plant of 'Ping Queen' and one or two others including the only seedling of 'The Dowager' a beautiful pink cross of 'Muriel' (falconeri x grande) with red arboreum. This with its crimson eye closely resembles a slightly smaller form of the magnificent pink calophytum minus the huge yellow door-knocker stigma. The original splendid plant figured in Mrs Urquhart's book and a still larger layer from it is still growing at South Lodge. It was many years before the new hybrid could obtain an A.M. and be named in honour of the Dowager Lady Loder from whom it was obtained as it had a habit of flowering well only every second year and then coming to its best in the middle of the three week interval before the Chelsea Show. The problem in recent years has been to rejuvenate the garden by means of layers where possible or grafts, or by severely pruning, "cutting to the bone", some of the larger older plants. Similarly, in two cases where two huge beech trees were blown down and devastated the rhododendrons below, this method was followed and we were rewarded with strong young growth like young plants and the blooms of 'Pink Pearl' were renewed in double their size. The disastrous drought of last summer 1976 devastated the garden in spite of weeks of continuous watering from the pond, with the help of the farm water cart and the last pump to be obtained in the village. With the autumn rains many plants recovered their foliage too late to produce buds for this year, although the eventual recovery of many hard hit plants remains uncertain, there must inevitably be much permanent damage. Experienced advice has always been to refrain from cutting too soon and we can only "wait and see" and hope for the best.

SOUTH LODGE  
SUSSEX

MISS E. GODMAN

#### MALAYAN MEMORIES

Browsing through some old notes compiled during the late 50's while serving in H.M.F. in Malaya I came across a reference to the finding of my first wild rhododendrons.

In early March 1958 I had the opportunity of visiting the village of Tanah Rata situated at over 4,000 ft in the Cameron Highlands. After a year sweating it out in the jungles of Johore and Perak, the cooler air of Tanah Rata came as a welcome relief and I lost no time in exploring the nearby hills.

In following a shaded river I arrived at Robinson Falls where the water tumbled over a rocky wall in a loud unhappy crescendo. Growing above the river I found Rhododendron robinsonii, a large shrub with long narrow leaves and 1" long,



orange, bell-shaped flowers born in loose clusters at the ends of the branches. As I stood mesmerised at the sight of this, my first wild rhododendron, some of the flowers detached themselves and fell to the river where the current carried them away swiftly like colourful coracles on a tropical tide.

Later that same day I walked slowly up a forest track where the trees dripped orchids and ferns in a great epiphytic orgy. High on a bank, its flowers looking down to where I toiled, grew Rhododendron jasminiiflorum var. punctatum. It formed a 6 ft shrub of rather compact habit, its branches carrying rosettes of 2" long obovate leaves and large terminal heads of long-tubed pink blossoms. This was a beautiful species which I was delighted to find in several different localities.

My last hour of that memorable day was spent on the summit of Gunong Jasar (5,600 ft) which overlooked Tanah Rata. Just below the summit the track snaked its way through an incredible forest of miniature trees whose writhing stems and branches sprouted long beards and curtains of a curious grey and green lichen. Years later I was reminded of this forest when reading Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings".

Several exciting plants grew on the unkempt summit including an extraordinary pitcher-plant Nepenthes gracillima with albino pitchers. Here also grew Rhododendron malayanum, a low growing shrub with small leaves and loose terminal clusters of bell-shaped scarlet flowers. It occurred fairly commonly, occasionally lodged among the dwarfed trees, but more often fighting it out with the ground vegetation.

The next day I climbed to the summit of Gunong Brinchang (6,666 ft), which is dominated by a radio station. The forest below, however, contained an incredible variety of plants which surged towards the station's perimeter fence like a great green tide. No sooner had I arrived than I was engulfed by the vegetation and my mind boggled as strange and unfamiliar plants presented their credentials. Several rhododendrons appeared, unfortunately none in flower, but almost certainly including R. wrayi. Very similar to a rhododendron in general appearance was Anneslea crassipes, a member of the Theaceae, a large shrub with leathery obovate leaves 4 - 5 inches long and terminal drooping clusters of 1 inch wide orange flowers.

Although no other rhododendrons were identified that day I encountered several other members of the Ericaceae, details of which I hope are worth relating. Pernettyopsis malayana is a rare shrub, a tiny, wiry stemmed plant, with glossy green leaves 1 inch long. The tiny pink flowers are born singly in the upper leaf axils and are replaced by white berries. It skulked out of sight beneath the dominant ground flora as if afraid of meeting the light.

Resembling more an Arbutus sp. was the evergreen Vaccinium perakense, a bushy shrub of medium size with leathery, shining green, oval leaves 2 inches long bearing scattered pellucid glands on their undersides. The pink bell-shaped flowers appeared in terminal clusters and were most ornamental.

Finally, two Gaultheria species which caught my attention. G. leucocarpa was a small shrub with arching stems clothed with ovate, long pointed leaves edged with small teeth. The red and yellow pitcher-shaped flowers were born in small



axillary clusters. Similar in stature, G. malayana bore ovate leaves 3 inches long the under surfaces covered by small brown scales. The pitcher-shaped pink flowers appeared in dense spike-like inflorescence. This species scrambled among fallen tree branches and commonly occurred with a curious wiry stemmed evergreen holly - Ilex epiphytica.

All too soon my weekend came to a close and the next day found me back in the jungles of Perak, my rhododendrons a heat-blurred memory, my mountains now the giant creeper-clad trees.

Specimens of all the plants collected were pressed between sheets of newspaper and placed beneath the mattress on my bed. This almost daily operation became an all too familiar sight to my barrackroom companions, whose initial amazement turned finally to amused assistance.

All my Ericaceous finds were named by Dr H. Sleumer of Leiden.

HILLIER ARBORETUM  
HAMPSHIRE

ROY LANCASTER

#### RHODODENDRONS AND MAGNOLIAS ON JERSEY

Jersey is a magnificent island for gardeners. It has a temperate climate and a long growing season, usually lasting from March to November. The soil is lime free (PH 5.5 to 6.5), and in most parts of the island consists of loam over either clay or shale. Heavy frost is a rare visitor, and as a result, shrubs grow to an unusually large size, and semi-hardy shrubs such as *Acacia decurrens dealbata* (Mimosa) and *Cassia corymbosa* thrive, the latter flowering from May to November.

The Jersey gardener's main enemy is wind, particularly the North Easterly wind, which seems to blow almost continuously during the late spring and early summer. As the average rainfall is low (it was 834.6 mm average between the years 1950 to 1975) it is essential to protect gardens from this drying wind as well as from the Westerly and South Westerly gales. These conditions do present great difficulties to the rhododendron enthusiast.

As one would expect Jersey is full of beautiful gardens both large and small. The island slopes to the south and is intersected by deep valleys leading to the sea. A number of woodland gardens which are sheltered from the wind and watered by small streams can be found in these valleys. Probably the most beautiful of them all is Rozel Manor which belongs to Brigadier R.C. Lempriere-Robin. One enters a twelfth century Norman Chapel covered in Wisteria and flanked by a huge *Magnolia denudata*. As you look down the valley over two succeeding ponds you will see, on the right, a number of large camellias and on the hill above a *Magnolia x soulangiana* 'Alexandrina' and a *Magnolia x soulangiana* 'Alba' beautifully planted in the 1950's by Captain J.B. Bolitho, the flowers showing up clearly against the blue sky.

Beside the first pond stands a huge 'Swamp Cypress' *Taxodium distichum*, 137 ft high. The ponds are edged with iris *kaemferi* and Arum Lilies. Here is a

planting of hybrid rhododendrons and some very large specimens of *Cornus nuttalli*, *C. capitata* and *Magnolia mollicomata*. Further down the valley, in a damp and sheltered spot, are *R. giganteum* and *R. sino-grande*, K.W. 21602 planted in 1954 and *Magnolia mollicomata* 'Lanarth' planted in 1956, which flowered for the first time last year. Near the house there are two *Magnolia delavayi* and a *M. campbellii*, though the latter is not so large as the one at La Chair, Rozel.

Another remarkable garden is Belles Roches, Vallee-des-Vaux. It is laid out on a steep slope facing north and it is hard to believe that it has been created in the last eighteen years. It is an exciting garden, full of mystery and hidden corners. The walls of the old pig-sties now in ruins, are smothered with *Clematis baccarica*, *Cotoneaster horizontalis* and *C. dammeri*. A large Brown Turkey fig tree pushes up through the roof now open to the sky, and crocuses force their way through the cracks of the brick floor. The garden is a wild garden, with numerous narrow paths winding their way among rhododendrons, and there are apple trees covered with *Clematis* and climbing roses. By the house is a lovely *Magnolia delavayi* which was planted sixteen years ago and is now twenty five feet high. There are many different varieties of rhododendron doing well, among them a fine specimen of *R. falconeri* and a *R. griffithianum*. There are a number of *R. Loderi*, and also *R. 'Sappho'*, *R. Nobleanum*, *R. 'May Day'* and *R. 'China'* - to name but a few.

Samares Manor, belonging to Mrs E.C. Obbard, has a famous and beautiful garden laid out in 1925. It is full of magnificent specimens of rare trees and shrubs, flourishing, thanks to the skillful planting of shelter belts of *Griselinia*, variegated Hollies, both silver and gold, and *Eonymus*. There are walled gardens and lawns, rose gardens and a large wild garden watered by streams and a number of ponds. Here are several large Swamp Cypresses, a huge 'Tulip Tree' - (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and some beautiful giant weeping willows and liquid-ambers.

This is one of the few gardens in Jersey in which the rhododendrons are relatively safe from drought and wind and there are large clumps of *R. 'Purple Splendour'*, *R. 'Mrs J.G. Millais'* and *R. 'Fastuosum Flore Plenô'* amongst many others and several plantings of evergreen azaleas.

The walled garden at Samares is unforgettable, the pink granite showing off to perfection the glossy evergreen foliage of *Trachelospermum jasminoides*, the pinnate leaves of *Clanthus puniceus*, both the red and white forms, and the bright golden flowers of *Fremontia californica*. Here too are *Cestrum newellii*, *Stauntonia hexaphylla* and *Abelia floribunda*.

One of the most interesting gardens is La Colline, Gorey. It is on a steep slope facing south and has been beautifully designed by Mrs Raymond Lort-Phillips. It is crammed full of rare and well chosen shrubs. At the top of the hill, shaded by a large *Hoheria 'Osborne'*, and backed by a camellia hedge, is a cistus garden which includes thyme, lavender and rosemary. On a hot day one might be in Provence or Macedonia. Walking down the hill one passes by *Euphorbia mellifera* scented of honey, many varieties of Hostas, Camellias, which are perhaps Mrs Lort-Phillips first love, and Hebes. The path eventually leads to a quarry



which has been planted with a rare collection of wild species roses which include *R. odorata gigantea*, Coopers Burmese Rose, *R. anemonoides* and *R. virginiana*.

Among the rhododendrons growing successfully at La Colline are *R. Lady Alice Fitzwilliam*, *R. fragrantissimum* and some of the lovely *R. cinnabarinum* hybrids with *R. 'Blue Tit'* and *'Blue Diamond'* and *R. crassum*.

ST. PETER . JERSEY

MICHAEL BONN

RHODODENDRON & CAMELLIA GROUP EXHIBIT

As mentioned earlier in the Bulletin, a Group Exhibit of Rhododendron is to be held at the Royal Horticultural Society Show on Tuesday and Wednesday the 14th and 15th June 1977, at Vincent Square in London.

A considerable amount of work is required to stage a Group Stand of this nature and we are fortunate in having the benefit of Mr John Bond and Mr Alan Hardy to set up the Stand on this occasion. The Stand will be inspected by the Royal Horticultural Society and is eligible for an award, so that it is very important that members support the Group by bringing sprays or trusses of rhododendrons or even sprays of extra special rhododendron foliage, all of which will be staged by Mr Bond and Mr Hardy.

Even if you only have one truss of a rhododendron - it will be very welcome ! If you do know the name of the flowers you bring, please label them to save time, but if you do not, do not worry as there will be no difficulty with the two experts on hand.

Please complete the form below and return it to Mr Bond.

To. Mr J.D. Bond

Verderer's, Wick Rd,  
Engelfield Green, Egham. Surrey.

I hope to be able to bring: \_\_\_\_\_ for the Group Exhibit at Vincent Square on Monday 13th June 1977 between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., but certainly not later than 9 a.m. on Tuesday 14th June.

NAME :- \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS :- \_\_\_\_\_