

The Rhododendron & Camellia Group



BULLETIN No. 38 - August 1988

Forthcoming Events

20-21 September, 1988
Fri., 21 October, 1988

28-30 October, 1988

1-2, November, 1988

Great Autumn Show, Vincent Sq.
Wessex Br. members' evening,
Elstead Village Hall

Group Autumn Weekend,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos.

Late Autumn Show, Vincent Square

Fri., 11 November, 1988

Fri., 25 November, 1988

29-30, November, 1988

Wessex Br. lecture on
propagation, Elstead VH
SW Branch lecture, Bovey

Tracey (see text)
Show at Vincent Square (class for
rhododendron with decorative foliage)

The Royal Horticultural Society

The Rhododendron and Camellia Group Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Rhododendron and Camellia Group held at Vincent Square, London SW1 on 4th May 1988.

1. The meeting began at 4 pm with 15 members present.
2. Apologies for absence were received from 7 members.
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 1987 were signed and approved as a correct record.
4. *Chairman's Report, 1988*

'I am pleased to report that the Group continues to move from strength to strength and our membership has now increased dramatically both at home and overseas.

Thanks to the sustained efforts and good housekeeping of our Treasurer the Group's finances are on a firm footing.

During the year we sadly lost one of our Honorary Life Members, Major-General Eric Harrison, whose passing is a great loss to the rhododendron world: a full appreciation will appear in the yearbook. The death of Robert Stephenson Clarke of Borde Hill has left another unfillable gap, and members who were on the Sussex Tour last year will remember his kindness and hospitality to us all.

On a brighter note, several members of the Group have received recognition from the Society, notably Archie Skinner of Sheffield Park who has an Associateship of Honour, the Loder Rhododendron Cup to Ted Millais, and the A. J. Waley Medal to Richard Staples of Heaslands.

There have been one or two changes on the Executive Committee. John Sanders resigned as Yearbook Editor and, after all his fine efforts, for which we are extremely grateful, we are sorry to see him go. His place has been taken by The Lady Cynthia Postan and her first yearbook will appear later this year. Tom Spring-Smyth who has experience of plant-collecting in Nepal and elsewhere was co-opted, and stands for election today. As mentioned later, David Clulow was co-opted in connection with a special project.

Our sincerest wishes for her future happiness go to Betty Jackson (now French), our General Secretary, on her recent marriage. Luckily for us she is willing to continue in office.

We have been unable to find an Organiser for the Midlands Branch following Neil Maybury's resignation because of pressure of work. Our Branches, with this sad exception, continue to flourish under the capable and enthusiastic management of their Organisers, who provide a varied and interesting programme of lectures and garden visits for their members.

Following on the attendance by Group members at the Cornwall Garden Society's Show at Trelissick last year, the Group has now purchased a proper display stand which has already been used at the Cornwall Garden Society's show at Carlyon Bay this year and, indeed, is at present in use downstairs.

Our Tours Organiser, Valerie Archibold, continues to provide members with first class gardens and accommodation for their

delight. Last year the tour in Sussex was based at the Roebuck Hotel at Forest Row. The weather was kind and we were able to see some fine gardens, for which we are extremely grateful to their owners. In a few days' time this year's tour participants will be heading for the west coast of Scotland, where the owners of a fine selection of private gardens have agreed to show us round. In addition we are meeting the Scottish Rhododendron Society's representatives at the Glasgow Garden Festival.

We returned to the Roebuck for the Autumn Weekend and, considering that it was only one week after the Great Storm, we were indeed fortunate to be shown round both Sheffield Park by Archie Skinner and the High Beeches by Anne and Edward Boscawen. It was a sobering experience and a very clear inducement to all who missed the storm to count their blessings.

This year we are attempting to set up a seed exchange with the help of David Clulow who has been co-opted to the Executive Committee. Progress will be notified in the Bulletin.

The New Zealand Rhododendron Society has appointed an officer to liaise with us, and we are sending them a suggested itinerary for their visit to this country in 1989. It is hoped that a meeting of the Group and the Society will be arranged. Details will be published in the Bulletin.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Executive Committee for all their hard work over the last year, and also for their unfailing support without which any Chairman's job would be impossible.'

B.A.
5. The Treasurer and Membership Secretary presented his report and the accounts for year to 31st October 1987. As at that date Group membership stood at 661, of whom 76 were from overseas. Mr Redford referred to the visit from the German Rhododendron Society and to the visits of American, Spanish and Dutch members. A total of 118 new members joined the Group during the year, including two from Japan and Chile.

In introducing the audited accounts (see another page) the Treasurer reported that the year 1986-87 had ended with a surplus of £101, and even this small surplus would not have been achieved without the special efforts made by David Farnes in increasing yearbook sales. It was clear that the increase in the subscription to £7 from 1st November 1987 was fully justified, particularly since various developments in the pipeline, including improvements to the yearbook, would inevitably cost more. The subscription increase had been generally accepted - there had been only a small falling-off of members, almost all of whom had already been replaced. The Report and Accounts were adopted unanimously.

6. *Elections to Executive Committee*
The Chairman apologised for the fact that the usual notice regarding the election of members to the Executive Committee had been inadvertently omitted from the Bulletin. There were three vacancies, and in the circumstances he proposed to accept nominations from the floor. Only three nominations were made, and Sir Giles Loder, Mr David Farnes and Major T. Spring-Smyth were elected to serve for the next three years.

7. Any other business

(i) In response to a question from Mrs Doris Sutcliffe, Major Walter Magor pointed out that appropriate classes for late-flowering rhododendrons were provided at the June show.

(ii) Mr K. J. W. Lowes suggested a Bulletin item to encourage more exhibitors at next year's shows. The Chairman undertook to commend this suggestion to the Bulletin Editor, and also expressed a hope that an article giving guidance on how to show would soon appear in the yearbook.

8. Date of next meeting, and Social Event

The date of the next Annual General Meeting would be notified in the Bulletin, and the Chairman mentioned that it was hoped to arrange a social evening and a special lecture on that occasion.

A proposed seed distribution for the Group

It is commonly known that if one desires seed from the great British rhododendron collections, it is only obtainable through the American Rhododendron Society's Seed Exchange!

When I was in Bhutan with Lady Cynthia Postan I remarked to her that it was a pity that, with such a large 'gene pool', the Group did not operate a seed distribution scheme. She said that it had been considered but was not thought viable. I then offered the services of my computer, an Apple Macintosh II with 40 megabytes of disk space, with automatic tape cartridge back-up, a Laserwriter high-quality printer, and I to run them.

The program to operate a highly efficient distribution scheme is only a variation on the 'Word Three' software which I already have. My company also has a competent programmer and I would be very happy to let him devise a special program based on this.

I suggest that we run the scheme in a similar way to the American Seed Distribution for at least the first year until we gain more experience. I would first of all need a list of members of the Group, who I would then circulate to tell them that a seed distribution would be taking place this year, asking them to contribute by either 'selfing' their best or rarest species or hybridising their best plants, or indeed to collect seed in the wild with altitude and collector's number if possible, with the offer of contributors having first choice. A further letter could then be sent out in about October, asking for members to send in their seed, preferably cleaned, to me in paper envelopes. I would then clean it further and re-pack in small glassine envelopes, catalogue it and print the number on each packet. I have been offered help in the cleaning and re-packing of seed by my head gardener's wife, who has worked under John Bond at Windsor for seven years.

We would have to have a 'cut-off date', probably the same as the Americans', which is December 21st. I would by then have most of the information on the computer and should be able to send a list of available seeds out by early January (a week earlier to the contributors). The American seed frequently does not germinate well, presumably because it is too warm for too long. I already have a small refrigerator just for my seeds in order to avoid domestic problems, and there would be plenty of room in there to keep the seeds at peak condition. I will leave it to you to decide how much to charge for the packets, but I can tell you what the Americans charge for very small packets:

open-pollinated species	50c
species collected in the wild	\$1
hand-pollinated species	\$1
hand-pollinated hybrid crosses	\$1
evergreen azalea hybrid crosses	\$1
deciduous azaleas, open-pollinated	\$1
deciduous azaleas, hand-pollinated	\$1

Personally, I would prefer not to accept open-pollinated seed of any type (other than collected in the wild), but will leave that decision to the committee. I have seen some good results from species grown from open-pollinated seed, which frequently appears to come true, but I have also raised some very dislikeable hybrids from seed purchased as species from the RHS Seed Distribution.

During the last three years I have sent the American Rhododendron Society over a hundred packets of seed of my own crosses and wild-collected seed for the distribution, and I would be quite happy to hybridise especially for the Group, and also to write to some of the more prolific British contributors such as Peter Cox and prompt them to divert some of their seed to the Group.

I would not expect any remuneration for these services but would hope to be reimbursed for postage and envelopes. I am sure the committee will find ways of using the surplus funds, but I

suggest that we might sponsor collecting trips organised by such people as Keith Rushforth and Chris Chadwell, and we might even persuade Edinburgh RBG to contribute from its expeditions.

David Clulow
(David Clulow, Tilgates, Bletchingly, Surrey RH1 4QF, tel. (0883) 843219).

Rhododendron and Camellia Group yearbooks: availability of back numbers, August 1988

At our General Secretary's request, I have been asked to up-date my list of available back numbers of our yearbooks. Please note that, nearly two years ago, rates of postage were increased to 30p per copy for every year except 1980-81 (25p). This should be added to the cover price whenever a quotation is requested.

PLEASE FURTHER NOTE THAT ALL POSTAGE RATES ARE TO BE INCREASED from this coming AUTUMN (see GPO circulars) and that the rates for our yearbooks should be applied to the 200g. limit

1978	£1.80
1979-80	£1.80
1980-81	£2.25
1981-82	£3.05
1982-83	£3.55
1983-84	£3.55
1984-85	£3.55
1985-86 unavailable – still under discussion with the RHS	
1986-87	£3.80
1987-88	£3.80

NOTE: For some years there are only a few copies left and once this list is published there could be a big demand which would exhaust some years' back numbers. It might be advisable to enquire first before sending cheques with orders through the post. David Farnes, tel. Horchurch (04 024) 40536: there is usually somebody at home most evenings after 6pm especially when it is dark and wet!

D. N. Farnes

Help for the Membership Secretary

The large accession of new members to the Group in the last year or so has prompted an appeal for help from our Treasurer, Ray Redford, in his other capacity as Membership Secretary. Ray has the computer which holds the membership data. There are a number of members in the Farnborough area: if one of them is prepared to give a hand to Ray, his address is: R. H. Redford, Esq., Fairbank, 39 Rectory Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7BT, tel. 02 525 23005.

More exhibitors, please

Readers of the minutes of the annual general meeting which appear elsewhere in this issue will have noted an appeal by Mr Lowes for more exhibitors from the Group to enter some of their plants at next year's shows at Vincent Square. Members need not feel as inhibited about showing as they clearly do now. Regular exhibitors are few and this tends to strengthen the feeling that successful entrants have 2600 acres of rough shoot and a full complement of garden staff. We need to dispel this feeling because many fine plants are grown in small, assiduously tended gardens whose owners have a very good chance of showing successfully. The requirements for entries are given in the schedules to the competitions and shows, available without charge from the Royal Horticultural Society.

Wessex Branch at Englefield Green

On the last day of April the Wessex Branch had the good fortune of a personally conducted tour of the Valley Garden, Windsor Great park. In spite of all his many other commitments, Mr John Bond, Keeper, spared three hours of his precious time to take us round the heather garden and the Rhododendron Species Collection: although Mr Bond declared it to be a bad flowering year, there was plenty to see and much to be learned about plants suitable for association with rhododendrons. Mr Bond was not only extremely interesting, but most entertaining as well. All in all, it was a most enjoyable afternoon for those members who were able to be present, for which we are greatly indebted to Mr Bond.

Pamela Gordon

The South West Branch's Garden Visits

There was a huge assembly of members of the Branch and of the International Camellia Society at Porthpean on the rather cold and misty morning of Saturday, 16th April. We were all welcomed with coffee by our hosts, Christopher and Charlotte Petherick. The lovely garden of Porthpean is situated right on the edge of the shore, and contains massed camellias and primulas. We all enjoyed the visit, the kind hospitality, and the opportunity to buy some plants. As we left we presented our hosts with a *Rhododendron* 'Odée Wright' ('Idealist' × 'Mrs Betty Robertson'), a fine rich yellow, with outstanding dark foliage.

After a good lunch at the Britannia Inn, our 'convoy' of cars crossed the road to Tregrehan where we were greeted by Tom Hudson, our host. We divided into four parties in the courtyard, with Walter Magor leading a tree and rhododendron party, Christian Lamb a camellia party, Mrs Jane Bird, the Head Gardener, a general interest party, while Tom left with another party of enthusiasts.

We entered the garden from the courtyard, under the branches of a huge old *Camellia japonica* 'Blackburniana', then along the path past *Camellia* 'China Clay', AM 1977, to a large camellia plantation grown for cuttings, where there are many Carlyon hybrids including the award-winning 'Duchess of Cornwall' (*saluenensis* × 'Adolphe Audusson'). The route led along the Dog Walk, Loderi Walk and Rhodo Walk, and all the way magnificent tall trees towered over us. Alan Mitchell has described the grounds as 'a treasure house of outsized rarities'. What a spectacle! Some of these giants had been high-pruned and Tom deserves much credit for his skill in carrying out this difficult and dangerous work.

When we had admired a fine *R. falconeri* ssp. *eximium* with shining, peeling bark, we reached the top camellia plantation, grown for the unrooted cuttings business. Here were the large camellias, 'Arch of Triumph', 'Francie L', and 'Tristrem Carlyon' ('Rosea Simplex' × 'Salutation'), which I think the best of the Carlyon hybrids.

We returned to the courtyard through the walled garden and the glasshouses, which were full of tender treasures, including a few Vireyas. There was an opportunity to buy some splendid camellias as we gathered for the presentation, when Nigel Wright thanked Tom Hudson for kindly allowing us to visit his garden, and presented him with *Rhododendron* 'Ruby F. Bowman' (*fortunei* × 'Lady Bligh').

On the gloriously sunny afternoon of Sunday, 15th May, over 250 people visited Woodland Grove, Bovey Tracey, to see the rhododendrons. A good display of colour greeted them, with the beds of *yakusimanum* hybrids and the Loderis in full dress. The new American hybrids *R.* 'Lem's Cameo', 'Nancy Evans' and 'Cream Glory' were of particular interest to the many Group members present. Special praise was reserved for a new Exbury hybrid *R.* 'Happy Occasion' ('Snow Queen' × 'Crest' FCC), AM 1985, while throughout the afternoon crowds gathered at the plant stall, before loading their cars in the adjacent field.

On Saturday, 21st May over a hundred Branch members assembled on the lawn at Greencombe in West Somerset, to be greeted by Miss Joan Loraine, and to enjoy a welcome cup of coffee in the warm sunshine. A blaze of colour from the azaleas lit up the bank above us, and in the cool of the woods *decorums* and 'Fragrantissimums' perfumed the air. We all had to leave this lovely garden at mid-day, but before doing so we expressed our thanks to Miss Joan Loraine and presented her with a plant of *R.* 'Isobel Pierce' ('Anne' × 'Lem's Goal'). We then made our way up the steep hill to Woodborough in West Porlock.

Here we were welcomed by Barbara and Roy Milne, with a glass of wine and an invitation to picnic in their delightful garden with its views over Porlock Bay. Blank labels had been attached to bushes of uncertain identity and much discussion went into their completion. Bales of straw had been arranged for seating and made very comfortable picnic seats around the garden. After lunch Lady Anne Palmer thanked Barbara and Roy on our behalf for their kind hospitality, and presented them with *R.* 'El Camino' ('Anna' × 'Marinus Koster'), another fine American hybrid with the hallmark of Halfdan Lem in its sturdy growth and foliage.

Finally we all walked down the hill to the entrance to the late Norman Hadden's woodland, where Miss Freda de Veuille and Dr Keith Lister were waiting for us. Here we had to keep to the narrow winding path that led along the steep hillside rising to 400 feet in a spur between two streams. We passed a group of

glaucophyllum on our right, then under a tall *schlippenbachii* and sprawling *yakusimanum* ssp. *makinoi* on the left bank, with its pink flowers over our heads. As we descended on the far side of the spur we passed an old plant of *genestierianum* with peeling mahogany bark and glaucous leaves, and then a *triflorum* var. *bauhiniiflorum* with its yellow saucer-shaped flower and Triflora foliage. Farther down we drew level with the tops of *rex*, *macabeum*, *sinogrande*, and lastly *protistum* var. *giganteum* loomed, with its roots in the bank of the cascading stream. We crossed the bridge at the confluence, and at the gate Bruce Archibold thanked Miss de Veuille for allowing us the privilege of visiting this very private woodland, and presented her with *Rhododendron arboreum*.

Here we dispersed, until the autumn, when we look forward to Christopher Fairweather's talk on 'American Hybrid Rhododendrons' at the Edgemoor Hotel, Bovey Tracey, on Friday, 25th November 1988.

R. A. W. Reynolds

Irish Branch Garden Visits, May 1st 1988

Twelve members and friends met at the garden of John and Shirley Beatty at Carrickmines, Dublin. The garden contains a wide range of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and alpine, with some rhododendrons and heathers. A narrow path led along by an enormous rock outcrop and reminded one of a dinosaur! Further on, an area retrieved from bracken and gorse had been planted with drifts of heather. One plant that attracted much attention was a very good form of the tree *pæony*, *Paeonia delavayi*.

In the afternoon we proceeded to Charles and Anne Meredith's garden in Foxrock. Charles Meredith visited the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, about thirty years ago and received rhododendrons from Mr Davidian. Many of these have Kingdon Ward numbers. The garden, which is sheltered by pines and cypresses, is informal in lay-out, with paths leading one through a varied collection of rhododendrons. There were many fine specimen rhododendrons, including *cinnabarinum* ssp. *cinnabarinum* Roylei Group, *campylocarpum* ssp. *caloxanthum*, *fortunei*, and *arboreum* from nearby Fernhill garden. *R. edgeworthii* was in flower and with its bullate leaves covered in a tawny felt it would have won a prize on the show bench. Another plant that we stood and admired was *augustinii* Exbury form with delphinium-blue flowers and white centres. A magnificent sight! We continued through the garden, walking by a narrow stream that was bordered by primulas of various kinds. Finally we came to an area devoted to dwarf rhododendrons and conifers. There were many choice species and hybrids, and here we thanked the Merediths for an enjoyable visit and presented them with *R.* 'Bluebird' to add to their collection.

As ever we had an enjoyable and interesting annual garden visit. I look forward to meeting more members at next year's visit, which will be in County Antrim.

Mary Forrest

Crarae, nr Inveraray, Argyll

Mrs May Campbell, one of the trustees of the Crarae Gardens Charitable Trust which now manages the garden in the wooded glen of Crarae, has written to Mr Ray Redford in a letter which contains several interesting points. Ray has sent the letter to the hon. editor who visited Crarae directly after the end of the tour of Scottish gardens last May, and the larger part of it is quoted here.

'In the Bulletin of the Rhododendron and Camellia Group you ask for information about members offering "horticultural services". I venture to suggest that perhaps a similar list might be compiled and published at a suitable time, of gardens open permanently to the public, in which rhododendrons, camellias and associated genera are grown and can be admired by enthusiasts.

This garden, Crarae, is open every day of the year (£1.50 per adult gives access to 40 acres of winding paths around a deep natural glen, crossed by bridges and commanding sensational views over Loch Fyne and the surrounding hillsides). There are several other gardens in the area which are open for long periods of the year, including such well-known rhododendron havens as Arduaine, Ardanaiseig, Achamore (Gigha), Achnacloich, Benmore and the arboretum at Strone, as well as lesser known but still fascinating places such as Barguilean.

In the case of Crarae we have now ceased raising plants for sale, but Crarae plants are still available for purchase by visitors since Mrs Pat MacKirdy, wife of the Trust's head gardener, has started

her own business within the garden. For 16 years she has been our propagator, and it would be nice if members of the Group, many of whom have purchased Crarae plants in the past, could be made aware of this new enterprise, and perhaps support it!

(Mrs Campbell also draws attention to three relevant publications which are available without charge from Scottish Tourist Information offices and the Scottish Tourist Board in London: 'Great Gardens of Argyll, Bute and the Isles', 'Great Gardens of the Scottish Highlands', and 'Gardens of Scotland', issued in connection with the Glasgow Garden Festival. Crarae is easy to find. The entrance is from the A83 near Minard, almost midway between Inveraray and Lochgilphead. Ed.)

The culture of Vireyas at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

It is not often that amateur rhododendron enthusiasts have the good fortune to meet a renowned botanist who specialises in the collection and taxonomy of Vireyas, so when the opportunity arose in early May, 1988, it was too good to miss. Dr George Argent of the Royal Botanic Garden staff very kindly gave up most of an otherwise free Saturday afternoon to personally conduct Jim Fuller and me round the RBG Vireya Collection. We were en route to the Group Tour of Scotland, and the RBG turned out to be a major highlight of an outstanding week. I am a 'hit or miss' Vireya fancier and there are apparently very few others close at hand with whom to share experiences and one has a sense of blundering blindly on. A contact such as this was like a ray of sunshine and proved very informative.

The RBG collection consists of about 98 of the known species of Vireya, i.e. about one third. It must be one of, if not the best, in the world, and is predominantly from material collected in the wild. George collects regularly in SE Asia, and it was interesting to note that he brings back not only seed and cuttings but also the minute germinated seedlings from beneath the object plant. His experience is that these travel better and are a good insurance policy if both seed and cuttings fail. They usually turn out to be the desired collection, and sometimes produce extra bonuses of other genera.

Our first call was the public area where Vireyas are displayed to advantage. Here, with other tropical vegetation providing the requisite dappled shade, were many species, among them *R. searsianum*, *retusum*, *polyanthemum*, *suaveolens*, the pink form of *R. superbum*, and a large-flowered form of *R. longiflorum* were in bloom. The tour then passed into the non-public inner sanctums where there were Vireyas of all sizes but mostly the less mature specimens. Glorious blooms of *polyanthemum* were again in evidence along with *R. luraluense*, *macgregoriae*, *macgregoriae* × *zoelleri*, *equabile*, *pratervisum*, *variolosum*, *pauciflorum*, *javanicum*, *jasminiflorum*, *lineare*, *malayanum*, the more usual form of *longiflorum*, and the yellow form of *superbum*. The effect was a plantsman's dream.

In passing, a noteworthy point was the method of growing epiphytic subjects. Galvanised wire frames are constructed of three-sided box form about 3' wide and deep by about 4' high, without front or top, and the plants are hung on the back and sides facing inwards to form a mutual microclimate of slightly higher humidity such as they are more likely to find in the wild. The plants themselves seemed to be growing in or on half-round pieces of fern log, and the whole structure is mounted on the greenhouse bench, effecting an economy in greenhouse space. The planting mix in use at the RBG is as follows:

2 parts coarse peat

1 part fine peat

1 part super-coarse Perlite

Fortone G, 400 grams per cubic metre

Magnesian limestone, 600 grams per cubic metre

Current thinking is to change from Perlite to orchid bark.

Two different temperature regimes are employed in the RBG greenhouses. Most Vireyas are collected from the higher elevations in their tropical homes and are subject to cooler conditions,

i.e. night minimum 7°C (45°F)

day minimum 10°C (50°F)

automatic venting occurs at 20°C (68°F).

The plants collected from the lower elevations are kept in the warmer house:

night minimum 18°C (64°F)

day minimum 21°C (70°F)

automatic venting at 31°C (88°F).

No use is made of any supplementary artificial lighting, and regular spraying with Benlate or other similar fungicides keeps fungal infection in check. George remarked that *R. lochae*, which has been used extensively for early crossing, shows its dislike of low temperature by reddening of the leaves. This trait must have been passed to its hybrid offspring and explains why mine look like budding poinsettias. I shall forthwith do better. In all, the visit was most rewarding, the most memorable part our host's outstanding friendliness.

John Bodenham

(John's account of his own experience of Vireya cultivation will appear in the December issue of the Bulletin. Ed.)

The Group's Autumn weekend, Moreton-in-Marsh, 28th-30th October

This year the Autumn meeting will be held at Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, and accommodation has been reserved at the Manor House Hotel there for our party.

The main garden visit will be to Batsford Park Arboretum, which I believe has been visited before by the Group (*It has, but several visits are needed.* Ed.) but it will be a new experience for some members. It is hoped that there will be a talk with slides and another garden visit. Details of these will be sent on my receiving applications for joining the meeting.

The hotel charge is £42.25 per person per day, not inclusive of lunches, and for members wanting single accommodation the charge is £52.00 per day: a total of £169.00 for two persons sharing a room for the weekend, and £104.00 for a single person. An application form for attendance on this weekend appears as the last item in this issue.

The Spring Tour of Cornwall, 1989

The tour begins on Saturday, 8th May and lasts for one week. Accommodation has already been reserved at Penmere Manor Hotel, Mongleath Road, Penmere, Falmouth, a three-star hotel, and a coach will be available. Our first visit will be to the Cornwall Garden Society's County Flower Show on the afternoon of the 8th May. It is to be held at Carlyon Bay, and our own rhododendron stand will be the highlight of the Show. During the week, about twelve of Cornwall's loveliest gardens will be visited.

Members who would like to join the Cornwall tour may reserve places now without paying a deposit, until the next Bulletin is issued with the appropriate form shortly before Christmas. This year some members were disappointed when they applied to join the Scottish tour after the maximum number had been reached. Reservations please to the Hon. Tours Secretary, Mrs V. Archibold, Starveacre, Dalwood, Axminster, E. Devon EX13 7HH (tel. 0404 88) 221).