

# The Royal Horticultural Society

## *The Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia Group*



Bulletin No. 66 ~ December 1997

### Forthcoming Events

17 March	Vireya Lecture, RHS New Hall at 6.00p.m.	29 April	Group Executive Committee meeting 2.00p.m.
17-18 March	Early Camellia & Rhododendron Competitions.	29 April	Group Annual General Meeting, 4.30p.m. New Hall, Vincent Square.
18 March	Group Executive Committee Meeting.	8-13 May	Group Spring Tour in Scotland.
14-15 April	Main Camellia competition	27-30 October	1998 New Zealand Rhododendron Assn Conference, Christchurch, S.Island, NZ.
28-29 April	Main Rhododendron Competition		

### Chairman's Notes

I trust that you are all enjoying your rhododendrons at this time for, from my observations, growth is in excellent condition following a good rainfall and adequate sunshine throughout the summer. We must look upon our rhododendrons as first class evergreens, many of them, that is, and of course top rank flowering shrubs. It is also possible to assess the amount of flower that we shall enjoy next spring for all flower buds are easily discernable at this time.

Every year I receive reports of rhododendrons in full flower in late summer and autumn, usually with great excitement. Rs. "Elizabeth" and "Yellow Hammer" are two culprits and I do mean culprits. Whilst many gardeners consider flowers at this period a bonus, I find the happening positively annoying and can only see it as a complete waste of spring flower and totally foreign to the summer scene.

Camellias are looking equally promising and thankfully so are magnolias. I wrote a very gloomy note in the last Bulletin following the disastrous frosts of 21 April and I am now very pleased and relieved to note that foliage-wise at least, most magnolias are back to normal. It remains to be seen how well they will flower next spring. It is extremely doubtful if they will equal last spring's glorious display which was, of course, quite exceptional and before the frosts.

Referring to Group matters, I have been looking closely at the possibility of forming a collection of hardy hybrid rhododendrons. This, in effect, will be a landscaped living museum of these wonderful shrubs which are fast disappearing and in many cases have disappeared from the nursery trade. There is, however, a great following and great interest in this range of plants, both from rhododendron gardeners and particularly from those concerned with the history of our gardens. I was asked recently what was the definition of hardy hybrid rhododendrons. Surely, they said, all the progeny of *Rh. yakushimanum* are hardy hybrids? Of course they are, but I am concerned with those raised by the Waterer family at Bagshot and Knaphill, Slococks, the Mangles family perhaps and Kisters of Boskoop in Holland. There are no doubt more and I envisage that a steering committee will be formed to decide on the range of the collection.

The work of the Group has been carried quietly and efficiently by the officers of the Committee. The Yearbook is on its way to the printers, thanks to much hard work by our Editor, Philip Evans. Our Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Tours Organiser and, of course, the Editor of the Bulletin are all giving a great deal of their precious time to keep the wheels turning. This year the RHS held their first ever show at Strathclyde Park near Motherwell which proved to be a great success. I was

invited to judge and during the course of my duties I came across a most creditable display staged by Tony Weston and, I understand, "manned" by Tessa Knott throughout the show. It was indeed good to see our flag flying.

### Editor's Notes

First may I send congratulations to our member Derek Rogers, Head Gardener at Wentworth Castle Gardens, who was awarded an MBE in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours, for his outstanding work in restoring and maintaining these splendid gardens. Do go and see these gardens if you get the chance, they are really "worth a detour."

On 17 March 1998, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, sponsored by our Group, will be staging what promises to be a spectacular display of Vireyas in the New Hall, Westminster. The display will be supported by an evening lecture at 6.00p.m. given by Mr. David Mitchell, Assistant Curator, who will cover the ecology of Vireyas in the field and translate this into the practical growing of these beautiful plants. Tickets for the lecture may be obtained from the RHS, Vincent Square, as usual.

Any member planning a trip to New Zealand in the autumn of 1998 may like to include the Conference to be held at Christchurch, 27-30 October. It is organised by the New Zealand Rhododendron Association, hosted by the Canterbury Rhododendron Society and will take the form of garden visits (town and country) as well as lectures and workshops. The Annual Show of the Canterbury Society to be held at the conclusion of the Conference is believed to be one of the largest competitive rhododendron shows in the world with approximately 800 blooms entered in about 50 separate classes. A tour of Westland will follow, with the opportunity to travel across the Southern Alps by the Tranz Alpine Express. To receive further information contact Mr. Adrian Bliss, Mill Road, Ohoka, N. Canterbury, New Zealand.

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the death, early in the autumn, of Mrs. Doris Sutcliffe at the grand age of 97 plus. A member of over 30 years standing, Doris was a regular and well loved participant in the Spring Tour and Autumn Weekend. Even when walking became difficult she managed to see several gardens with the help of her daughter Audrey, to whom we extend our sympathy.

### Spring Tour, May 8-13 1998

This will be to gardens in Dumbarton & Argyll. During the five full days our party will visit some of the most beautiful gardens in the UK and plenty of time will be given to seeing these so that we can enjoy fully the wealth of plant life.



We will meet at Helensburgh on Friday, staying at the Commodore Hotel where we can safely leave our cars and travel on by coach.

On the first full day of the tour we visit Glenarn and will call in at the Horticulture Show of the Scottish Rhododendron Society (Scottish Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society) There will also be a stand there manned by Tony Weston, our Group Membership Secretary.

In the evening we will be joined by members of the Scottish Branch of our Group who will be enjoying a weekend visit to some of the gardens. Their Chairman, Tessa Knott, is to arrange a lecture in the evening, to which we will be invited (at the hotel) and they will join us for dinner beforehand. The cost of the tour is inclusive of hotel accommodation, all meals including lunch, coach travel, garden entry charges and admin. costs. As a rough guide this will be about £350.

Gardens to be visited include Glenarn, Crarae Glen, Stonefield Castle Hotel, Baravalla, Arduaine, Barguileans's "Angus Garden", Ardanaiseig Hotel and possibly one or two smaller gardens.

If you are interested write to me Mrs. Valerie Archibold, Starveacre, Dalwood, E.Devon EX13 7HH, Tel. 01404 881221. I can then give you a description of the gardens and I should have a better idea of cost and details of hotels, etc.

## Membership Secretary's Notes

### Subscriptions

A reminder, together with a Remittance Advice form, was sent to all members, other than those resident outside Europe, who have not elected to pay their subscription by bankers order. Most members have responded by making prompt payment, for which we are grateful, but there is still a substantial minority which has not. Last year's subscriptions, due November 1st, were still being received in March after yet another reminder. Please make life easier for both the Hon. Treasurer and me by sending in your subscription by the due date. Reminders cost money in postage and stationery and we ask your co-operation so that subscriptions can be held at the present level for as long as possible. The 1998 Yearbook and Seed List will not be sent to anyone whose subscription is unpaid on 31 December!

### Seed List

A large proportion of the seed listed in the 1997 catalogue is still available but there are many additions to the list due to collections in fresh fields. There are many species which are not found in Yunnan but which are indigenous in Tibet, for example. So, when you receive the 1998 list which will be sent to you with the Yearbook in January I hope that you will find many new species which you will be tempted to propagate. This year I intend to arrange the list in alphabetical order instead of list number order so that all collections of a given species are listed together. Anyone offering open-or hand-pollinated seed for the 1998 list should have let me have it, or at any rate, a description of what I may expect to receive, by 30 November.

### Seedling Exchange

The number of seeds in a packet will almost certainly produce more seedlings than most people want to prick out. The exchange of seedlings, however, can only be possible between the parties concerned direct as if a third party is involved as co-ordinator the seedlings would be dead by the time they arrived at their ultimate destination! Nevertheless, it goes against the grain to have to throw them away so I would counsel any member with seedlings surplus to requirements to send a list, together with their name address and phone number, to the Bulletin Editor, who can then publish it in the next issue. Anyone interested should make contact with the supplier direct to agree price, if any.

C.A.W.

## Group Autumn Weekend

There are prizes to be won by those who join Valerie Archibold on her autumn weekends. Freed from the compulsion to see our favourite genus in flower we can explore other unexpected pleasures. This year we visited the border country of Wales. Our rewards were stunning landscapes and one outstanding garden, all seen in golden autumn sunshine. We stayed comfortably in Llandrindod Wells, a timewarp of a Victorian spa.

On Saturday morning Tretower Court, a 15th century manor house, lovingly preserved by Welsh Heritage (CADW), showed us how our ancestors built to last and were not averse to making themselves comfortable: fine timberwork, spacious rooms and a lookalike medieval garden told the story. We lunched at nearby Cliffaes, a fishing hotel set in a garden cunningly planted with some excellent old trees, including *Clerodendrum trichotomum* and a flowering, fruiting *Arbutus unedo*, perched 150ft. above the river Usk. This enabled us to take some welcome exercise.

On Sunday morning a drive across Radnor Forest brought us to another garden that took our fancy. At Bryan's Ground near Presteigne, David Wheeler and Simon Dorrell have partly restored, partly laid out a fascinating garden appropriate to their house built in 1912 in the Arts & Crafts style. The garden is a series of compartments offering contrasts of layout, vistas, and some particularly interesting planting. This is a garden worth travelling many miles to see for its imaginative and sympathetic period treatment. David, editor of *Hortus*, a quarterly for the thinking gardener, and Simon, an artist, have created this intensely atmospheric garden since they came here in 1993. It will be open next year for three days each weekend. Don't miss it!

On Saturday evening, Ivor Stokes gave us a splendidly entertaining lecture. He is our S.W.Wales chairman, late superintendent of Swansea City Municipal gardens, including that of Clyne Castle where he has rescued the late Admiral Walker-Heneage-Vivian's outstanding rhododendron collection, familiar to all of us who visit Vincent Square Shows. Now Ivor has undertaken another Herculean task as Director of Horticulture for the new Welsh National Botanic Garden at Middleton, near Carmarthen. He outlined the plans, supported by the Millennium Fund, for among other outdoor areas, a vast glass-covered area to contain a series of "Mediterranean" environments from all parts of the world. The scale of the enterprise is literally breathtaking and will provide a unique attraction for visitors. We were all deeply impressed.

The weekend was well attended with a contingent of new members from the North, Wales and Sussex, who contributed ideas and comments. A plant sale raised a useful sum for the Group funds. As usual Valerie's impeccable and unobtrusive organisation provided us with an enjoyable break from daily chores. We parted refreshed and grateful.

Cynthia Postan.

## An Invitation from Cove, Dumbartonshire.

Mr. J.A. Moir, of Glen Eden, Cove, Dumbartonshire, G84 0LY is resigning from the Group but would like to extend a warm welcome (and a cup of tea!) to any member who would like to visit his garden to see his rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias.

## "Instant Smoke Plus" Seed Primer

Many seeds of plants emanating from environments which are subjected to intermittent forest or bush fires are difficult to germinate unless "smoked" first - a fiddly and tedious process. Kirstenbosch researchers have now developed an absorbent paper, impregnated with smoke-saturated water. The paper is then dried and sealed



in a polythene packet and can be stored in a refrigerator at 4C for later use.

The active compounds on the paper remain potent for at least six months. When dormant seeds require "smoking" a pre-determined volume of water is added to the paper in a suitable container and the seeds are "smoke-primed" by being soaked in the smoke-water solution for 24 hours.

To achieve the maximum effect a range of natural germination stimulators have been added to the smoke solution to overcome other forms of smoke dormancy found in indigenous species.

This sounds a lot easier than my beehive smoker plus plastic bag, and would presumably work on Freesia corms which I find far more willing to flower after they have had smoke treatment. D. Orriell - Seed Exporters sell the papers by mail order, their address is 45 Frape Avenue, Mt Yokine, Perth, W. Australia 6060, Fax 619 344 8982 The only price I have is a standard pack of 5 papers for AS\$ 12.50 including postage. If anyone would like a list of the species that have been shown to give improved germination by this treatment, I will be happy to send a photocopy.

E.W.

## The Second Flowering of Rhododendrons in 1997

Our Chairman John Bond and our Committee Member, Tom Spring-Smyth, both have the second flowering of Rhododendrons on their minds. While John is more worried about the potential depletion of flowering next spring, Tom, has suggested that it would be interesting to record instances of Rhododendrons flowering for the second time in this most unusual of years. Here is his own list:

*R. lapponicum* Parvifolium Group  
*R. hippophaeoides* var. *hippophaeoides*  
*R. orthocladum* var. *microleucum*  
*R. polycladum* Scintillans Group  
*R. calostrotum* ssp. *calostrotum* "Gigha"  
*R. fletcherianum* (Maddenia)  
*R. charitopes* ssp. *charitopes* Forrest 25570  
*R. impeditum* (possibly *R. fastigiatum*)  
*R. davidsonianum*  
*R. sanguineum*

I would very much like to have your lists and we will see if we can build up a picture of what flowered where. Even if you have only one to report I would be interested to hear of it.

Taxonomy enthusiasts will probably note that Tom is using the descriptions in Cox's "The Encyclopaedia of Rhododendron Species" He (Tom) has suggested everyone follow this to ensure uniformity, what do you all think? But if, like me, you do not have this book don't let that put you off recording your second-flowerings, and maybe it would help if we all assessed what difference this makes to the flowering and general vigour of the plants in question in 1998.

## Knaphill Azaleas

For the past two years I have been compiling, with great encouragement and information from Mr. G. Donald Waterer, a checklist of all the named deciduous azaleas known to have originated at Knaphill. Important as this checklist is as a descriptive record, it is complementary to the task of locating as many of the 158 named hybrids as possible. Fortunately, most are alive and well, albeit dispersed over several collections but some remain strangely elusive despite being available commercially only twenty or so years ago.

I wonder if members have any of the following and if so I should be relieved to hear from them:

Chaka	Deep red with bronze-tinted foliage. Flowers larger than Knaphill Red and flowering mid to late season.
Firecrest	Intense orange-red with orange flare. Early flowering season.
Tanager	Orange-red. Low and compact growth. Mid-season.
Valencia	Vivid orange-scarlet.
Ruth Davies	Large orange flowers. Mid-season.
Gwyneth	Large orange flowers with thick petals. Mid-season. Spreading growth habit.
Joy Bental	Rich orange with apricot flush. Mid-season.
Knaphill	
Tangerine	Strong orange.
Sunset	Orange suffused pink and red. Mid-season.
Leo Kelly	Orange-apricot. Mid to late season.
Javelin	Saffron & red bicolour.
Syncopation	Yellow & deep cherry. Mid-season.
Canary	Deep yellow blotched red outside.
Pastiche	Large. yellow, splashed pink. Mid-season.
Iora	A fine large-flowered yellow. Mid-season.
Golden Guinea	Deep yellow; stamens sometimes petaloid. Bronze tinted foliage.
Yellow Hammer	Chinese yellow.
Siskin	Yellow.
Penguin	Very pale yellow, suffused pink. Top petal. Shrimp red, speckled orange.
Gabrielle	
Keiller	White, tinged apricot. Mid-season.
Albatross	White to pale yellow, suffused pink with orange flare. Low-growing.
Albicans	White with yellow flare.
Florence	
Pilkington	Large cream, base of tube tinged red. Mid-season.
Muriel	
Watson Jones	Rich pink. Mid-season.
Marionette	Pink with orange flare. Late season.
Coquette	Bright pink with golden-yellow on upper petals.
Minuet	Pink with white & yellow.
Sydney Firth	Deep pink with orange flash. Frilled petals. Mid-season.
Calico	Double lemon-yellow. Scented. Mid-season.
Sarsen	Double cream. Scented. Mid-season.
Papoose	Double pale pink. Mid-season.
Plectrum	Double apricot. Scented. Late season.
Minikin	Very small double lilac-pink, fading to white. (A pink version of Piccolo.) The plant grown as Minikin in some collections may actually be Minuet but wrongly named due to misreading of nursery labels.

In addition to the above Knaphills, does anyone have the Ghents 'Agathe' or 'Standishii', both of which were fairly common before the demise of Sunningdale Nurseries? Perhaps they are at Castle Howard. I am sure Nigel Davis would like to have specimens of them in his National Collection at Sheffield Park.

Malcolm Nash, Shepherds, 4 Redcroft Walk, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8DS.

All replies direct to Malcolm please. (Ed.)



## Branch News

### Wessex Branch forthcoming events:

- 20 February—Jennifer Trehane on "Camellias Round the World" in the village Hall, Elstead, Surrey  
20 March—Sir Peter Hutchison on "George Forrest's Expeditions" at Ramster, Chiddingfold  
24 May—Annual Competition at Ramster, Chiddingfold, Surrey.

M.H.

### New Forest Branch

Our Spring meeting was a joint one with the Hants and Dorset branch of the International Camellia Society and was held at Exbury Gardens on the 12 April. Over 50 people attended on a fine spring day. Mr. Edmund de Rothschild ensured that we were very well looked after during our visit, and we are grateful for his keen interest in our activities.

In the morning we were given a guided tour of part of the Gardens, which were well advanced owing to the warm spring. In the afternoon we had a very informative illustrated talk by Bob Cherry, the Australian nurseryman and plant hunter, on searching for camellias in the wild and using them in the garden and for breeding.

In July our Chairman, Christopher Fairweather, kindly invited us to visit his nursery near Beaulieu. We were shown the various stages of propagation, the potting of young plants and the nursery stock. Afterwards we were invited to tea with the Fairweathers in their own garden, and Christopher gave us a demonstration of rhododendron propagation and showed us part of his collection of Vireya rhododendrons.

Our final meeting of the year was held at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum on 18 October. It was a beautiful autumn day and we were fortunate to have a guided tour of part of the Gardens by Robert Hillier, who was able to tell us much of the history of the gardens as well as providing detailed information on many of the individual trees and shrubs. In the afternoon, Jennifer Trehane, one of our members, gave us an excellent lecture on 'Hunting for Camellias in China'. Her talk was illustrated with her own slides and included some thoughts and ideas on the hardiness of plants and the breeding of camellias.

M.G.

### S.E. Branch forthcoming events:

Mark Flanagan who is still settling in at Windsor, will be pleased to talk to us next spring. He will be telling us of his plans for Windsor and something of his seed collecting trip.

We hope to hold a propagating weekend in late July next year and need to have a reasonable idea of the numbers who might attend. The weekend will be on the lines of those run by Alan Clark in past years, namely two days grafting and rooting, the cost will be about £20 per head. Members interested please get in touch with John Hilliard, 99 Gales Drive, Crawley, Sussex RH10 1QD

### Scottish Branch

For our Autumn Weekend, 4-5 October, Scottish members met on the Island of Arran where we were kindly invited to join with the Scottish Rhododendron Society. Earlier in the year we made contact with the SRS at the Strathclyde Show where our two exhibits were happily side by side and I hope this will be the start of a long association together. I would like to thank Mervyn Kessel (president) and Matt Heasman (organiser) for providing us with a very interesting visit to Brodick Gardens, led by Nigel Price, Head Gardener, who gave us an amusing and interesting lecture on his visit to China, not only covering the Flora but also a detailed insight into the sanitary arrangements he encountered!

As part of the programme for 1998 it is proposed to arrange a weekend of garden visits on Friday May 8 - Sunday May 10, centred on Helensburgh. Members interested in joining this please get in touch with Tessa Knott, Glenwhan House, Dunragit, By Stranraer, DG9 8PH for details.

T.K.

### Lakeland Branch Forthcoming events

Probably 24 April—Spring Tour to Dumfries & Galloway

Thelma & Utar Potter and Margaret Fuller have already issued invitations for us to visit their gardens. As the winter weather will influence the dates, you will be notified nearer the time.

Alan Clark has agreed to conduct another workshop at Muncaster for Society members on grafting, cuttings and seedlings of rhododendrons. This will take place at a weekend, mid-August, for 20 people at a cost of about £15 per head. Further details nearer the time.

P.H.

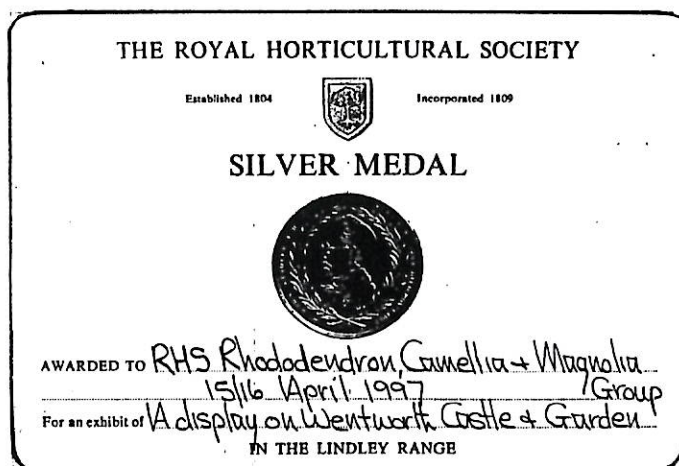
### Norfolk Branch

An informal meeting is planned for November 16, to discuss future options, share ideas and experiences, and to watch the video "The Realm of the Rhododendron". Members are also asked to bring any interesting books they may have on the subject.

J.I.

### Peak Branch

We are now just over one year old and it is pleasing to report the success and the continued support for branch activities from local members. The highlight of our programme was the display and exhibition promoting the gardens at Wentworth Castle in South Yorkshire. This was staged at the April RHS Show in the Old Hall, Westminster and we were delighted to be awarded a Silver Medal in the Lindley Range, on behalf of the Group. Much interest in our exhibit was shown by visitors to the show, such that a list of names was collected and these people were later invited to attend the Branch visit to Wentworth Gardens on the May 21st. A number came - and some from considerable distances - to enjoy the many hundreds of rhododendrons in flower and to admire the restoration work carried out over the past twenty years by Group member Derek Rogers, the Head Gardener, and his team.



During the luncheon interval we presented the Silver Medal to Derek in recognition of his achievements without which our exhibit would not have been possible. Here acknowledgement must be made of the great assistance given by Mr. Harry Leigh of The Friends of Wentworth Castle in preparation of the maps, photographs, diagrams and archival material used in the display and who, with his wife, assisted in manning the stand over the two days of the show.



On 4 May two gardens were visited in Leicestershire. In the morning we gathered at "Long Close" in the village of Woodhouse Eaves, the home of Pené Johnson and John Oakland whose five acre garden is full of mature trees and shrubs, including rhododendrons planted in the period between the two world wars. We then retired to a local hostelry for lunch as guests of our Chairman to celebrate the first full one day meeting of the Branch, after which we travelled the short distance to Ulverscroft to visit the second garden.

Donald and Anne Gimson are the third generation in the family home "Stoneywall", a delightful house built directly on to an igneous rock outcrop - a most unlikely foundation for a house in this part of England. The garden covers at least four acres and there is an extensive oak woodland on the North and East boundaries which provides good shelter for spectacular and unlikely plants in eastern England. The garden is generously planted with all three genera which make up the title of our Group and many of these, especially the deciduous azaleas were at their best for our visit.

On 18 May we travelled to the west of our Branch - as part of our practice to reach as many members, as close to their homes as possible. The venue was "Dunge Farm Gardens", the home of members David and Elizabeth Ketley. The Spring Tour of 1995 visited here and it was interesting to see how much more mature some parts of the garden had become while at the same time noticing how much the garden had been extended higher into the valley, with trees of many sorts as well as rhododendrons.

May I finally add our congratulations to Derek Rogers on his award of the M.B.E. for his services to horticulture and to Wentworth Castle Gardens in particular.

D.F.

#### S.W. Branch

The Branch held its Autumn meeting on 1 November at Rosemoor. Some 86 members and guests attended.

The day started with a Bring-and-Buy plant sale. As usual, good quality plants were brought and were sold off in a Harrods Sale-like atmosphere. The rest of the morning was spent in the gardens. A Quiz was organised which involved looking at plants, mostly rhododendrons, and naming them. The winner was Mr. R. Fulcher, until recently in charge of the gardens at Bicton. The Rosemoor caterers produced a good lunch.

In the afternoon, member Mrs. Margaret Miles gave an illustrated talk titled "Kernow to Korea". In May of this year she had been on a trip to Korea with the American Magnolia Society. There were splendid slides of Magnolia, other plants, the scenery and other attractions. The lecture was very well received.

Garden visits are arranged for May 9th and 16th, 1998. John Bond is to lecture on November 7th, 1998.

A.E

## WHITEHILLS NURSERIES

(Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Weston)

### CLOSING DOWN SALE

We wish to dispose of our entire stock of rhododendrons and azaleas and we are offering them to members of the Group at less than trade price. The prices quoted below are ex-nursery and exclusive of VAT:-

Hardy hybrid rhododendrons in 5 litre rigid containers		£6.00
Species 5L & 7.5L	" "	from £8.00
Dwarfs 3L & 4L	" "	from £4.00
Azaleas (Evergreen) 3L 7 4L	" "	from £3.50
" (Deciduous) 5L & 7.5L	" "	from £6.00

(Minimum order - £50 (excl. VAT) Orders from UK mainland only).

Packing & carriage (next day delivery) will be charged at cost viz: £15 up to 10 kg plus 30p per kg. in excess  
(Note: For a very rough guide to weights - see below)

2 Litre - 1kg; 3 Litre - 2kgs; 5 Litre - 3 kgs; 7.5 Litre - 6 kgs.

For a full list of available plants write to : Whitehills Nurseries, Newton Stewart, Scotland, DG8 6SL. Phone 01671 402049; Fax 01671 403106



## FAST RABBIT FARM

Ash Cross, Dartmouth, Devon

Tel. 01803 712437

A wide range of Rhododendrons, Camellias, Magnolias, Primulas and other choice plants.

Medal winners at Cornwall Garden Society's Show.

**Large ornamental garden to be featured by Channel 4 in February 1998.**

Garden opened under N.G.S. Sundays 22 March - 28 June inclusive, (except 26 April and 21 June).

Cream teas are served on N.G.S. days.

The nursery lies close to the main Dartmouth/Totnes road and is approached from Dartmouth past the Park & Ride, turning left at Rose Cottage before Norton Park.

From Totnes pass the Woodland Park turning, past Norton Park and turn right at Rose Cottage.

Mail order - please send S.A.E. for List.



## Special Video Offer

If any of you missed the gardening series "Bloom" broadcast on Channel 4, (I did as we get H4C instead, which is mainly in Welsh and not very garden friendly) you may like to take up this offer of videos of the six families they featured. The videos each have two plant families on them namely "Daisies & Buttercups", "Lilies & Peas" and "Poppies & Mint" and can be purchased for £9.99 each, inclusive of p & p. (normal price £10.99) or as a set of three for £27.99p. They are presented by Anne Swithinbank and Bill Chudziak, and the one I have seen is a joy, full of beautifully photographed plants and not too much of the humans! There is an order form below.

## Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia Group of the RHS.

I would like to order:

Bloom Daisies ..... Video(s) at £9.99 each  
 Bloom Lilies ..... Video(s) at £9.99 each  
 Bloom Poppies ..... Video(s) at £9.99 each  
 Bloom complete sets of three.....Set(s) at £27.99 each

Name.....

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code.....

Please make cheques or postal orders payable to International Licensing & Copyright Ltd., Broadley Studios, Broadley House, 48 Broadley Terrace, London NW1

## Early Yearbooks for Sale

Our member, Lady Cynthia Postan has a few surplus past Yearbooks for sale. She has one copy each of numbers 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 and also a photocopy of 51/52. Will anyone who would like to purchase one or more of these difficult to find past editions, get in touch direct with Lady Cynthia at 84, Barton Road, Cambridge, CB3 9LH

## Composite Year-Book Index, 1946-1996

This index is now available in printed form for £18, and on disk for £25, both prices inclusive of post and packing. To obtain a copy please send a cheque made out to The Rhododendron, Camellia & Magnolia Group for the requisite amount to The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Joey Warren, Netherton, Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton, Devon PL20 7NL.

## Spend a marvellous Rhododendron Weekend in SCOTLAND

April 24/5, May 1/2 May 8/9 May 17/18 1998

with **Dr. David Chamberlain**

Herbarium Curator, Edinburgh Botanic Gardens

- \* Full Board from Friday Dinner to Sunday lunch inc. at the famous Quality Central Hotel in Glasgow and coach travel to the gardens.
  - \* Guided tour of the E.B.G. PLUS Benmore Gardens
  - \* Ideal time for Rhododendrons, including the Vireya
  - \* Free advice from one of the nation's greatest Rhododendron experts.
  - \* An opportunity to spend lots of time with other enthusiasts.
  - \* Saturday evening private dinner & talk by Dr Chamberlain **£110. Inc VAT (Single supplement £25).**
- For more information, a leaflet and bookings. Contact Barbara Galle on 0181 233 2031 or write to her at: Choice Hotels, Premier House, 112-114 Station Road, Edgware, Middx HA8 7BJ**

## GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ~ Wednesday, 29 April 1998

The Group AGM will be held at New Hall Vincent Square at 4.30p.m. on Wednesday, 29 April 1998. A nomination form for candidates for election will be found below. Closing date for nominations is 1 April 1998. Please note the AGM will be on a Wednesday, not Tuesday as has been the case until now.

## THE RHS RHODODENDRON, CAMELLIA & MAGNOLIA GROUP

### Election of Officers to the Executive Committee

In accordance with the conditions of the Group's Constitution the undermentioned members of the Executive Committee, having served for three years, are due to retire but are willing to stand for re-election. However, if any member wishes to make an alternative nomination, they may do so provided that they first obtain the candidate's written agreement to stand for election, and find a Seconder who must also be a member. Proposers should make use of the Nomination Form below which must be returned to the Hon. Group Secretary, together with Candidate's assent, not later than 1 April 1998.

**Mr. David Farnes Mr. Ivor Stokes**

**Mr. Alan Hardy** who is also due to retire does not wish to stand for re-election, he has been our much valued Vice Chairman for some considerable time and we would ask each Committee member, both present and possible future, to consider whether they would feel able to undertake this post. If so would he or she please contact our Chairman to discuss what the job entails.

✂ .....

## NOMINATION PAPER for candidates for election to the Executive Committee on the 29 April, 1998

Name of candidate ..... Signature .....

Proposed by ..... Signature .....

Seconded by ..... Signature .....