



# RCMG SW Branch News

Spring 2026

## Editor's Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the regional newsletter. When I sat down to compile this edition, I was surprised to see that the last edition was in November. Thankfully, our three genera have held our attention with what feels like an excellent flowering year as was demonstrated by the displays at both of the Rosemoor shows. I was approached by more than one person at the shows to discuss leaves, and how they can complement and also detract from perfect blooms. It was interesting to see, walking around after these conversations, the variety in quality of the leaves in exhibits, especially on the rhododendrons. It got me thinking how we support new (and experienced) exhibitors. Watch this space.

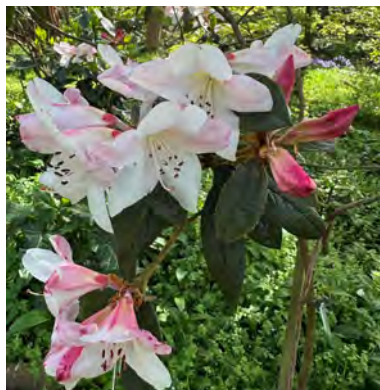
As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, Pam Hayward or John Marston with contributions, thoughts, comments or suggestions.

Ashley Brent

## Branch Chairman's Foreword

A wet (and mild) late-winter and early-spring has favoured our genera but not us gardeners so much. Growth and last year's bud set have produced a profusion of flowers on most rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias, although I feel that Camellia Petal Blight has been more serious as a result of all the rain and wetness. With masses of camellias in the garden one just has to live with it and ensure our plants are growing well and are healthy.

Of note here is the amazing contrast between velvet brown buds and white scented flowers in the appropriately named *Magnolia* 'Velvet and Cream' (right). It has become a very large bush. Of the rhododendrons here, two stand out; the small slow-growing bush of *Rhododendron auritum* (below left) with yellow and apricot flowers, and the powerfully scented *R.* 'Coastal Spice' (below right). The former was commented on by Ken Cox, who said that it was very scarce in its native habitat of Tsangpo and although they searched the area over eight expeditions, they never saw it. *Rhododendron* 'Coastal Spice' was micropropagated by Ros Smith a few years ago and is growing well. The powerful scent wafts about as you pass by the plant. This was a hybrid created by J.W. Gerdemann in Oregon in 1986, using *R. burmanicum*, *R. edgeworthii* and *R.* 'Fragrantissimum'. Considering its parentage, it seems remarkably hardy here.



In other news from the South West Branch, I comment separately on an excellent Spring Show which introduced the exciting new Camellia Award for apprentice gardeners, and our April Main Rhododendron Competition with Branch competitions. Elsewhere in this newsletter, I will also describe our trip to Bicton Botanical Gardens to put names to their large camellia collection; a great success in the end.

This year, we lost a longstanding and valued member of our Branch, Rosemary Howell DL BEM, who died in February at the age of 96 years. Rosemary had been gardening at Lukesland Garden near Ivybridge with husband John for many years, creating a wonderful garden now ably looked after by daughter-in-law, Lorna.

On a lighter note, I look forward to welcoming you to the garden here at Upper Gorwell House, Barnstaple for our South West Branch summer picnic on Sunday 2 August.

John Marston

## Chinese Temptation!

Ever the botanical bibliophile, I have for many years been on the lookout for a sensibly priced secondhand hard-back copy of the very expensive *The Genus Rhododendron of China* – Geng Yuying – [ISBN: 9787547820810/ Hardback/Oct 2011/currently £107.00] (*right*) to add to my bookshelves. To those with similar ambition, I recently became aware that it is now available as a sensibly priced downloadable E-Book from its Chinese source, namely [www.hceis.com](http://www.hceis.com). I was never the enthusiast for E-Books until sight of the recent magnificent series of fifteen volumes authored by Julian Taylor-Whall and made freely available to members via the RCMG website. I prize these very highly indeed for their informative content and above all for their innumerable, very high quality images. If you have never been tempted to view them, I suggest without hesitation that this is the time to do so – like NOW! You will not be disappointed.

Having had previous sight of a few sample pages from the Chinese title many years ago, I had already made up my mind and pre-empted that I was probably not going to gain a great deal from this tome and its six-hundred and twenty-four pages, all of which were covered by small, closely-printed Chinese text! But as an optimist you never know until you've tried. Hence my recent purchase at the time of writing was a reasonable £25.70. There are numerous fairly small photographs and spasmodic line drawings – not necessarily of the best quality and in no way comparable to the very excellent colour images contained in some of the modern Japanese rhododendron titles. These are interspersed throughout the text and fortunately aided by their botanical Latin species identities. Consequently, my curiosity whetted and I assumed that the contents might be instructive as there are not too many texts concentrating specifically on the Chinese rhododendron species.

There is usually more than one way of killing the cat or alternatively solving at first sight what appears to be the insolvable. Yes, you've guessed correctly, my first effort was to try one of the website translation options assuming the text to be Chinese – in reality, *Traditional Hong Kong*. Eureka! It worked; albeit it might be a long-term project bearing in mind the number of pages but it is doable. Helped by the botanical Latin insertions within the text, it makes for easy species selection and subsequent translation. Patience is rewarded! Now I know that this option is available it makes my purchase even more worthy.

Many years ago, the pundits did say that E-Books would likely take over and see the exit of published titles; fortunately this has so far not proved to be the case!

*John Sanders*



## The search is on for missing FCCs

Whilst carrying out some research, I came across an article written by Major Edward Magor of Lamellen for the 1987-88 edition of *Rhododendrons with Magnolias and Camellias* in which he had taken the trouble to list every First Class Certificate awarded to rhododendrons and azaleas by the Royal Horticultural Society since the establishment of the Floral Committee in 1859. The list includes 189 hybrids and 72 azaleas and azaleodendrons. It is interesting to note that 38 of the hybrid entries were vireyas – 34 registered by Veitch and all but one date back to the nineteenth century, many of which are detailed in John David and Yvette Harvey's article in the 2025 RCMG Yearbook.

As a spin-off from my work on the Extant Plant Database, I decided to analyse this list to ascertain how many of these FCCs are still known to be growing in our gardens today. Of the 151 rhododendron hybrids (not including the vireyas), 16 have a single entry and I have identified that, surprisingly, only 21 cultivars are missing. I have produced the following list (*overleaf*) and now the search is on to try to locate any of these rhododendrons. Please let me know if you have any information.

I will be carrying out further work to identify the missing azaleas and azaleodendrons and more information, when it is available, will be published in the RCM Hub website [rcmhub.uk](http://rcmhub.uk) the new home of the Extant Plant Database. If you have not already contributed to this project, please give it some consideration.

I can be contacted via email at [rcmconservation@gmail.com](mailto:rcmconservation@gmail.com)

<u>Cultivars</u>	<u>Parentage as shown by Magor</u>	<u>Raiser or Exhibitor</u>	<u>Year of FCC</u>
<b>Azor Sister</b>	<i>fortunei</i> ssp <i>discolor</i> x <i>griersonianum</i> (Register states parentage unknown)	Stevenson	1960 (awarded after Trial)
<b>Bianca</b>	(salmon pink) Parentage unknown (Register states 'Raiser unknown')	Bull	1866
<b>Charles Dickens</b>	<i>catawbiense</i> hybrid	A Waterer	1865
<b>Cream Trumpet</b>	<i>dalhousiae</i> x <i>nuttallii</i>	RBG, Edinburgh	1958
<b>Early Gem</b>	<i>dauricum</i> x 'Praecox'	Veitch	1874
<b>Exoniense</b>	<i>ciliatum</i> x <i>veitchianum</i>	Veitch	1881
<b>Golden Queen</b>	<i>cinnabarinum</i> Roylei Group x 'Royal Flush' (orange form) (Lady Chamberlain Group)	Rothschild	1947
<b>Henryanum</b>	<i>dalhousiae</i> x <i>formosum</i>	Henry	1865
<b>Her Majesty</b>	<i>arboresum</i> x 'Forsterianum' (soft crimson)	Veitch	1889
<b>Impeanum</b>	<i>hanceanum</i> x <i>impeditum</i>	RBG Kew	1934
<b>La Belle</b>	<i>ciliatum</i> x 'Forsterianum'	Veitch	1887
<b>Leonardslee Yellow</b>	<i>lindleyi</i> x <i>nuttallii</i>	Loder	1980
<b>Maculosissimum</b>	pale lilac, much spotted	Standish	1860
<b>Mrs John Clutton</b>	<i>maximum</i> hybrid	A Waterer	1865
<b>Picotee Roseum</b>	(white edged pink). Parentage unknown	Veitch	1863
<b>Princess William of Württemberg</b>	Parentage unknown	Veitch	1894
<b>Stella (Syn. Stella Waterer)</b>	<i>catawbiense</i> hybrid	A Waterer	1865
<b>Superbissimum</b>	Parentage unknown. (Register states 'Perhaps <i>R. arboresum</i> selection')	Veitch	1897
<b>Sylvania</b>	<i>edgeworthii</i> x <i>formosum</i> var. <i>inequale</i>	J S Basford (NTS Brodick)	1984
<b>Tip-the-Wink</b>	<i>griffithianum</i> x 'Kewense'	G H Loder	1936
<b>William Wright Smith</b>	<i>nuttallii</i> x <i>veitchianum</i>	RBG, Edinburgh	1960

Sally Hayward

## Snippets from a Camellia lover

To state the obvious, camellias have had a good season with extra flower-power and, more significantly I believe, larger flowers, benefiting from the moisture we had in the wet start to the year. I really like fishtailed camellia foliage and so I have collected them, but I equally value their scented flowers. I was lucky to find *Camellia japonica* 'Poisson



Rouge' (left) a vigorous, crimson single Fishtail; it was bred by Claude Thoby in France and was available from his son by 2009. It was a "supposed seedling of *Kimberley* x *Quercifolia* (synonym)" according to the International Camellia Register and it has leaves up to 13.5cm long and the flowers flatten to 10cm diameter gradually.

The only semi-double Fishtail I grow is *C. japonica* 'Mermaid (USA)' (right) and occasionally it throws up a leaf which is not fishtailed, as does *C. 'Poisson Rouge'*. I find its flowers are





quite simply beautiful: they are a good size in a lovely rose-pink, inviting you to sample their scent. I was lucky to find it at the Duchy of Cornwall Nursery in 2014. The International Camellia Register shows it was introduced by a Japanese immigrant to the United States called F.M. Uyematsu of the Star Nursery, Montebello, California by 1947, described as having a "high probability of parentage with 'Kingyo-tsubaki'". *Camellia* 'Kingyo-tsubaki' was first mentioned in the *Shirai-Bunko* as long ago as 1789 in Japan and it has a rose-red, sometimes true red, single flower. The name actually means 'The Goldfish Camellia', but that has been shortened in the West to just fishtail! It is the parent of the Fishtail group, of which only a few are grown outside Japan.

The 2026 season has also seen a couple of unusual cultivars I found in Europe, in 9cm pots just before Brexit, which have now established and are flowering. *Camellia* 'Musha-gaeshi' (left) is a registered Higo Japonica (so

probably always going to be slow-growing) introduced in 1980 in Japan and its large, single flower is rather fascinatingly peppered and streaked pink. *Camellia japonica* 'Uchū-no-hikari' is also a Higo and I like the light pink stripe on white background of its flower which starts off slightly cupped. However, like many Higos it may be unstable and in 2022 it produced one correct flower and one wholly red flower (right): so I was very relieved after I pruned out that stem with the sport, to find no sports this year. Usually I do not mind sports especially on old camellias such as *C.* 'Lady Vansittart' (syn. 'Edo-nishiki') or *C.* 'Lavinia Maggi' but this camellia had no excuse of age as it was only



introduced in 1983!

New growth colour on camellias is also adding another season of interest. *Camellia* 'Crimson Candles' (left) is a hybrid of *C. reticulata* x *C. fraterna* according to the International Camellia Register and bred by Dr Clifford Parks which is hardy with me in Mid-Devon. Most *Sasanqua* cultivars have new growth colour along with the *Lutchuensis* hybrids, a few x *Williamsii* and even a few *Reticulatas*, such as *C.* 'Dr. Clifford Parks'. Some species really are stunning in the new growth stage such as *C. tsaii*, *C. transnokoensis*, *C. parvilimba*, *C. minutiflora* and *C. yunnanensis*.

The magnolias are also early this year, so it was interesting to find *Magnolia wilsonii* (below) out in late-April although it is considered a summer-flowering species! With the warm weather, its fragrance was the best I have had from its nodding white cup-shaped flowers which hang down. It does not flower profusely and it is a small tree with pendulous branches.



## The Barry Starling Award Challenge 2027!

Those of you who entered or visited the recent Main Rhododendron Competition at Rosemoor will know that we have a special class for a plant displayed in a container, the winning entry of which is awarded The Barry Starling Award.

You may remember that we introduced this award as a tribute to the late, great Barry Starling, a plantsman who excelled at growing and showing the 'tinies' – dwarf and alpine species and hybrids well suited to raising in troughs, pots and other containers. Although the specifications for the class are fairly vague – 'Any containerised rhododendron plant in bloom, not to exceed 18" from the base of the main stem.' – the dwarfs and alpines were very much in mind from the outset.

The class was well supported until this year when only two entries were forthcoming, which is such a pity as it really ought to attract more of us to take part. Many of you are probably already growing and flowering rhododendrons in pots or the like and it would be great to see a big display demonstrating to the public what is possible for their own gardens. The important thing is that entries can be placed on the bench just before judging, so no need for an early start and more particularly, they can be removed after the presentations and taken back home again on the same day. So no need to worry about having to come back the next day or plants disappearing.

So . . . I'm challenging everyone to think about having a go next year. Entries must have been in the ownership of the entrant for at least six months (just so no one nips into the garden centre beforehand!) and now would be a good time to pick up a likely candidate at the garden centre to nurture for next year. Suitable candidates are often among the cheapest and right now they might be even cheaper as they go out of flower.

Ideal rhododendron hybrids would be the majority of the Cox birds - *R. 'Snipe'*, *R. 'Swift'*, *R. 'Phalarope'*, *R. 'Wren'* for example or the baby Bergs like *R. 'Patty Bee'*, *R. 'Ginny Gee'*, *R. 'Oban'* etc. Then there are the 'blues' which are often available – *R. 'St Merryn'*, *R. 'Azurika'*, *R. 'Frosthexe'* etc or the yellows like *R. 'Shamrock'*. Of the species, *R. keiskei* (the prostrate forms, especially Barry's *R. 'Yaku Fairy'*), *R. impeditum*, *R. fastigiatum*, *R. sargentianum* or the like would be perfect. Bring them into flower for the end of April, a lovely pot is desirable and all topped off with moss, bark, stones or something similar and you're ready for the show bench, just like that!

Seriously, it's a challenge I know, but perhaps I've piqued your interest and competitive urge! Do think about joining in and let's see if we can revive this class to make a spectacular end to the run of classes in next year's Main Rhododendron Competition! It's Class 68 of 68!

Just to enthuse you further an image of one of Barry's beautiful entries, in fact the one which took the inaugural First Prize for the newly introduced Class 68 in 2012 – *R. cephalanthum* (below left) – gives you the idea! Somewhat grander is Marwood's 2025 award winner, the wonderful former *Ledum* species now *R. diversipilosum* 'Milky Way' (below right).

As ever, send questions or comments to [pam@woodtown.net](mailto:pam@woodtown.net)



*Pam Hayward*

Photo credit: *Sally Hayward*



## Show of Thanks

First of all, a big thank you to all of you who entered the Main Rhododendron Competition, and the South West Branch Camellia, Magnolia and Floral Arrangement competitions. Without you, there would be no show. This was our 20<sup>th</sup> year hosting the RHS and Branch competitions here at Rosemoor. It is gratifying to know that we can still attract exhibitors who are prepared to travel long distances to showcase their wonderful blooms.

As usual, the standard was high and the Garden Room at Rosemoor looked wonderful. We welcomed exhibitors from far and wide as well as our amazing homegrown talent. I would also like to express the thanks of our South West Branch to RHS Rosemoor for their continuing support of our ventures which I gratefully acknowledge. They are always most helpful, both at setting up everything, and supplying volunteers to help at the end of the show.

Georgina Barter, from the shows dept of RHS and our own Pam Hayward worked very hard behind the scenes to make the show happen so smoothly. It is a tremendous task and I am very grateful to them as ever.

Jonathan Hutchinson from Rosemoor once more displayed his talent of making wonderful table lamps from all sorts of different woods, and each sale generated a donation to South West funds. Many thanks, Jonathan.

As well as the amazing array of silverware as competition prizes, two RHS annual awards this year were given out by Jim Gardiner, former director of RHS Wisley, RHS Vice-President and lately RHS roving ambassador.



Ken Cox, who needs no introduction, had travelled to the show from Scotland to judge the Rhododendron entries and was awarded the Rothschild Challenge Cup (*left*) for Glendoick's stand at the Chelsea Flower Show last year. It was amazing to be able to have his expertise on hand in assessing the rhododendron entries.



Your very own Branch Chairman was awarded the Jim Gardiner Magnolia Cup (*right*) which was

quite an honour, especially looking at the names of the illustrious previous recipients. Jim had come to Rosemoor specially to present 'his' cup himself which was wonderful.

Jim also expressed his appreciation of the show, and asked that his thanks and best wishes be conveyed to all who made the show such a success.

*John Marston*

Photo Credit: *Ashley Brent*

## Very Old Sasanquas – An Appeal

Group member Caroline Bell is collecting photos of Sasanqua camellias which are over 100 years old, for inclusion in Volume 2 of the International Camellia Society book *Splendid Sasanquas* which is due to go to print in August. Anyone who grows camellias will know that we are now outside the Sasanqua flowering season and, as such, Caroline is appealing for your help in her quest.

She has been given photos from Caerhays and Tregrehan of their plants, but has no images of the two Sasanquas in the Italian Garden at Heligan, reputed to have been planted around 1908. So if anyone can help with photos of these two, could they please get in touch with her.

If anyone is aware of any other 100 year old Sasanquas that they think Caroline may have missed, she would also welcome photos of them along with some kind of proof of their age. She already has images of plants at Leonardslee, Nymans and from Saumarez Park in Guernsey.

Caroline can be contacted directly via email [carolinebell@freeola.com](mailto:carolinebell@freeola.com)

*Ashley Brent*

## Rhododendrons worth knowing – yaks to yell about!

We all know *Rhododendron yakushimanum* is a great plant in its own right and a fantastic parent to so many different hybrids; it easily took the crown in the Top 100 Survey in our Centenary Year. In its *R.* 'Koichiro Wada' form it earned a First Class Certificate in 1947 and has held an Award of Garden Merit – now RHS Recommended: Award of Garden Merit – from the outset.

The species has been crossed with pretty well every elepidote imaginable to produce a range of offspring, varying in size and flower colour; not all are memorable of course! Hybridisers such as Waterer, Hydon and Hachmann, among others right across the rhododendron-growing world, have milked its genes with abandon and our gardens are all the richer for their efforts.

I'm sure you have your own favourites and reasons why – do tell us please – but I'd like to draw your attention to just three that you might not have encountered and which deserve seeking out, one is a Hydon creation, the other two are Americans.

***Rhododendron* 'Silver Jubilee'** AGM (*right*) is an outstanding plant borne of a cross between *R. yakushimanum* and the superb *R.* 'Coronation Day'. The tallest of my three choices, it's a reliable, healthy and remarkably free-flowering variety. The *International Rhododendron Register* appears to have gone off-piste in its description of this rhododendron – it is not greenish yellow or indeed any sort of yellow, rather it is a sparkling white with a glacé-cherry red blotch, really quite large well-shaped trusses and a lovely and striking thing altogether which I heartedly recommend for a reasonable sized space and perhaps, unlike other yak hybrids, towards the middle of a border rather than the front.



Both my American hybrids were raised to prominence and wider circulation by that well-known connoisseur of rhododendrons, the late Harold Greer. Neither were borne of his own hand but he could spot a winner among someone else's endeavours!

***Rhododendron* 'Cupcake'** (*right*) bears all the hallmarks of the classic 'yakushimanum' character – compact, dense even, superb foliage with great indumentum and amazing flower power but also in this case, with it's partner *R.* 'Medusa' superb colour has been introduced to the mix. A hemisphere of salmon pink, all at peak flowering simultaneously; this is a winner both in and out of flower.



***Rhododendron* 'Yaku Angel'** (*right*) is of a different character altogether. This absolute gem of a rhododendron is a Harold Greer seedling selection of the species but displays the most intricate fine foliage, still with the characteristic recurved leaves but writ very small indeed. The trusses are the purest of white, a good globe shape and coming in just the right number not to look overdressed or unreal. The foliage is always visible between the flowers and really enhances the floral effect. Barely a metre tall, perfect for the front of the border and ideal for placing next to something much stronger coloured to emphasise that of both. It is so well-named and a real year-round asset.



Thankfully, 'Silver Jubilee' and 'Yaku Angel' are both in commerce in this country; I don't know if 'Cupcake' is in production yet but I am happy to send cuttings of my American-sourced plant wherever to get it in circulation,

And now it's your turn . . .

*Pam Hayward*

## Magnolia review

*The Magnolias At Caerhays Castle*, by Charles Williams VMH, is hefty in both weight and price. The recommended retail price of £75.00 takes it a little beyond a casual purchase for most of us, and while its 480 pages are beautifully illustrated and bound the question is whether the book matches its price tag.

The book looks fantastic. It's well illustrated with numerous *mostly* high quality images, and the information is, as far as I have seen so far, well presented. However it is important to be aware that this is not a reference book; it's a book specifically about the magnolias at Caerhays, their history and so on. Even then it's a book about *some* of the magnolias in the collection. This book is neither comprehensive nor technical.

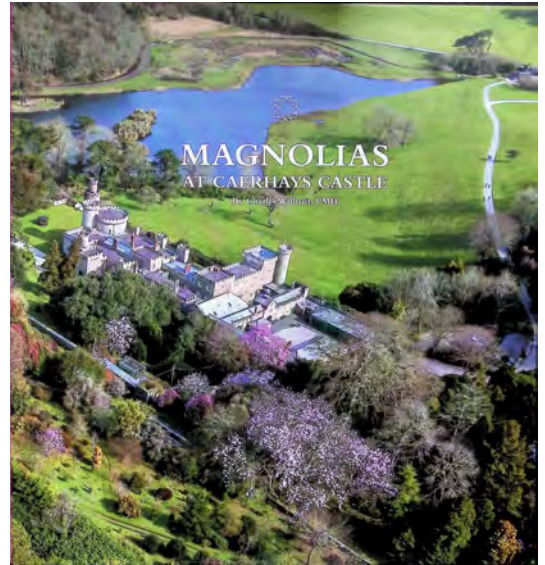
This is not to say that magnolia enthusiasts and experts won't enjoy it. The book does what it does pretty well. Chapters cover subjects like yellow magnolias, magnolias with colouring that might be considered controversial, the various forms of *Magnolia grandiflora* and so on, each well illustrated. There's a little information about each magnolia pictured, but the book also covers a brief history of magnolia breeding and the story of magnolias at Caerhays.

*The Magnolias At Caerhays Castle* is certainly well illustrated. Aerial images of magnolias in full flower may be of little technical interest but illustrate the magnificence of these trees in full bloom. Big trees can be remarkably difficult to photograph from ground level, especially when they're part of a larger planting, so aerial images work quite well to illustrate the scale of the larger magnolias and how they fit into the collection at Caerhays.

The target audience appears to be somewhere between amateur enthusiast and full-on magnolia expert. It's an excellent book as long as your heart isn't set on it being a definitive reference book. I will enjoy this book on long winter nights, and use it to double-check whether magnolias in the gardens under my care are correctly labelled. I may also use it to inspire clients to have a magnolia or two in their gardens. However if I need in-depth information about magnolias I will be looking elsewhere.

I would broadly recommend *The Magnolias At Caerhays Castle* to others. It's a worthy addition to the existing, and arguably dated, physical literature about magnolias and is a nice book to just look at. A more comprehensive index would have been helpful (page numbers for featured magnolias are hidden in the list of magnolias in the collection, in the appendix). It's a pity nobody could have made a few adjustments to the images taken at flower shows to allow for artificial lighting. Also is *Magnolia sieboldii* 'Genesis' supposed to be brown or was the use of a picture showing a spoiled flower an error? Little details like these are irksome when so much has been done to make this book look good.

*Ben Probert*



## Camellia Identification Day at Bicton Gardens

We were asked by Ed Lister of Bicton Botanical Gardens to help identify the large collection of camellias there, some of which are of some vintage. Records of the camellias planted by the former owners (Lord Clinton's family) are apparently lost. Ed and his team had put a number against each camellia bush and handed out a detailed sheet to be filled in with regard to leaf size flower shape etc. We were extremely fortunate to have with us three camellia experts – Jim Stephens (*right*), Geraldine King and Caroline Bell, with five additional members.

They fairly rattled through their identifications and managed to identify about 80% of the almost 200 camellias! A magnificent

achievement for a day's work. I must confess that as it was a beautiful day and the gardens

were looking excellent (congratulations to Ed and the team) us hangers on could enjoy the magnolias that were out and some unusual shrubs newly planted such as *Stachyurus sigeyosii*. It was good to see that planting is continuing apace.

Ed had been very generous and provided coffee, lunch etc for us, and we presented him with a plant of the recent New Zealand hybrid *Camellia* 'Transtasman' (*left*) as a thank you.

*John Marston*



# South West Branch Competition Awards 2026



## **The Lamellen Cup**

for the best Magnolia Exhibit in the Early Magnolia Competition

## **Botallick**

for 'Iolanthe', 'Princess Margaret' & 'Shirazz' shown in three vases



## **The Brother Vincent Cup**

for the best single bloom in the Early Magnolia Competition

## **Botallick**

for 'Marwood Spring'



**The Tremeer Cup**  
for the best rhododendron exhibit in the Early Rhododendron Competition  
**Botallick**  
for *Rhododendron asterochneum*



**The Alun Edwards Memorial Cup**  
for the best exhibit in the Spring Ornamental Plants Competition  
**Fiona & John Lanyon**  
for *Melliodendron xylocarpum*



**The Quicke Cup**  
for the best exhibit in the Main Magnolia Competition  
**Botallick**  
for 'Coral Lake'

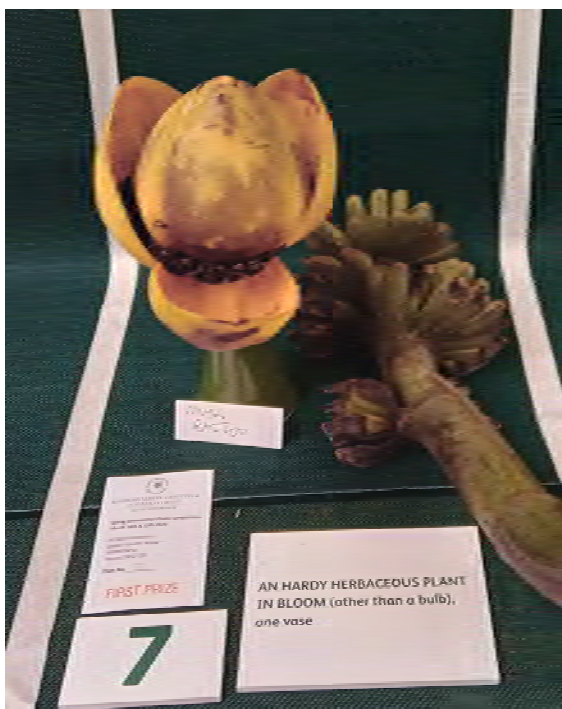


**The Williams Challenge Trophy**  
for the best exhibit in the Camellia Competition  
**Trewithen Gardens & Parks**  
for *Camellia japonica* 'Nuccio's Jewel'

**The Trewithen Cup**  
for the most points awarded in the Camellia Competition  
**Trewithen Gardens & Parks**



**The Colin & Mary Brown Cup**  
for the best exhibit in the Floral Display Competition  
**National Trust Greenway**  
for a Miniature arrangement



and a first for the  
Ornamental Plant Competition,  
the the most unusual entry of all:  
**John Marston's banana!**

*Congratulations to all!*

# Goretti

It would be remiss of us not to acknowledge the devastating effects that Storm Goretti had on parts of our region, notably West Cornwall. With winds of over 100mph, it is not surprising that many gardens are still in the process of clearing up. The gaps left by some regular attendees being unable to show at the Rosemoor competitions this spring served as reminder to us all of the impact storms can bring.

The images below speak louder than any words.

## Caerhays Castle<sup>1</sup>



## St Michael's Mount<sup>2</sup>





The story is repeated countless times across the region. But despite the losses, there are some good news stories with Caerhays reporting no losses of magnolias. And of course, every loss represents a new opportunity in time.

*Ashley Brent*

<sup>1</sup>**Photo Credit:** *Caerhays Estate*

<sup>2</sup>**Photo Credit:** *Stacey Toppin*

## Dates for your Diary

- ◆ 2 August—Branch Summer Picnic at Upper Gorwell House
  - 1030 arrival for 1100 start
  - 1100-1130 Plant sale
  - 1130-1230 Talk ‘From Mooing to Mowing’
  - 1230-1400 Picnic (bring your own food)
  - 1400 Garden tour

## Plant Swap Shop

Please do send in lists of plants that you wish to make available in the future to [ashley.brent@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:ashley.brent@nationaltrust.org.uk) and I will add them here at the first available opportunity. Many gardens have already benefited from the generosity of members’ surplus plants. Thank you!

Your personal details will not be shared on the newsletter.

## Submit a contribution

Feeling inspired to contribute? Perhaps you have something that you’re keen to discuss with the group?

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Compiled and edited by Ashley Brent