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## **NEXT MEETING**

**Mon, 4 July 2016 at 20:00** at The Athenaeum, Newlands.

R10 for members; R20 for visitors.

## **CHELSEA 2016**

David Davidson needs no introduction. You will be in for an informative and entertaining evening as he fills us in on his exploits at this year's Chelsea exhibition.

### **Sale of Plants**

We apologise for there being no FOTAG plants at our last meeting. This was due to unforeseen circumstances. They will be available at this next meeting as was mentioned in the May CHS News.

You are advised to bring enough cash to support both our CHS Nursery and the FOTAG plant tables and make the most of the bargains on offer!

### **IDing of Plants**

We always have a wonderful array of flowers freshly picked from members' gardens – some known and some unknown. When you bring your plants please remember to place a note next to them giving *your* name, the *plant's* name or your question about the plant. This will help Jenny to impart as much knowledge as she possibly can about each specimen. We try hard to record some of these in the monthly newsletter, so having the name of the grower would help should more information be required.

## **OUTINGS**

**Sat, 30 July at 08:30:** Visit Kathy and Gavin Fish's House at Pooh Corner in Noordhoek. This is an inherited Silver leaf poplar forest which has been transformed over 20 years into a beautiful semi-shade garden with over 70 different species of trees. Paths meander along the river and through the forest, to secluded spots, formal veggie garden with scarecrows and magnificent Bonsai garden. Accents of pottery and sculpture add to the magic of the garden. "Our own wonderful '100 Acre Wood'".

Kathy is also involved with a community greening and gardening project, On the Verge, and they have planted 80 trees and gardened 22 verges to date.

This will be followed by something completely different – a visit to CHS member, Alison James' Simonstown small mountainous garden. This sun drenched garden (in summer) is crammed with pots and retaining blocks filled with succulents, *Pelargoniums* and other hardy plants, as well as *Aloes* and *Euphorbias* that were brought here in banana boxes from East London five years ago. If you're feeling fit, the last level of the garden is a scramble but you will be rewarded with a wonderful view.

Limited to 20 members. If you would like to join this group, RSVP to Glenda by 27 July 2016.

## **REPORT BACK**

### **Annual Book Prize Presentation – part 2**

Sihle Ngxabi, pictured right with his projects on herbs and hanging baskets, completed his 2<sup>nd</sup> year at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology last year and attained the top mark of 82%. He is currently doing his final theory semester at CPUT.

Sihle is originally from Mount Frere in the Eastern Cape. He completed high school in Khayelitsha and chose horticulture because he enjoyed learning about plants in high school.

He says: "I believe that doing something that I love is the reason why I am the best student so far and I believe that I am still going to achieve more. I want to see myself in future as a successful horticulturist owning my own nursery".



**Our Stroll Through 3 Algarvian Gardens – Conclusion**

Continuing on from last month’s stroll through Algarvian gardens, this month we give you a glimpse of the other two “estates” shown to us by Burford Hurry.

Anna and Klaus Jung have landscaped their property with many familiar plants alongside beautifully paved and graveled paths. Burford reports that *Eleagnus ibbingei* “grows brilliantly here with very little water and it’s not invasive; nice leaves and a wonderful perfume in the autumn; good for thick hedges and as a back ground to other plants” and that “*Pistacia lentiscus* is the native plant here which grows easily and can be clipped and shaped”.

For comfort, the paths in the Jung’s garden are 1.5 to 2m wide to enable two people to walk side by side rather than in single file. There is also a dry river bed under construction.



The large property of Rosie and Rob Peddle gives one the impression of a small nature reserve. Rosie believes in growing plants that don’t need water and has also built a rock wall which has been filled with a variety of succulents (far left). An Almond tree (left), showing summer stress, overlooks the natural pool/pond. Can you spot the *Amaryllis belladonna*?

*Gaura* and *Salvia* make a lovely splash of colour in this bed (below left), with a Pomegranate coming into flower in the background.

*Hoya carnosa* adorns the wall at the front door, while a variety of pots, with many well known succulents, fill the corner of a patio (below centre and right).



Burford and members of the MGAP are trying to encourage local nurseries to supply waterwise plants.

**Arderne Gardens and its Remarkable Trees and Labels**

For those who are new to the CHS, as a project for our Centenary, members contributed towards the cost of labelling all the trees in the Arderne Gardens. The identification of the trees was done by Adam Harrower. This project has had a few difficulties along the way, such as ink fading and trees dying, but we are very pleased to announce that by the end of February this year all the labels had been put onto the trees! Thank you, Adam.

If you visit the gardens you will see green and brown (gold) labels, some with our old logo and others with our new logo which came into being in 2012. The significance of the brown labels is to show the trees that have origins from the time of Gondwana.

There are a number of trees, though, that still remain nameless because it is a long drawn out process gathering enough material to send to Kew for identification. Due to the size of some of the trees, the flowers are not always visible or are too high to collect.

Do pay Arderne Gardens a visit and see how smart the labels look. (See Items of Interest on page 6.)



As Adam is one of the few people who manages to get up close and personal with the trees of Arderne, here are some of the more unusual plants he spoke to us about at our AGM.



Clockwise from top left: *Pawlonia tomentosa*, *Rhododendron 'Pink Pearl'*, *Pseudobombax*,



*Wollemia nobilis*, *Schotia brachypetala*, *Weinmannia racemosa*

**Honorary Life Membership**

Clause 3.1(b) of the CHS Rules states, "Honorary Members are those persons, whether ordinary members or not, who have rendered outstanding service to the Society or to horticulture and have been elected as such at an Annual General Meeting". Therefore, it was with great pleasure that our Chairman awarded this honour to Adam Harrower. This accolade left Adam "overwhelmed" and "speechless"! but he hopes to continue to be of useful horticultural service to our "hortie" community, and his "continued dedication to the magnificent Arderne Gardens goes without saying".



### Garden Tools for Gugulethu

You will recall the request earlier this year by U3A Gugulethu for unneeded garden implements. This was to help revive a run-down food garden in NY133. This group is already reaping the rewards with fresh lettuce and various other veggies they have grown. Sylvia Shearer of U3A is meeting with the Minister of Agriculture in the hope that they will sponsor a fence around the plot.

Thanks to you, and many others, the first collection was so successful that another group has been formed in Gugulethu Section 2 and some of the excess implements from the first collection have already been sent to help this second group get started. More tools are needed so contact Sylvia on 021-671-6964 if you have any to donate. (See Noticeboard on page 6.)

### Visit to London's Temple Gardens

Our first foray into the land of Mediterranean Plants and Gardens was done by our CHS "swallows", Suzy and Ray Clements, who joined the MPG group on their outing to see the gardens of the Inns of Court. This is Suzy's report on the event:

"On Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, Ray and I joined members of the Mediterranean Plant and Garden Association to visit the gardens of two of the four Inns of Court in the heart of London's legal district, the Inner and Middle temple gardens. They are situated between Fleet Street and the Victoria Embankment and between Blackfriars and Waterloo Bridges.

The visit was organised by Sue Tymon who was very welcoming to us as members of CHS and joining them for the day. We started with a talk from the Head Gardener of the Inner Temple, Andrea Brunsendorf.

The three acre Inner Temple garden has been cultivated since the 12th century and although much of the site was destroyed by bombing during the war many of the buildings and alleyways survive and other parts have been rebuilt to provide offices and accommodation for the members of the judiciary. The site is often used nowadays for filming, eg Harry Potter, and can be hired for weddings and other functions.



Two wonderful herbaceous borders flank the gated entrance to the Inner gardens and were currently planted with a beautiful selection of spring flowers (left) in deep and pale mauve pinks and pale lemons including Foxgloves, Tulips, Alliums, lemon Aquilegias, Hesperis, Poppies, Geranium maderense with climbers along the perimeter fencing of Rosa banksiae Lutea and Wisteria. Andrea explained that most of these will shortly be removed and summer planting would begin with Dahlias, Cosmos, Cleome, Zinnia etc. Some of the main structural plants would remain, such as the Roses and Wisteria, Cardoons, Libertia ixioides etc. Of particular interest was a permanent planting of Dahlia imperialis which had so far managed to survive the winters.

From the entrance the vast lawns flow down to the Embankment where the boardwalk is lined with Plane trees planted in the 1870s and there are many other interesting trees along the way such as Walnut, Medlar, Quince and Mulberry. The Royal Horticultural Society staged its Spring Flower Show on this site from 1888 until 1911, when it needed to move to the larger site at Chelsea.

We had an excellent lunch in the Elizabethan Hall of the Middle Temple along with members of the judiciary and other visitors. The first recorded performance of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night took place here.

In the afternoon there was a tour with the Head Gardener of the Middle Temple gardens, Kate Jenrick. The rose garden at the side of the hall has links back to Shakespeare's time when the gardens were famous for their roses. The Fountain Court (below, left) is reputedly the oldest permanent fountain in London and is flanked by two mulberry trees planted in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

As it was the lead up to the Chelsea show, a fringe event was being prepared in the Inner garden of hand tied bunches of paeonies being hung in glass jars from trees (far right) and workshops were to be organised to make these."



### June Plant Table

Only a few specimens this month, from left:

*Gasteria* (2 varieties) – called this because of the “stomach” shaped flowers  
 ‘Buddha’s hand’ *Citron* – citrus medica var. sacrodactylis



*Fuchsia insulinda* – grows easily from a slip, and *Fuchsia* ‘Mrs Boothby’.



### JOURNAL OF A HAPHAZARD GARDENER –JUNE/JULY 2016

This month I thought I would write about the garden as written and spoken about in the media. One of my favorite programmes is *Garden Chat* with Sandy Munro, broadcast by FMR every Saturday morning. A plant he talked about this month (June 11<sup>th</sup>) was the rose scented *Pelargonium capitatum* with the enticing words ‘easily grown’. It sounds just right for the garden outside on our verge which I am busy overhauling at the moment. It can be grown in any soil type. It is sprawling and bears clusters of numerous purple flowers. It is very waterwise.

An article headed **Insomnia busters** in the *People’s Post* of the 7<sup>th</sup> June also caught my eye. The writer recommends indoor plants that will help to purify the air and so help you to sleep better. One is the *Sansevieria trifasciata* (Mother-in-laws tongue) because not only does it change all the carbon dioxide that we exhale into oxygen but it also filters some household toxins like benzene. As an allergy-prone family I was pleased to find a perfect use for our Peace lilies (*Spathiphyllum wallisii*, below left). Apparently the moisture given off by the lily raises the humidity by 5% and this suppresses airborne microbes that can lead to allergies. The arum lily-like blooms borne on long stems appear in the spring. To thrive it only needs to be watered once a week – less often in winter. We feed ours occasionally with Seagro.

Another article **Tending the urban jungle** appeared in *Top of the Times* on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2016. It is about vertical gardens which I cultivate to help cover up our ugly vibracrete walls. These plants also help to ‘reduce gasses found in the urban environment’. (On a trip back from town on one of those windless days we experienced this autumn, the whole of the southern suburbs and the Cape Flats was covered in a brown blanket of smog). The article states that ‘vertical gardening can seem a little daunting’ and then proceeds to daunt one with an instruction like: ‘set up an irrigation system’ and that’s it! The article did, however, provide some examples of plants that could be useful: *Liriope* sp. and *Spathiphyllum cochlearispathum*. *Liriope* is a small plant that belongs to the lily family with leaves about 600mm long. It bears dark violet flowers on a dense spike 450mm high. *Spathiphyllum* is a tropical perennial with lovely Anthurium-like white flowers which last for months. (Pienaar, Kristo: *The A to Z of Garden Flowers in South Africa*) Another plant it recommends, however, is *Nephrolepis exaltata* (Sword fern) which used to grow in my garden like a weed, drowning out everything in its path; and taking ages to eradicate. It has, however, returned unbidden and found a home in one of my vertical garden boxes! (Below, second from left)

The last tip comes from *Cape Talk’s* gardening programme, **Pippa’s Planet**, on Friday afternoon’s and was supplied by the CHS’s own Cherise Viljoen. Her water saving tip in these times of climate change is to ‘take a bucket with you when you shower’ so that you can collect the cold water before the hot water kicks in.

One of the joys of gardening is to find that the hawk’s eye moth caterpillar has been busy feeding in the garden, as can be seen in the picture below of the poor *Impatiens* plants (below, second from right). Our *Fuchsia triphylla* (Honeysuckle fuchsia) has suffered the same fate. But they do seem to recover this drastic pruning.

I end with a follow up on one of the to-do’s I wrote about at the beginning of the year: to introduce at least one fynbos plant to my garden. I have planted *Gnidia squarrosa*, a local aromatic plant; and I am feeling very pleased with myself (below, right).



**RARE PLANT FIND**

The Argus recently reported on a rediscovered plant, last documented 147 years ago. This "critically endangered 'Mrs Barber's Beauty' (*Lotononis harveyi*) was first discovered by pioneer female botanist Elizabeth Mary Barber in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Her "description of the plant was published in 1862 in *Flora Capensis*, the most comprehensive account of South Africa's botanical wealth in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century".

Mary Elizabeth Barber emigrated from England to Port Alfred in 1820 with her family and showed a keen interest in the local plant life. She would correspond with eminent naturalists and send them samples of her finds. There is no record of the date she discovered this specimen but in 2014 Dr Ralph Clark realised that no one, other than the original discoverer, had ever seen this plant alive before. Dr Clark first re-discovered this plant in 2009 in the Great Winterberg mountains in the Eastern Cape while doing field work for his PhD and only recognized its rarity a few years later when re-examining unidentified specimens from his trip.

'Mrs Barber's Beauty' is considered critically endangered as only six have been found.

Read more about this on <http://phys.org/news/2016-04-south-african-endemic-mountain-year.html>

**'DIRECTIONS FOR THE GARDINER'**

## MEASURES

*Which a Gardiner ought to Understand*

3 Barly-Corns make an Inch: 12 Inches a Foote: 3 Foote a Yard: 3 foote 9 Inches an Ell: 6 Foote a Fathom: 16 foote & 1/2 a Perch: one perch in bredth, & foure in length is a Rood: 4 Rood an Aker: 40 Roodes in Length is a Furlong: 8 Furlongs is a Mile. 60 Miles is a Degree.

John Evelyn (1620 – 1706)

edited by Maggie Campbell-Cluver 2009

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**Good Hope Nursery's Veld and Sea Winter Events:** Fynbos Foraging, Malchemy Fementables, Mushroom Foraging workshops taking place in July and August. For more information ask Glenda to forward the e-mail or find our more from [roushanna@hotmail.com](mailto:roushanna@hotmail.com).

**Arderne Gardens Walk:** On the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month at 10:00, a FOTAG committee member will take you on a guided walk through the gardens for a fee of R40. For more information, contact [hanklith@gmail.com](mailto:hanklith@gmail.com).

**Hermanus Flower Festival – Fynbos and Fire:** Early notice is given for this event which will take place from 22-25 September at the Fernkloof Nature Reserve from 09:00 – 17:00. Entrance fee: R20

**MGI website updates:** Take a look at the new *Book Review* and *Events* links on the MGI site. The photos taken in Portugal could have been taken here, except that the architecture gives it away.

You will find them at <http://www.mediterraneangardeninginternational.org/>

**NOTICEBOARD**

**Lost property:** The owner is still being sought for an item of clothing left at our April meeting. If you did, please contact Glenda to get it back.

**Advertising:** Could we ask that you advise Glenda (quick e-mail) when you see or hear our monthly meetings being advertised. It is very difficult to know whether the community newspapers, other than the People's Post, Bulletin and Tatler, are inserting our talks in papers further afield than the southern suburbs where we have fewer members. FMR's Calendar and Garden Chat, Saturday Weekend Argus are usually very good about publicizing our talks. Ideas for "free" advertising would also be welcomed.

**Flower and Garden Show – 3 & 4 Sept:** Do you have a product to sell? Members pay reduced rates. For more information, contact Wilma on 083-645-2468 or at [katetindall@telkomsa.net](mailto:katetindall@telkomsa.net)

**Garden Tools No Longer Required:** Are you wanting to get rid of old spades, forks, rakes, shade cloth, hand trowel, old wheelbarrows, or anything that would be of use to new gardeners in Gugulethu Section 2? Call Sylvia Shearer of U3A on 021-671-6964, who will be happy to collect from you.

**CHS Membership:** Please check with your CHS buddies whether they've renewed this year or not. Constant reminders to those who have not paid their subs have not yielded a response, but we would not like to lose them. Your help in getting them back onto the database would be appreciated.