



President: Michael Tuffin **Chairman:** Errol Scarr **Hon Treasurer:** Henry Diesveld **Secretary:** Glenda Thorpe
Honorary Members: Laurie Powis, Marianne Alexander, Mary Smith, Anne Bean, Adam Harrower, Michael Tuffin, Bill Elder

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, 4 May 2020 – The Committee has decided to cancel this meeting as it is too soon after the proposed lifting of the national lockdown, which was extended to 30 April. They felt that the majority of regular attendees would rather not risk coming out so soon after the period of isolation.

The **AGM** was due to be held but will now take the format of a 'virtual' meeting before the end of May. All documentation requiring your perusal will be sent out shortly with instructions on how to "attend" this meeting.

Notice is given of the 115th AGM of the CHS to be held online during May 2020 via e-mail Agenda

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM held on Monday, 6 May 2019
2. Chairman's Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
4. Election of President
5. Election of Committee
6. Appointment of Auditor for the ensuing year

The Committee would appreciate you taking the time to peruse the documentation, once received, in order to be fully informed of your Society's activities and will also allow you to register your votes where required.

Marianne Alexander was due to give us her *Weird and Wonderful Encounters with Plants* talk but you will have to wait a while longer.

PROPOSED FUTURE MEETINGS

20:00 at The Cape Town Athenaeum, Newlands

Entrance: Members – R10; Visitors – R30

Monday, 1 June 2020 – Roger Stewart will tell us about *Walter Synott, The Plant Collector*, who was an Irish 1820 settler and sent 'more new and rare Cape bulbs to England than any other individual'.

NB: All meetings are subject to the lifting of the lockdown. Keep up to date with CHS events by visiting our website, phoning or e-mailing (details below).

APRIL OUTING ...

... from the comfort of your home.

We will be visiting the gardens at Keukenhof, Holland. Click on the link and enjoy the splendiferous colours of the bulbs that grow there, year after year. There are a number of short video clips on the right of the page.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXmB70ZilxL5ssMcQeyWIBnH3ns7IJsxD>

NB: All outings are subject to the lifting of the lockdown.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

This is the last call for subscriptions for the 2020/21 year – you know who you are 😊. We do hope that the lockdown will not stop you from signing up for another year. The best option, at this time, would be to do an EFT and return the form (attached) by e-mail or fax. Please do not deposit cash into the CHS account over the counter or through an ATM, as this incurs large bank charges. If this is the only way you can make payment, please include the extra levy as shown on the renewal form.

Anyone not having renewed by the end of May (or advised that payment will be made as soon as the lockdown is lifted) will no longer receive news from the CHS office until payment has been received.

IN MEMORIAM

Janet Macfarlane, a regular attendee at meetings, outings, flower shows and plant sales, sadly passed away on 10 April, having been very ill for the past eight months. Our sincere condolences go to Iain and their sons, Peter and Bruce.

REPORTBACK

Second March garden visit

We had the pleasure of visiting the Meadowridge garden of Anthony and Wendy Hitchcock. It was a wild wonderland of interesting plants which had us walking away with unusual cuttings and seeds.



Top row: Anthony clutching his gift of *Scadoxus membranaceus*; *Plectranthus ecklonii*; *Cotyledon tomentosa*; *Nivenia*.

Middle row: *Phyllocladus trichomanoides* – Celery Pine from New Zealand; Anthony explaining what was growing in part of his back garden; a selection of unusual plant 'pots';

Bottom row: A beautiful colour combination of *Restio* with *Crocasmia aurea* pushing through and *Plectranthus ecklonii* in the background; *Hibiscus mutabilis* – the flowers change from one colour to the other; *Euryops* hybrid – possibly *Euryops pectinatus* x *Euryops abrotanifolius* (see Plantzafrica article <http://pza.sanbi.org/euryops-%E2%80%98silver-sunshine%E2%80%99>)

April's Virtual Plant Table

In the absence of the plant table at what would have been our April meeting, members were invited to send in photographs of the flowers currently blooming in their gardens. There was an overwhelming response from our avid gardeners and budding photographers and it makes a nice change to see the flowers in situ. Thank you to the 25 members who participated. There were so many contributions that it was hard to decide what to include, so just this once, 95% follow, with a large majority also being posted on CHS's website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

99% of the information given comes from the growers themselves. If there are any glaring errors, please report back so we can all learn. The grower's name and (suburb/town) are indicated, with an 'I' or 'E' alongside the plant name indicating Indigenous or Exotic.

JENNY (ELGIN)

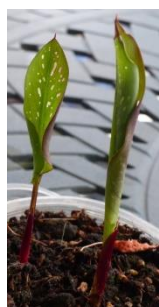
Miscanthus variegatus (E)

This is a very worthwhile grass to have in the garden. Beautiful green leaves with a white stripe down the middle.

Summer will bring the flowers; waving dusky flags. The little pink *Salvia* (foreground) is one of the new ones available a year or more ago. Afraid I do not have a name for it. I think they make a pretty combination.

*Dahlia* "The Bishop of Llandaff" (E)

This is a lovely dark-leaved old dahlia; in a very good position, and staked, it will grow up to a metre. I prefer it here just sprawling a bit in a corner where the blue Forget me nots mingle at its feet.



LINDA (LAKESIDE)

My puppy found a bulb in the garden somewhere, which was large and flat. We didn't take a photo, unfortunately. We planted it and this is what has come up so far. The tallest leaf is 15cm. Does anyone know what it is going to be?



This is a *Syncolostemon* (I) and I think it could be *canescens*; however, this species is supposed to have a coconutty smell, which I can't detect!

HANNIE (NEWLANDS)

This photo through one of my lounge windows of the *Salvia* (E) has never flowered so well as this year.

It is a North facing bed and plants have never done that well there—even a Standard Iceberg rose died. But now everything has suddenly tripled in size as if it has broken through to some barrier down below.



Clockwise from left:

Hypoestes "Ribbon Bush" (I) and *Vinca* (E) – tough, needing little water.



ANDREW (PINELANDS)

Hibiscus (E)—frilly red with gold/red/burnt orange leaves



Strelitzia (I) which blooms throughout the year.

Barleria obtusa (I)

ANDREW (PINELANDS)



DI (CONSTANTIA)



JEAN (KIRSTENHOF)



ISABELLA (MOWBRAY)



White form

LINDA (CONSTANTIA)

The *Ruttyruspolia* "Phyllis van Heerden" (I to Africa) is a picture at the end of summer/autumn. Have two bushes at the pool which are now enormous and very attractive. Not sure why it's not very popular and seldom found in garden centres.



ARPAD (RUGBY)

Hamelia patens (E) – in berry



TONY (MOWBRAY)

Bougainvillea Donya (E)

Tony reports that this is growing in a dead tree in the back of his garden.



ANGELA (RONDEBOSCH)

GLENDA (PINELANDS)



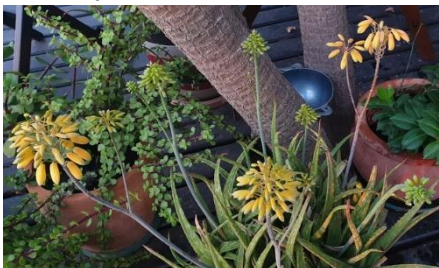
Antigonon leptopus (E) – a great attraction for bees



Myrtus (E) – in berry

BELINDA (IMHOFF'S GIFT)

Aloe hybrid (I) "Lemon drops": flowers a lot; semi-shade; loved by sunbirds.

*Bidens* (E)

Just such a lovely happy sunshine yellow. Likes sun.

JEAN (KIRSTENHOF)

Senecio macroglossus (I)

*Euryops* (I)Miniature *Rose* (E)

JENNY (GARDENS OF WOODSIDE VILLAGE, RONDEBOSCH)

Impatiens (E) and group of tiny "residents"

*Aloe* (I)

ERROL AND JENNY (PINELANDS)

Achimenes (E) in pot
(Anyone wanting some, just ask.)



Purple *Heliotrope* (E) underplanted with grey *Helichrysum petiolare* (I) is a nice colour combination.



3 *Plectranthus* (I) all with white flowers and making a nice show together.



Streptocarpus (I)

HANNIE (NEWLANDS)
Does not need much water, but frequently



NINON (KIRSTENHOF)



LINDA (CONSTANTIA)

Have moved some of my strep collection to the patio: one from Kirstenbosch, the others acquired at the Chelsea flower show when I was part of David's team in 2016.

*Stapelia* (I)

WILMA (NEAR ATLANTIS)



This is from the Albany district. Wilma asks: "Can somebody help me to identify this particular one?"

ANGELA (RONDEBOSCH)

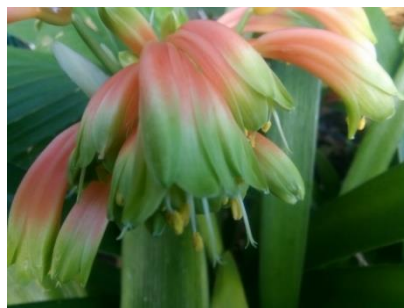


NICOLA (KIRSTENHOF)



Ipomoea
Morning Glory
"Heavenly Blue" (E)

Clivia gardenia (I)



Bromeliad (E)



YVONNE (BRËERIVIER)

One of the Buddha's Hand Citrons (E) has developed into an enormous specimen. It is about 20cm long x 22 cm wide. Will turn it into citrus peel for my Xmas cake.












SUSAN (DIEP RIVER)

Kleinia fulgens from KwaZulu Natal (I)

Susan says: "It has tripled in size since I bought it 2 years ago. Given a little water during summer."



<p>ISABELLA (MOWBRAY) <i>Barleria greenii</i> (I)</p> 	<p>Rose (E)</p> 	<p>NICKY (FISH HOEK) <i>Amaryllis belladonna</i> March Lily (I)</p> 
<p>DI (CONSTANTIA) <i>Tecomaria capensis</i> (I)</p> 	<p><i>Pelargonium reniforme</i> (I)</p> 	
<p><i>Plectranthus</i> (I)</p>		
<p>FEE (KIRSTENHOF)</p> 	<p>JEAN (KIRSTENHOF)</p> 	
<p>JENNY (WOODSIDE VILLAGE)</p> 	<p>NICOLA (KIRSTENHOF) <i>Plectranthus ecklonii</i> purple (left)- from Wilma and identified by Ernst at a CHS meeting, and (right) <i>Plectranthus ambiguus</i></p> 	

EDITOR'S CHOICE OF LOCKDOWN LOVELIES**INDIGENOUS**

Belinda's gorgeous *Streptocarpus*
"Does better outdoors and I bring it inside when it is flowering."



Jenny took a walk around the Woodside Village complex and found this well-established pot of *Nerines*.

She says: "What a great idea to get us out of doors!"

**EXOTIC**

Jean's *Aechmea*



Jenny's *Hemerocallis*, growing in Elgin
She says: "This is my day lily 'Frans Hals'. I just love him. He cheers me up every Autumn. I have had him in the same spot for at least ten years! Think he is still available."



There will be more about Nerines next month.

Baobab Babes

In August/early September last year, 15 three-year old Baobab seedlings (looked like dead sticks) were donated to us and members adopted them. Seven months down the line we have an update on their progress of seven of them.



Tony's baby in Oct, Dec and this Apr (going into Autumn mode?), in Mowbray



Jean's baby in Oct, and this month, in Pinelands

Belinda's baby (left) in Imhoff's Gift and Hannie's in Newlands, this month



L to R: The April babies of Angela in Rondebosch, Melanie in Marina da Gama and Kate near Atlantis

POST ON INSTAGRAM



Now that we know how many avid photographers we have in the CHS, it's time your photographs get posted to our Instagram page for others to see what we can grow. To do this, send your photos, with a description, your name and area, to Josie at josie.noyce@gmail.com who will do the posting. Alternatively, follow the instructions in the March CHS News to send them via 'wettransfer'.

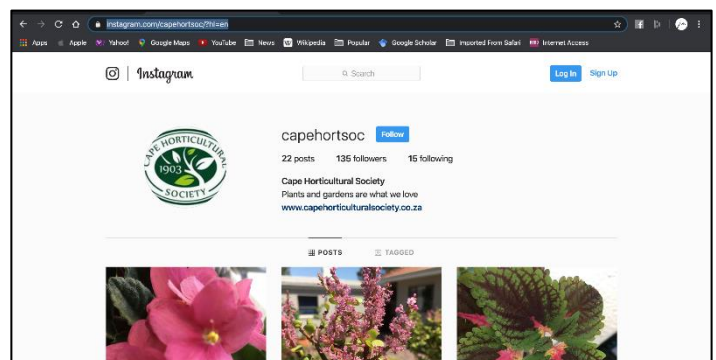
If you're not into photography but like to see what is "out there", from your computer click on this link to view our CHS Instagram page:

<https://www.instagram.com/capehortsoc/?hl=en>

Or copy and paste this link into your browser (top bar of the Google home page for most of us).

At this point, you can view the photos that have been posted. By clicking on the individual photo, you will be told where it was taken and a little bit about the photo.

Take the plunge and give it a try! There's a whole new world out there for you to discover.



ORCHIDS HEAD NORTH AS CLIMATE CHANGES

Online article submitted by John van der Linde, published in The Times – 26 March 2020.

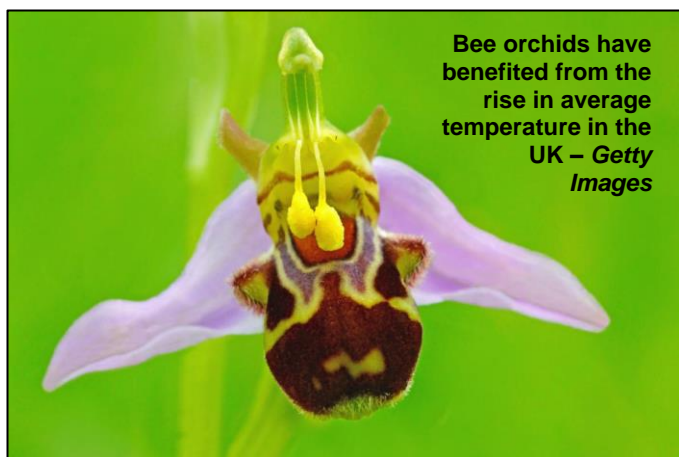
Environment



The Scottish countryside outside Glasgow, (pictured here), and Edinburgh has become home to the bee orchid, a flower not previously seen so far north – *Getty Images*

Wild orchids have now moved hundreds of miles northwards in response to climate change, a survey has found.

Southern marsh-orchids, a tall plant found in damp grasslands, were once restricted to the southern half of the UK but have been found in the past five years as far north as Newcastle.



Bee orchids, which attract male bees with a velvety lip resembling a female bee, were not previously found in Scotland but have been recorded at several sites around Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Orchids prefer long, warm summers and have benefited from the rise in average temperature in the UK. Their seed is tiny and can be carried a long way on the wind.

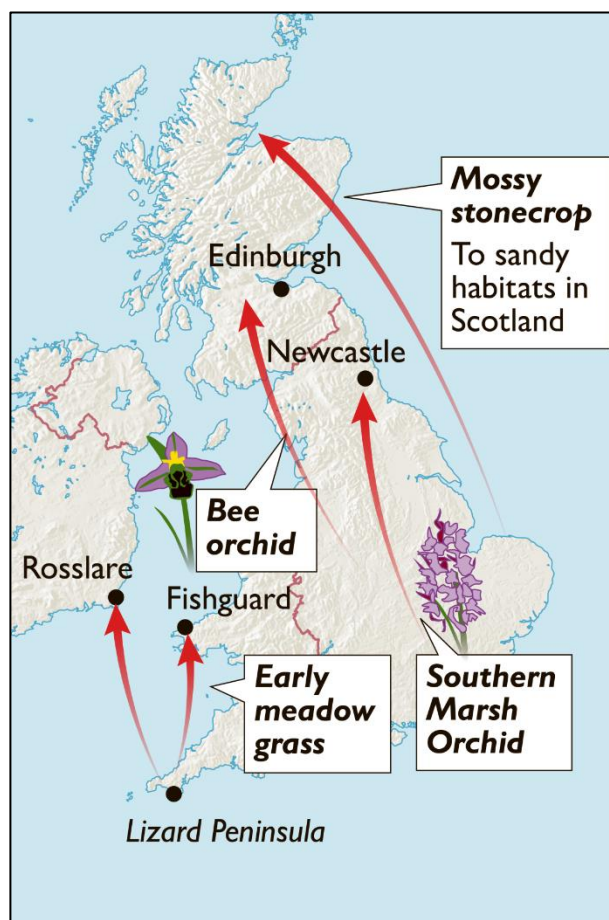
The results are from 15,000 surveys over the past five years by volunteers, with results submitted to the government-funded National Plant Monitoring Scheme.

Other plants are moving outside their usual range, including mossy stonecrop, a succulent once only found in the New Forest and East Anglia which has spread to sandy parts of Scotland.

Early meadow-grass was formerly only found on the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall but has now been recorded in Fishguard, south-west Wales, as well as Rosslare in Ireland, and central London.

The survey also found evidence of wildflowers being threatened by droughts, which scientists predict will occur more frequently, and reveals the impact of nitrogen pollution from intensive farming and burning fossil fuels.

Dr Trevor Dines, botanical specialist at the charity Plantlife which helped analyse the results, said that scientists had previously thought plants would be slow to start moving northwards in response to climate change.



PROPAGATING PLANTS DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN – Part 2

Isabella continues to give us tips on how to propagate.

What to use

The medium (soil) you use for rooting cuttings must be well-drained, otherwise they will just rot. I have used coarse sand (river sand) or cactus mix. You could also use what is sold commercially as Seedling Mix, or Arnelia's Premium potting soil. It's more important to keep the leaves moist than to water the cut stem - I have been mist-spraying the cuttings five or six times a day on warmer days – fortunately I've been at home to do this. Rainy weather is just around the corner so the cuttings will be kept moist enough.

Day 4 – *Pelargonium cucullatum* (below left)

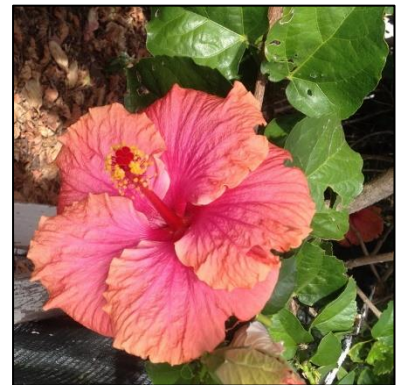
This is the very hardy, vivid purple-pink-flowered pelargonium that you see *en masse* when you drive along the road past Silvermine. Grows quite tall through the winter, flowers in spring, and should be cut down in late summer – a good opportunity to propagate more of them using those cut-off pieces. Plant in sun. Looks good with *Helichrysum patulum* or *Syncarpha argyropsis* (grey foliage) and the yellow flowers of something like *Cotula sericea*.

Day 5 – *Hibiscus* - Dainty Red (below centre)

The plant that provided these cuttings was itself grown from a cutting given to me at one of our CHS garden visits a couple of years ago. I grow mine in a large container, tucked in a corner to get it out of the southeaster as much as possible – it's not as tough as the common hibiscus. Fast-growing, it has smallish, delicate red flowers in summer.

Day 6 – *Hibiscus* – Papaya colours (below right)

More like the tough hibiscus we know, with large flowers in gorgeous orange to pink shades. This one grows large and in full sun and wind.



Day 7 – *Salvia greggii* (purple) (below)



Autumn Sage is one of my favourites and you will see it appearing in other colour forms later as well. This one has smaller flowers than the more common pink, but it's such an intense purple it's worth creating a spot for them (my cellphone camera does not do justice to blues and purples). Low-growing shrub, quite sprawling, long flowering season from summer through autumn, best cut back every year after flowering.

Day 8 – *Pelargonium* Large Pink

A drought-hardy, very long-flowering shrub pelargonium with big, bright pink flowers with white markings spring through early summer. Mine are growing in morning sun, shaded in the afternoon

under a tree, but I'm going to try it in full sun as well with a white-flowered groundcover. No photos of the flowers, I'm afraid.

Day 9 – *Dyschoriste thunbergiflora* (right)

Purple Bells is the common name of this large shrub. Although its origins are the eastern side of the country, it has performed very well in our gardens, both in sun for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the day and in morning sun, with water about once a month in summer. Growing quickly to about 1.8m tall and 1.5m wide, it produces lovely purple flowers from mid-summer to early autumn, and it produces *lots* of them.

**Day 10 – *Streptocarpus saxorum***

A beautiful, small streptocarpus with blue flowers held on long stalk over the leaves. Painfully slow-growing unfortunately! Perhaps these cuttings will be ready for next year's plant sale. I got my first cutting from Lynne McCullum (thanks, Lynne) and grew a beautiful hanging basket from it. I thought I could propagate more plants faster by dividing my lovely specimen – fatal mistake! I lost all but two of the divided pieces, and it's taken a couple of years to get them to a size where I can take cuttings at all. Mine have finished flowering, but you can see a beautiful specimen here:

<https://www.dibleys-shop.com/products/saxorum-compact>

Day 11 – *Asarina (Maurandya) scandens* (below left)

A free-flowering, fresh green, light-weight climber that grows well in sandy soils (if it can grow in Fishhoek, you know it's a survivor). Can become a little untidy so it's a good idea to cut back and clean out the dead growth in winter. Volunteers from seeds if in the right conditions – mine is in a container on my patio so seeds can't sprout. I suspect it will root in water too – perhaps I'll try both methods. Morning sun, and it doesn't need a lot of water.

**Day 12 – *Salvia greggii* (white)** (far right)

Lovely small shrub with flowers in autumn (hence the name Autumn Sage). This colour form is a bit more sturdy than the purple-blue form mentioned on Day 7. Should root easily if it's anything like the pink form. Sun to semi-shade; drought-hardy.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the botanical name for the NZ Celery Pine? (Answer on page 2)
2. In how many different suburbs/towns did the specimens on the 'virtual plant table' grow? (Answer on pages 5 to 8) 😊

Photos: J Simpson, L Hibbin, H van Wieringen, A Thorpe, D Thomson, J Fillis, I Hayden, A Szollosi, T Penso, A O'Connor-Smith, G Thorpe, B du Rand, J Bremer, E & J Scarr, N Carrington, L Pollard, W Tindall, S Armstrong, N Ross, F Pegge, N Anthony, Y Reynolds, J Sleigh, M Stewart, K Tindall, The Times, Google

**DIARISE**

🌱 CHS Plant Sale: 5 September 2020

DATES TO UN-DIARISE

🌱 Flourish Plant Market: 16 May 2020 – Postponed until further notice.

🌱 CHS-MGi Conference: 28 to 31 August 2020 – Cancelled