



The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer God's Heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth

Dorothy Frances Gurney

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## NEXT MEETING

Monday, 6 October 2025 at **19:30** at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R40 per person

## CURATOR AND CRUSADER

**Mike Bruton** will deliver an engaging illustrated talk about **Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer**, a trailblazing South African museum scientist and conservationist. The talk will focus on her significant recognition and discovery of the first Coelacanth – an ancient fish thought to be extinct – at the East London Museum in December 1938, based on his book of the same name.

**NB:** We will be holding our 3rd Seasonal (Spring) Raffle at this meeting. Bring along any plants or garden-related items you wish to donate as prizes – the more the merrier.

Only R10 per ticket to win one of the many exciting prizes.

**NB: The Exhibit Table and Nursery Table will be taking a break for the night!**

Specimens and plant contributions will be very welcome at the November meeting.

## FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

**Sat, 18 October at 09:45 for 10:00** to visit Stuart McCleod's home in Kenilworth. The garden is in the English garden style, with both formal and informal elements, surrounding a beautiful old (1896) arts and crafts style home. The garden features a number of large trees, massive camellias, two rose gardens, a host of unusual plants, ponds, fountains, fruit trees, a vegetable garden and an enthusiastic gardener.

Limited to 20 members. RSVP to Glenda by no later than Thurs, 16 October.



### REPORT BACK

#### September Exhibits

Indigenous:

[Top row, L to R] *Cotyledon orbiculata* (another form) "Firesticks" – trying to peep out between a Pelargonium and a vygie – spreading nicely.

*Lachenalia pustulata* (plus Thai Basil seeded in pot) – locally indigenous bulb; needs sun; keep dry in summer; about to go dormant.

*Ochna natalitia* – at least 6m high; yellow flowers for a very short time; red and black berries which give it the name "Mickey Mouse". *Ochna serrulata* is the bush.



[2<sup>nd</sup> row, L to R] *Tetradenia riparia* "Misty Plume Bush" – grows to over 2m high; needs pruning down after flowering; male flower spikes have more of the "mist" effect than the female flowers, which tend to be more compact.

*Pelargonium denticulatum* var *Filicifolium* – from the collection of the late horticulturist, Richard Jamieson.

*Clivia nobilis* – semi-shade; flowers in July/August



Exotics:

Double-flowered Daffodil – late flowering

*Malus* "Crab Apple" – full sun; fruit ripens towards autumn



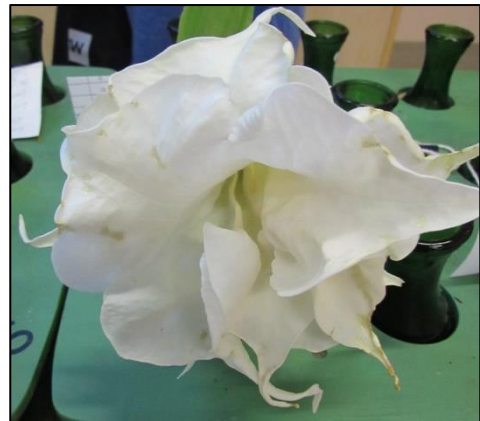
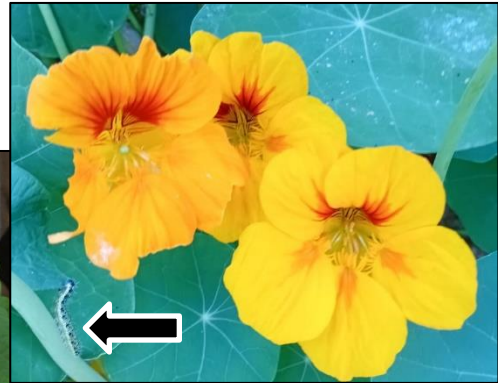
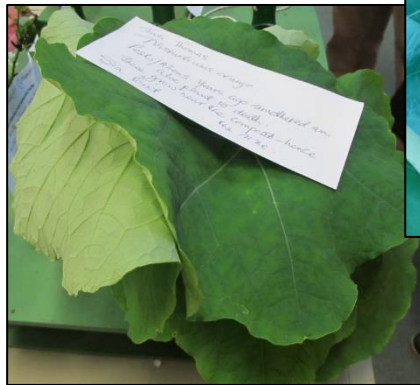
[L to R] *Anigozanthos* “Kangaroo Paw” from Australia – full sun

Nasturtiums – attracts pests and aliens; years ago smothered an Aloe plant to death; these grown near the compost – hence the size of the leaves.

*Crataegus flabellata* (?) “Hawthorn” – this one flowers very early while others still have no leaves; have never noticed berries.

*Mutabilis* Rose

*Brugmansia* – large tree with double white flowers; have single white, pink, dark yellow, light yellow and variegated leaf with cream flowers.



**September Outing**

19 CHS members went to the racetrack on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Fayruz of Nature Connect, and a trainee, Talia, guided us around the inner circle of Kenilworth Racecourse. Fayruz is extremely passionate and knowledgeable about the area. The area consists of 52 hectares of Cape Flats Fynbos, inadvertently protected because of its situation and has been undisturbed for many years. With 16 seasonal wetland areas, it is home to the very endangered micro frog, which is the size of an adult thumb nail. Three of the very endangered Ericas – *E verticillata*, *E margaritaceae* and *E turgida* also grow here. A \*Grey Heron led us down the sandy path, we saw a mole snake, a dead Cape Legless Skink (*Acontias meleagris*), a beautiful \*Heady Maiden moth (*Amara cerebra*) and heard very small Clicking Stream Frogs. Among the plants we saw were the carnivorous \**Drosera* “Sundew”, \**Pauridia* “Cape Stars”, fields of *Sparaxis bulbifera* “Buttersilk lily”, \**Pelargonium triste*, *Pterigodium*, \**Wachendorfia brachyandra* and the more common *W paniculata*.

(\*In order below)

Anne Gleeson



## MY DAY AT CHARTWELL – Sir Winston Churchill’s home for over 40 years

Last month, while staying in Kent, we visited Chartwell. The house is near Sevenoaks, set high on a hill, overlooking the extensive 15 acre grounds, a swimming pool, 2 large lakes and scenic views of the Kent countryside in the distance.

Walking from the entry towards the house, you pass 2 small ponds, ending in a fishpond where Churchill liked to sit and feed the Golden Orfe fish, still with descendants of the ones bought by Churchill in the 1930s. You then pass through a high hedge into Lady Churchill’s rose garden, near the house. Next is a Butterfly house, a croquet lawn and a small garden cottage selling snacks. Below the house is a walled garden divided into four, with a Golden Rose Walk dissecting it, given to the Churchills by their children on their Golden Anniversary. Lady Churchill chose many of the plants in soft pastel colours with the terrace having pink Pelargoniums in pots.

The Lavender, Salvia and Verbena plants were well tended. They seemed to have survived the lack of rain over the previous 6 weeks, and some Dahlias were flowering, with more to come. A small brick building that Churchill built for his last daughter, Mary, who was much younger than the others, is off the main path. The long brick wall apparently built by Churchill himself, leading to his painting studio, where he created over 500 canvases. The path then takes you through an orchard of apple and, we think, pear trees.

There were paths across the extensive lawns, to a children's park in an old bomb crater, a treehouse, a quarry and the Canadian Camp, where the troops were camped during the war to protect the estate. The lakes were drained and disguised to confuse German bombers and were generally successful.



Winston Churchill was a premature baby, born 2 months early at his grandparent's home, Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire. He became a soldier, historian and a politician and was awarded a Nobel prize for Literature. He was Prime Minister during World War 2 and was knighted. He and his wife bought the estate in 1922 for £ 5000 pounds, after receiving an inheritance. He was 46 years old by then and already had 3 children, with another on the way. They then spent over £15000 over 2 years to restore it. It is a very large 3-storey house, of which many rooms are open for viewing, and with many memorabilia displayed of their life there. Volunteers are in every room to watch over the items and are ready to answer questions. Children are kept amused by a special brochure with a creature hunt through the house to find 12 animals hidden on shelves or desks.

Lady Clementina's bedroom is dominated by a desk in the middle of the large room and has a four-poster bed. She was very involved in community and charity projects.

When Churchill was voted out of office after the war ended, even though he was a national hero, he could not afford the upkeep of the house. It was bought by a consortium of his friends with the proviso that he could continue to live there for his lifetime, paying nominal rent. After his death in January 1965, the house was then worth £7 million and was sold to the National Trust, his wife moving to London, where she died in 1977, aged 92.

It was a very interesting day, ending in the usual tearoom, which also had a nursery of plants for sale.

### AS A MATTER OF INTEREST ...

Marianne Alexander is passionate about ridding one’s garden of poisons. If you have an unwanted supply and do not know which way to turn, here are explicit directions to legally dispose of your unwanted insecticides and fertilisers etc.

#### **DISPOSAL OF GARDEN and other POISONS:**

**Insecticides, weed killers, fertilisers, household cleaners, solvents, paint, batteries, asbestos etc**

#### **WHERE A. R. T. S. – ATHLONE REFUSE TRANSFER STATION**

**(old power station with two brick towers).**

**Take your latest municipal account**



Take the N2 towards the airport. Turn left on to the off-ramp at the Bhunga Ave exit.



Then take turn left onto a small tar road, and travel back towards the power station.



‘Log in’ at the main entrance- see red brick wall with sign.



They will re-direct you back to these large white gates with the white sign (just next door). Drive in.



A member of staff will open for you and place your boxes into the correct white container

Photos: M Alexander, A Gleeson, J Fillis, A & G Thorpe  
Any and all photos taken at CHS events will be used in the newsletter and on social media.