

## REVIEW OF 2019

### 4. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

I took over as Chairman on 1st June 2019 so most of this review occurred under David Millais' watch. Overall, it was a successful year for the group.

The AGM was held at Exbury Gardens and was the location for the 2019 Centenary Cup competition which was won by High Beeches Garden.

A bursary award was given to help Mark Bobin Head Gardener at Minterne Gardens to visit Arunachal Pradesh.

The Plant Committee organised a number of extensions to the existing Group Collection and the Camellia Species Collection at Ness Botanic Gardens got underway. They also started work on developing a database for each of our three genera which will simply identify taxa which are extant in the UK and which are at risk.

Financially we remain secure with the reserves increasing by nearly £3000.

The Group supported and helped to organize 4 RHS shows and Branch shows were also held. There was a successful Tour to the Lake District organised by Christopher Legrand.

Christopher now needs to cut back on his activities and is standing down. I thank him, on behalf of you all, for the hard work he has put in on our behalf in organising such successful Group tours. A successor is now needed. Any volunteers?

Jenny Fly has given notice that she will stand down at the AGM in 2021 and we are fortunate to have Simon Toms, who has volunteered to take over the Treasurer's role. Jenny and Simon are using this year as a handover period, to ensure the continued smooth running of the Group.

Rupert Eley has also given notice that he will stand down as Membership Secretary at the 2021 AGM, after over 15 years in the role! Another volunteer needed please.

The current year has been hard for all of us and I ask that you join us via Skype in a short virtual AGM that will fulfil the requirements of our charitable status and get some of us together, briefly. If you cannot join us then please do complete the absentee voting form attached to show if you are for or against the items that need a Group decision.

*Graham Mills*

## 5. TRUSTEES' REPORT

### **Rhododendron Camellia and Magnolia Group**

**Registered Charity number 1161254**

ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2019

#### **CONSTITUTION**

The Rhododendron Camellia and Magnolia Group (the Group) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is a partner group of the Royal Horticultural Society. It is independent of the RHS but the Partnership Agreement encourages close cooperation between the two charities. The Constitution and Rules which govern the Group are published on the Group's website <http://www.rhodogroup-rhs.org/information/constitution>

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Group is to advance the education of the public in the plant genera rhododendron, camellia and magnolia and in the conservation and protection thereof by, but not by way of limitation:

- a) ensuring continuity in the care of collections of the genera in public gardens by supporting professional gardeners and taxonomists through travel sponsorship and other appropriate means
- b) operating a website
- c) organising shows
- d) producing literature
- e) acting as an advisor by providing assistance in identification, conservation and reproduction of unusual or rare species or cultivars.

Having regard to the Group's aims and objectives, the Trustees believe these meet the public benefit requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

#### **TRUSTEES AND MANAGEMENT**

The charity trustees manage the affairs of the Group and may for that purpose exercise all its powers. The Trustees may delegate their powers and functions to the Management Committee. At least 2 Trustees must be present at any Management Meeting.

The Trustees are required to provide an Annual Report and independently examined accounts to the Charity Commission every year.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

- Barry Cooke
- Dr John Marston
- Graham Mills (Chairman)
- David Millais (until 1st June 2018)
- Alastair Stevenson (from 1st June 2019)

## **2018-2019 REVIEW**

The AGM was held at Exbury Gardens on 1st June, by kind permission of the Rothschild family. Graham Mills was elected as the new Chairman. Barry Cooke and David Millais were elected as Vice Chairmen.

In the morning the Centenary Show took place and the Centenary Cup was presented after lunch. This was followed by a guided tour of Exbury Gardens led by Lionel de Rothschild and Tom Clarke (Head Gardener) which continued on the morning of the 2nd June.

The Management Committee held 2 meetings in London, with other meetings at approximately monthly intervals by Skype. Day to day running of the Group falls on the hard work and dedication of a small number of volunteers.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Christopher Legrand, our Events Coordinator, organized a successful tour to the Lake District, where a number of excellent gardens were visited. His organization of this tour was much appreciated by the many members who attended.

The Bursaries sub-committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr John Marston, approved in September 2019 an award to help Mark Bobin Head Gardener at Minterne Gardens visit Arunachal Pradesh in October 2019. As a member of the expedition arranged by Group member, Keith Rushforth, he will be trekking in a group of four exploring the hills above Mipi, studying and recording the plants and their natural habitat. He will be focusing on Rhododendron species, with the aim of improving his knowledge and understanding and studying their taxonomy.

The Plant Committee organised a number of extensions to the Group Collections. Eighteen more rhododendron hybrids were added to the Hardy Hybrid Rhododendron Collection at Ramster. Work continued on establishing the Amos Pickard Magnolia Collection at Canterbury Cathedral. As of 31st October 2019 we now have 16 of the 23 named Pickard hybrids on site. The Camellia Species Collection at Ness Botanic Gardens got underway in the spring with the initial consignment of 22 plants. It was agreed to create a Rhododendrons of Subsection Cinnabarina Collection at Minterne and work has commenced on this.

The Plant Committee has also started work on developing a database for each of our three genera which will simply identify taxa which are extant in the UK and how many examples exist in more than one location. In this way the rarity of particular taxa can be quickly identified and duplication or unnecessary propagation can be avoided.

The first two awards under the 'Outstanding Gardens Scheme' for good rhododendron and magnolia gardens were made to Caerhays & Exbury gardens.

Public facing events: The Group supported and helped to organize 2 Shows at RHS Rosemoor, and 1 Show at RHS Harlow Carr. We also helped at the RHS Early Rhododendron Show at Savill gardens where the ornamental plants section was greatly admired.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The Group is very grateful to Jenny Fly who maintains our accounts most efficiently. She has been instrumental in helping the Trustees to prepare our annual return as a charity, recovered Gift Aid on donations made, and has ensured the smooth running of all financial operations.

As at the 31st October 2019 our total reserves improved by £2844 to £50,640. Now that the accounts have turned from a loss a few years ago into a healthy surplus, the Trustees will consider how to make use of these funds.

During the year we invested a small amount (£3,000) in the M&G Charifund in order to get some return on our funds. So far the experience seems positive and the Trustees will consider increasing that amount next year.

This report and the accounts can be seen on the Charity Commission website, [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) and at <http://www.rhodogroup-rhs.org>

Member, and retired Chartered Accountant, Russell Beeson has carried out an independent examination of the Financial Statements of the Group relating to the 2018-2019 accounts as required by the Charity Commission. The Trustees are most grateful for his expert help.

## **APPROVAL**

Approved by the Trustees on 10th March 2020 and signed on their behalf by the Chairman, Graham Mills.

Date: 10th March 2020

The signed copy is available on the website: Details of links are on the agenda

## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT & INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

**Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group**  
**Registered Charity No. 1161254**  
**Income and Expenditure Account - Year Ending 31st October 2019**

	2019			2018		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
<b>Income</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	13,506		<b>13,506</b>	13,215		<b>13,215</b>
Donations	405	25	<b>430</b>	113	616	<b>729</b>
Gift Aid	1,202		<b>1,202</b>	1,183		<b>1,183</b>
Seed Sales	1,253		<b>1,253</b>	1,749		<b>1,749</b>
Book Sales	695		<b>695</b>	919		<b>919</b>
Plants	0	234	<b>234</b>	0	70	<b>70</b>
Tours	3,900		<b>3,900</b>	6,244		<b>6,244</b>
AGM - Funds for Room Hire	0		<b>0</b>	190		<b>190</b>
Advertising	1,925		<b>1,925</b>	1,610		<b>1,610</b>
Bank Interest	101	10	<b>111</b>	29	4	<b>33</b>
M&G Investment Dividends	77		<b>77</b>	0		<b>0</b>
	<b>23,064</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>23,333</b>	<b>25,252</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>25,942</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Yearbook	5,417		<b>5,417</b>	5,637		<b>5,637</b>
Bulletins	5,680		<b>5,680</b>	4,913		<b>4,913</b>
Cost of Book Sales	19		<b>19</b>	39		<b>39</b>
Cost of Seed Sales	200		<b>200</b>	468		<b>468</b>
Cost of Tours	3,270		<b>3,270</b>	4,724		<b>4,724</b>
Bursaries	1,900		<b>1,900</b>	500		<b>500</b>
Conservation Projects	0	947	<b>947</b>	0	1,439	<b>1,439</b>
Garden Schemes	180		<b>180</b>	0		<b>0</b>
Travelling Expenses	0		<b>0</b>	0		<b>0</b>
Print, Post & Stationery	903		<b>903</b>	412		<b>412</b>
AGM - Room Hire	50		<b>50</b>	220		<b>220</b>
Card Transactions Costs	588		<b>588</b>	550		<b>550</b>
Direct Debit Transaction Costs	665		<b>665</b>	554		<b>554</b>
Web Maintenance Costs	137		<b>137</b>	137		<b>137</b>
RHS Society Membership	35		<b>35</b>	35		<b>35</b>
RHS Affiliation Insurance	175		<b>175</b>	175		<b>175</b>
Licences	35		<b>35</b>	35		<b>35</b>
Gifts	288		<b>288</b>	30		<b>30</b>
Sundry Items	0		<b>0</b>	75		<b>75</b>
	<b>19,542</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>20,489</b>	<b>18,504</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>19,943</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>3,522</b>	<b>(678)</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>6,748</b>	<b>(749)</b>	<b>5,999</b>

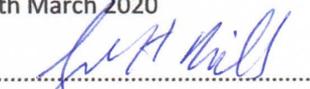
**Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group**  
**Registered Charity No. 1161254**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31st October 2019**

	2019	2018
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Debtors:</b>		
Advertising & Book Sales	1,025	210
Gift Aid Recoverable	<u>1,202</u>	1,183
Prepayments	1,291	1,000
Book Stock	49	68
Cash at Bank	51,726	49,062
M&G Investments	<u>3,000</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>(M&amp;G Market Value £3,137.84)</i>	<u><b>58,293</b></u>	<u><b>51,523</b></u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accrual - Late Year Book Invoice	4,163	0
Subscriptions paid in advance	3,255	2,891
Members paid in advance - Tours	0	600
Creditors	<u>235</u>	<u>236</u>
	<u><b>7,653</b></u>	<u><b>3,727</b></u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<u><b>50,640</b></u>	<u><b>47,796</b></u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u><b>50,640</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>47,796</b></u></u>
<b>RESERVES</b>		
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Centenary Fund b/f	5,136	5,885
Net Movement of Funds	<u>(678)</u>	<u>(749)</u>
Centenary Fund c/f	4,458	5,136
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
Balance b/f	42,660	35,912
Surplus	<u>3,522</u>	<u>6,748</u>
	<u><b>46,182</b></u>	<u><b>42,660</b></u>
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<u><u><b>50,640</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>47,796</b></u></u>

**Notes**

- 1 These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis, modified to account for known debtors and creditors where the information is available. This is in order to make the accounts more meaningful.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 17th March 2020

  
 .....  
**Graham Mills - Chairman**

## 7. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A summary of recent membership numbers is:

	Europe	UK	ROW	Total	
2016	104	474	72	650	
2017	96	487	70	653	
2018	92	513	65	670	
2019	91	508	69	668	
2020	92	499	64	655	(to May 2020)
2020	93	518	67	678	(current)

1 Honorary member: Alastair Stevenson

31 complimentary members

*Rupert Eley*

## 8. PLANT COMMITTEE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

### **Plant Committee Report for AGM 2020 covering the Membership Year 2018-19**

The Plant Committee continued its conservation work during this period, conducting audits of the existing Group Collections, supplementing and replacing lost taxa, and building up the new *Camellia* species collection at Ness Botanic Garden. A new collection of *Cinnabarina* rhododendrons was begun at Minterne and the first plants were delivered for planting out in October 2019. This will be expanded upon in the next few years.

The Committee structure was reorganised to better deliver its responsibilities to the main Group, with a slimmed down Executive Committee and a wider Advisory Committee.

In addition, efforts to advance the database project to identify and prioritise taxa requiring propagation from our three genera were stepped up and significant progress made.

*Pam Hayward*

## 9. PUBLICATIONS REPORT

### **Yearbook**

The Yearbook proceeded in much the same way as it has in the past since I have been editor. We were lucky to be offered a good selection of very varied articles – a touch short on magnolias, but otherwise a full coverage. It was possible to have a 144 page book this year as opposed to the previously usual 128. Thanks go to all who helped, particularly the Commissioning Editors, Polly Cooke, David Millais, John Marston and Jim Stephens and a special welcome to Mary White, who was a real help with proof reading! Mary will be responsible for the next book, but I shall stay in the background to be available if needed (and I don't expect to be!)

*Barry Haseltine*

### **Bulletin**

The bulletin continued in its usual format and the editor would like to thank the many members who have contributed pieces for publication.

*Peter Furneaux*