

Chairman's Report January 2013

Welcome to you all. I hope you had a very happy Christmas and wish you all the very best for 2013. It has to be better from a gardeners' point of view than 2012. Looking back it seems amazing that we managed to grow anything, and the garden is hardly a welcoming sight at the moment – but remember it can soon change.

It was lovely to see so many at the Christmas dinner at The Duchy; a great start to the Christmas celebrations. 2012 was a busy year for members of Cardinham Gardening Club, even if we couldn't get out in our own gardens, we visited five gardens in all: as far afield as Greenway in South Devon and as specialist as Winchester growers at Marazion where the range of dahlias was truly breathtaking. Even the experts there were plagued with slugs, which apparently had their most successful year in living memory. Or some such statistic! Trengweignton was as lovely as ever – and it stayed dry. We also had a mostly dry day at Rosemoor which is always worth a visit, and didn't disappoint us this time either. Caerhays and Tregrehan were wonderful in the spring and we learned so much from the excellent tour guides.

We enjoyed talks from Charlie Pridham who told us we all work too hard weeding, hmm not sure about that one, Bill Herring with really good ideas for growing veg – didn't get my peas in on Boxing Day did you? Peter Jarvis' fascinating look at wildlife at Heligan and the talk from Valerie and Brian Jacob was certainly curious. The best for me had to be Dan Flynn's wonderful description of the making of a Chelsea gold garden – you couldn't make that one up!

Next year will see us on trips to the Japanese Garden at St Mawgan, Pinetum at Holmbush, gardens at Lamorna, some Somerset gardens which will be a overnight coach tour, and talks from Peter Davis, Adrain Langdon and David Bannister on a variety of topics. Not forgetting the Annual Flower & Vegetable Show - lets hope there will be lots more entries this year. So plenty to look forward to even if the weather is not great. Meantime snowdrops are coming out and bulbs pushing their way skywards so there is hope for us yet and much to enjoy. Don't forget to bring any spare plants, seeds or books, magazines to share with members.

Sue has collated results of hits to the website which makes very encouraging reading and demonstrates that it really is being accessed. She will put together a brief report which we will circulate to members

Thank you for all your support over the past twelve months and as ever do let me or any of the committee know if there is anything we should include or not in our programme, or any way we can improve what the club offers. Thank you in particular to your hard working committee and especially Loveday. Please let any newcomers to the area know about the club and encourage them to join us. The next date is February 18th, note the date when, Adrian Langdon will be talking about 'Wildlife in Scandinavia' one not to miss!