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Newsletter June 2025



Dear Member

This is in addition to the usual branch communications, Bulletins and Yearbook. It provides members with a simple and structured way to receive news and information.

We are using a robust, safe and widely recognised service which improves our ability to communicate with you. This newsletter includes many photographs and we hope is engaging. We have the ability to include videos too going forward.

It will no doubt evolve as we develop it and please write to us with your feedback on info@rhodogroup-rhs.org

RCMG Centenary Cup Winner

Congratulations to The Crown Estate who brought *Magnolia macrophylla* 'Whopper' x *Magnolia ashei* to Leonardslee Gardens and won the magnolia class and this year's Centenary Cup.

Our thanks to Leonardslee who hosted a great show for us and more will follow on this in the next Bulletin and Yearbook.

Many thanks to our judges Roy Lancaster VMH and Jim Gardiner VMH, we so appreciated your enthusiasm and all of your inspiring words at the presentations.



Evergreen azaleas AGM review - your help is needed!

All members will be aware of the RHS Award of Garden Merit, which helps everyone select better performing plants for their gardens.

Evergreen azaleas were last reviewed by the RHS in 2012, so it's time for another review to consider new varieties, and to potentially rescind the award on any poorer performing plants.

A panel of 12 experts has been chosen, including three from the RHS Woody Expert Group, members of the RCMG and notable growers from the UK.

To be selected for AGM, plants must be:

there are thousands of registered azaleas, the availability criteria means we have 160 varieties to assess.

This is where RCMG members can help. Roz Marshall from the RHS says ‘*we are pleased to be working with David Millais and the panel to review evergreen azaleas currently listed in RHS Plantfinder. We want to hear from RCMG members across the UK about which have or have not performed well in your part of the country. The panel will consider different characteristics, such as colour, habit, flowering season and longevity, winter foliage and hardiness ratings, to represent a good spectrum of azaleas.*’ Please send your comments as soon as possible to rosalynmarshall@rhs.org.uk



Camellia awarded FCC by the RHS

This formal pink Camellia ‘Mimosa Jury’ (*saluensis* x *japonica* ‘K Sawada’) was released by Felix Jury in 1989, named after his wife Mimosa, mother of Mark Jury VMM.

It was described as one of the most beautiful of the Jury Camellias in the 2014 article ‘The Jury Camellia Legacy’ from the Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group Yearbook.



A FCC was also awarded to the pale pink Camellia x *williamsii* ‘Delia Williams’ which was given Award of Merit in 1964 and named after Mrs Delia Williams, mother of Charles Williams VMH, Caerhays Castle, Cornwall UK

We congratulate Mark and Abbie Jury at the Tikorangi Jury Garden in New Zealand and Charles Williams at Caerhays for these prestigious FCC awards by the RHS.



***Rhododendron* ‘Boskoop Ostara’ is now *Rhododendron* ‘Yoshino’**

The June 2025 edition. of The Plant Review includes an article by Chris Sanders VMH on this rhododendron. called ‘*Rhododendron* Revelations ‘.

Four decades after its introduction, Chris writes of his puzzlement about this cultivar and the conclusions of its history. It is surprisingly scarce in cultivation in the UK and if you do have it it is now quite possibly *Rhododendron* ‘Yoshino’



Plant of the month - *Camellia japonica* 'Baron Leguay'

This week the shortlist for Plant Heritage's Threatened Plant of the Year was announced and this Camellia was amongst the 12 plants shortlisted.

Entry is open to anyone who feels they have a plant which meets the criteria - an unusual, rare or special cultivar that is not currently available commercially. It must be a named cultivar that has been grown or sold in the UK or Ireland prior to 2015.

Camellia japonica 'Baron Leguay' was entered by Steve Amin, our branch chair for the south east. It has been part of the Worth Park and Gardens since around 1887 and the construction of its camellia corridor. RCMG members have played a significant part in conservation of the collection. Congratulations to all involved, a beautiful camellia. More information about the history of the plant, **the full shortlist and how you can vote can be found [here](#). Voting closes on 6th July.**

If you have a plant you would like featured as plant of the month and a story to go with it of people or places of interest please send it with a photograph to info@rhodogroup-rhs.org

Our Plant Committee

reports will be shared with all members on its activity. More information about Jack's work in horticulture and our genera will appear in our forthcoming Bulletin. Please send your views on the work of the committee to plantchair@rhodogroup-rhs.org

Jobs to do now in the garden

Thanks to Dan Turner of Millais Nursery in the UK, we asked him what jobs we should be doing now in the garden.

'Finish deadheading rhododendrons, increase watering to encourage new flowers, prune deciduous azaleas for shape, trim evergreen azaleas, do a last feed of slow release fertiliser' Happy gardening through July to all members



‘Celebrating our Genera in Art’ - RCMG and Society of Botanical Art

This was our first collaboration with the SBA, held at The Pall Mall Gallery, London and our chair Philip Eastell will write a feature in a forthcoming Bulletin and Yearbook with photographs.

Congratulations to the overall winner Kim Yunjeong SBA Fellow for a painting of *Magnolia sprengeri* var *diva* who painted this in situ at the Chollip Arboretum in Korea. Our thanks go to Exbury Gardens Ltd for prize sponsorship.

RHS Peoples Awards 2026

Nominations are now open for these awards and anyone can send in a completed form to the RHS until 5pm on 31st August. From the prestigious Victoria Medal of Honour, to the Roy Lancaster Award for under 35's, we encourage members to submit nominations. More information can be found [here](#)

Events and branch news

North West

We welcome Nick Lightfoot as new branch chair and thank Ted Brabin for more than twenty years service to the branch and congratulations for receiving the RCMG Chairman's award for 2025.

South West

Autumn Meeting and Branch AGM 27th September. Speaker is John Lanyon former NT Gardens Advisor.

Wessex

Summer Picnic 4th July at the garden of Andy and Jenny Fly, Storrington. Autumn meeting November Date TBC

New Forest

October visit to Minterne Gardens date TBC

Communications and our new committee

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this newsletter.

Our communication is a team effort. This newsletter has been made possible with the help of our webmaster Graham, Philip our new chair, vice chairs Sian and Mark as well as a number others who have contributed. If you have news to share we would love to hear from you info@rhodogroup-rhs.org

Our new committee members are listed [here](#).



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