



TREWITHEN



Welcome to Trewithen Gardens and whether this is your first visit or a return one we hope you enjoy your time here.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Spring 2016 started early this year, very early! In fact we had our first Spring flowering camellia *C.x williamsii* 'Glenn's Orbit' in flower on the day that Major Tim Peake launched to go to the International Space Station.

Interestingly, 'Glenn's Orbit' - a seedling from 'Donation', first flowered here at Trewithen in February 1962—after Colonel Glenn had completed his orbit of the Earth. 2016 saw it flowering at least three months earlier than usual on December 7th.



Other early signs of Spring were noted with our Asiatic magnolias. Gary Long, the Head Gardener, has annually recorded the flowering of the first magnolia since 2003. Dates range from 10th January in 2012 to 8th March in 2010 (57 days difference)! This year, the first flower was *Magnolia Cambellii* on New Year's Eve!

When is a Magnolia actually in Flower?

There is always a debate about this! Gary Long counts it as when the perules (furry jackets) are shed and when the stamens in the middle of the flower can be seen. Others count the flowering as when the perules are shed and the buds show colour. Whichever criteria you go by do watch out for 'Magnolia Neck' - those who participate in the sport of 'magnolia watching' will know all about this!



The Stumpery

During the winter of 2014/2015 the gardening team removed a series of cherry laurel hedges in the West Bay area of the Garden. Within the hedge were chestnut stumps (remnants of the 1990 gales) - amongst these different species of ferns have been planted to create a 'Stumpery'. Find this area SW of the bird hide near the wildlife pond.

The '3D's' of Pruning Pruning the hydrangeas is more than just a 'dead-heading' exercise - dead, damaged, diseased and cross-over branches are removed first. Then the rule of thumb is cut all stems back to 'two fat buds'. Older plants are also regenerated by the removal of a third of the stems each year—this ensures continuous years of flowers as well as a young healthy shrub in the fourth year.



Storm Imogen

Storm Imogen hit the Gardens on 8th February felling several trees in its wake—on the main drive we lost one half of an *Acer platanoides*. Unfortunately this is like a double blow as the drive is planted alternately with *Acer* and lime trees which create a startling effect when in foliage (the pale green shade of the limes' foliage contrasting strikingly with the vivid dark red of the *Acers*). We will hard prune the remainder of the tree to try and encourage healthy re-growth.

This picture started a trend on social media with the hashtag #wheresvolunteerdavid - who appears (sometimes unplanned) in many of our PR photos and videos!



TREWITHEN GARDENS
www.trewithengardens.co.uk

Grampond Road, Near Truro,
Cornwall, TR2 4DD

Estate Office & Bookings 01726 883647
Gardens 01726 883794
Nursery 01726 882764

