

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, and welcome to the Spring 2020 issue of *Cornucopia*. 2020! Sounds like the setting for a sci-fi novel. When I was a primary school pupil in early 1970s Edinburgh, my class was asked to write about what life would be like in 2020. The general consensus was that people would be wearing silver, spaceman-style clothing and food would be reduced to nutrient-rich pills. In fact, the opposite is true. Rather than being straitjacketed by technology, on the whole we have adapted it to our lifestyles and domesticated it. For many of us, the internet has become our communication hub, shopping mall, encyclopaedia and, for us gardeners, retail nursery. I still rather fancy that silver spacesuit, though.



Despite rising sales of high-tech propagators, robot lawnmowers and computerised watering systems, our horticultural calendar varies little from year to year. The basic principles remain much the same in 2020 as they were 100 years ago, although mercifully the 1920s' predilection for arsenic-based pesticides has rather lost its appeal these days.

This issue of *Cornucopia* takes us from Cedric Morris' sumptuous Benton irises, to a garden full of winter promise in Helensburgh. As a left-hander born on the 13th, I have a penchant for sinister plants, so I was fascinated to read Colin Crew's article on *Scopolia* (p.12). One for the enchanter's garden, perhaps. Mohan Banerji's account of his encounter with the Supertrees of Singapore is an exotic and colourful odyssey (p. 24). By contrast, Yvonne Morecroft's eloquent account of her life in the garden since losing her husband touches the heart (p. 21).

Cornucopia has remained the same price for some eight years or more, but recent increases in printing and distribution costs have narrowed our margins to a gnat's whisker. As a result, the price of a year's subscription to *Cornucopia* will rise in September, to £3.50 (including postage). The 50p price rise will ensure there need be no further price increase in the fore-seeable future. The magazine will still be exceptionally good value; forty pages of the finest writing from HPS Local Group newsletters, fully illustrated. I do hope you will continue to subscribe.

Marion Jay