

## FROM THE EDITOR

**H**ello, and welcome to the Autumn issue of *Cornucopia*. After a year in which our gardens provided more solace than perhaps they ever had before, I hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well. It has been a rocky ride, and it's not over yet, by all accounts. Personally I'm hoping for a fairly mild winter so that I can still get out there regularly to prune the apple trees, wage war on impudent bittercress, or just have morning coffee in a sun-warmed greenhouse. I know there are many of us for whom gardening has been a route out of domestic confinement, and a means of keeping body and soul together.



Garden visiting was much curtailed this summer - NGS garden openings were limited, and many visitors stayed away for fear of close encounters - so I thought it might be a good idea to include some garden visits in this issue of *Cornucopia*. We travel from historic Branklyn Garden, near Perth, via Greencombe Gardens in Porlock, West Somerset (my stomping ground), to Keith Wiley's magnificent creation, Wildside, in deepest Devon. Who can fail to be inspired by the energy and vision of Keith Wiley? He is one of, if not the, most exciting gardeners in Britain today.

Greencombe Gardens is only four miles from me here in West Somerset. Until recently, I was an NGS Assistant County Organiser and Greencombe was on my books. The first time I visited the garden it took my breath away, with its brilliantly vivid azaleas, towering camellias and pieris, and naturalised swathes of erythroniums. It felt as though I'd driven through Porlock and found myself in a Himalayan valley. If you are ever in this part of the world, I can wholeheartedly recommend a visit.

If you are of a squeamish disposition (or your name is Chris Packham), you might wish to avoid Sune Larsen-Walsh's article, *The Cannibal Slug Method* (p. 26). I debated whether to include it, but for some gardeners whose gardens are annually savaged by rapacious molluscs, it could prove to be a successful, if rather hideous, solution. You have been warned!

**Marion Jay**