

From the editor

This issue of *The Hardy Plant* goes to press at a time of anxious political turmoil in the UK, which makes gardens and gardening more attractive than ever. In here we examine a far more constructive – and instructive – power struggle that goes on between the human urge to exert control over our gardens, and the power of plants to do exactly as they wish.

In this issue of the journal we shift back and forth between discussions of garden structure and style, and detailed observations of plants and how they behave.

Gardens by definition have boundaries, which can have different objectives: to isolate and seclude, or to echo features of the landscape. Garden styles vary greatly between east and west, but they may have more in common than is initially apparent. And what is a garden – what is it for? One of our members has developed hers for the purpose of helping those with mental or physical difficulties, and funds from the Kenneth Black Bursary Scheme have supported this in part.

Plants have different personalities. Some are predictable and obedient; others spontaneous in a charming, or less-than-charming way; and some have no respect for boundaries at all. Here we see them in the most sophisticated settings, and some of the most remote as well. Wild plants are the parents of our cultivated ones, and what makes them thrive in nature is a guide to making them perform in the garden.

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Alert readers will have noticed that this issue is slimmer than of late; sixteen pages worth in fact. Please give some thought to contributing a piece of writing to the journal, especially if you haven't done so before.

I am grateful to the HPS image library which supplied several excellent images for this issue, and to Millais Nurseries for the image (fig. 5) on p 31.

Erratum.

In the spring edition of this journal it was incorrectly stated that Broadleigh Gardens is in Devon. It is actually located in Bishops Hull, Taunton, in Somerset. *The Hardy Plant* regrets the error.

Autumn colour, *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer'