



# Mediterranean Gardening France

[www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org](http://www.mediterraneangardeningfrance.org)

**JULY 2020**

Dear members and friends,

## **PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE**

Due to government restrictions on activities and on the number of people who may gather in a public place, our programme of activities for 2020 has had to be put on hold. The events we had planned for spring 2020 will now take place next year. We're pleased to let you know that we have a confirmed date for the 2021 AGM at Pont-du -Gard, see below.

As restrictions lift, members may feel able to get together with others who live locally for informal visits to each other's gardens or to any which may be open nearby. We encourage you to look at the [Directory of Members](#) on the MGF website to find names of members who live in your area. To sort the list by post code, click on the Post code / Code postale button, then press 'Display' and you'll see the names of people listed in post code order, with the name of the town or village where they live. Click on the person's name, and you will be able to send them an email. Members choose to be included in the Directory, so you can feel sure that you will only be getting in touch with someone who is happy to be contacted.

### **The 2021 MGF Annual General Meeting Wednesday 19 May, Pont-du-Gard**



This will take place at the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Pont du Gard. The Roman aqueduct, built in the first century AD to carry water to the city of Nîmes, crosses the Gardon river near the town of Vers-Pont du-Gard.

We will hold the meeting in the morning at the Restaurant Les Terrasses on the Rive Droite. After the meeting there will be a lunch followed by a guided visit to the third level of the bridge for up to a maximum of 35 people. It will also be possible to explore the extensive site with its thousand year-old olive trees, botanical garden, preserved Mediterranean landscape - the 'Memoires de Garrigue' and a 19c charcoal kiln.

Bookings will open early next year. For information contact [Christine Daniels](#).

### **Postponed events**

#### **Cesseroas / Aude**

##### **A visit to Liz and Jacques Thomson's garden and a talk on Persian Gardens**

To be re-scheduled, if possible, to autumn 2020

For information contact [Chantal Guiraud](#)

#### **Baumes-de-Venise / Le Barroux, Vaucluse**

##### **A walk and a visit to Tony Stone's garden, La Jeg.**

To be re-scheduled to spring 2021

For information, contact [Tilly Chambers](#).

### **Grignan and Nyons, Drôme**

#### **A guided rose walk and a visit to an ecological fair**

To be re-scheduled to spring 2021

For information, contact [Jan Morgan](#).

### **Simiane la Rotonde, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence**

#### **A day out at the Abbaye de Valsaintes**

To be re-scheduled to spring 2021

For information, contact [Frances Horne](#).

### **Activities in the Var /Alpes-Maritimes**

Gill Clarke has kindly volunteered to take on the role of Events Coordinator for the Var /Alpes-Maritimes region. She is currently thinking about possible activities for spring/summer 2021. If anyone has any ideas for outings in this area please do send an email to [Gill](#).

## **INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Mediterranean Gardening International events**

Decisions about whether and when the planned events will take place will be taken as the Covid-19 situation becomes clearer. Under discussion are:

August/September 2021	A Visit to the Fairest Cape	South Africa
May 2022	Gardens of the Hyères region	France

## **OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### Plant fairs and open gardens

26-27 September	Gondwana	Domaine du Rayol, Rayol Canadel-s-Mer, Var
2-4 October	Journée des Plantes Albertas	Bouc Bel Air, Bouches du Rhône
24/25 October	Postponed from April : Plantes Rares et Jardin Naturel	Sérignan-du-Comtat (Vaucluse)

### Hortus Programme

All MGF members are welcome to join Hortus activities. For more information about Hortus, go to the [website](#). To book a place for any of the events in the Hortus programme, contact [Chantal Maurice](#).

## **NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### **Mediterranean Gardening France website**

As explained in his AGM report, our Information Manager, Ian Davis, has been working on the development of the new website which will be based on WordPress. This job has been the focus of his attention, so no new material has been posted on the existing site for the last couple of months. However, new articles will be included on the new site when it is launched, for example:

- An article by David Bracey on *Chaenomeles* species
- A report by Chantal Guiraud on the February 2020 talk by Franck Curk - *Citrus fruit and how they conquered the world*

- An article by Liliane and Roland Leclercq on how to make an anti-insect curtain using recycled coffee capsules.

### Rosie Peddle

Congratulations to Rosie Peddle, of the Mediterranean Gardening Association Portugal, for her award of the Veitch Memorial Medal.



The **Veitch Memorial Medal** is an international prize issued annually by the [Royal Horticultural Society](#).

The prize is awarded to "persons of any nationality who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement and improvement of the science and practice of horticulture". It was first planned in 1870, in memorial of [James Veitch](#) of Chelsea, and since 1922 has been awarded by the RHS.

From the RHS website:

“Rosie Peddle is Curator and Plant Records Officer of the Barrocal Botanic Garden, Portugal, and has contributed significantly to the promotion of plant and habitat conservation. Her achievements include working with Plant Heritage and being a founding member of the Mediterranean Gardening Association of Portugal.”

We visited the delightful Barrocal Botanic Garden, situated in the Algarve region of Portugal and maintained by MGAP members, during the [2019 international event](#). Its mission statement is “To promote Mediterranean plants and gardens, through education, culture, conservation and recognition of their community, environmental and economic importance in our everyday lives.”

### A report on a visit to the “Jardin des Rossignols”

A report on a visit to the Catriona McLean’s garden has been published in the July issue of "l'Ami des Jardins", a French magazine widely read. Catriona is a MGF member and her garden is listed in the [MGF Directory of Gardens](#) and can be visited, by appointment, by members.

### Quiz

**Cochineal is a natural dye produced by mealy bugs which are cultivated on what Cactus and where?**

- A/ *Opuntia* , Canary Islands
- B/ *Echinocactus*, Mexico
- C/ *Notocactus*, Argentina

**What is the largest flower in the world?**

- A/ *Amorphophallus titanum*
- B/ *Rafflesia arnoldii*
- C/ *Hibiscus moscheutos*

### What is it?

In this topic, photographs of unusual plants, fruits, seeds or garden tools will be shown without the caption and readers are asked to identify them. The answer will be given in the following newsletter. The photos will also be available in the Members’ Forum where you can suggest your answers. Contributions should be sent to [Roland Leclercq](#).

The “What is it?” in the May Newsletter (proposed by Hubert Nivière) was *Clathrus foetida* (Fabaceae), stinking wood



***Clathrus ruber***, is a species of fungus. It is commonly known as the basketstinkhorn or the red cage, alluding to the red/orange fruit bodies that are shaped like a round or oval hollow sphere with interlaced or latticed branches. It is not poisonous but inedible.

It is native to Southern France, Corsica, Atlantic coast, where it is found almost all year round, particularly from June to September, under various hardwoods.

The new “What is it?” is below (proposed by Annie Nivière). You can find a clue in the website (Forum, item “What is it?”). Answer in the next newsletter.



## QUIZ Answers

**Cochineal is a natural dye produced by mealy bugs which are cultivated on what Cactus and where?**

**Answer A**

A/ *Opuntia* , Canary Islands (but also Peru, Bolivia)

**What is the largest flower in the world?**

**Answer : A**

A/ *Amorphophallus titanum*. 2 m high, 1 m diameter, 75 kilos, Malaysia

B/ *Rafflesia arnoldii* 1m diameter, 10 kilos, Sumatra

C/ *Hibiscus moscheutos* 25 cm diameter

**And finally**



**But which one do you prefer?**

Best wishes

Roland Leclercq  
Newsletter editor

Please send contributions to this newsletter to: [rolandlec@wanadoo.fr](mailto:rolandlec@wanadoo.fr)