

Floral art show

Christmas Floral Art is the title of a demonstration by Sarah Pepper of Country Cottage Crafts at Trebah Garden on Friday November 19 from 11.00am to 12.30pm. The event, which offers tips on making festive foliage wreaths, garlands, table arrangements, decorations and gifts, takes place in Planters Café, and coffee and biscuits are included in the ticket price of £3.50. **Booking is essential: call 01326 252200.**

Plant of the Month

Lapageria rosea



Photo by Charles Francis

The Chilean bell flower was named after the great French Empress and plant enthusiast Josephine Bonaparte, nee Josephine de la Pagerie. This delightful evergreen climber has long-lasting festoons of waxy, bell-shaped flowers, usually red or dark pink and occasionally pale pink or white. It blooms from late summer right through to early winter. *Lapageria rosea* prefers a prime position on a cool or warm wall, with shade or partial shade. It is especially suited to the shady wall of a courtyard garden, or a cool conservatory. It requires a good framework for the twining shoots, and humus-rich, slightly acid soil, where it can have a cool root run. Protection from severe frosts is advisable, as the plant can be damaged at -5°C. **It is available from Treseders Wallcottage Nursery at Lockengate, near Bodmin (01208 832234, www.treseders.co.uk).**

Trevarno sale

Trevarno, one of Cornwall's most popular gardens, is up for sale – but current owners Mike Sagin and Nigel Helsby are hopeful that it will remain open to the public. The 700-acre gardens and estate are being marketed at a guide price of £10m, following Mr Helsby's decision to retire. The two men acquired Trevarno in 1994 as a base for their electronics company, and went on to launch an ambitious restoration programme. The gardens have since become renowned for their extensive collections of plants – ranging from more than 120 species of conifer to 2,500 varieties of daffodils – bluebell woods, walled garden and tranquil lake. Trevarno is also home to the National Museum of Gardening. Other features of the estate include peacocks and reindeer, a toy museum and a soap-making workshop. Trevarno's general manager Richard Cox said: "Trevarno is continually praised as a top-quality, award-winning,



year-round Cornish destination with enviable visitor figures.

The directors are confident that Trevarno will offer a rewarding investment opportunity for the right buyer to take the gardens to further advancement. "

Rare bloom

One of the rarest plants in the nursery at the Trewithen estate, near Truro, has surprised the estate's gardening team by putting on a spectacular show this year. *Franklinia alatamaha*, a member of the tea family, usually produces its large fragrant white blooms only at the end of a long hot summer. But despite the changeable weather conditions which characterised the summer of 2010, nursery manager Luke Hazelton encouraged three of the shrubs to flower this year and is hoping to nurture another ten to pass on to plant connoisseurs next year. He said: "It's such a rare shrub, extinct in the wild, that to see it flower in this country is going to be of great interest to serious plant-lovers. I've talked to the experts at The Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, and they're as surprised and excited as we are."



Anti-polo bulbs

Crocus bulbs are being sold by Truro Rotary in support of an International Rotary campaign which aims to eradicate polio from the world. The bulbs are on sale in packs of 10 for £2.50 each – a sum which pays for ten children to receive a sugar lump with anti-polio medication. The crocuses are purple: the colour of the ink with which children's fingers are dyed when they have received the polo vaccine to ensure they do not receive it more than once. Truro Rotarian Sheila Harvey George said: "Picture a pretty patch of purple in the garden or on the lawn. These crocuses are ideal for the patio and for Christmas presents for friends and family." **Discounts are available for multiples of 10, 100 and 1,000. Call Sheila on 01872 272061.**