



CAERHAYS  
ESTATE  
**BURNCOOSE  
NURSERIES**

**Stand: Great Pavilion GPB 031**

**\*\*\*PHOTOCALL\*\*\***

**RHS Chelsea Flower Show**

**Monday 20 May, 10.05am at Stand GPB 031**

**Prince's Trust Ambassador, Joely Richardson**

## **Burncoose Nurseries Celebrating 40 Years**

RHS Chelsea Flower Show regular, Cornwall based [Burncoose Nurseries](#), which is this year sponsored by [The Prince's Trust](#) supporter, [Hand Picked Hotels](#), is using their garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Officially opened in March 1984, Burncoose Nurseries has grown from one phonenumber, a caravan for an office and a team of six, to employing more than 40 people and selling more than 4,100 varieties of plants via their website [burncoose.co.uk](#). Each year the website gets more than 1.5 million visitors. In 2023, visitors to the site spent more than 16,000 hours watching how-to videos.

In 1984 there were four Founding Partners of Burncoose Nurseries; Charles Williams, Senior Partner; his brother David Williams; David Knuckey; and his son, Philip Knuckey. While David Knuckey has sadly passed away, his son Philip runs the landscaping side of the Burncoose business and his daughter, David Knuckey's granddaughter, Cressy Knuckey, runs the Burncoose propagation department and is the Lead Designer for this year's Chelsea Flower Show garden.

40 years and 27 gold medals, 14 silver gilt medals, 3 silver medals and 2 bronze medals on from that first show, the skilled and dedicated Nursery team return to Chelsea with a garden showcasing the very best of the past 40 years, alongside plants and species that may not be so familiar. The garden is designed by Burncoose Show Team, Cressy Knuckey and Molly Jackson.

**Charles Williams** said: "It is wonderful to be celebrating 40 years of Burncoose Nurseries. While our large stand at Chelsea celebrates the 40 years since our business started it will, as usual, contain many interesting, unusual and little-known plants. This year we are featuring some exceptional small trees and large shrubs with dramatic architectural features both for smaller town gardens or larger woodland settings. We're looking forward to sharing these plants as well as stories from our past 40 years, with visitors to the show."

Supporters of The Prince's Trust, Hand Picked Hotels, a unique collection of award-winning country house and spa hotels located throughout the UK and the Channel Islands, is sponsoring the Burncoose garden this year. **Julia Hands**, Chairman, said: "Every year, the team pull out all the stops with beautiful garden design and plants, and this year is really the jewel in the crown. Burncoose provides endless inspiration for the gardens and estates across the Hand Picked Hotels properties, and as we continually improve our outdoor spaces across the group, I look forward to seeing the many rare and remarkable species that will be on display."

Watch Garden Designer, Cressy Knuckey share some of the preparations for Chelsea:

[https://youtu.be/mq9MCGWJ7x8?si=AIUgVODZz7rrmp\\_6](https://youtu.be/mq9MCGWJ7x8?si=AIUgVODZz7rrmp_6)



**Ends.**

May 2024

[www.burncoose.co.uk](http://www.burncoose.co.uk)

[www.handpickedhotels.co.uk](http://www.handpickedhotels.co.uk)

[www.princes-trust.org.uk](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk)

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## Plant Highlights



[FATSIA polycarpa 'Green Fingers'](#)

This is a large evergreen shrub originating from Taiwan, which is perfectly hardy and enjoys being grown in shade. Its long dissected green leaves with graceful lobes provide interest right through the year. Hairy panicles of creamy flowers in winter.

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[TETRAPANAX papyrifera 'Rex'](#)

*Rice-paper tree*

A Taiwanese shrub with huge palmately lobed leaves which can, in maturity, be 3 feet across. A spectacular architectural foliage plant for milder locations which suckers to become multi stemmed.

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**PSEUDOPANAX ferox**

*Toothed lancewood*

This small evergreen tree from New Zealand has extraordinary long, toothed, juvenile leaves. In maturity, and as you will see in the plant on our Chelsea stand, the adult leaves are without teeth.

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**PSEUDOPANAX crassifolius**

*Lancewood*

This small New Zealand tree has very distinct and different juvenile and adult forms. The juvenile leaves are long and narrow with pointed marginal teeth. In maturity the leaves are much shorter and wider, and the tree develops interesting bark.

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**[SCHEFFLERA taiwaniana](#)**

*Heptapleurum taiwanianum*

A striking, elegant evergreen small tree from Taiwan with pinnate leaves and attractive new growth. This is the hardiest of all Schefflera species and it has panicles of cascading white flowers in early autumn followed quickly by small black fruits.

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**[DISTYLIUM myricoides 'Blue Cascade'](#)**

A slow growing and compact but wide spreading evergreen shrub with glossy, leathery leaves. 'Blue Cascade' has remarkable blue-green younger foliage with bronze-coloured new shoots and gorgeous maroon red flowers in late spring. Fully hardy and originating from Korea and Japan.

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**TROCHODENDRON aralioides**

*Wheel tree*

A slow growing, evergreen, small tree with unusual leathery leaves. Green flowers in erect racemes in late spring or early summer. The leaves are much prized by flower-arrangers, but this is an impressive plant which thrives with us in full sun or shade.

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**VIBURNUM plicatum 'Kilimanjaro Sunrise'**

It was in 2015 that Viburnum plicatum 'Kilimanjaro Sunrise' won the RHS Plant of the Year competition. In 2020 it was the People's Choice as RHS Plant of the Decade. Pyramidal habit which makes it suitable for containers or hedging. Flowers have a hint of pink but open white. Attractive red fruits in Autumn.

## Burncoose Nurseries Background Information

With doors opening in 1984, Burncoose Nurseries has long been acknowledged as one of the UK's largest and most respected providers of top-quality plants by mail order. Over recent years the business has experienced substantial growth through their online ordering facility. Making the most of multi-media platforms, Burncoose has more than 1.5 million visitors to its website each year, and now receives more than 80% of total plant orders through [www.burncoose.co.uk](http://www.burncoose.co.uk).

Burncoose's catalogue and online shop at [www.burncoose.co.uk](http://www.burncoose.co.uk) features an enormously diverse range from Abelia to Kolkwitzia and Laburnum to Zenobia. As well as their iconic Magnolias and Camellias there's also a fantastic range of perennials, shrubs, ferns, trees and plants for specific climatic conditions as well as any number of rarities.

The quality of Burncoose's plants can be seen in the company's long history of scooping gold medals from Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) shows. Burncoose employs its own exhibition team and attends major horticultural shows throughout the country, including Chelsea and Hampton Court.

Burncoose Nurseries has been a regular at RHS Chelsea Flower Show for 40 years; attending since 1984, Burncoose has won 27 gold medals, 14 silver gilt medals, 3 silver medals and 2 bronze medals over 40 years at Chelsea (all 3 in one year with 3 stands).

Burncoose is very much the retail side of the Caerhays Castle Gardens, offering the very best of the magnolias, camellias and rhododendrons raised and bred at Caerhays. The nursery is part of the Caerhays Estate, which is managed by current owner, Charles Williams.

The Williams family is also responsible for the creation of one of Britain's horticultural treasure troves – the gardens at Caerhays Castle in Cornwall. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Williams family sponsored British plant hunters to China and as a result, the gardens now contain an outstanding plant collection – including more than 650 magnolias that were awarded National Collection Status in 2001.

The gardens and house at Caerhays Castle are open to the public from mid-February until mid-June with some free entry for RHS members. Caerhays and Burncoose are also hosts to a series of RHS lectures annually.

# HandPICKED HOTELS



Hand Picked Hotels is a beautiful collection of 21 privately owned, luxury country houses and coastal retreats, each hand picked for their individuality. Architecturally distinctive and quintessentially British, every hotel boasts an extraordinary location, from Scotland to the Channel Islands, offering breathtaking views from vast countryside to expansive beaches, to lush woodlands.

Dedicated to creating unique and enchanting stays, curated personalised service runs through the heart of every hotel. Delivered by warm and caring colleagues, Hand Picked Hotels are the perfect places for guests to unwind, relax and be pampered. With every need taken care of, the team at each hotel ensures every guest has a magical experience, encouraging them to return time and again.

Passion for locally sourced food is clear at every hotel. Award-winning chefs create delectable modern British cuisine, served with the best wines, including Villa Saletta wines from Hand Picked's family owned, Tuscan vineyard.

Hand Picked Hotels was founded in 2001 by owner and Chairman, Julia Hands MBE. Whilst each hotel is individual, every property fulfils the company values of family, individuality, community and care, ensuring a hand picked experience for every guest and employee.

W: [Handpickedhotels.co.uk](http://Handpickedhotels.co.uk)

X: [hp\\_hotels](#) | I: [handpickedhotels](#) | FB: [handpickedhotels](#) LI: [handpickedhotels](#)

## **About Julia Hands**

Chairman and former Chief Executive Officer of Hand Picked Hotels. She won the Tourism and Leisure business sector in the First Women Awards in 2005, organised by the CBI in conjunction with Real Business magazine and was awarded an MBE for services to the hospitality industry in 2008. Julia is also a qualified solicitor, having started her career at Linklaters & Paines. The Hands family's charitable trust focuses on supporting local charities in Kent and Guernsey with a particular emphasis on promoting inclusion and access across the areas of education, mental health and housing.

## **Press Contacts: Sunny Side Up**

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