

National recognition for nerines collection

by Sam Bellis

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GUERNSEY PLANT HERITAGE'S collection of nerines has been given national recognition, but the hunt is now on for a new home.

The group's work has been designated a national collection by Plant Heritage, which means the plants are held by one person or organisation and they are normally kept on one site.

Dr David Fremont, chairman of Guernsey Plant Heritage, said they had a 'great group of core volunteers' who tended to the nerine plants.

'We are so grateful to all our volunteers who ensure the nerines are looked after properly,' he said.

'We are very keen about protecting the heritage of the island and rescuing species that are from Guernsey and at risk.

'We can receive a phone call, mobilise volunteers, then we can be there digging them up and spreading them around the island.'

The nerine first came to Guernsey approximately 400 years ago from its original home of Western Cape, South Africa.

Andy Lanoe, nerine group leader, said Guernsey was one of the few places in Western Europe that could support the growth of a nerine.

'Apart from maybe the Isles of Scilly - Jersey would be two or three degrees too cold in the win-



Guernsey Plant Heritage's Andrew Lanoe, the nerine group leader, Rose Rankilor and chairman Dr David Fremont are delighted that its collection of nerines has been given national recognition by Plant Heritage in the UK.

(Picture by Steve Sarre.20181970)

ter for them to grow.

'They don't really like frost because it kills their leaves.'

Dr Fremont said the group is looking for a new permanent headquarters - its current site in Oatlands Lane has been sold and the lease has not been renewed.

'Ideally we need around half an

acre and we would be really grateful if anyone had half an acre of decent glass and could help us out,' said Dr Fremont.

'We are also looking for pots, benches and crates, so if anyone has any spare and can help us out we would be really very grateful.'

The heritage group does not

have any income apart from that from plant sales, however it is hoping that gaining national collection status will encourage more people to visit.

'People come from all over the place to see the nerines and visit the nerine festival,' Dr Fremont said.

Tidal information until 2021 is out

TIDE information is now available until the end of 2021. Local company Digimap has updated its tides information so organisations and charities can plan their events well in advance. 'We have received enquiries for tide times for the next couple of years,' said Digimap managing director Colin Le Conte. 'With the Island Games in 2021, there will be an increasing requirement for this information.' The tides.digimap.gg website has received more than 300,000 enquiries over the last year and has been redeveloped to resize the display on mobile phones.

Give 'vital' gift of tree, group's plea

GUERNSEY TREES FOR LIFE is encouraging islanders to give the gift of a tree this Christmas. The Bailiwick has lost many trees in recent years due to severe storms, age and disease. Committee member Colin Dodd said it was vitally important that planting continues to replenish the island's population of trees. 'We lost many mature trees in the gales last month,' Mr Dodd said. 'Trees are an essential part of our local environment and we want to encourage people to think about buying trees this year as gifts. 'Giving a tree is a special, memorable, living gift which also strengthens Guernsey's biodiversity.' The charity has teamed up with Guernsey Gardens, which will give a 15% discount to anyone who mentions Guernsey Trees for Life when buying a tree in the lead-up to Christmas.

For more information or to get in touch with the charity, visit its website, www.trees.gg.

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