

# About Mickfield Hostas

In 1992 we set up selling our limited stock of hostas through small shows we travelled to, up and down the UK and Ireland.



## 2006: the team grows

Melanie decided to join the family business and become a partner in 2006. Although she already supported the business through the creation and publication of the annual plant brochure and website, she had also worked with us around the nursery and at occasional shows. Melanie brings with her an enthusiasm for the business that we would struggle to find outside of the family. In addition, Melanie's husband, David, often helps out around the nursery.

## 2007: Plant Heritage (NCCPG)

In March 2007 our collection was designated a Plant Heritage (NCCPG) National Collection. This was a fabulous recognition for what we have already achieved and underlines that we are here to stay and grow our collection for many years to come.

## 2008: the Collection grows

By 2008 we had expanded our Collection so much that we needed to re-organise the collection tunnel and construct additional benching to keep the plants off the ground. This was a major task that took most of the winter but we now have the plants organised by size and have created a labelling system that allows the details of the plants to be seen even at the height of

the season.

## 2009-2010: lots of hard work!

These two years were tough as the recession hit. We noticed a marked difference in attitude from customers visiting shows but we had decided, before the economy took a downturn, to get more involved with Plant Heritage at the major shows. Our aim was not only to support the organisation in their bid to gain more members but to help build awareness of our own National Collection. As a result we feel we benefitted from an increased appreciation of the fact that we plan to be here to stay and that we do know what we are talking about when it comes to the subject of hostas. However, our rapidly expanding collection now needs new accommodation, only 5 years since extending the tunnel!

## 2011: our first RHS Gold Medal(s)

What a turn-around from the previous two years as we finally started to reap the benefits of our hard work. 2011 saw our first RHS Gold Medal for our Marquee exhibit at the Malvern Spring Flower Show. It was followed up by another at Tatton. This was a fantastic boost for us and a final recognition of our efforts at the RHS shows.

## ...Up to date

Rather brilliantly, things have continued to do well, despite quite depressing economic times.

Once again this year we have in excess of 1,000 varieties for sale, so you can guarantee to find something you like among them.

## About the talk

Mel Collins will be talking on all aspects of growing hostas, including the origins and cultivation of the genus. There will also be plant sales.

