We do know, however, that Fânch and Anne Le Moal are armed with the patience of good gardeners, especially of camellia specialists. They are well aware that if nature can be cruel, it can also be generous in rewarding patience and perseverance. We must be optimistic: Park ar Brug will recover and the misfortunes of 2013, if not forgotten, will be largely healed. It must be remembered that, thanks to the painstaking work of Fânch and Anne, Park ar Brug produced fourteen new cultivars between 1979 and 1998 that have contributed to the reputation of this garden and are admired by all lovers of camellias in Brittany. There is more good news for lovers of our favourite flower: Fânch has announced that there are seven more that have been created between 2005 and 2012.

The lovely ‘Fleur de Pommier’ raised in 2010

Park ar Brug is now recognised as a Garden of Excellence and will continue to develop new varieties that make this a special place for study and a garden of interest to all lovers of the camellia, the emblem of Guingamp.

Pretty pink and white single flower raised in 2011

News from the FLORA, the Botanical Garden of Cologne, Germany

Dr Stephan Anhalt

The First Mayor of the City of Cologne, Mr Jürgen Roters and his wife, opened the Camellia Exhibition on the 18th of January. He expressed again his pride on the Flora becoming an ICS Garden of Excellence. The exhibition lasted until April 14th and recorded about 65,000 visitors.

We were delighted to include a very generous gift of 45 Camellias, ranging in size from 1m to 2.5 m, donated by the Klotz Egelsbach nursery. The gift includes many old Italian cultivars, e.g. ‘Francesco Ferruccio’ 1848; ‘Paolina Maggi’ 1855; ‘Ninfa del Tebro’ 1858. These were planted in our Camellia Forest during 2013.

The project being conducted with the German Camellia Society, the Collection of German Cultivars, continues. The aim is to gather together all historic German cultivars, some of which may already be lost, as well as modern German-bred camellias, each accompanied by full written documentation. These cultivars will become a permanent feature in the Botanical Gardens of Cologne. With the financial help of the Daenhardt family, the project has acquired several new cultivars from the Fischer / Wingst nursery including C. j. ‘Frieda Petersen’ 2008, C. j. ‘Fischer’s Jubiläums Rubin’ 2008 and the hybrid ‘Dagmar Berghoff’ 2005. These camellias are going to be planted outside, to test their hardiness in Cologne’s climate.

Visitors to the Flora Camellia Exhibition
The last winter, 2012/13, was relatively mild. The first japonicas flowered at New Year. Longer periods of frost with temperatures below –10°C did not start until March and caused the loss of many open buds. Due to continuing low temperatures and extremely low light levels during the whole winter, the flowering time of camellias in the garden was prolonged until the beginning of July. Although the summer has been very warm, the high temperatures have not caused any significant damage and the flower bud development promises a good flowering season next spring. We are now eagerly awaiting the first sasanquas.

The vacant position for a gardener was filled again by one of our own newly trained gardeners who joins Mr Rösner’s excellent team, which is responsible for camellias, potted plants, proteas and more!

Protective work in progress for historic camellias at the Goto Camellia Forest Park in Japan

Chuji Hiruki
The Goto Camellia Society

The Goto islands are historically known as islands of camellias (Hiruki, 2011).

The Goto Camellia Forest Park was recognized as one of the ICS Gardens of Excellence in 2010. It has approximately 300 outstanding camellia cultivars with an additional 3,000 yabutsubaki, native to the islands, planted systematically on a carefully selected site overlooking the vast East China Sea. There are about 20 old historic camellia trees that have been replanted in the Garden having been rescued from different construction sites where they were threatened by removal or destruction.

Following our advice, the city of Goto has completed a programme of protective work to encourage renewed growth of one of the historic camellia trees, estimated to be about 300 years old.