



# MICKFIELD HOSTAS



## Happy New Year dear subscriber

Firstly, we have to report that literally whilst posting the December newsletter, Robin had a heart attack. Fortunately, he was back on his feet after a couple of days but it has been a warning to him that he cannot expect to lug round 30 litre pots and do the kind of tasks he was still insisting upon, despite having three large stents fitted in the autumn of 2015. He is back on light duties, as you will see in our [mini movie clip](#).

The land sale went through on 22<sup>nd</sup> December and it has been quite gratifying to have been in the position to offer this opportunity to our neighbours, whilst looking to settle the mortgage. It has been an excellent example of a win-win solution and presents us with a little less area to manage, which has proven to be an important consideration over the past year.

## Peter Ruh

2016 was quite a year in many ways and as the end of year media reviews have highlighted, we have lost a lot of significant people. A name that is unlikely to have appeared anywhere among these reviews is that of Peter Ruh. Peter was our main supplier of new varieties when we first began collecting *Hosta*, and remained so up to the end of the 1990s, during which time we bought around 400 varieties from him.

It was Peter who sourced [H. 'Paul's Glory'](#) for us. It cost a small fortune at the time but has remained Robin's favourite cultivar. One of the cultivars we added to our collection last year was [H. 'Peter Ruh'](#), a very unusual, colour changing sport of *H. 'Paul's Glory'*, named after Peter and registered by Mark Zilis in 2003.

We look forward to watching this plant grow in memory of Peter and his role in the establishment of our own collection of the genus. Mark has written a lovely piece in the [American Hosta Society's Journal](#) about the passing of his friend and we take this opportunity to acknowledge Peter too.

## Coming up...

We are delighted to confirm our attendance at the [Harrogate Spring Flower Show](#) in April and are hoping to add some local show dates to our 2017 show calendar over the coming weeks.



## A new Olympic sport?

For the latest developments at the nursery, click on the image to view.



## The American Hosta Society

[Click image to link](#)

We have plugged the fantastic American Hosta Society's Journal numerous times over the years as it was so influential in our obsession with *Hosta*. It was lovely to have been featured in the most recent edition, which looked at some of the UK flower show displays from 2016.

The latest edition also looked at the merits of [Slug Gone pellets](#) and the use of wire baskets to help mitigate damage by

We are also planning to have our availability lists refreshed on the website, but we can always advise on availability in the interim, if you are planning purchases in 2017.

Speak soon,

Team Mickfield

burrowing animals.  
We will certainly be trying a number of pest control methods and look forward to being able to report first hand on our own experiences, once we move from container-based to ground-based growing.

*Copyright © Mickfield Hostas 2017, All rights reserved.*