

## Garden Group Visit To Members' Gardens Cumbre del Sol Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Our March meeting took us to two of our members' gardens on Cumbre del Sol. The inclement weather did not put us off and a hardened group of 14 intrepid gardeners ascended into the clouds to Carolyn Cooper's house before moving on to Norman Peterken's.

Umbrellas were in great demand for most of the day although we did manage to dispense with them for our group photo!



Both houses were perched on ridges, which meant that the gardens were definitely not on level ground! In the case of Carolyn's she has the unfortunate task of starting from scratch, or rather a rock face!



There was plenty of discussion both in, and out of, the rain!



The views, however, were still magnificent, although unnerving if you suffer from vertigo!



A number of suggestions were put forward and we agreed to help as much as we could to make the best of her raw stony plot.

We then moved on to Norman's garden, which is also somewhat lower than the terrace with views no less spectacular!



Norman has already done a great deal of work on the lower slopes.



It's a case of sitting back and waiting for the trees and palms to grow and fill the spaces. We all agreed that it would be very interesting to see the garden again later in the year to see how it is progressing.

A few of us braved the trip down on to the lower slopes to see an area that Norman has flattened to form a standing for garden furniture. When the trees and plants have matured this could provide a wonderfully tranquil place to come and relax. For this, Norman has plans to provide easier access to the area!



At this stage of the development, therefore, most members decided to view the garden from the upper terrace!



The rain was falling quite hard and therefore we adjourned to Norman's dining room for a meeting. We had the opportunity to each say a little bit about ourselves, and our gardens, and, in fact, one of our members (Dave Smith) offered his very interesting garden to visit for our June meeting.

It was agreed that it would be a good idea if members' experience in the gardening area, such as with:

- (a) Good value garden suppliers (plants, soil, manure etc);
- (b) Growing (plants that are easy to grow and those that are not)
- (c) Pest control
- (d) Propagation

could be shared with the whole group, so that we build up a knowledge base which we can all plug in to.

**ACTION:** Could members please send all comments/suggestions to group leaders who will collate and publicise them. We will also try and set up a system whereby we can get a discount at selected garden suppliers.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 7<sup>th</sup> April at the garden of Terry & Brenda, at the base of the Montgo followed by a meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> May, which will be a visit to the Iris Garden and Labyrinth.

Thanks, again, to Carolyn and Norman for hosting, what turned out to be, quite a large group of us on such a damp morning! It was much appreciated by all.

After a brief plant swap, we retreated to the warmth of our own homes!

Chris & John Parsons  
March 2009