



THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY  
ULSTER GROUP



Newsletter No. 13 August 2014





THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY  
ULSTER GROUP

Newsletter

No:13, August 2014

## **Contents:-**

### **Editorial**

### **History: Early Beginnings of our Group**

Stories behind some of our Cups and Trophies

The **C.H.Hammer Trophy** - Origin and  
2014 Winning Plant - Mac Dunlop

#### **The Cooke Cup**

The **Cowan Trophy** - Origin - H.B. Mc Bride and  
2014 Winning Plant - Gordon Toner

#### **Festival of Britain Trophy**

**Farrer Memorial Medal 2014** - Billy Moore

**Alpine Cuttings** - or News Items

### **Obituary**

**Show News:-** Pat Crossley

### **Information:-**

Web and 'Plant of the Month'

New Alpine Flower Books

**Programme 2014 -2015**

## Introduction/Editorial

Every year brings anniversaries and commemorations and 2014 reminded everyone of the start one hundred years ago of the First World War with its very high human cost.

The Ulster Group of the Alpine Garden Society had a more pleasant occasion to commemorate with the anniversary of the first AGS Show in Northern Ireland 75 years ago in 1939. Since your editor had an accident which has caused her to be chair bound for at least 10 weeks ( should have remembered this is No. 13), there has been time to read old AGS Bulletins and try to find out a little bit more about the early recorded history of our Society. After seventy five years it seemed an appropriate time to look back and reflect. This Newsletter issue is largely devoted to telling our members about our beginnings and some of the people whose names are only seen on the awards and trophies at the Shows. In our first Newsletter John McWhirter wrote a short history of our Group and here I am attempting to fill in some more details without, alas, his personal touch.

It is sad how quickly we all forget and are forgotten, and I wanted in a few issues to make a record while there are still a few people in the group who can remember some characters of the past. Obviously not all the names will feature this time but with the plan to continue, any more information from members or older friends will be very welcome for future issues - so some feedback please.

While reading the old Bulletins it is interesting how much and yet how little has really changed. The Society has always had its ups and downs - financial crisis, problems of falling membership, what are alpinists, how to interest children, was it too highbrow etc. and some articles seem as apt for today as fifty or more years ago. In a special Bulletin ' A Decade in Retrospect' produced in 1961 for the Third International Conference, Sampson Clay gave his thoughts on 'The Future of the Alpine Gardener'. Before the idea of conservation became so topical he suggested a motto for plants-people should be "Conservation, Cultivation, Companionship"; definitely a man with insight into the gardening future. I feel that his motto could apply both to plants and people. While welcoming and encouraging new members, we also appreciate and treasure those who have contributed so much in the past. In the cultivation of 'alpine ' plants, some easy and some difficult, we wish the local group many more years of friendship and enjoyment.

## **History: Early Beginnings leading to the Local Group** ( with thanks to authors in past Bulletins )

The foundation of the Alpine Garden Society goes back to a suggestion in 1929 by Sir William Lawrence, who became its first President. Even at the beginning there was controversy whether it should be a Rock or Alpine Society but the idea that everyone could have such a garden from "a 3 inch pot to the Grand Canyon, it is only a matter of size" appeals to this day. Around 1936, local secretaries were enlisted from north to south and 'as far west as Belfast'. Perhaps that is how in 1938, as John McWhirter told us in his short history, Mrs N.V. Cooke collected names of interested people at a garden fete in Montalto and this led to the following events as recounted by F.H. Fisher in the 1968 Bulletin (36:119) :-

"A Show at Belfast was held in 1939. In the preliminary correspondence it had appeared that the local organiser had in mind the formation of a separate Society in Northern Ireland, affiliated to the A.G.S. but with a five shilling subscription. It was decided that the A.G.S. would still hold a Show as arranged, on condition that no local Society should be formed with objects in any way similar to this Society until, at any rate, after the Show. In due course Lady Lawrence attended the opening by the local Member of Parliament, and from that time the Belfast Show has developed into one of the strongest, and its Local Group one of the largest, in the Society."

Lady Lawrence, whose husband Sir William had died in 1934, was President of the AGS from 1938 until 1944 and while the Bulletin held the Society together over the war years, shows were discontinued during the war. In Belfast under its founder, Mrs Cooke, John notes that the group, all AGS members, only started regular meetings again in 1947. Indeed the main committee planned to hold a conference that year but it was 1951 before this happened although Shows were gradually reinstated, Belfast's name being included in the well-tried centres that have stood the test of time. Reference to local groups did not appear until the 1950 AGM when Belfast was mentioned among those where due to the enthusiasm of local secretaries, lectures and spring garden visits had been maintained.

In 1951 the Second International Rock Garden Conference took place in both London and Edinburgh and this was also the year of the Festival of Britain. " The occasion is recorded in these pages of history, as the Festival of Britain

Committee for Northern Ireland designed a special trophy and presented it to the Belfast Group of the Society for competition annually. At the wish of the donors it was awarded for the "best garden in Northern Ireland", but soon this proved unsatisfactory. Who was to decide which was "best" - a trim well-planted garden on a flat site in a few square yards, an extent of some acres of natural rocky outcrop, or a stretch of light woodland in which suitable plants had been cleverly placed? It called on the judges to spend several days travelling about the district only to find that, after seeing the first garden in bright sunshine, the next had to be visited in a snowstorm. Accordingly the trophy was transferred later to a special class which varied from year to year. (now changed: Ed.) One can today think of it as a memorial to Mrs. N.V.Cooke, the founder and President of the Belfast Group, who was to become a Vice- President of the Society and recipient of the Lyttel Trophy for her work."



A Group Photo from the Fifties

John McWhirter wrote that it wasn't until 1951 that the 'Ulster Group of the AGS' was formed, although the Bulletin historical account records the following from the 1956 Annual Report - "The first Local Group had been formed in Belfast in 1939, and was now the largest with 150 members." I suspect the group existed rather informally but took the official title of 'Ulster' in 1951. Unfortunately all records are not kept, memories are lost and we gather 'history' from various sources. Alas too, people like Mr Frank Walsh, a past Vice-

President, whose name appeared as early as the sixties showing wonderful plants and winning prizes, are no longer with us to correct any discrepancies, and this illustrates the importance of recording events at the time. It wasn't until 1958 the minute book records that a formal constitution was to be drawn up by Mrs. Alice Cooke, Miss Lonsdale and Mr. Hughes.

In 1951 Miss Norah Lonsdale M.B.E. followed Mrs. Cooke, serving for seventeen years as Hon. Secretary to the Ulster Group. Her obituary records that during this time 'its affairs ran like clockwork, her standards were high and she brooked no lowering of them. The cream of society lecturers were got for winter meetings but she was a kind and generous woman, both showing and sharing many rare alpine'. C.H. Hammer, a President of the AGS, noted her exceptional organising ability. This was recognised in her long career as Private Secretary to the then Prime Minister, Sir Basil Brooks, by the award of the M.B.E. and by the A.G.S. in the award of the Lyttel Trophy. She died suddenly in 1975 and her funeral took place the day before the A.G.S. Show in Belfast, Mrs. Cooke having predeceased her, dying in 1967. It is recorded that the 1975 Show was, as usual, outstanding. At the very beginnings of the Ulster Group these two remarkable, nay formidable, women set a very high standard and laid a firm foundation for the Society.

We are now nearing the halfway stage of our story and already we have come across names attached to trophies. Also among the early winners at the shows the names of Malcolmson, Hill, and Garratt appear as frequently showing rare alpine but I am still trying to find out more information about the people behind the names. Other names appearing in minute books include Mrs. Phoebe Anderson and Mrs. Helen Dales. If any of our readers can help I would appreciate their contributions for the next Newsletter and also reminders of anyone that I have overlooked. Within more recent memory people including Dr. Molly Sanderson, Mrs. Nan Toner, Mrs Carol McCutcheon, Mr. John McWhirter and Mr. Jim Price among many others all contributed to the success of the Ulster Group and will be recorded in the future.



## Stories behind some of the Cups and Trophies at the 75th Ulster Show -

### Part 1

#### C.H. Hammer and the Hammer Trophy.

" Draba from Dandelion"

C.H. Hammer joined the Alpine Garden Society in 1938 and found himself on an AGS Tour to the Pyrenees - he enjoyed recounting how at that time ' he knew not *draba from dandelion*' - ( so there is hope for us all. Ed.) Six keen and knowledgeable Members had planned to climb a mountain there, searching for *Androsace imbricata*. By chance one had to withdraw due to toothache and Henry Hammer took his place. At the end of the expedition he was the only one to return with both photographs and plants\* of the androsace and so started his alpine fever and passion for androsaces. His enthusiasm over the war years did not diminish, recruiting the first AGS seed organiser while acting as his Commanding Officer in the RAF in India.

He served as Hon. Treasurer to the AGS for ten years and became President in 1958. During that time he visited Belfast and in the Bulletin wrote of the Show "I found a large quantity of rare and interesting plants in a show organised and run by a number of enthusiastic and delightful people. ... Of the rare plants at Belfast there was such profusion that it really would be quite impossible to mention those worthy of distinction". He thanks Miss Lonsdale for organising publicity which included a television appearance and it is recorded that his fee contributed to the Trophy he gave to be awarded for the best plant in the novice section.





He was President during the third International Conference in 1961 and during his years in office the stature of the Society greatly increased.

Later he was to write " For many years I was a notorious - as some would have it - photographer and collector of really high alpiners ... But time is a great leveller, and the truth is that advancing years have brought me down to lower altitudes". Instead he developed a 'Mediterranean House' and raised beds where he grew cyclamen with other small sub- alpiners, an idea that could be used by many of our members.

C.H Hammer died in 1971 and in his obituary F.H. Fisher wrote " he never tired of searching for androsaces - perhaps he has found his reward even now in still more glorious finds among the Elysian Fields".

Knowing a little bit more about the man will surely help in our appreciation of the Hammer Trophy.

\* In 1938 things were different but now no plants are collected, only photographs taken. Ed.

### ***Fritillaria graeca v graeca* - Hammer Trophy winner 2014**

The Hammer Trophy was won this year by Mac Dunlop with *Fritillaria graeca v graeca* which is shown on the front cover. Mac had already written in 'Plant of the Month' on the Group Website in 2012 but for those without access to the web he has kindly updated this and here gives us all valuable information on how to grow our fritillaries to prize winning standard.

*Fritillaria graeca v graeca* is a native of the Balkan states in the eastern Mediterranean. The plant illustrated was grown from seed, this being the easiest way to obtain it as bulbs are not readily available. The seed was sown in 2003 and germinated twelve months later. It is grown in a mixture 50% John Innes no.3 and 50% potting grit, although this year some multipurpose has been included as a trial.

Each year when growth begins the bulbs are kept watered and fed with phostrogen each week depending on soil moisture. When the leaves die down in early summer, feeding stops and watering is only every three to four weeks but this may be more frequent in extremely hot weather. Repotting is carried out every second year during the dormant period. It is always interesting to find out if

there are more bulbs, although with this species after eleven years there are still only two, maybe why it doesn't feature too prominently in bulb catalogues! This plant has flowered each year since 2009 and it was fortunate enough to be awarded the C.H. Hammer trophy at this year's show at Greenmount and hopefully will continue to flower in years to come. - Mac Dunlop.

## **The Cooke Cup**

The Cooke Cup is awarded each year to the member with the most first prize points in the open Section. It is associated with Mrs. Alice Cooke who, as told in the history, was the driving force in the Group's formation and I presume it was donated by her. The first winner of the cup in 1949 was H.T.Malcolmson - hopefully there will be some information on the Malcolmson Cup next time - and in the fifties it was won by both Mrs Cooke and Miss Lonsdale. Mrs. Cooke was also a great gardener and the minutes record that her garden in Greenisland was a frequent venue for garden visits and entertaining.



It was won in 2014 by Gordon Toner, seen overleaf carrying off both it and the Cowan Trophy.

## **The Cowan Trophy**, by Harold McBride

The Cowan Trophy is one of the most beautiful and sought after trophies which is competed for at any alpine show in Ireland or England. The Trophy was donated to the Ulster show by the late Mrs Rhoda Cowan of Lisburn in memory of her late husband W.J. Cowan who was a former Ulster Group Chairman & a keen exhibitor and supporter of the show.

The Trophy consists of a silver gentian trumpet ( the symbol of the AGS ) set in a piece of rock which had been collected close to the Mountains of Mourne; the rock was then mounted on a wooden plinth.



Our honorary Show Secretary Pat Crossley arranged for the silver gentian to be created by leading Irish silversmith Grahame Harron from a cast of a Gentian flower which I provided from a plant kindly gifted to me by Billy some years before.

W.J.Cowan was a fine gardener and skilled plantsman whom I first met when we moved to Waverley Avenue 45 years ago. Billy introduced me to Alpines and took me along to Ulster Group meetings. Billy was a also a skilled exhibitor and gained a Farrer medal with a fine plant of *Androsace cylindrica* at the Ulster Show; the Androsace just happened to be one of his favourite plants, which greatly added to his pleasure of winning the ultimate AGS show prize.

I have managed to win the Cowan trophy on a couple of occasions, which meant it returned to Waverley Avenue. I am sure this would have given a lot of pleasure to the man whose memory it represents. This year, it was won by Gordon Toner, with the gentian pictured opposite.





## The Story of the Gentian

*Gentiana acaulis* (syn. *G. excisa*, *G. kochiana*), also known as the trumpet gentian or the short-stemmed gentian (*acaulis* means stemless) belongs to the genus named after Gentius, King of Illyria, who in the 2nd century B.C. used the roots of the yellow gentian for its healing effects on his malaria- stricken troops.

It was chosen as the logo for the AGS and an early hand-out at the start of the Society featured the following 'Story of the Gentian'.

" St. Bernard, so he tells us, was lost in the Alps; for many a day and many a night he struggled through glaciers, crevasses, snow-fields, and he called out to God to help him; And no help came; so he was about to renounce his God, when round the corner, where the snow had melted, he found a blue gentian and knew that God existed. St. Bernard is surely the patron saint of the rock garden."

It was very appropriate that at our 75th Anniversary the Cowan Trophy was won by Gordon Toner for his very beautiful plant of *Gentiana acaulis*. While everyone covets these unbelievably blue plants many of us find them difficult to grow and here Gordon shares with us his experience on growing.

## **Gentiana acaulis Cultivation,** by Gordon Toner.

"I have been growing *Gentiana acaulis* for over twenty years, having bought my very first plant from the A.G.S. plant stall at Greenmount Show. I grow *G. acaulis* quite successfully both in the garden and in pots for showing. *G. acaulis* is native to the European Alps, Cevennes, Pyrenees, and the Balkans where it grows from 800 - 3,000 m and there are many similar species including *alpina*, *angustifolia*, *clusii* and *occidentalis*. In Limavady my soil is medium to light and dry and I find this gentian does not like damp conditions. I propagate new plants by removing small shoots from the main plant, potting them into a fifty- fifty mix of soil and grit with a little blood, fish and bone fertiliser added and in two years I have a good plant.

In my experience *Gentiana acaulis* is a first class plant both for the garden and also for the Show bench."

## **The Festival Of Britain Trophy**

As told in the history, the Festival of Britain Trophy was presented to the Group by the Festival of Britain Committee for Northern Ireland, largely due to the influence of Miss Lonsdale. As recounted the original criteria for the award has changed over time and is now given for the best 3 pans of distinct genera rock plants in the open section.

In 2014 it went to Scotland, won by the President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, Mrs Carole Bainbridge and her husband, Ian, both of whom we look forward to hearing at a lecture later this year.







**The Farrer Medal** - Won in 2014 by Billy Moore, with Trillium 'Bob Gordon'

As not all our members have access to the website we have printed the following from 'Plant of the Month' by Billy Moore, a lovely tribute to our President.

*Trillium chloropetalum* is a Californian native and is, I think, the most widely grown trillium in Ireland, north and south. The typical plant has liver-brown flowers but there are several other colour forms, including white, pink and purplish red. Yellow green forms have been found in the Santa Cruz Mountains south of San Francisco.

Bob Gordon has been growing the species in his woodland garden for many years, and for some time colour variants have been appearing, including yellowish green forms. Six or seven years ago Bob gave me some seedlings which he thought should include some of the latter. I planted them out in the garden. By 2013 a good clump with clear yellow flowers had built up, and I thought it would make an excellent show plant

Following Gordon Toner's advice I lifted the clump in August 2013 when it became dormant, and potted it up in a rich woodland compost with a little fish blood and bone added. I then buried the pot in the garden where it remained until mid February this year when I lifted it to protect it from severe winds and the depredations of molluscs.

The plant received a Farrer Medal at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ulster Group Show, and was given an AM by the Joint Rock Committee who invited me to name it. I proposed the name 'Bob Gordon' as a small tribute to a great and generous plantsman. - Billy Moore

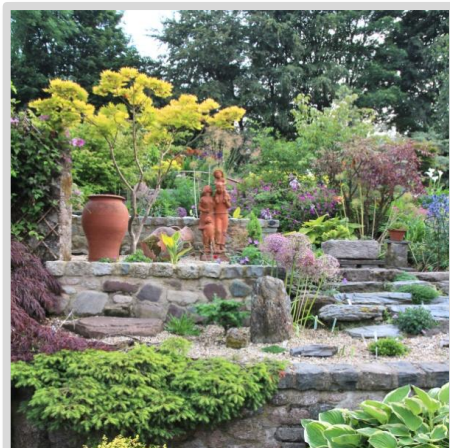
## Alpine Cuttings or 'Out and about'



Both the Ulster and the Dublin Group made a definite effort this year to spread the knowledge of the Alpine Garden Society and hopefully recruit new members.

The Ulster Group manned a stall at both the Autumn and Spring Belfast Shows where the practical demonstration of seed sowing by David Ledsham proved popular with young and old.

Some of our members and friends went by bus to Blooms, the Dublin Show, where the Dublin Group are to be congratulated on a very attractive and artistic display of alpines in the 'Postcard' garden.



Donal McBride opened his garden in Omagh one evening to both local and A.G.S. garden members. As it is a long time since our previous visit it was interesting to see how the garden had matured and appreciate again the impressive stonework and planting, while also seeing the new alpine house, and it was good to see some pottery artwork by our former member, Ann McGladdery, pictured on the left.



## Mount Stewart



Our August visit this year was to Mount Stewart where members were privileged to be taken round the gardens by Neil Porteous, Head of the National Trust Gardens in Northern Ireland. Not only is Neil a knowledgeable plantsman and gardener but his enthusiasm and interest in

Mount Stewart made the garden come to life. A large party started off in warm sunshine to see the formal gardens but for the stalwarts who braved the rain there was the added bonus of an insider's view of Tir an Og, the recently purchased walled garden with the dairy, and the nursery. We all came away with a lot more information on plants and their cultivation from all over the world and thank Neil for giving us so much of his time and wish him every success in both his expeditions and further developments in the gardens.

## Poppies

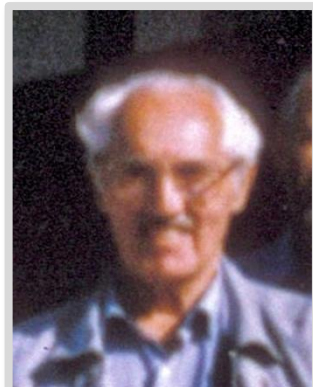
With commemorations taking place this year to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1st World War I was stimulated to think about poppies by an article in the July issue of the 'The Garden' written by Christopher Grey-Wilson VMH, Chairman of the RHS Rock Garden Plant Committee, one of the team at our Show. When we think of the poem 'In Flanders Fields the poppy grows' it refers to the common or corn poppy, *Papaver rhoeas*, which the writer, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae MD, saw blowing among the crosses and graves on the battlefields and has since been used as a symbol for Remembrance Day.

While not having a picture of Flanders fields, our back cover photo shows *Papaver lacerum* which grows in Turkey and Armenia and of course Gallipoli was another sad site of battle in that war. *P. lacerum* is very similar to *P. commutatum* of which the form 'Ladybird' is frequently grown in our gardens and both are related to the common poppy, all of which are annual.

In his article 'Poppies on parade' Chris Grey-Wilson (who has also written a book on Poppies) includes many more of the poppy family - annual, perennial, alpine and even woody- and when you consider a few such as sanguinaria, meconopsis, romneya as well as all the papaver family there is virtually a poppy in every colour. Personally I love poppies especially the way they pop up in unexpected places and brighten even the darkest and saddest day.

## **Obituary Mr Lynas Cardy**

It is with sadness that I record the death of Lynas Cardy. For many years Lynas and his wife Ruby were active members of the Ulster Group, both growing and showing plants individually as each of them favoured different genera. Lynas served on committee and in his ninth decade, when no longer able to come to meetings, still kept in touch through the website and emails. His funeral took place on the day before our 75th Show and unfortunately many members missed his death notice. Our sincere sympathy goes to his family on their loss - we remember him as a very charming and lovable gentleman.



## **The 75th Anniversary Show of the Ulster Group A.G.S. Pat Crossley**



I would just like to say a very special thanks to the Ulster Group for supporting our 75th Anniversary Show so very generously. It enabled us to host The Joint Rock Members in a suitable and befitting manner. The Show was a very happy occasion with plants well presented and filling the benches with top quality! An excellent report written by Billy Moore will give full details of the Show in a forthcoming Bulletin. The Show Committee were pleased with a reasonable attendance of general public, thanks in no small measure to excellent coverage by BBC, and an enthusiastic Harold McBride! The Ulster Group really did play their part in this historic event, as did Dublin. My personal thanks to Judges, Stewards, results recorder, auditors, plant sellers, ballot sellers, door keepers, photographer, carriers of pots- a lot of jobs to make the Show happen! As well of course thanks to the small band of helpers who set up the show and even smaller band who put it all to bed for another year. The addition of Joint Rock members added to the



special occasion, and details of the awards given will appear in a future bulletin. The Anniversary Dinner at Parliament Buildings kindly hosted by Mervyn Storey MLA, was a memorable occasion.

There will be articles in this issue of the magazine and future additions of the

history of our Show Trophies, and I know members, especially newer members will find these most interesting. So on the subject of these wonderful trophies I would appeal to all winners to take great care of these special pieces of our Society's history, and a plea to make sure you have them engraved with your name, this is making current history!! We are the custodians of a fascinating heritage, let's make sure we continue as did those before us during the past seventy five years!

My predecessor in this role, Nan Toner, on my taking up this post gave me a couple of AGS Bulletins published the year I was born, not quite 75 years, but not too far away, and a couple from the year we were married, almost 50 years ago, and I enjoyed reading them during my enforced rest earlier this year, and remarked how our forefathers kept the Society going throughout the Second World War, and whilst meetings could not be as frequent, their enthusiasm never

waned, and the Bulletin was the vital tool for keeping them together. In 1966 one of the Bulletins had copies of letters written by Reginald Farrer from Tibet in 1914-1915, gripping, fascinating, and hard to put down!! (If any member would like to borrow please ask!) so 75th Show is past, and we now look forward to the seventy-sixth, and remember the Show is in our hands! EPC



## **Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee**

To mark our 75th Anniversary Show it was great to welcome and entertain the Joint Rock. This committee comprises an equal number of representatives from the RHS, Alpine Garden Society and Scottish Rock Garden Club. The committee attends AGS and SRGC shows and events all over, judging and assessing a wide range of rock garden plants for RHS exhibition awards to ensure a high standard is maintained. Following the show on Sunday members visited both President and Vice- Presidents' gardens according to their travel arrangements and finishing at David Ledsham's before final departure. They were very impressed with the displays of trilliums and erythroniums which the Ulster climate facilitates. A more detailed and enthusiastic account of their visits to Harold McBride's and Bob Gordon's gardens given by Dr. John Good can be found on the Alpine Garden Society web site under the North Wales Diary 'Two Northern Ireland Gardens to relish'.

<http://www.alpinegardensociety.net/diaries/NorthWales/Two+Northern+Ireland+gardens+to+relish/549/>

## Information

**Venue**     **St.Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast - 2.30 p.m.**

**Dues**   - Local current subscription rates are £9.00 single, £14.00 family, due at the A.G.M. or before the end of the current year. Cheques should be made out to '**Alpine Garden Society Ulster Group**'.

**\*\*Please give or send subscriptions this year to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Cilla Dodd, who will update the records before forwarding the money to the treasurer, Mrs. Nancy Derby.**

This subscription is for the local Group only and subscriptions to The Alpine Garden Society must be sent direct. A limit of one year's grace is given.

With the increasing cost of postage it is helpful to have as many email addresses as possible and this year, to update our records and have accurate information, we ask everyone to fill in the membership forms. It is hoped in the future by either emailing or texting to be able to keep members in touch with both events and unexpected news. If you are not receiving emails, send one to the secretary ( [secretary@alpinegarden-ulster.org.uk](mailto:secretary@alpinegarden-ulster.org.uk) ) so that she is sure of having the correct email address, or let her know your preference for keeping informed.

Thank you to all the helpers over the year whether with plants, teas, general help or simply being there and please continue. The Hon. Secretary will be very grateful for any suggestions to add to the enjoyment of the meetings.

Many of our members have unfortunately had health problems this year and we wish them all a speedy recovery and better health this coming season. While being sensitive to everyone's need for privacy, if you do know of any member unable to attend and feeling a bit neglected and who might appreciate a card or call, please keep Cilla or other committee members in touch.

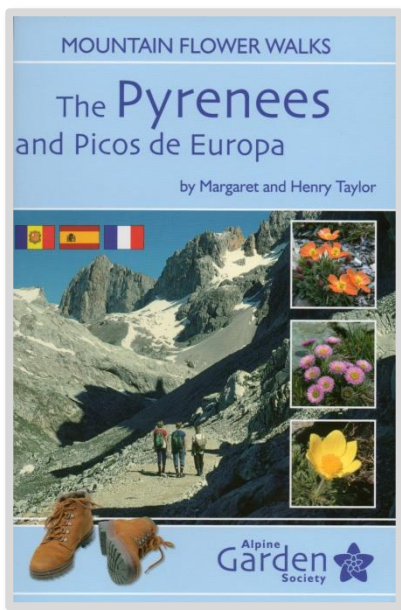


## New Alpine Flower Books.

This year saw four new Alpine Flower books published which I thought might be of interest either for those planning holidays abroad or as presents.

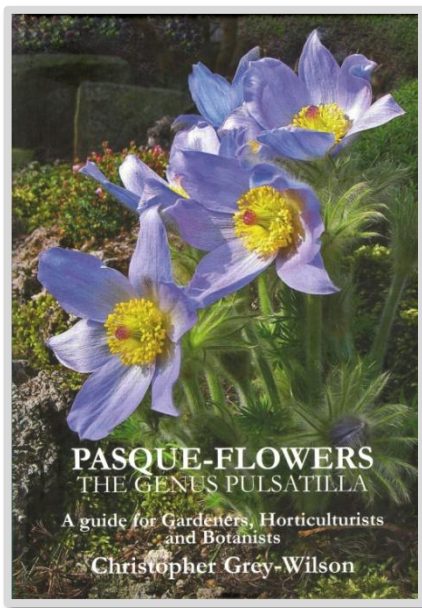
1 **The Pyrenees and Picos de Europa** by Margaret and Henry Taylor, published by the AGS in the Mountain Flower Walks series.

The Ulster Group has been very fortunate in having the Taylors over to lecture last year, and writing for our Newsletter and being so generous with their seed distribution. Like its authors this book is generous with its information, maps, descriptions and, of course, excellent photographs. Whether in body or in spirit you could not travel these mountains in better or nicer company.



2 **Pasque Flowers : The Genus Pulsatilla** by Christopher Grey- Wilson, published personally as a limited edition monograph.

Once again our Group had the privilege of having the author here this year at our 75th Show on the Joint Rock Committee. As a previous Editor of the Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society, past Principal Scientific Officer at Kew, VMH holder and worldwide traveller this book has everything one would expect from such a distinguished author - all you need to know about pulsatillas.



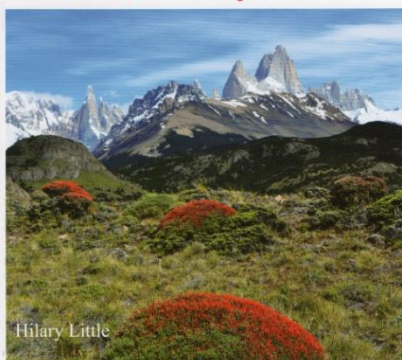
## Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains



Martin Sheader

Alpine  
Garden  
Society field guide

## Patagonian Mountain Flower Holidays



Hilary Little

Alpine  
Garden  
Society

3 and 4: **Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains** by Martin Sheader and **Patagonian Mountain Flower Holidays** by Hilary Little, both published by the AGS.

Martin Sheader's book is a much needed photographic field guide to the flora of Patagonia and written by an expert on these plants which are unfamiliar to many of us. Hilary's book is written as a companion to the field guide and having travelled in that part of the world with her, I know she has great personal knowledge and experience of the country. Anyone planning to visit that part of the world should definitely have these two books.

### **Programme 2014 - 2015** (Inside back cover)

You will all have your programme cards but a copy is printed overleaf and all the speakers are excellent and well worth hearing. We are also hoping the weather in February will be kind and allow us to visit two gardens further north than usual to see snowdrops while still being welcomed by all our keen galanthophiles.



## Web

Programmes and Newsletters can all be found on the website where 'Plant of the Month' is archived since 2006 - Contributions are always needed, so if you have a plant and a picture - in the garden or in the wild, please send it in. The website is visited from all over the world, so you can be assured of an appreciative audience. Below is the index page from the website, for the 2014 Greenmount Show- to see more detail, just visit the site - [www.alpinegarden-ulster.org.uk](http://www.alpinegarden-ulster.org.uk)



### Alpine Garden Society Ulster Group

**Greenmount Show April 2014**















[Page Two](#)
[Page Three](#)













[Page Four](#)
[Page Five](#)

Pictures marked **HS** by Heather Smith

## Programme 2014 - 2015

Heather has once again arranged a wide and varied programme but would always welcome suggestions and ideas for the following year.

### 2014

**September 20<sup>th</sup>** **Ulster Group A.G.M.**; Members Plant Sale.  
**Practical Demonstrations**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** **Dr. Molly Sanderson Memorial Lecture**  
**Seamus O'Brien**, Kilmacurragh, Wicklow  
**"A Journey to the Antipodes"**

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** **Vic Aspland**, Stourbridge, Worcestershire.  
**"Cyclamen in Cultivation and in the Wild"**

**November 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>** **Termonfeckin Weekend – Dublin Group**

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** **Ian Bainbridge**, Gatehouse of Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire.  
**"Modern Rock Gardening"**

### 2015

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** **Conrad McCormick**, Ballycastle  
**"Thinking Big : Exotic Plants in a Small Garden"**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** **Snowdrop Day**  
**Two Gardens in Limavady**

**February 21<sup>st</sup>** **Rob Potterton**, Market Rasen, Worcestershire  
**"A Labour of Love - 40 Years at Potterton's Nursery"**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** **Members' Show**  
**Maria Doyle**, Belfast  
**"My Greek Odyssey"**

**April 11<sup>th</sup>** **AGS Dublin Group Show, Cabinteely, Dublin 18**

**April 25<sup>th</sup>** **AGS Ulster Group Show, Greenmount**

Please feel free to bring friends and visitors along to any of our meetings.



Above : *Papaver lacerum*,

Bolkar Dağı, Turkey

Front Cover - *Fritillaria graeca* v *graeca*, Mac Dunlop,  
Hammer Trophy at the Ulster Show 2014