



**THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY
ULSTER GROUP**



Newsletter No. 16, August 2017



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Editorial

Over the years I have had so much pleasure through the Alpine Garden Society, in both parent and local groups, that I am always very keen to share this experience with others in the hope that they too can have the same opportunity. Whether in travelling to new countries, climbing mountains, seeing wildlife, taking photographs, visiting gardens, attending lectures, meeting new friends, or cultivating unusual exciting plants – in so many ways the AGS (and I must add the SRGC) has made life so much richer. I am only sorry I didn't know about it sooner when I was younger and fitter and that's one reason we try to inform younger people about the Society. In this newsletter Cilla writes about a school project with the primary class while Claire, one of our Group's younger members, writes a very thoughtful and perceptive article on the place of horticulture in the modern everyday life of young people today. Perhaps some 'seeds' will take root.

On a visit to the Saxifrage collection in Waterperry Gardens near Oxford this summer, I was firmly told by a gardener there that Social Media was the way forward in the future for all gardening societies. While I appreciate that it has an important role to play in communication, especially when one is older and not able to get about, I still think that meetings matter – indeed Social Media contacts can safely be made there. A friend once said that 'gardening can be a rather lonely experience' – that is why the social aspect of our society is so important.

For that reason I would like to thank our present President, Kay, who along with Cilla, does so much to organise outings and also all the committee. Not just the committee but all the helpers – tea, plant sales - in fact everyone who comes to meetings and outings deserves thanks for keeping the Group alive and positive. The committee always needs new faces and ideas so don't be shy about offering your services as change is both welcome and needed.

Also thanks to all the contributors to this Newsletter - without you there wouldn't be one – and it is especially encouraging to have some new contributors from our Group. But, after 16 years I think it is time for change with a new editor and I am hoping someone will volunteer – any takers?

PS :- please read the **Information** as there are some changes

Snowdrop Day Visit - Tom Ennis

We set off fairly well on schedule just after 9 am on the 11th February, picked up other members of the Group at the pre-arranged spots and with no obstacles to hinder us we arrived at Two Chimneys, Celbridge, Co. Kildare shortly after 11 am.

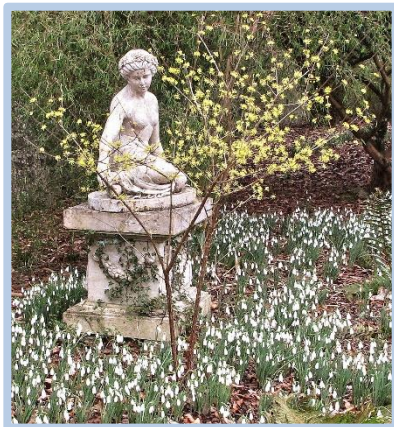
Gerry and Eileen Collins were waiting to welcome us to their beautiful garden and we were soon entranced by the wonderful display of woodland plants under the bare branches of winter trees. Large clumps of Snowdrops, Hellebores, Cyclamens and other spring flowers were showing everywhere. Gerry and helpers were soon busy



selling pots of various desirable Snowdrops and Goody bags of *Cyclamen coum* to eager members from our group; we learned later in the day that over €1300 had been raised for Médecins sans Frontières from these sales.

Much-appreciated refreshments in the form of tea and coffee accompanied by a variety of scones and cakes were provided indoors by more of Eileen's friends and relations in a cosy and relaxed indoor atmosphere.

Eileen meantime, was conducting tours around her impressive collection of over 300 named Snowdrops and splendid yellow *Helleborus hybridus* cultivars. Rarities included *Galanthus krasnovii* and *G. platyphyllus* and I was particularly interested in a true *Helleborus orientalis* (from stock collected in Georgia) obtained from the redoubtable Will Mc Lewin. Even though the day had turned steadily more overcast and cold, with the threat of rain not far away, the garden was a delight with its beds deep in rich leaf mould, full of snowdrops and one or two clumps of early narcissus. Particularly noteworthy amongst these were some small clumps of *N. cyclamineus*. Eileen pointed out a cherished window of borrowed landscape provided by a view of the adjacent River Liffey and an elegant piece of garden sculpture in the



form of a Dryad which Eileen's son had named "Patsy" after the Joanna Lumley character in *Ab. Fab.* Other plants in fine fettle included *Helleborus niger*, *Helleborus lividus* hybrids, one or two delicately scented *Hamamelis mollis* and a handsome *Cornus-mas*, sheltering Patsy. Throughout our time at Two Chimneys the lovely, all-pervading scent of a fine *Daphne* 'Jacqueline Postill' added much to our enjoyment of a wonderful garden visit.

But all too soon it was time to move on, so with many thanks to Eileen and Gerry we made our way back to where our driver, Darren, was patiently waiting for us at the coach. A very short drive (Kay's forecast 5 minutes was virtually right to the second) and we were at The Orchard Garden Centre for lunch.



By now the dark clouds had delivered on the promise of rain and the rest of the day was spent in cold, drizzle. But A.G.S. members are not easily deterred, and while not actually singing in the rain, we did not let it spoil our afternoon visit to Brian and Emer Gallagher's Garden at Barnhill, Dublin 15, where they have lived since 1979. Once again, we were impressed with a wonderful Spring garden full of Snowdrops, Crocuses and Cyclamen. Emer's Snowdrops total just over 250 and during an information-packed tour (who cares about a bit of rain--we are hardened to it in Ulster) we were shown many of her special favourites including *Galanthus sandersii* and G. 'Starling'.

However, pride of place went to Emer's own Snowdrop, the magnificent G. 'Barnhill', which she has named after her house. And before the question could be asked, she very tactfully let it be known there was, as yet, not enough stock to part with any.

Other fine plants included double *Helleborus hybridus* (including a magnificent black single flower), hordes of *Cyclamen coum* along with the showy foliage of last summer's *C. hederifolium*, *Cornus officianalis* and a magnificent contorted Larch which dominated the garden, looking for all the world like a giant bonsai. Friends and relations were also on hand to ply us with much-welcomed refreshments; it's no easy task buying Snowdrops



but many of us were up to the job and Emer's sister Maureen did great business at the Snowdrop stall.

But the time to leave duly came round and after giving our grateful thanks to the Gallaghers we were on the coach by 4 pm and on our way, laden down with many cherished "Best Buys" including some obtained at The Orchard. A splendid day, all the more appreciated to see lovely gardens in so much flower at this still dreary time of year.

Finally, a word or two of appreciation and thanks. Our driver drove so smoothly and carefully that some of us even had a little snooze (virtually unknown for me) so a big "thank you" to Darren for this. But the success of the trip was undoubtedly due to the superb management and organization by Cilla and Kay. The day went like clockwork, the timings were just right and everyone had a wonderful time. The whole group is indebted to you.



Alpiners of the Future – Maybe.... Cilla Dodd

A teacher friend of mine informed me her school had received a sum of money as a result of winning a science project and were looking for ideas on how to spend it on behalf of the school. Currently they had lots of bedding around the school, a wildlife area, vegetable plot and a chicken run. I suggested a raised alpine bed which could be made at a height comfortable for the children (and I might add for my own benefit should I become involved with the project).

A few days later she came back to me full of enthusiasm for the project and invited me along to meet some people from the Woodland Trust who were prepared to take care of the building side of things. Work was completed near the end of June 2016 which is the end of the school year. We covered the bed with black polythene and left it until September when school reopened. I met with the children who are P2-3 age group and our first session was to clear away any weeds which had



survived the dark days of summer under the polythene. With the help of some parents we got lots of grit dug in and then we were ready to plant. We had gathered a collection of plants, some through AGS plant stall, AGS members and a local garden centre. Some children are more enthusiastic than others, some finding stretching worms more exciting than planting, and I have to say I am quite envious of the number of worms in their soil as I live about half a mile away and I cannot remember the last time I saw a nice big worm. On planting days we spread the pots over the bed and each child is given the task of digging a hole, putting in some grit and planting their plant.



On Tuesday 6th June a few members of AGS came with me to the school to visit the project and we were made very welcome by the teachers and children. We had brought some plants with us and we had lots of fun talking and planting, and getting to know about pets and families and how to stretch a worm without harming it. (I wouldn't like to be the worm).

The teachers at this school are very encouraging with lots of other gardening projects going on, and it is reassuring that some parents are also getting involved.

I feel this is a worthwhile project and plan to visit on a monthly basis. If you have any small bulbous plants going free, suitable for an Alpine Bed we will be planting bulbs in the Autumn and these would be very welcome. I will collect them at our September meeting.



Alpine Garden Society – The Perspective of a Newcomer

Claire Peacocke

As a relative newcomer to AGS and a mature student of horticulture, I am quite regularly asked what the Society can do to attract more new members. Personally speaking, I was influenced in a number of ways. I joined up after attending a few events with my parents, hoping to build up my horticultural and plant knowledge from talks and trips, and to learn more about alpinists, which have a (rather unfair) reputation for being the fussy cousins of the ornamental plant families. So far I have been delighted by the warm welcome, generosity and encouragement I've received from members and the regular event attendees, I've enjoyed the social and friendly atmosphere, the high quality speakers and of course the garden visits. I have even managed to germinate a couple of seeds from the free seed packets and the reluctant seedlings are managing to survive on my shed roof-garden. I admit that the professional annual shows and competitions are a completely new experience for me and the myriad of classes, rules and sheer high quality of presentation feel somewhat inaccessible, and while they are always enjoyable and educational, this is not something I feel that I could realistically aspire to with my urban and diminutive back yard (saying nothing of my general state of disorganisation and leaving everything to the last minute).

As a horticulture student I have been exposed to trends in the gardening and horticulture industry, and some of these facts and forecasts make grim reading – posing challenges for professionals, clubs and societies alike. The average age of gardeners is reported to be increasing; people are settling down, buying homes and raising children later in life, pushing up the age at which there is much time to spend in a garden. Home ownership is decreasing, and is reported to be increasingly out of reach for many 20-39 year olds. How will this 'generation rent' develop an interest in gardening and in what form will this interest take? Are they likely to develop their interest into more specialised areas such as alpinists and what could convince them to do so? Access to a garden and garden size has also been decreasing over the past number of years, there are fewer new houses being built, and gardens in new developments are small. If specialist interests such as Alpinists

develop from a love of gardening in general, then the next couple of decades will prove particularly challenging in this respect.

That being said, the good news is that gardening does remain a popular leisure activity at present, and it is possible that new trends and preferences in how people are spending their leisure time and money could potentially fit in well with AGS values and activities. There is increasing demand for experience-based leisure pursuits; centred around being active, learning new skills and knowledge, conservation and ecology, or improving health and wellbeing. Nostalgia and heritage based interests are also increasing, as are preferences for short trips and ‘stay-cations’ over longer holidays. The methods by which people socialise and communicate have radically changed, with social media and the internet often the first port of call for advice and information. There is a growing trend for organising things at the last minute, lower loyalty to any single brand and even a desire to leave electronic devices and social media behind for a few days. Keeping abreast of new trends in horticulture could also present new opportunities for promoting and growing the Society, and finding new audiences; therapeutic gardening is a growing sector, as are community gardens. Fashions and trends in gardening have moved towards a naturalised, wild look and feel; however the natural look of rock gardens appears to have been overlooked by the glossy gardening press and influencers in favour of prairie or woodland themes.

Alpines themselves are resilient and used to dealing with extremes, thriving on the uncomfortable margins of the natural world (aren’t they fantastic?). As our weather becomes more extreme and the range of plants succeeding in UK and Irish gardens changes, alpines and their survival skills will surely become increasingly relevant as a plant group for gardeners, in urban environments; and also for scientists and ecologists studying plant adaptations. They are perfect for a small garden or a portable container garden, and should have great future potential as housing and gardens change. I think the key to continued long term success for the Society is to gain publicity and relevance in an accessible way, aligned to these changing lifestyles and preferences.



Could not be without these plants – Susan Tindall

While walking around the garden on a warm summer evening, with bees visiting the flowers and thinking to myself – ‘I must do some dead-heading of the plants that have finished flowering to tidy up the flower border’ - a thought occurred to me ‘how many of these plants would I miss if I did not have a garden’? In the herbaceous border not too many of them, but in and around the garden there are bulbs, plants and trees I would crave for.

Years ago the only snowdrop in the garden was *Galanthus nivalis* and these were given to me by a gardening friend who lived close by in Spa, and over forty years they have seeded around the garden. My next introduction to snowdrops was years later, before the motorway was built to Dublin. I was invited along with Molly Sanderson to have lunch with Robin Hall and his mother one Sunday in February, to look at Robin Hall’s wonderful collection of snowdrops. It was the first time I saw *Galanthus sandersii*, a yellow snowdrop - never knew there was such a thing as a yellow snowdrop. He had one bulb and it was his pride and joy as not many yellow snowdrops were around at that time. It was Robin who introduced me to *Galanthus elwesii* and hybrids - I would not be without them.



Galanthus sandersii

Trilliums are a must for me and would be greatly missed if I did not have a garden. *Trillium grandiflorum*, *T. catesbaei*, *T. chloropetalum*, *T. cernuum*, *T. kurabayashii* and many more are usually considered woodland plants or for semi-shade with good soil and moisture retentive. There can be exceptions as I grow *Trillium kurabayashii* and *Trillium catesbaei* in full sun in the Cottage Garden where they are early to come into flower, February.



Trillium rivale

The sun is not very strong at that time of year and they flower very well with good compact growth. Once the light levels and temperature increase the Trillium are shaded with perennial plants. Trilliums for pot culture or the Scree/Rock garden are *Trillium rivale* and *T. hiebertsonii* which, if just left alone, seed around freely...

Poppies - *Meconopsis* is a must for me, I love all the poppies - even *Meconopsis cambrica* with its bright yellow flower that seeds where you do not want it to be, but *Meconopsis cambrica* would never be on my wish list of plants - the blue poppies on the other hand would be. All the *Meconopsis* Fertile Blue, as the name suggests, produce seed and once established become very large plants and the clumps can be divided around June time or early Spring.



Meconopsis 'Lingholm'

The Blue Poppy I could not be without is *Meconopsis* 'Slieve Donard'. This plant must be divided every two to three years, as it is infertile and does not set seed. Required growing conditions for the blue poppies - they must be grown in good fertile soil with plenty of organic matter dug in before planting, they prefer partial shade, and the flowers are much deeper blue if planted in shade. I have to say I grow some in the Cottage Garden where they grow and flower very well. The blue is not quite so intense as when grown in the shade and wherever you grow poppies the soil must never dry out.

What other flowers would I miss - *Cyclamen coum*, not only for its flowers but for all the different leaf forms. It is such an easy little bulb, naturalising itself under trees, or hedges, wonderful for dry shade. Flowers and leaves begin to appear August/September and they can still be in flower into winter when there can be snow covering the flowers. Leave the seed heads on the plant as they take a year to ripen.

Everyone should grow these lovely plants from New Zealand. All the ***Celmisia*** have white daisy flowers, larger varieties for the scree being *Celmisia semicordata* or *C. spectabilis* v *magnifica*, spear shaped evergreen leaves, flowering early spring.

A smaller shrubby *Celmisia*, *C. hectori*, has good silver grey/white foliage and *C. allanii* is another useful plant for Rock-garden or a Trough, also *C. sessiliflora* makes a hard compact mound.

Other grey foliage plants ideal for Trough, or a raised bed are the **Raoulia** - *R. x loganii* - grey mound, *R. australis* -creeping grey foliage, *R. hookeri* – creeping silver foliage, *Raoulia petriensis* - green/grey rosettes creeping, *R. x petrimia* ‘Margaret Pringle’ – silver, a real gem. Many folks who buy *Raoulia* kill them off by not giving them enough water. The *Raoulia* need to be kept moist all the time - do not let them dry out.

A garden has to have a least one tree or maybe two. My two are *Cercidiphyllum japonicum magnificum*, this tree has the best autumn colour of any tree I have ever grown.



My second tree is *Davidia involucrata* (Handkerchief Tree). The one we have I grew from a seed (size of a small egg) found in the grass in Rowallane Gardens over twenty years ago. It is now about 20 feet high, and this year it was covered in its ghostly white bracts or ‘Handkerchiefs’ from top to toe -it was a wonderful sight to behold.



The Picos de Europa – Liam McCaughey

There is another Spain – ‘Green Spain’ – and for the Alpine flower seeker, the Picos de Europa are an easy choice. We had them in our wish-list for some time, but recently realised, after hearing Jamie’s account of a weekend trip, that they are very easy to visit. A quick Ryanair flight from Dublin to Santander, pick up a hire car and be in the delightful small town of Potes in a couple of hours, where our first night was in the excellent small ‘Casa Cayo’, right in the centre and with a view of the peaks from our room.



Next day, we began by driving up to the Puerto San Glorio, a high pass (1609m) to the south. Visiting in mid May, we expected to see fields of daffodils, but this was



an unpredictably early and dry season, and we saw only a couple of individual flowers of *N. triandrus* and *N. asturiensis*. However the alpine flowers were now appearing, *Gentiana verna*, *Fritillaria*

pyrenaica, globularia, a range of orchids – *D. sambucina*, *O. ustulata*, and in damp seeps were *Trollius europaeus* and *Pinguicula grandiflora*.



O. ustulata



P. grandiflora



Aceras



Then in the afternoon, back to Potes and up the narrow valley to Fuente dé, our next accommodation, where the purpose-built parador is beside the cable car to the



heights. We were extremely lucky to have clear sunny weather, as visitors frequently find themselves enveloped in low cloud and often rain – green Spain!

Up again at around 2000m, alpinists started at the lift station, with *Aquilegia pyrenaica*, *Gentiana acaulis*, *Scilla verna*, *Androsace villosa*, *Ranunculus pyrenaicus*, and many more.

The scenery here is spectacular, with the limestone peaks soaring above the plateau around the lift station. The flora was perhaps not as rich as we had hoped – that



early season again. Margaret and Henry Taylor's excellent guide to the Pyrenees and Picos, which we found invaluable, notes that "in June, grazing has started and you won't see much" – we were in mid May this year, and grazing was in full swing already.

Next day, we headed south, back over the Puerto San Glorio and west along the deep desfiladero or gorge leading to our next stop, the parador in Cangas de Onis, which is a beautiful old former monastery.



As we drove up along quite challenging winding roads to the high lake, Enol and Ercina, we passed the beautiful Roman bridge in Covadonga, and nearby the sanctuary commemorating the battle of Covadonga, where in 722 the reconquest of the Iberian peninsula from the moors began. There is an enormous amount of history hereabouts, which we would like to explore more. We spent some time resting at a viewpoint and watching the vultures perching and soaring. Again grazing had set in – the best plant was the intense blue of *Eryngium bourgatii* (see back cover).



Continuing our clockwise circumnavigation of the Picos, we had a brief and distant view of the 'Naranja de Bulnes' (above), one of the most distinctive and inaccessible of the Picos peaks.

At the viewpoint, very healthy *Anacamptis pyramidalis* grew by the road, and as we continued downward to the coast, orchids were the main show. Bee orchids common, but *Serapias lingua*, tongue orchids, were in their thousands along the roadsides.



We finished our journey staying in another parador, in Santillana del Mar, a beautiful mediaeval town (though rather dedicated to tourists now). From here we visited the coast – more orchids, dianthus on the dunes, and more.



History (or rather prehistory) goes back a long way hereabouts. The cave art at Altamira is famous, but visitors can only see a replica nowadays. We went instead to the less well known Cuevo de El Castillo, with the oldest



cave art in Europe, over 40,800 years. A fitting end to a week of Botany, Mountain scenery, Archaeology and Culture.

Ref : Mountain Flower Walks: The Pyrenees and the Picos de Europa by Margaret and Henry Taylor, AGS Publications 2016

Obituaries

Joan Kydd Christie 1926 – 2016 Family and friends gathered in November at Roselawn to pay tribute to Joan who had played an active role in the Ulster AGS serving as both Chairman and Vice- President. She was a lovely gentle woman with a great knowledge of gardening. In the past she had been a finalist in the TV series ‘Gardener of the Year’ while also contributing to the Ulster radio gardening programme. Joan, having been a teacher, had many other interests including yoga but gardening was a great love as over a lifetime she made both a lovely garden in Belfast which featured on TV and more lately in Ballygally.

Rev Dr David William Lapsley 1927 – 2017 A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of David was held in May in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church. Again David for many years had played a very active rôle in the Ulster AGS both on committee as Chairman and also as a great grower, exhibitor and photographer of alpine plants. His life encompassed so much more both in church and the wider community of Ulster. He was never afraid to speak his mind and yet there was always a twinkle in his eyes and a great sense of fun. Almost to the last month of his life David attended our monthly meetings with the help of Vickie, his wife. Even quite recently he gave an illustrated talk to the group on his new smaller garden as, like Joan, he left his beautiful garden in Newtownards but still found pleasure in a new creation.

Walter George Smyth OBE 1930 – 2016 and his wife Evelyn Smyth who died July 2017

The Service of Thanksgiving for Walter’s life was held in Hillsborough Parish Church in October 2016 sadly followed in July this year by Evelyn. Due to ill health both Walter and Evelyn had not been able to come to meetings for quite a few years but in the past had been a regular attenders. Evelyn continued to take an interest in all our activities up until very recently as her love of gardening during her final few years was a feature in the eulogy paid to her at the valedictory service.

On behalf of the committee and our members we send our deepest sympathy to all their families.

Alpine cuttings - News

AGS Award of Merit - Billy Moore

Congratulations to Billy Moore on receiving a well-deserved AGS Award of Honour, which was presented to him at the Dublin Group's Luncheon held in the St. George Yacht Club in January. Since its formation in 1985, Billy has given unstinting service to the Dublin Group in virtually every capacity including editing their Newsletter which comes out twice a year! He has also found time for the Ulster Group, especially judging at our shows, while many of our members have had the pleasure of visiting his South Dublin garden, packed with many rare and well grown alpine.



Joint Meetings with both the IGPS (Irish Garden Plant Society) – and the NIDG (Northern Ireland Daffodil Group)

Over the past year we have had the pleasure of sharing some meetings with both the IGPS and the NIDG which, I feel, has been to the mutual benefit and enjoyment of all and we hope this will continue as we have a love of plants in common. For the first time I went with the NIDG to the Snowdrop Gala in Carlow, organised by Hester Forde, who spoke so well on 'Small Treasures etc.' to our group in November last year. The Gala was excellent and one of the speakers, Julian Sutton, has agreed to speak to the Ulster AGS in 2019.

Ballyrobert Cottage Garden and Nursery.

Thanks to Maurice and Joy Parkinson who kindly hosted a Photographic session, led by Liam, at Ballyrobert. The gardens there continue to mature and at the same time nurture wildlife – all in harmony and well worth a visit, especially for photographers.

Summer 2016 late Outing.

My memory is slipping as, on review, I promised to have pictures of our 2016 July Garden visit but fortunately had a late reminder. This well organised trip actually

included three very different visits which could well be described as the best in each category in Northern Ireland, if not Ireland and the UK.

Dorothy Brown's garden never fails to surprise and delight and is full of unusual alpines, all well grown and presented. Not only can she grow alpines but also makes the best traybakes (Liam says they have the professional touch) although, judging by the lunch provided by the ladies in Ballymoney, this is the home of great bakers.



Our second visit of the day was to Bali-Hai Nursery in Carnlough where Ian Scroggy has the National Collection of Hosta. There was more than hosta to tempt buyers as we struggled to make choices from agapanthus, rhodohypoxis, crocosmia, and dierama.



The day ended at Glenarm Castle where the herbaceous borders were looking their best although the whole garden is beautifully designed and good in all seasons.

These brief words do not do justice to three places, each of which could have filled a television programme - our sincere thanks to all concerned – it was a privilege to visit them.



2017 Visit to Wicklow - see next year's newsletter.

Vice – Presidents

Two of our best alpine gardeners have kindly agreed to serve as Vice – Presidents. Dorothy Brown and Gordon Toner are well known to all our members, both being experienced growers of alpiners and their advice will be invaluable to the group.

Late late News



On 20th May 1938 at a Garden Fête in Montalto which included a display of alpiners, Mrs Alice Cooke made a list of people, including the Countess of Clanwilliam, who would be interested in forming a local Alpine Group. Almost eighty years later the present owners are building an alpine house and along with gardener, Peter Harris, are re-establishing the most beautiful garden - which includes a very large impressive rock garden - with the possibility of opening to the public. Peter Harris wondered if any of our members or their friends would have any photos or material relating to that period. If so please let our secretary know as this garden promises to be a horticultural highlight in Ulster gardens with a connection to the Ulster Alpine Group.

Ps – Apologies if the editor has omitted any topical news items but please help by contributing in good time next year.



Information

Committee - Many thanks to Margaret Kennedy who, after two successful years as Chairman, hands over to Mac Dunlop at the AGM in September. It is hoped to have a short AGM so that we have time to enjoy Neil Porteous speaking on ‘**Burma – Plant Hunter’s Paradise**’.

Venue NB St. Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast - 2.30 p.m.
Except on November 11th when we will be in Malone Presbyterian Church Hall (junction of Lisburn Rd. and Balmoral Avenue).

Dues - Local current subscription rates are £10.00 single, £15.00 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 Membership Secretary, Mrs Sandra Munro, who will update the records before forwarding the money to the treasurer, Mrs. Hilary McKelvey.**

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. This year for any new member recruited to the Alpine Garden Society they will donate £5 to the local group although their subscription has increased slightly to cope with increased postage costs.

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, please send one to the secretary (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.

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. To visit the site, go to www.alpinegarden-ulster.org.uk

We do not currently have a Facebook page, so if any of our members have expertise in Social Media please share your opinion and advice on its use with the committee.



Alpine Garden Society Ulster Group Greenmount Show April 2017



Primula henrici, Gavin Moore - Farrer Medal (HS)



Cassiope 'Stormbird group' Pat & George Gordon
Carol McCutcheon Award (HS)



Leucis Tweedyi Alba - Raymond Copeland



Cyclamen persicum - Paddy Smith



Primula grandiflora - Pat & George Gordon



Fritillaria affinis - Paddy Smith



Petrusia paragonica - Tim Leaver



Androsace himalaica - Gavin Moore



Tulipa oretica 'Archares' - Gordon Finch



Helleborum pinnatifidum - Gemma Hayes



Cypripedium reginae v. album - Heather Smith



Fritillaria gussakowii - Jean & Liam McCauley



Pinus mugo - Pat Kennedy



Cassiope Stormbird Cup - Pat & George Gordon



Primula grandiflora - Pat & George Gordon



Myosotis pubescens - Pat & George Gordon



Ranunculus myosotis - Billy Moore



P. Kishina Kishina - Mac Dunlop



Cypripedium 'Gladia' - Liam Byrne



Primula japonica 'Eric' - Miriam Healy



Primula maximowiczii - Paddy Smith



Erigeron aureus - Gordon Toner



Trollium rivale - Pat & George Gordon



Trollium chlorostictum - Gordon Toner

Some pictures of the Greenmount Show 2017 – more are on the website.

Programme 2017 - 2018

2017

September 16th **Annual General Meeting**
Neil Porteous
"Burma – Plant Hunter's Paradise"

October 21st **Carmel Duignan**
"My Garden and Other Plants"

*** November 11th** **Neil Huntly**
"Plants with Altitude"

November 17th - 19th **Termonfeckin Weekend – Dublin Group**

December 16th **Roger Marchant**
"Flowers of the Mani"

2018

January 20th **John Mitchell**
"The Stans"

February 10th **Snowdrop Day and Luncheon**

February 17th **Diane Clement**
"A Year in the life of an Alpine Gardener"

March 10th **Members' Show**
Sir Bob Salisbury
"Starting from Scratch – Creating a Wildlife Garden"

April 7th **AGS Ulster Group Show, Greenmount**

April 28th **AGS Dublin Group Show, Cabinteely, Dublin 18.**



Above : *Eryngium bourgatii* 'Picos Blue'
In the garden

Front Cover – *Lewisia brachycalyx*,
Pat & George Gordon, Ulster Group Show, 2015