



Above : *Sternbergia lutea*

Memories of trips with hopes for future flower holidays abroad
On Peloponnese trip 2016 led by Kurt Vickery

Front Cover – *Cypripedium Sp.*



THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY
ULSTER GROUP



Newsletter No. 21, August 2022

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Editorial

Apologies for a late Newsletter this year but both your editor and her computer had a few health problems this summer. The computer died but fortunately the editor's problems were minor so I hope this will help to keep everyone in touch with the Ulster A.G.S. Group's news and activities over the past and present year. With the internet, Facebook, What's app, email, etc. there are now many ways of making contact but sometimes it is reassuring to read a printed page.

For those who do not have access to Zoom (and also as a reminder to everyone) there is a synopsis of last winter's lectures and, where the speaker is agreeable, some of the coming season's lectures may be recorded and available for those unable to attend.

There are some reminders of our garden visits for we all missed a lot of social contact with Covid. With all the depressing news at present we all need both our gardens, plants, and some social contact over a cup of tea for our mental health and to keep us all sane. Anne McCaughan, who takes over as Hon. Secretary from Ann Walsh, reminds us of 'Friends in the Garden' and many thanks to Ann Walsh who was an excellent secretary and indeed to all the committee. Pat Crossley (see Show news) deserves a special thanks and sincere congratulations to Brian Duncan. Great appreciation is also due to Billy Moore who retires after 16 years of producing the excellent Dublin Newsletter twice yearly.

It is with great sadness I record the deaths of members and friends, all who contributed so much in their lifetime to the happiness of others. They will be greatly missed and remembered with much fondness.

I hope members will feel more confident to come to meetings this year and newer members will have an opportunity to get involved and play an active role. My computer breakdown is a pertinent reminder that we all need back- ups, especially human ones!

Earlier this summer I was worried that there were less butterflies and insects around but as I write this in late August the garden is full of bees, butterflies and other pollinators giving hope for nature in the future. Again my apologies for a late newsletter and also to any members with news or items that I have overlooked.

Joan McCaughey Ed.

Garden visits

After such a long period of lockdown it was lovely this year to be able to get together again on garden visits and our thanks and deep appreciation to those who organised them and to the garden owners. Here are some pictures to remind you and a fuller account by Vicky on the visit to Fernhill

February – Snowdrop Visit.



Our thanks to Bill and Moyra McCandless who opened their garden at 'Eskylane' so that we could all enjoy their wonderful and rare collection of snowdrops. After a quick but tasty lunch at Coleman's Nursery members hastened to Eskylane where the snowdrops were all clearly labelled and those in troughs in the courtyard drew many covetous eyes. But the garden is much more than snowdrops and the early spring show of both flowers and shrubs, along with a welcome cuppa, brightened a cold winter's day.

May - Airfield Estate, Dundrum, and Ratoath Garden Centre



Airfield Estate, described as Dublin's only urban working farm and gardens, was left in trust to the people of Ireland in 1974 by the Overend sisters, direct descendants of the Anglo-Irish family of Airfield House. The 38 acre estate has many attractions including farm shops, farm animals, children's playgrounds, etc. as well as beautiful gardens. Our visit coincided with the Irish Specialist Nursery Association's Plant Fair and along with a visit to Ratoath Garden Centre – the pictures tell all! Airfield Gardens are well worth a visit.

Claire worked here (see programme notes) and, as we know from listening to 'Gardeners' Corner', is a mine of horticultural information. I felt that there was a lot to learn from the planting and wished we had longer to explore all the different garden areas. The estate has an excellent website worth looking at before a visit.



June - Fernhill , Montalto and Saintfield Garden Centre – by Vicky Lapsley

On the 24th of June approximately thirty-five members of the Ulster Group met at 9.00am in Glengall Street to board a bus driven by our loyal friend Dirk to visit Fernhill Cottage Garden at Spa, Co Down, the home of Thomas McCaw and Thomas Raju. It was great to join together for a day out after such a long time.

We headed off in good time, and on our arrival we were treated to delicious 'coffee and cake', all prepared and served by Thomas Raju. We split into two groups and were taken round the gardens by Thomas McCaw.



Set on a sloping site overlooking Slieve Croob this garden has something for everyone - specimen trees, shrubs, herbaceous borders, woodland walks and a developing alpine bed - topiary hidden in the woodland and beautiful carved deer in a meadow setting. They have also added beehives to take advantage of the profusion of flowering plants and trees. They are also developing a pond area.



The photographs taken during this visit and others are the best way to describe the colourful variety of planting we saw. Thomas assured us that the garden is planned to be colourful at any time of year. Their website and Facebook entries are excellent.

We had to leave too soon but lunch awaited at Montalto which had been organised by our Chairman Gordon. We had a chance to indulge in a little retail therapy in the beautiful shop in preparation for the next part of the trip.

A visit to Saintfield Garden Centre. Trolleys were necessary to hold our purchases from the excellent selection of plants and shrubs and they kindly gave us vouchers to spend. Dirk was seen filling his trolley, he has obviously been bitten by the same plant collecting bug we all have !

We were deposited back into Belfast having enjoyed an excellent, well-run outing. Meeting up with friends again being a large part of the enjoyment. Many thanks to all those involved in the planning and organisation of a great day out, we look forward to the next trip.

Photos taken by William McKelvey & Liam McCaughey



August – Mount Venus Nursery and Hunting Brook

Our last summer visit started off early with a full bus once again safely driven by Dirk who, over many years, is experienced in coping patiently with both passengers and plants on our tours in Ireland and G.B. We were joined on several of our tours this year by members of the Bangor Horticultural Society and it was lovely to meet fellow enthusiasts.

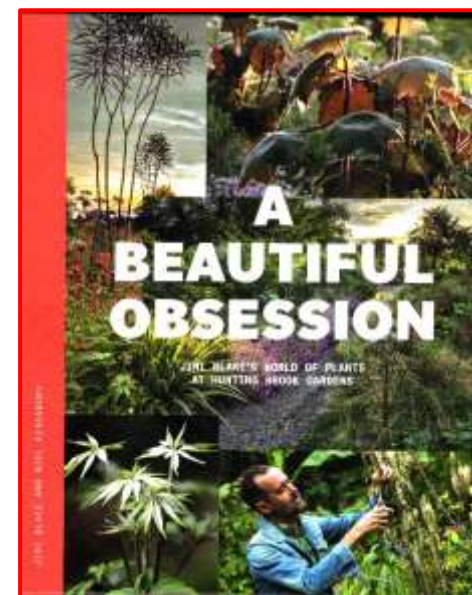
With just a short coffee break, on reaching Mount Venus Nursery we wasted no time and everyone hastily started plant hunting. Described by one writer as 'a smorgasbord of horticultural delights, a place for discerning gardeners,' Oliver Schurmann continues to provide a wide range of rare and choice plants. Both he and his staff coped efficiently with the plant shopping frenzy and soon a busload of satisfied customers left for lunch.



After a scenic drive through Co Wicklow, we reached the pretty town of Blessington, the bus stopping beside a monument to the Earl of Hillsborough, (of Hillsborough Castle) who had inherited the Blessington Estate in the past. With a wide choice of lunch venues we were soon on our way to nearby Hunting Brook.



The garden at Hunting Brook was started in 2002 by Jimi Blake and is perhaps best appreciated by reading Jimi's book 'A Beautiful Obsession'. Welcomed and taken round the garden by Jimi I think most of us were overwhelmed by the colour and range of plants. In late August salvias and dahlias held sway with countless varieties and the large display of aeoniums attracted interest. This is a garden that is full of rare and unusual plants and which also changes with every season and year according to Jimi's inspiration at the time. Our heads were spinning with new plant names and information on them but all too soon we had to say goodbye to Jimi and his dog Doris and make our long way home. We had all enjoyed a day of beautiful weather, fascinating and interesting plants and gardeners, and arrived back tired but happy travellers.



Ulster Group lecture programme 2021 – 2022 -

Getting used to 'Zoom'

For a second winter, we held our lectures virtually, using 'Zoom', which has become a way of life ! Once again, this allowed us to have some excellent speakers from distant parts of the world – something we may think of doing in the future even after we have returned to meeting face-to-face again. But in the meantime, here are a few reminders of the talks which we enjoyed last year. If you missed them, you can still see most on Youtube using the links in blue lettering.

**September John Anderson Alpines on the edge of the Woodland
- the Savill Gardens way.**



Keeper of the Savill Gardens, John Anderson gave the first talk of the programme. There are some challenges for alpinists - the climate is 'warm continental' and quite dry. Alpines are grown in the raised alpine beds, the dry garden and in the alpine meadows which have naturalised *Narcissus bulbocodium*, erythroniums, tulips etc. Things are on a large scale – last year they planted 60,000 bulbs (mainly tulips).

Saxifrages grow in the raised alpine beds, but most struggle with the dry conditions – others manage OK, and on John's wish-list is S. 'Tumbling Waters'. Other plants which do well include succulents such as delosperma, and a favourite is *Tropaeolum polyphyllum* (but a bit invasive). The gardens feature many primulas, mostly candelabra, but one that manages well on the raised bed is *P. heucherifolia*. The beds near woodland are bit cooler so here they can grow soldanella and *Corydalis solida* 'George Baker' for edge of woodland. etc. Other woodland plants which are found in the woodland areas include for example *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Scoliopis bigelovii*.

<https://youtu.be/hqZ4IPzazno>

October Liz Knowles Echoes of Wild Places



Liz and George live in rural Ontario, about 100km north of Toronto, where they tend a magnificent two acre garden. Liz led wildlife tours to wild places for many years, and they have continued to travel in search of alpine flora. (They accompanied us on the Annapurna Trail in 2012). In her talk, she gave us a brief tour of the garden before moving to the wild, beginning with native North-American plants – erythronium, trillium, sanguinaria, cypripedium, and then ranging across the world. Throughout this journey, the theme was to show plants in the wild, often in spectacular settings, and in many cases displayed on the screen along with the same in the garden. Liz is a first-class photographer, and every photo was a prize-winner.

<https://youtu.be/LdGdkaQJUJA>

November Stan da Prato 'Erratic Stan'



Stan da Prato is well known as a very successful exhibitor at SRGC shows, usually taking home lots of 'firsts'. However in this talk he showed his wider interests, which range over pretty well the whole animal as well as the vegetable kingdom - from local birdlife on the Bass Rock, to alpinists on Scottish mountains, to a very wide portfolio of interesting foreign travel. Following early visits to East and South Africa, he ranged over the years from Svalbard in the North, to the Falklands in the South, However now (apart from an expedition to the Himalaya in Ladakh) he is very much involved in conservation, and education in his local community, and of course growing Alpines.

https://youtu.be/0-8e3XMh_sI

December Fionnuala Broughan Kilmacurragh



Taking a break from work as a communications manager, Fionnuala spent a year as a volunteer guide at the Kilmacurragh gardens. In her talk she began by detailing the history – the gardens date back to the 18th century, and were designed in the Dutch Baroque style – that of the Royal Paleis het Loo in Apeldoorn - for the Acton family. We were then treated to a display of the gardens through the year, from Rhododendron in the spring, to leaf-fall in the autumn, illustrated by brilliant photographs – all taken by mobile phone!. She enjoyed her year so much that she is now guiding for another year.

<https://youtu.be/naJThxiWBMw>

January Ray Drew Cypripediums



Ray is well known to us as a judge at shows, but he is a dedicated grower of Cypripediums. These occur across the northern hemisphere, especially in China – the first written description dates back to Gerard's Herbal in 1597. Although difficult in cultivation, they are a favourite at shows, and Ray had a dazzling set of photos from the show-bench. (One of the most dramatic, *C. fargesii*, is the central picture above). A tour of some of the commercial growers who now supply the commercial market was followed by detailed and very helpful advice on growing cypripediums, including fascinating insight into the interaction of the seed with mycorrhizal fungi. A most colourful overview of a challenging genus.

<https://youtu.be/1vKWSlcy3lw>

February Joan & Liam McCaughey A Turkish Crescent



When Covid stopped our planned speaker, Kurt Vickery, from joining us, we imagined a crescent formed from our five visits to Turkey over the years. As well as its rich history, Turkey has a rich flora – 9200 species, which is almost as many as the whole of Europe. Travelling on three occasions with excellent 'Greentours' guides, we managed to see and photograph a fair selection of these. The thumbnail pictures above are some of the highlights – poppies 'the colour of the Turkish flag', as our driver said delightedly, tulips, many different fritillaries, and the highlight of the eastern Lake Van region, the wonderful oncocyclis irises. The lady in the centre is Eve sneaking an apple from the tree of Wisdom, on the Armenian church on Lake Van.

<https://youtu.be/mCwrDuFQx3Q>

March Kevin Hughes Cally Gardens



Kevin had hoped to bring us plants, and speak in Cork, Dublin, and Belfast, but again Covid and Brexit meant a talk by Zoom. In 2018, he bought the famous nursery at Cally Gardens in Gatehouse of Fleet, formerly run by the late Michael Wickenden, and his talk described in fascinating detail his arrival at Cally, and the work of reviving the garden. This has a long history, the surrounding wall dates back to 1780, and it contains one of the greatest collections of herbaceous plants anywhere in the UK. The richly planted beds were very overgrown when he started, but the choice plants are there – he said that it is not a tidy garden, and he doesn't want it to be. Also it is pesticide-free, and thus has had record numbers of insects, and thus bird life, in keeping with Kevin's aim to have a wildlife-friendly garden.

<https://youtu.be/0mQkdEMcizY>

Old Friends in the Garden - by Anne McCaughan

When Joan suggested this as an article, I found myself thinking of plants I have loved, but cannot grow here. Going backwards in time and gardens, here are the plants I miss.



From Canwick in Lincolnshire, *Clematis texensis*, with their lovely little tulip shaped flowers.. There, the soil was light, well drained and limey. We had a walled garden and more sun than here. Any I've planted in Cultra, have disappeared within a year.



From Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire, *Ceratostigma willmottianum*, a most beautiful blue, late summer flowering shrub. I have managed to keep one alive, but as I type this, I've decided it's got to go. It's pathetic performance just makes me regret what I once had.



From West Malvern in Worcestershire, *Linum perenne*, again a beautiful blue. There, our garden was on a gently sloping site, south facing and limey. I was expecting wonders, given that Ulster is flax country! The only place I've seen a field of blue flax is in Cambridgeshire and it is a most beautiful sight. Incidentally, in our Malvern garden, Japanese anemone, which is an absolute thug here, was very well behaved.

Finally, to Westfield New Jersey, where we had our first garden. I fell in love with dogwoods there and I am happy to report that they grow well here too, although the conditions could hardly be more different. It was there that I first saw trilliums, the large white ones, growing wild in the woods. I can grow *Trillium chloropetalum*, but I haven't had any success with the white ones.

In spite of those things I can no longer grow, I think that I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. Our benign moist climate allows us to have such a wide range of plants, that I can't really regret those few that I miss.



Award - RHS Victoria Medal, Brian Duncan MBE

The Victoria Medal of Honour (VMH) is the Royal Horticultural Society's top award to British horticulturalists resident in the UK whom the Society consider deserving of special honour. It was established in 1897 and only 63 horticulturalists can hold the medal at any one time in commemoration of Queen Victoria's sixty-three year reign.



I felt I could not do better and have taken the following commendation from 'The Garden' RHS magazine April 2022.

'Brian Duncan MBE is highly regarded in the world of daffodils having raised more than 800 hybrids and registered 395 between 2001 and 2019. He founded several companies to grow and sell bulbs and continues to raise miniature selections. He was a founding member of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group and, for 47 years, was a member, Chair and Vice Chair of the RHS Bulb Committee.'

Many congratulations to Brian on receiving this well-deserved prestigious award.



This was an award-winning floral art exhibit at a Northern Ireland Daffodil Group Show this year celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

"PRIMULA Scotica" by ROBERT RENDALL

Primula scotica
Though they have named thee,
Thou art of Norway
Far over the foam,
And in the ancient
Isles of the Earldom
Primrose of Orkney,
Makest thy home

Blooming in exile
Far from thy homeland
Starring with beauty
The sea-scented turf
Daylong like distant
Music thou hearest
Sagas Norwegian
Sung by the surf

Not on the corn-clad
Fields of the Mainland
Mapped out and measured
According to plan
Nor in their cattle-filled
Meadows or ploughlands
Thriv'st thou in pastures
Trodden by man;

But where the thundering
Waves of the ocean
Echo the war-cry
Of Einar and Swayn
High on the cliff-top
Spell-bound thou standest
Silently dreaming
Of Thorfinn's domain.

Haunting the headlands
And sea-links of Westray,
Perched on the cliff-tops
Of Sandwick and Skail
Dost thou in daydreams
Glimpse, as in old times
Dragon-prowed vessels
Voyaging sail ?

Still on the mind's high
Clifflands surviving
Blossom the glories
Of Rognvald's great name;
Still do the silent
Hearts of the Northmen
Proudly remember
Magnus' bright fame.

Primrose of Orkney !
From the great sea-cliffs
Far o'er the islands
Scatter thy seed,
Bid them awaken
Men like the Vikings
Mighty in singing
And doughty in deed,



Mac Dunlop sent me this poem which his wife Mary had found in an old Orkney book belonging to her mother. The author was a poet and naturalist who lived in Orkney at the beginning of the 20th century. However *Primula scotica* is a rare endemic of the British Isles growing only in the very north of Scotland and differs from *P. scandinavica*. I have seen it in Orkney (the photograph shown was taken there) and have grown it, one of the prettiest small primulas and not difficult to grow.

Speakers

September – Richard Green

Richard Green is a retired chartered accountant, and now Treasurer of the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

As a keen walker, Richard is interested in seeing plants in the wild. He has botanised in many mountain ranges in Europe, including the Picos, Pyrenees, Dolomites and Alps. He has visited the Atlas in Morocco, and both the Rockies and the Andes in the Americas. Further afield he has looked for, and photographed plants in New Zealand and western China.



October – Ger van den Beuken

Ger runs a small nursery specializing in rare alpine plants in the Netherlands. His interest in alpine plants started about 35 years ago, during his first treks in the mountains. He particularly focused on the high alpine vegetation such as Saxifraga, Androsace, Dionysia and Daphne. However, growing alpine plants in the lowlands of the Netherlands presented many challenges. Ger and his wife Mariet have travelled extensively in Europe, North and South America, China, New Zealand, and Turkey to see plants in the wild. We met them some years ago when he led us on a very successful trip to the high Andes in Mendoza, Argentina. He has recently been President of the Dutch Alpine Garden Society.



November – Tim Ingram

Tim and his wife Gillian garden and run a small nursery (Copton Ash), in Faversham Kent. They are currently renovating and replanting their garden, which was a field 40 years ago – the Ulster Group visited them on their coach trip to Kent – twenty years ago !! Tim was brought up with a keen interest in plants. His first patch was a raised rock garden as a teenager. He spent his early adulthood in academia working on plant hormones. Six months of this were spent in Tasmania where he took the opportunity to explore the wilds. Then he started a nursery at Copton Ash. He grew a wide range of plants including those from the Southern Hemisphere, but more recently they have focussed on Alpines, perennials for drier gardens and woodland plants.



January - Ben and Paddy Parmee.

Ben and Paddy are real enthusiasts, whose garden in Hampshire is on a steep slope, and has something of everything (but no grass). A stream runs through, and there is a pond with wildlife. Paddy writes "Whilst we tend to describe it as an alpine garden, because that is my passion, it has become so much more. Within our approximately 700 square metres, which is not a large space, we have created planting that would befit any garden. It is neither formal nor chaotic yet it houses alpine, woodland, borders, vegetables, planting under glass and in pots and containers. It is a dry garden in places and at the same time wet and boggy"



February – Kurt Vickery

Kurt is one of the very experienced guides with Greentours. He is also a freelance photographer whose childhood experiences in Malaysia awakened his interest in the natural world. Exploring Europe, Iran and Kazakhstan (He is just back from seeing the tulips there in the Tien Shan) have broadened his knowledge in recent years. A keen lepidopterist and birdwatcher, his main interest is bulbous plants, with a particular passion for Tulips. He maintains a fine collection of bulbs under glass and has a seed-list. In a former life he trained professionally as a chef and maintains his skills by regularly cooking for his family and friends at his home in Somerset. We met Kurt in the Peloponnese back in 2018 – a very interesting trip.



March – Claire McNally

Claire should need no introduction – a member of our Ulster Group Committee, and well known to all of us. After developing a passion for plants, she trained in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin and then worked at Airfield Gardens in Dublin, before moving north to become Head Gardener in Rowallane. She is interested in history, and will introduce us to Hugh Armytage Moore, who transformed the gardens at Rowallane in the first decade of the last century.



Obituaries 2021 -2022

Over the past year we have lost members and friends of the Ulster Group who all played an invaluable role in our society both locally and in a wider field. The short lines written here seem very inadequate but may serve to remind us of 'the friends we have met on the way that we went'. We send our sincere condolences to all their families.

George Demetrius Sevastopulo 1941- September 2021

What a privilege it was to have known George Sevastopulo, Professor of Geology and Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, Member of the Royal Irish Academy, and I don't think he would have minded me describing him as a rock to the Dublin Alpine Garden Society, a member for thirty-five years and more recently in the Ulster Group. George was indeed a polymath with an encyclopaedic knowledge in so many fields, described by both students and colleagues as an outstanding lecturer in geology but we all knew him in the world of alpinists.

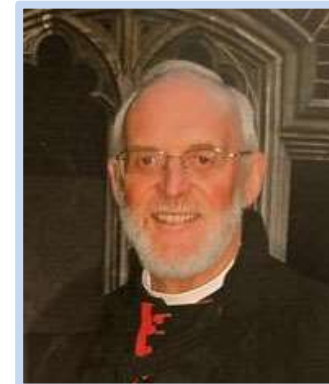


Whether giving a talk, auctioning plants at Termonfeckin, leading a tour of the Burren, demonstrating troughs at Cabinteely, or over a cup of coffee, George was always great company and you came away having learnt something new.

The Palaeontological Laboratory in Trinity is being renamed in his honour and these few words only give an indication of the stature of the man whose reach was global. As another tribute said 'He will long remain close to the hearts of those whose lives he touched.' As we all left the celebration service for his life the theme music of Jurassic Park rang out and I thought only George could bring a smile to everyone as we said our last goodbye. He will be missed.

Rev. Dr. R.J. Gordon Gray 1935 - December 2021

Over many years Gordon, a keen photographer himself, attended many of our Shows to judge the Photographic Competitions. He worked quietly in the background writing a short constructive critique on every entry which was useful to all participants. We all got to know Gordon better when he married Pat Crossley, our long-standing Show Secretary. However Gordon was more widely known as a minister in the Church with a lifetime commitment to fostering inter-church relationships both in Ireland and internationally. Even at risk to his life he kept his broad vision for the church and, both in Northern Ireland and further afield, we are all the poorer for his loss.



Gwen McBride 1937 - March 2022

In March this year friends and relatives gathered at the lovely little church at Eglantine to pay tribute to Gwen McBride who had passed peacefully away after a long illness. As members of the A.G.S, both local and indeed from all over the world, paid visits to Harold's wonderful collection of alpinists Gwen was always there to welcome them. You were never allowed to leave without being revived with tea or coffee accompanied by biscuits and scones. There was never any sense of hurry and yet Gwen was also a full-time teacher as well as organist and choir leader in All Saints' Parish Church. We remember Gwen as a lovely gracious lady and we will never forget that warm welcoming smile.



Helen Lorimer 1935 - May 2022

While not a member of the Ulster Group many of us will have spoken over the phone to Helen so many times when trying to contact our President, Kay, that we felt we knew her. Over the years her patience and helpfulness in taking messages for her sister must have been an invaluable support. Helen's values of family, faith, friends mixed with a little fun are so needed in our communities today and our sympathy goes to Kay and the family circle.

Shows

It was doubtful until the very last moment whether the Ulster Group would have a Show this year but with 43 years of experience Pat Crossley worked tirelessly to ensure that it took place. Not only had she to cope with both personal injury and the recent death of Gordon, her husband, but Pat also had to find a new venue as Greenmount was still out of bounds. Thanks to her determination our annual Show took place in St Bride's Hall, Belfast on the 9th April this year. With a new venue and catering limited to 'workers' such as judges it was a smaller show than usual but, as Pat said, it had a happy atmosphere. Our thanks and congratulations to her for getting it all together, and also our thanks to the Dublin AGS who gave us such great support both by exhibiting and attending.

The Dublin Show took place at the end of the month in its usual venue at Cabinteely and I was impressed by the number of outside visitors. Both the afternoon teas and plant stalls seemed an added attraction to visitors as well as the plants on exhibition.

All the award-winning plants at both shows can be seen on both the AGS and local Groups web sites.

Slug Deterrent

I had a request to repeat the recipe for a slug deterrent, especially on hostas. There are many similar versions of this on the internet – even commercial ones – but apparently the secret is to continue to apply the solution **weekly**. Ian Scroggy of Bali-Hai Nursery is a well-known expert on hostas and I am sure he could give the best advice.

'Take 2 bulbs of garlic and boil in 2 pints of water for approximately 20 minutes. Dilute 1 tablespoonful of this solution in 1 gallon of water and pour over hostas'.



AGS Ulster Group Show, April 2022

(for more pictures, see the website)



Information and Committee

Many thanks to all the committee members who carried on over the two difficult years of Covid. As the AGM, when new committee members are elected, takes place in September and our Programme Card and Newsletter are printed before then, all committee names are not on the card except for Anne McCaughan who takes over as the new Hon. Secretary.

Information

Information similar to last year correct at time of going to press but please keep in touch with emails as situations can change rapidly in present times

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

(N.B. except for October Meeting – see card)

Dues - Local current subscription rates are **£15.00** single, **£20.00** 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.

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 (also see below). 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.



GDPR

With the introduction of the GDPR (*General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)2017*), organisations, including ourselves, are required to have specific permission from members to hold their information. You will therefore be asked when you renew your membership of the Group, to agree (or not) that this information is held, for the purpose of informing you of Group and related events.

A fuller statement on the Group and GDPR was included in the 2020 Newsletter. If you do not wish your personal information to be held by the Society please inform the Honorary Secretary or our Data Protection Lead member of the Committee, who will arrange for it to be removed from our administration files.

Web

Programmes and Newsletters can all be found on the website where 'Plant of the Month' is also 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.

(William and Hilary McKelvey's' garden is on Facebook as "The Model Garden")

Programme 2022 – 2023

At last, after two years of lockdown and living in a bubble, we are able to meet together in person. We are back in St Brides, except for the October talk.

Most of our members are keen to meet up in person, but a few remain cautious or cannot get to the meeting on the day, so we will hope to run 'hybrid' meetings with a live audience as well as those at home being able to join using 'Zoom'. However hybrid meetings are notoriously prone to technical problems, so we will keep fingers crossed for success.

Programme 2022 – 2023

2022

September 17th **Richard Green** Balfour Station, Glasgow

“China – Away from the Crowds”

Annual General Meeting

October 15th Ger van den Beuken Horst, Netherlands

“Best Plants of My Life”

November 12th Tim Ingram Faversham, Kent

“Gardening on Rocks”

November 25th – 27th

Termonfeckin Weekend – Dublin Group.

December 17th Christmas Miscellany

2023

January 21st **Ben and Paddy Parmee** Chandlers Ford, Hampshire

"A Year in a Hampshire Garden"

February 18th **Kurt Vickery** Winscombe, Somerset

“Highlights of a Decade Tour Guiding”

February 25th **Snowdrop Day and Luncheon**

March 18th Claire McNally Downpatrick

“Hugh’s Rock Garden at Rowallane”

Members' Show

April 1st **AGS Dublin Group Show, Cabinteely, Dublin 18**

April 22nd **AGS Ulster Group Show, St Bride's**