

Speakers for the coming year –

We have, as usual, a carefully chosen list of very good speakers coming from all over the British Isles, speaking on a wide range of topics of interest to Alpine Gardeners. Here is some more information on each of them so please do tell your friends and neighbours and feel free to invite them along – they will not be disappointed and it's no use telling them after the talk is over!

September – **Ian Young** from Aberdeen will start our season. He and his wife Maggi really need no introduction. Maggi moderates the SRGC Forum, while Ian's weekly bulblog is essential reading. He is also an accomplished artist, with an environmental aspect to much of his work, and a collector of tribal masks !



October – We first met **Joanne Ryan** (then Everson) on an AGS trip to Oregon many years ago when she was a student at Kew. Then in 2012, we joined Joanne and her partner and now husband, Chris, on the long trek up the Marsyangdi valley in the Annapurna Himalaya. She spent fifteen years in charge of redesigning and building Kew's magnificent rock garden, the subject of this talk, and also was in charge of the AGS Merlin applications.



November – and **Assumpta Broomfield** will give her intriguingly titled talk. Knowing that she is an obsessive galanthophile will give a clue to what she will be speaking about. But this will be a fascinating mix of history, personalities and of course flowers. Those who heard her at the Carlow Snowdrop Gala know how entertaining a speaker she is.



December – our own **Don Patterson** will take us to the gardens of the South-West of England. Don, an enthusiastic and capable gardener is well known to us all. He is a stalwart of the Bangor Horticultural Society as well as of our Group.



2020

January - **Julia Corden** has a wide portfolio, being Garden Manager of the Explorers Garden at Pitlochry, leader of many flower-hunting expeditions to the mountains of the world, and is currently President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club. She would like to tell us a bit about the SRGC, and will also give a wide-ranging talk about places she has been, flowers she has seen and interesting people she has met.



February – Derry Watkins beautiful garden, the ‘Special Plants Nursery’, near Bath was visited by the Ulster Group a few years ago, and lots of plants were purchased.. She has introduced many plants from her plant collecting trips to South Africa and elsewhere, so has an extensive plantlist. She will be speaking to us about one of her trips, to the mountains of Kyrgystan, which she terms the ‘Switzerland of Asia’



Annual Luncheon – Mark Smyth – our after-lunch speaker will be Mark, former member of the Group, and still an enthusiastic grower, especially of bulbs, and with a wide interest in nature.



March – Kevin Hughes, who in 2018 moved from the South of England to take over the famous Cally Gardens in Gatehouse of Fleet will be bringing plants ! He too has travelled widely, and will be speaking about many of the unusual plants which he and his predecessor at Cally, the late Michael Wickenden have introduced – currently over 4,000 rare and unusual species and varieties

