

Some Irish Snowdrops by Paddy Tobin

The cold snap of early December left the garden under snow for ten days, a blanket which covered all and hid a few gems, those little treasures of the garden which bring interest to the shortest days of the year and assure us that the seasons are on the turn with spring just round the corner. I refer, of course, to the early snowdrops, those darlings which brave the worst of the year's weather to bring interest to otherwise quite bare gardens. I find that, with the heavy soil of my garden, *Galanthus reginae olgae* and its cultivars do not do well here and, while I am contemplating growing some in pots in an unheated glasshouse, I am simply giving up on them in the open garden. Friends in the U.K. and on the continent have reported flowering *Galanthus reginae olgae* as early as late October, giving them a very early start to the snowdrop season. Hearing from others of the early flowering snowdrops serves to heighten the anticipation for the first to flower here.

Galanthus elwesii monostictus, *G. elwesii* Hiemalis Group and *G. elwesii* Hiemalis Group 'Barnes' normally provide the first main flush of snowdrops here though *G. elwesii* 'Peter Gatehouse' was first to flower this season. I have a special fondness for *G. elwesii monostictus* as it was the first snowdrop I grew from seed, received from the I.G.P.S. seedlist as *G. caucasicus* many years ago. There is, however, another which is watched for with great anticipation each year, a particular favourite because it is of Irish origin, found and named by Dr. Keith Lamb. This is *Galanthus* 'Castlegar'. Keith wrote to me some years back, "In 1985, Sir George and Lady



Mahon took us to see their old home in Castlegar. It was not a horticultural trip but when I looked out the window I saw snowdrops in flower under a tree and I was given a few bulbs. A year or two later Ruby and David Baker were here and were intrigued by such an early snowdrop. They took specimens to a meeting of snowdrop enthusiasts in

England. They wrote back to say that no one knew what it was and that it should be named, hence the name, 'Castlegar'." We have grown *G. 'Castlegar'* since 2004 and it has reliably flowered before Christmas each year, the first of our Irish snowdrops to bloom, a beauty and a treasure.

Although we grow quite a number of different snowdrops in the garden, it is the Irish snowdrops which hold a particular interest for us and are the ones most treasured. In this article, I will comment on some Irish snowdrops and, who knows, you may catch

the bug. Be warned, they are delightful plants and, once smitten, it is very difficult not to become addicted to them. Also, you should be warned that this is a wander through some Irish snowdrops. I have not organised them into any particular order but have written of them as they have come to mind, a wandering disorganised mind.

If you are interested in Irish snowdrops, a read of the entries in “A Heritage of Beauty” by Dr. E. Charles Nelson would be an excellent place to start. Another outstanding source of information is “Snowdrops, A Monograph of Cultivated *Galanthus*” by Matt Bishop, Aaron Davis and John Grimshaw. I have used both sources to inform and guide my writing below and thank the authors for their work.

Undoubtedly, the champion of Irish snowdrops is *Galanthus* ‘Straffan’, a plant



treasured by gardeners abroad as well as at home. It is one of the oldest of snowdrop cultivars. It was originally noticed at Straffan House, Straffan, Co. Kildare and, to quote from “A Heritage of Beauty” is “now regarded as a hybrid between *G. plicatus* (originally brought from the Crimea by Major Eyre Massey, presumably towards the end of the Crimean War in the early 1850s) and *G. nivalis*.” Frederick Bedford was the gardener at Straffan House and he is credited with tending the bulbs and distributing them. It has a rare habit among snowdrops which gives a spread of ‘Straffan’ a wonderful appearance in the garden. Each bulb produces a secondary flower a little later

than the first so that the display is quite a long one. As *G.* ‘Straffan’ has been with us such a long time, and passed around to many gardens, it is no wonder that other names have been attached to it over the years and *G.* ‘Coolballintaggart’ and ‘The O’Mahony’ are indistinguishable from *G.* ‘Straffan’. I have no doubt but that other names have been attached also. I grow a snowdrop, received from Bob Gordon, which he calls “Jenny Scott’s Straffan”. This is identical in appearance to *G.* ‘Straffan’ but flowers a fortnight earlier. I suppose it extends the ‘Straffan’ season.

G. ‘Hill Poe’ is another of my favourite Irish snowdrops, what one might describe as a dote of a plant. It is a double snowdrop, usually with five outer segments and approximately twenty inner segments and these are perfectly regular, so neatly and so tidily arranged that it is a little jewel. It is certainly one of the finest of all the double snowdrops, a late season flower, small in stature and deserves to be placed in a choice position where it can be admired. It arose in the garden of James Hill Poe at Riverston, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary around 1911. I have heard gardeners comment that it could be

sometimes difficult to “get it going” in the garden but I have not found that to be the case. It is a small snowdrop and will never make a big impact as a garden plant but it is one of great beauty and worth the effort. I have found it not the quickest to bulk up but, nonetheless, it does so at a reasonable rate.



Similarly small in stature and deserving of special attention is *G. ikariae* ‘Emerald Isle’ which was discovered by Megan Morris at Drew’s Court in Co. Limerick. She recognised that *G. ikariae* with green-flushed outer segments was something special and collected some bulbs. She shared bulbs with Dr. E. Charles Nelson and it passed



on to other snowdrop enthusiasts. Unfortunately, many complain that it is a difficult snowdrop to keep going in the garden and I have found it very slow to increase. Willie Reardon has told me that it continues not only to grow but to thrive at Drew’s Court at the base of a field ditch where, in the company of briers and other field wildflowers, it has spread to about thirty metres. In this location it is dry and baked in the summer and, perhaps, this is something we might try to replicate in the garden. We began here with one bulb in 2002 and had seven flowers last year; certainly not a good rate of increase but it is lovely. I do realise I grow it in

deepest shade, apparently not the most suitable conditions but I am loath to disturb the bulbs for fear of losing them. A reason for hope is that it is a clonal variety and comes true from seed. With permission, Willie Reardon has collected seed from the plants at Drew’s Court and these are approaching flowering size now so we will soon know how well these seed-grown bulbs do in the garden. Yes, it can be a bit of a bother but it is certainly worth it.

Galanthus 'Brenda Troyle' has been a cause of puzzlement and confusion as it has



been impossible to confirm its origins though there is a general acceptance that it originated in Ireland and it is usually commented that a Brenda Troyle worked at Kilmacurragh in Co. Wicklow though, despite research, Dr. E. Charles Nelson has been unable to confirm this. It is not one of the most spectacular snowdrops; rather one of the good, reliable ones which will give a good display in the garden being of good size and bulking up well. It is quite similar to that great snowdrop, *G.* 'S. Arnott', and this alone would be recommendation enough to grow it. I have certainly found it one of those reliable and

appreciated plants in the garden.

While Brenda Troyle has proven to be an elusive character, there are few in Irish



gardening circles who have not heard of David Shackleton and his wonderful garden at Beech Park, Clonsilla, Co. Dublin and I like the idea of remembering somebody with a plant. There are certainly doubts about the origins of this plant as David Shackleton scoffed at the idea that it had come from his garden. However, his name has become attached to this particular snowdrop and I think it is fair to say it is a fine one to carry his name. It flowers late in the season with pristine clear flowers which have an olive-green marking on the inner segment as well as a distinctly olive-green ovary. The whole plant, foliage and flower stalk, has an eye-catching upright habit, as I imagine

David Shackleton would have carried himself.

For many years there has been one garden in Ireland which snowdrop enthusiasts have always sought to visit. This was to view the wonderful collection of Mrs. Cicely Hall and her son, Robin, at Primrose Hill, Lucan, Co. Dublin. Between them they have raised many excellent snowdrops from seed but have shown admirable reluctance to apply a name to any snowdrop which has not stood the test of time or has not been tried in other gardens by fellow enthusiasts. Mrs. Hall regularly gave visitors some of

her “Primrose Hill Specials” which was her humorous name for her seedlings and



never intended as an actual name for any of her snowdrops though now it has been applied by some to bulbs received from her or passed on from those who originally received them. In gardening, as in other areas of life, persistence is rewarded and one of these seedlings which arose in Primrose Hill has proved to be an exceptional plant, a snowdrop of true beauty and stature and one worthy to carry Mrs. Hall’s name. *G. ‘Cicely Hall’* is a strong, large, late-season snowdrop with almost completely green inner segments. It is similar in appearance to *G. ‘Merlin’* though of greater substance. Robin Hall would comment, with a great deal of justification, I believe, that it is the best of all Irish snowdrops. It is certainly a wonderful plant and

recalls a wonderful Irish gardener and garden.

In the spring of 2010 a *G. ‘The Whopper’* was offered for sale for the first time. It seems, without doubt, to be a bulb which originated at Primrose Hill and, indeed, the



name is one which had been used by Mrs. Hall as a nickname for her large ‘Merlin’-like snowdrops. Some snowdrops from Primrose Hill were passed around under the name of “Whopper” in previous years and it is unfortunate that the name has now been applied to this plant as it is likely to lead to confusion as there are several “Whoppers” in circulation. Dr. Keith Lamb has told me he has been growing “Whopper” since 1989, for example. However, once a name has been put into print and the bulb put into circulation under this name, it is impossible to turn back the clock. In the garden, it is very similar in appearance to *G.*

‘Cicely Hall’ but is a taller plant, with a smaller flower and is generally more lax and floppy in growth habit. I think Mrs. Hall and Robin would have gladly given it to visitors to the garden as a good plant, even a “Primrose Hill Special” but I don’t think they would have put a name to it.

Robin Hall has told me of four snowdrops which he has named and which, unfortunately, I don’t have in the garden. *G. elwesii* ‘Robin Hall’ is described in the “Snowdrops” monograph as a late flowering *Galanthus elwesii monostictus* with very

large well-shaped flowers. It has wide, arching silvery grey leaves and it reputed to bulk up well to produce floriferous clumps in the garden. It arose as a seedling at Primrose Hill in the early 1970s. Robin spotted *G.* 'Mary Hely-Hutchinson' in the garden of Mrs. Mary Hely-Hutchinson in Malahide, received some bulbs and distributed it to friends. It is the earliest flowering cultivar of *G. plicatus*, which makes it an interesting addition to any collection. Robin believes it possible the bulbs may have originated at the Trinity Botanic Gardens. Robin named another snowdrop after family friend Mary O'Brien, *G.* 'Mary O'Brien'. It arose as a seedling at Primrose Hill and Robin described it to me as having "a green mark up the tube of the flower". I must visit for a more detailed description and photograph. Robin has told me that unfortunately these two snowdrops do not enjoy heavy wet soils and are proving somewhat weak in growth.

Robin also named an *elwesii* x *gracilis* hybrid after a friend and fellow snowdrop enthusiast, Ruby Baker. As I have said, I haven't it to hand but have a photograph of a pot shown by Dr. Ronald Mc Kenzie at the London RHS Show in February, 2008. Comments from friends growing this plant are that, while not spectacular, it is an excellent garden plant and certainly one worth growing. The photograph is from a friend, John Finch.



David and Ruby Baker have been regular visitors to Ireland, particularly during the snowdrop season. On one such visit in 1995 they wandered off the beaten path and became lost somewhere in Co. Kildare. They stopped at what looked like the remains of a gatehouse and found several different snowdrops in the derelict garden. One was a fine tall snowdrop with green on the outer segments and this they later named, *G.* 'Kildare'. It is a large-flowered snowdrop, noticeably upright in habit and often producing a second scape. The outer segments are long and slim with thin green lines along the veins. By the way, this green marking on the outer segments has become very popular with snowdrop enthusiasts; there are some snowdrops which are almost completely green, something which does rather



contradict our common perception of what a snowdrop looks like. I am grateful to a friend in Germany for my bulbs of 'Kildare'. Fortunately, it seems to be a good doer in the garden and I have been able to pass on a bulb to Paul Cutler and hopefully, between us we will be able to bulk it up.

As I am rambling along, mention of Altamont Gardens brings to mind two snowdrops from the garden. *G.* 'Skyward' is a large sized *elwesii* with excellent glaucous foliage, wide and striking. It is a tall plant, up to 30cm, and carries its flowers well.



I first saw it in the gardens labelled as *G.* "JR". Paul recounted that the bulbs had come from Helen Dillon and had got the impression from Helen that there was some connection with the Co. Meath gardener, Jim Reynolds. On enquiring of Jim, Paul was told that he had never had such a snowdrop and didn't know anything about it. Paul decided to give it the name 'Skyward' as it is very tall and upright in growth and holds its flowers well above the foliage. Paul gave me some bulbs in 2007 but they declined over the following years and the clump which Paul lifted, divided and replanted also dwindled afterwards so it may not be one which will thrive, unfortunately. There is, as well, a form of *G. elwesii* which grows at Altamont, plants which Mrs. Corona North built up over her years in the garden, which is a wonderful snowdrop with excellent glaucous foliage and a good constitution and it makes an excellent garden plant.

More promising, as a good garden snowdrop, is *G.* 'Green Lantern', a strong growing form of *G. plicatus* with strong green marking at the apex of the outer segments. Again, it has very attractive glaucous foliage, tall and broad, while the flowers are held nicely above the foliage. It makes a very striking garden plant. Paul Cutler had hoped to name this snowdrop to link it clearly with Mrs. North but, after some



were its correct name.

Another Co. Carlow snowdrop is *G.* ‘Drummond’s Giant’. Mrs. Stasia O Neill, of Ballon, Co. Carlow gave me the story of this plant. She bought a pot of six bulbs at Christmas 1958 at Drummond’s garden shop in Pembroke, Carlow. When they died back she planted them out in the garden under a large spruce where they remained for about fifteen years before she transplanted them to a better position. Here they flourished and increased well and started to flower in January/February of each year. Mrs. O Neill gave some bulbs to Mrs. North at Altamont and they were distributed from there; at times even being called



after Mrs. North – such are the ways in which confusion over names arises. *G.* ‘Drummond’s Giant’ is a fine form of *G. elwesii*, a fine big plant which performs well in the garden. The flowers are somewhat chunky, the petals having a thick texture, the ovary somewhat large for the overall size of the flower and the marking on the inner segments a strong green. It is treasured here as a relatively local snowdrop associated with a generous gardener.

I shall, rather abruptly, bring this article to a close, hoping you have found my ramblings about some Irish snowdrops of interest and that it will, perhaps, prompt you

research, had to decide against it. There are, apparently, a number of snowdrops bearing Mrs. North name already in circulation; probably various *G. elwesii* from the garden to which the recipients attached Mrs. North’s name, as is the way with gardeners. We all have plants with the names of friends attached, which is fine until they begin to be distributed under that name, as though that name

to take an interest in these wonderful plants. If you know of any other Irish snowdrops I would be delighted to hear from you. More on Irish snowdrops in April.

Drop me a line at pmtobin@eircom.net with any comments or information.

Some More Irish Snowdrops by Paddy Tobin

After the article in the January issue I was delighted to receive correspondence with clarification and further information on some of the snowdrops. Verney Naylor gave me further background information on the snowdrop I called “Jenny Scott’s Straffan”. Jenny Scott and Verney were old school friends and it was Verney who passed this snowdrop on to Jenny, and Jenny’s name became attached when she passed it to Bob Gordon. Verney recalls buying a small pot of a snowdrop labelled as “Straffan” at a charity plant sale in Kilruddery. She grew it on and it thrived, usually producing two stems from each bulb as is typical of ‘Straffan’ yet she felt it came into flower too early to be the true ‘Straffan’. Verney concludes with the best recommendation of this snowdrop: *“Whatever about its background - it is certainly one of my very best performing snowdrops!”*

Paul Cutler, of Altamont Gardens, forwarded correction and clarification on the Altamont snowdrops: While I referred to G. ‘Skyward’, Paul told me that they *“label it G. elwesii ‘Skyward’, because it does appear to be just an unusually tall form of the pure species.”* Also, I omitted the final “s” in G. elwesii ‘Drummond’s Giant’ – of such small things are the taxonomists nightmares made but, as Paul pointed out, this snowdrop has always been known as ‘Drummond’s Giant’, after the shop of that name.

G. ‘Green Lantern’ isn’t an elwesii as I had mentioned. Paul wrote, *“It could well have hybrid origin, which is why we don’t put a species name on it, but its characters are plicatus more strongly than anything else. It has plicate leaves and the double inner perianth green marks make me wonder if it could have G. plicatus subsp. byzantinus in it. One of the things that makes ‘Green Lantern’ so valuable is that green tipped plicatus snowdrops are rarer than green tipped elwesiiis.”*

Many thanks to Verney and Paul for taking the time to contact me with this further information; it all helps to build up a fuller and more accurate record of Irish snowdrops. I should mention that Paul and staff at Altamont Gardens had yet another very successful “Snowdrop Week” at the gardens this year. This event really has gone from strength to strength, reflecting the increased interest among gardeners in snowdrops and, also, the wonderful work at the gardens in Altamont.

Now, on to some more Irish snowdrops. Plants passed on from well-known and well-loved gardeners are always treasured for their association with them and it is well to



record and remember these connections as they add greatly to the plants and also help ensure that they will continue to be grown and appreciated in our gardens. Let me tell you of snowdrops associated with two well-regarded and



well-loved Irish ladies. Janet Costello, of Sandymount in Dublin, was first to alert me to a snowdrop she and others grew which they had received from Lady Anita Ainsworth who, when widowed, lived at Aubrey Park, Shankhill, Dublin and was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardener as well as being, I am told, an excellent cook who loved entertaining and whose entertaining was greatly enjoyed by her circle of friends. Robin Hall remembers her as “a great friend of my mother, an expert on roses, a good and generous gardener.” Janet Costello recalled being given “a late-flowering snowdrop” in the late ‘80s as “Anita’s Snowdrop”. She passed it to other friends. It is sometimes referred to as “G. Lady Ainsworth” and as you can see from the photographs it is an interesting snowdrop, a good size, nicely marked on the inner segments and has an unusual and attractive puckering on the outer segments. The bulbs I received from Janet Costello did well for two years before an attack from Narcissus fly but they are recovering well and it is a snowdrop I am very fond of, a good plant, associated with a wonderful gardener.



A number of years ago Robert Millar, at Altamont Gardens, was selling a snowdrop labelled as “ex Rita Rutherford” and mentioned that he believed it had some connection with Lady Moore. I wrote to Miss Rutherford and received the most wonderful reply. At the beginning of the war she was with her mother at the Mansion House attending a “Sale of Work” in aid of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen’s Families Association. They met with Lady Moore on the steps of the Mansion

House and “Lady Moore asked my mother if she had the snowdrop which was in her basket, as she (Lady Moore) thought it was worth growing and would do well in our garden. Mum was delighted and was given bulbs (which were paid for when we all got to our stall.) They were planted in our garden at Elmfield away from the other snowdrops and did very well.” “Elmfield” had to be sold and Miss Rutherford moved to Kilternan but “brought as much as I could from my old home, and all the Lady Moore snowdrops I planted under a big pear tree where they have been since 1967.” You can imagine how delighted, grateful and privileged I felt when Miss Rutherford invited me to visit and have some of these snowdrops. I treasure them for the memory of both ladies associated in my mind with them. I am now most fortunate, through Miss Rutherford’s kindness, to be able to continue to keep this snowdrop in cultivation and to be able to distribute it to other enthusiasts.

Over the last few years, Oliver Schurmann of Mount Venus Nursery in Rathfarnham,



Dublin, has listed *Galanthus* ‘Woodtown’ on his plant list. Oliver told me that he had received the bulbs from Eithne Clarke who had rescued bulbs from Woodtown Park, Rathfarham before redevelopment. Oliver told me that, to the best of his knowledge, a gentleman named, J.B. Jackson introduced snowdrops to Woodtown Park about thirty years ago and he expects these snowdrops are from this planting. I received some bulbs from Oliver in 2008 and have found that, even in the two seasons that I have grown it, they have multiplied very satisfactorily and, also, that this is a very garden-worthy plant quickly forming a nice clump

and standing over 30cm tall. In the garden it is an obviously big plant which catches the eye, big flowers with a strong apical mark on inner segments with two long and fainter basal marks.

Helen Dillon has singled out a variation of *G. nivalis* in her own garden which has done particularly well for her, referring to it as her “good one”. It has been passed around under the name, “45 Sandford Road” but Helen would be the first to state that it is not a particularly different snowdrop and she would be loath to put a name to it but I have found it a good snowdrop in the garden, notable for its vigour and the speed with which it forms a clump. Some snowdrops will be treasured for their associations and as a reminder of the generosity of the person who gave them to you rather than for any intrinsic beauty or individuality of their own. Such is the way in my garden with “Helen’s Good One”, as I label it.



G. 'Irish Green', on the other hand, is certainly a run-of-the-mill *nivalis*, being one of the so called "spiky" snowdrops. It was found by Ruby and David Baker near Ballintaggart, Co.

Wicklow in 1994. The inner segments twist and curl back on themselves in a very irregular arrangement. The outer segments, generally numbering three to five, are narrow and the pale green colouring can vary to extend over the

entire segments or may be completely absent. It is a very variable plant. It is a peculiarity, hardly a beauty but of some interest.

Margaret Glynn in Ballymena has been collecting snowdrops for many years and has a



lovely selection in the garden. Quite a few years back, Dr. Molly Sanderson was visiting and, as they walked the garden, she took note of one snowdrop which was quite distinct, a double snowdrop with very deep green colouration. I have found the number of inner segments can vary somewhat from year to year so that it is a far more doubled flower in some years than in others. In these years, the strong green of the

inner segments is particularly apparent and attractive. It is also one which has done quite well for me and has made a good healthy clump over a short number of years.

Another snowdrop enthusiast in Northern Ireland is Mark Smyth. Mark has put his



name to a foundling from an old garden in Co. Antrim, notable for its height, and he calls it "Mark's Tall". It does indeed live up to its name reaching to over 30cm at flowering time. Mark reckons it is a *nivalis* x *plicatus* cross and describes it as very scented. It has an olive green ovary with an inverted heart marking on the inner segment reaching to just short of mid-way to the base. I have found it a good plant in

the garden and, with its height, good to plant to the back of a bed.



Harold McBride seems to have always taken a particular interest and joy in the propagation of plants and especially in seeking out new varieties through a programme of cross-pollination of plants in his garden. Although Snowdrops have been just one area of interest for him he has produced a number of them which are very promising and which should, we hope, be further distributed in coming years as numbers bulk up. The first of his

snowdrops which Harold sent on to me was not from his seed-growing at all but one he had found in 1998 in the 400 year old graveyard at Blaris, Co. Down, where his parents are buried. It is somewhat similar to *G.* 'Straffan' in appearance though quite larger, more vigorous and earlier flowering and is an excellent snowdrop for the garden. It is not dramatically distinct in appearance but has what is lacking in many of the snowdrops being named nowadays and that is good health and vigour and an easy to please and easy to grow snowdrop.

There was an excitement in the snowdrop world when snowdrops with good strong green markings on the outer segments came into distribution. *G.* 'Southhayes' and *G.* 'Trym'; were two of the most notable of these and *G.* 'Trym' has proved to be a good seed producing snowdrop and many of its seedlings have been named. Harold has given one the very appropriate and clever name of 'Antrym'. I haven't seen this one in the flesh to date as Harold is still bulking it up but, from his comments, it promises to be worth having in due course. Harold also has one which he has named 'Heart's Desire', another of these with good outer segment markings and this also promises to be a good one. We must wait for it to build up a little. One which Harold sent me last



year and which flowered this year and which has really taken my fancy is *G.* 'Waverley Aristocrat'. I think it's a promising sign of a plant if the breeder is willing to put his name to it or a name which identifies him. In this case, Harold used his street name for the snowdrop. This is one of a number of plicatus seedlings which Harold has produced and is certainly a good one, a good big snowdrop which is something I do think contributes to a snowdrop as a garden plant. There are many little gems in the snowdrop world but snowdrops are most wonderful in large clumps or drifts and a snowdrop of

substance is best for this purpose. I can see this 'Waverley Aristocrat' performing in this manner very effectively in coming years.

Willie Reardon, another Irish snowdrop enthusiast, has had the good fortune and the good sense to avail of the opportunity of spending time with Liam Schofield of Glasdrum, Cappawhite, Co. Tipperary and has very kindly sent me information on the wealth of snowdrops which Liam had gathered. Willie has also worked to save as many of these snowdrops as possible so that others may continue to enjoy them now that Liam has, unfortunately, departed this life. Liam's father had been Head Gardener at Greenfields, the renowned garden and estate of W.B. Purefoy. Liam's uncle, Pat, had also worked at the gardens as had Liam himself. Liam was a gardener of great ability and great generosity who took a particular interest in snowdrops which he allow grow with gay abandon



along the ditches of his garden where they self-seeded and where many different ones arose over many years. He will be associated in most minds with *G. 'Greenfields'* which he found growing in that garden around 1950; brought some bulbs home with him and passed some on to the Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin and to Brigadier L.W.H. Matthias of the Giant Snowdrop Company and from there they came into general circulation. *G. 'Greenfields'* is a *nivalis* x *plicatus* with a deep-green, large, heart-shaped mark on the inner segments.

Liam also noted a small form of *G. nivalis* in the grounds of the local Church of Ireland Church at Aughacrew. This has been grown under the label, "ex Aughacrew Churchyard" and, in latter years, as *G. nivalis* Serbian form, a name suggested by Richard Nutt after he had assessed the bulbs he had received from Liam. There were also extensive clumps of *G. nivalis* and *G. nivalis flore pleno* growing at Aughacrew church but the grass cutting programme implemented by a local maintenance crew killed them all. Such a pity! The photograph is from Altamont Gardens.



Liam was particularly proud of *G. 'Pat Schofield'* which he has found growing as a seedling in the garden of his late uncle. *G. 'Liam Schofield'* and *G. 'Pat Schofield'*

grow side by side at Altamont Gardens. Both are thriving – how wonderful that the memory of such men is kept alive.

Space dictates that I must stop here. Many more of Liam Schofield's snowdrops will come into circulation in time and a fuller account needs to be written on them as I certainly have not done them justice here. Perhaps, Willie Reardon might oblige?