



# Alpine Garden Society Hampshire Group Newsletter: January 2020



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**Contents:**

Page 1 Chairman's message  
 Page 3 Hampshire AGS Social Media;  
 Group Officers, Review of the Year so Far  
 Page 4 2020 Spring & Summer Programme  
 Page 5 AGS National Show Winners -Lyttel Trophy , Anna-Liisa Sheader  
 Page 6 AGS National Show Winners- Byng Cup, Vivien Clowes,  
 Celebrating 90 years of the AGS  
 Page 7 *Primula sieboldii*  
 Page 9 Romania and a Memory of a Holiday there  
 Page 10 Books for Sale  
 Page 13 Fifty Years Ago: AGS Anniversaries

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**1<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

## Chairman's Message

Ben and I have had an extremely busy end of year as the house has been converted to include accommodation for my mother, Mavis, coupled with the fact that over a couple of weeks during this time, Mum and I were admitted to hospital. The situation is now more settled; although I am due to have an operation scheduled for 20 January. So this brings me on to an apology and a thank you. I would like to thank all those who kindly sent Christmas cards and messages. Ben and I bought lots of Christmas cards and stamps but in the chaos that ensued in the run up to Christmas, nothing got written. Hopefully, normal service will resume next year.

At the end of October, while the building work was in progress, we returned to The Algarve, Portugal for a much needed holiday. The weather could not have been more perfect and we were treated to some lovely autumn bulbs including Crocus, swathes of Acis (autumn snowflake) and Scilla. We saw many interesting birds and other wildlife including thousands of Fiddler Crab and a Chameleon in the wild, which was a real treat as they are notoriously difficult to find; those who access Facebook may have seen my pictures and video.



Acis



Crocus



Chameleon



Salt flats – The Algae



In the garden, despite a huge amount of neglect, a good number of snowdrops are pushing up through the leaf litter that would normally have been cleared by now but for the above-mentioned events! The scent of the *Daphne bholua* is a real treat as we pass Michael Baron's grafted specimen that he gave us a year or two back. All three Hamamelis are in bloom, which is lovely, if not unusual, as they are normally successional in our garden. As normal, the *Cyclamen coum* are putting on a good display around the garden and seem to be self-seeding prolifically. *Narcissus* 'Cedric Morris' is in bloom and a number of the hooped petticoat Narcissi are in bud and we can shortly expect a display of Crocus too. I haven't noticed the Eranthus yet, although they may also be struggling up through the leaves.



*Reginae-olgae* subsp. *Reginae-olgae* 'Ruby Baker'



Hooped petticoat Narcissi

Photos: Paddy Parmee

So far this autumn and winter have been wet, which is in contrast to the last couple of years. Let's hope that a dry spell will enable us to get down to some proper gardening. We will be opening the garden in the spring, hopefully while there are still some snowdrops in bloom. However, this will be a little dependent on my recovery from the operation and the weather between now and then.

The show season is only six weeks away and we're just hoping that we will have some pots to take to South Wales, the first show of the season.

Thank you for the continued support of the committee and all others who contribute to the smooth running of the Group. Jackie and Mike Gurd who always provide refreshments at our meetings; and Jo, Angela and Glenda supporting on the door, which is such a great help to Ben. Thanks to various members who help with the raffle and to Janice for producing our newsletters. I am always grateful for those of you who invisibly assist with the setting up and clearing of Chilworth Hall at our meetings.

Finally, a huge thanks to Rosalind and Harvey Rutt who stepped in at the last moment to host our Christmas event. It is so comforting to know we have them as a fall back, as not many of our members are able to host upwards of 30 in their living room.

During recent weeks, as you will read later, we have sadly lost two of our members. Additionally, Michael Baron has had a long spell in hospital following a fall and a broken leg. We wish him a successful recovery, although I have deliberately not used the word speedy, as I am told it will probably be a long haul.

As we approach the prime time for showing alpines, please remember to bring your plants to meetings for the show table; and pictures of your plants that are in flower at the time of our meetings, as we appreciate not everyone grows their plants in pots.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year, although I am not sure I will make the January meeting so it is likely that Malcolm will have to step into the Chair, and hopefully, Ben will be there.

**Paddy Parmee**

## Hampshire AGS – Social Media



**Twitter** @HampshireAGS (this link will take you there) <https://mobile.twitter.com/account>



**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hampshireags/>



**Website** <https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/local-groups/hampshire/>

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## Group Officers

<b>Chairman</b>	Paddy Parmee	<b>Treasurer, Hon. Group &amp; Membership Secretary</b>	Ben Parmee
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Malcolm Calvert		
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Janice Bennetts	<b>Teas</b>	Jackie & Mike Gurd
<b>Committee</b>	Dorothy Searle	Jo Whitfield	Angela Lobley
	David Hanslow	Steve Lobley	

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## Review of the Year so Far

The year started in September with Joe Sharman jumping up on a table and showing us the botany of the snowdrop from what we understand was a 30 year old flip chart. It was a fascinating presentation and I am sure we all learnt something. In addition, we greatly enjoyed his treatment of snowdrops, supported by fantastic photography and amusing commentary. Joe brought a lovely selection of plants for sales including some early snowdrops in bud in September.

This year the Open Lecture was combined with the start of the AGS 90th Anniversary celebrations and I would like to say a special thank you to Jackie Gurd for baking such a splendid cake. We were very fortunate to have Ian Young to speak on *A Highland Gathering*. Ian is a leading member of Scottish Rock Gardening Club and his *Bulb Log*, tracking his garden on a weekly basis, is renowned amongst those who use the internet. Ian's talk was inspiring and demonstrated what marvellous things can be achieved with bulbs in a modest sized suburban garden.



Photo: Paddy Parmee

In November we had the pleasure of hearing from Razvan Chizu, who was born in Romania, and gave a talk on the mountain plants of his homeland. It opened our eyes to a whole new area of Eastern Europe which would be well worth a visit. His photography was splendid and delivery both interesting and knowledgeable. See page 9 for more details.

Again we had excellent numbers at our Seasonal event, and I would like to thank everyone who came and made it such an enjoyable evening, despite it being polling night! A further thanks to Rosalind and Harvey Rutt for hosting, making everyone welcome, and providing a splendid spread. Thank you also to the presentation contributors: Harvey, with a botanical and cultural view of China, following his and Rosalind's recent visit where they saw some truly wonderful plants. Next up was David Dickenson. David and his wife, Mary spend half of their year living at their home in the Cevennes in France. It is an amazing place to have as your back garden. The Alpines there are truly wonderful and his short talk was just a taster. It is certainly an area we will be looking at for a spring break. The travels of Kingdom-Ward and his exploits in the Himalayas was the topic of Norman McLean's presentation. They were three interesting and, at the same time, contrasting talks. Thank you. Malcolm's second quiz was completed during supper, and congratulations to Dorothy Searle with a winning score of 17/20. It was an excellent quiz that many found quite challenging.

The New Year's programme starts with Kit Strange talking on *Azerbaijan, the Jewel in the Caspian*. Kit is well-known to some members of the Group, as she took us behind the scenes on our last visit to Kew.

**Paddy Parmee**



## 2020 Spring & Summer Programme

Dates – all Thursdays	Titles	Speakers/Venue
23rd January	<i>Azerbaijan, the Jewel in the Caspian</i>	<b>Kit Strange</b> manages the Alpine collection at Kew
27th February	<i>Flowers of the Picos de Europa</i>	<b>David Charlton</b> A tour leader for Collett's Mountain Holidays
26th March The 21 <sup>st</sup> Lionel Bacon Memorial Lecture	<i>Bhutan in the Footsteps of George Sherriff</i>	<b>Julia Corden</b> Chairman of Scottish Rock Gardening Club
23rd April Annual Plant Sale No raffle	<i>Alpines for Everyone</i>	<b>Jim Almond</b> AGS Judge, and one of the official photographers
28th May Annual General Meeting. Food and wine will be provided	<i>Cally Gardens a Plant Extravaganza</i>	<b>Kevin Hughes</b> Former Group and Committee member, now Owner of Cally Gardens in Scotland

**AGS Snowdrop Day on 1st February 2020 at Ford Hall, Lilleshall National Conferencing Centre, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 9AT – booking maybe made online or by post to the AGS Centre.**

### Spring Events

The upcoming events to look forward to include: the annual plant and photographic competitions in March and our plant sale in April, so the New Year is a time to start propagating.

It is hoped that we will be arranging visits to other members' gardens during the spring to enjoy a range of alpines and other plants. These events are great social occasions and also important fundraising opportunities for the Group. As mentioned, Paddy and Ben hope to open their garden to see the late snowdrops, and may well open again later in the spring when the garden is in full bloom. If anyone would like to share their garden with the Group, please let Paddy and Ben know, as you are assured of help with the arrangements and catering.

**Dorset Group Show on 14th March 2020 at the Allendale Centre, Wimborne, BH21 1AS**

**Rocky Flower Show – AGS Wimborne Show on 16th May 2020 at the Queen Elizabeth School, Wimborne BH21 4DT**

Ben and Paddy are Show Secretaries for the event, and they would be grateful for any help from members of the Group – more on this as the season progresses.

## AGS National Winners

At this year's annual AGS conference, members of our Group were delighted to hear that Martin & Anna-Liisa Sheader were awarded The Lyttel Trophy that is the Society's highest honour. Their citation states that 'they have built up a considerable expertise in the cultivation and study of alpine plants over the last 40 years. They have focused in particular on the flora of mostly montane, dryland Andean habitats, from Chile and Argentina to the Patagonian steppe and more recently, Peru.

Among their skills includes inventive hybridisation. Martin also gives regular lectures, including at international conferences. He is also co-author of the AGS publication [Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains](#). Anna-Liisa's research has been indispensable in supporting this work. They have written frequent, informative articles for the AGS journal, act as judges at our shows and are seasoned tour leaders. Their exceptional photography of wild flora is both inspiring and educational.

While Andean plants have been their focus, Martin & Anna have grown a range of other alpiners to high standards, from *Rhinopetalum fritillarias* to South African *Hermannia* and *Aptosimum procumbens*. With such far-reaching efforts and activities, they have been instrumental in generating enthusiasm for alpine plants.'

Unfortunately, Anna-Liisa and Martin were unable to attend the conference to receive the trophy as Anna-Liisa was too ill. She died in December. Martin has kindly written about her life.

### Anna-Liisa Sheader 1947 – 2019

Anna-Liisa Sheader was born in Helsinki, Finland and she was brought up by her grandmother and great aunt. Her family was from farming stock in Karelia in north-eastern Finland and she never lost her love for nature and wild desolate places. At thirteen years old, Anna-Liisa moved to live with her mother in London.

Anna-Liisa arrived in England with no English but soon became proficient and gained a place at the local grammar school. There, she achieved the required A Level grades and was accepted for a Botany degree at Newcastle University. Following her degree, she undertook a PhD degree in Marine Botany, and had a number of scientific papers published on algae. While in Newcastle, Anna-Liisa further developed her love of the great outdoors, off on rambles around the country most weekends.



*Anna-Liisa Sheader, Patagonia*  
Image from Facebook page

It was during Anna-Liisa's time at Newcastle that she met Martin, also a Marine Biology PhD Student. Following a short engagement, they were married in 1972 and had three sons, Nick, Dan and Ben. She was a stay at home mum when the children were at school and remained the mainstay of the family throughout her life. In 1976, Martin was offered a lectureship at the University of Southampton and the family moved to Southampton. Anna-Liisa later set up a successful marine environmental consultancy, retiring in 2012.

She was a keen gardener and long-term active member of the Alpine Garden Society, writing popular articles, exhibiting and judging at national shows. Together with Martin she was recently awarded the Lyttel Trophy, the Society's highest award. She was also a long-term member and ex-committee member of the National Auricula and Primula Society.

Together with Martin, she developed an interest in the flora of Patagonia and grew South American plants from seed, introducing many to cultivation. In 1997, they had the opportunity to visit Patagonia and subsequently visited the area most years to photograph flowering plants in the high Andes. In this she became an expert and was co-author of two popular books on Patagonia, essential field guides, popular with plant tourists and local Patagonian enthusiasts.



Also at the AGS conference, our congratulations to our Chairman and Treasurer, Paddy and Ben Parmee who received Silver Bars 3, 4 & 5 and were awarded the Byng Cup.

The Byng Cup is awarded annually for the winners of the Intermediate and Open Sections at Alpine Garden Society National Shows.

*Photo: AGS News, December 2019*

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## Vivien Clowes 1932 -2019

Vivien Clowes sadly passed away early in December following a number of years of declining health. She was born in Derby and gained her nursing qualifications in 1950. In 1955, she married Jim, and they had 3 children, Peter, Jenny and David. Twelve years later, they moved to Kings Somborne, where Vivien became very active in the village: as chair of the WI; treasurer in raising funds for the new village hall; and an assistant with the girl guides. She returned to specialist theatre nursing after her youngest child went to Junior school. When she retired from nursing, she played competitive bowls, did readings for the blind, became a member of our group and was also a member of the Scottish Rock Garden Society. For many years she looked after our group's library, where members were able to borrow books as well as consult some for reference. During the late 1990s and early 2000s, Jim audited the group's accounts. They had a fine garden at Kings Somborne with carpets of cyclamen in the autumn and winter. Vivien's speciality was Lewisias that she often brought to the show table and some gave away at the raffle.

It was during her theatre nurse training days, when Paddy was 19, that she first met Vivien, who very much wanted things done her way. Apparently, this was a characteristic that continued throughout Vivien's life and was remembered by other members of the AGS who ran the raffle at the same time as she ran the library. Vivien took Paddy under her wing and they remained lifelong friends. During their friendship Paddy enjoyed listening to stories of Vivien's travels and seeing photographs of flowers grown in the wild. After Vivien's retirement Paddy visited her, learning more about growing alpines, and they shared their love of cats. As Vivien's health declined, Paddy was able to share her own travelling experiences with Vivien as well as helping her in the garden and alpine house. She often took Hetti, one of her Maine Coon cats to visit. Paddy wrote that 'Vivien will be sadly missed but the memories and her kindness will never be forgotten as will the plants that continue to grow in my garden and remind me of my friend.'

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## Celebrating 90 years of the AGS

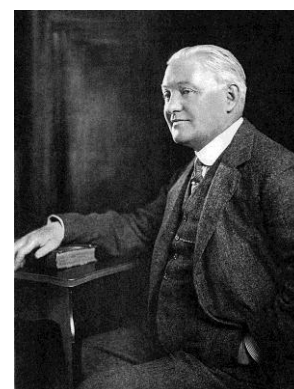
by Ben Parmee

### How it all began

*"OF HIS HONOURS, I know he valued the post of President of the Alpine Garden Society above all others, and this was not surprising for it was his own child".* So wrote a great friend of Sir William Lawrence at the end of the first four exciting years of this new Society.

Sir William had two great purposes in life, St Barts Hospital and his work for horticulture. He held the position of Treasurer of the RHS and was a member of its Council.

In 1929, Sir William wrote of the success of other horticultural societies and wondered whether the time had not come to organise a Rock Garden Society. He envisaged a show at New Hall where pots or pans would show Saxifrages and new plants and there would be a classifications committee and ... *all these matters*



Sir William Lawrence

would be dealt with in bulletins...

Objections were raised as to the need for another society by Mark Fenwick and A.T. Johnson although both joined the Society when it was formed later that year, Johnson writing "Anyone can have a rock garden. From the 3-inch pot to the Grand Canyon is only a matter of size, and I wonder no one has thought of the Society before."

"A preliminary meeting was held in October 1929 where Sir William took the chair and outlined its objectives which were: to give advice on the making of rock gardens and growing of alpines; to arrange for discussions on growing difficult plants; to exchange plants among Members; to arrange lectures on alpines, and to publish an annual bulletin.

Development of the Society continued and on December 10th 1929 the first General Meeting of the Society was held. The annual subscription was half a guinea. There were those who felt that there should also be a branch of the Society dedicated to rocks, however Sir William carefully framed the object of the Society "the encouragement of the cultivation of alpine plants" and this led to the society being called "The Alpine Garden Society". The name has bedevilled the Society ever since.

Information sourced from pages of the Societies History

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## *Primula sieboldii*

by Penny Jones,  
Staddon Farm Nurseries, Holsworthy

*Primula sieboldii* are endemic to East Asia from Korea, North Eastern China through to Siberia including the plateaus and flood plains in Japan.

The species name of *Primula sieboldii* is attributed to Philipp Fran von Siebold. In the 1820's, he was stationed in Japan where he was employed as a physician and scientist. He established a well regarded medical school but it was his passion for collecting all things botanical and zoological that he is remembered for today. He was responsible for many plant introductions to Europe, including Hostas, smuggled tea plant seeds and less fortunately, the Japanese Knotweed. Most importantly, he was responsible for the introduction of *Primula sieboldii* to Europe.

We have found little documented information concerning *Primula sieboldii* in the UK. They were initially considered to be a florist's flower as cut flowers can remain for up to two weeks in water. The oldest record we have found dates back to an entry in a York based nursery catalogue from 1886, naming 33 *Primula sieboldii* varieties. We do not know if they were seedling strains or cultivars and sadly these names no longer exist. They were all attributed with English names such as 'Polly', 'Pearl' and 'Jane', suggesting that there must have been a recognized breeding programme at some stage. However, by World War II, *Primula sieboldii*, along with many other plants in cultivation neared extinction. A similar story was also witnessed in Japan. A much greater emphasis was placed on the growing of food and many ornamental plants were lost.

They may look delicate, but they are hardy and robust. Give them suitable conditions and they will clump up happily. They are a spring flowering plant. Depending on the season and cultivar, they could flower any time from mid-February through to the beginning of June, each truss of flowers lasting between four to six weeks. As the summer heats up, they take themselves underground to return next spring. Ideal conditions would be a cool site in an area that offers free draining soil but doesn't dry out during the growing season. They will flourish with a layer of leaf mould and are best in an informal planting as they gently 'shuffle' around – we normally suggest that you treat them as an edge of woodland plant. They are totally frost hardy with few pests and diseases if you ignore the ubiquitous vine weevil. If grown in pots, they need to be divided at least every couple of years.

The nature of the plant is that the part which flowers this year, dies away at the end of the season, whilst in its growing phase it produces at least two or three new crowns that will naturally migrate towards the edge of the pot leaving potentially 'stale' soil in the middle. Repotting is best once the plants retire for the year. The crowns are easily teased apart ready for new plantings. New crowns will appear along any root, which explains the plants' gentle migrations in the garden. It also means that any soil waste from repotting should be spread in a suitable spot in the garden, for the chance of new young plants to grow. The seed is reliably fertile, but the plant will not come true from seed. On the nursery we cut all the flowers and seed heads



New crowns



from our plants on returning from Chelsea in order to keep the integrity of the plant.

*Primula sieboldii* flowers come in a range of flower forms. Although the wild form is described as a flat open-faced five petalled flower, in cultivation, the petals are often deeply bi-lobed with edges ranging from smooth and rounded through toothed cultivars to the deeply dissected snowflake forms. The colour ranges from white, pale to dark pink and even shades of blue. Very rarely, green streaks of green variegation can also be found. "Sports", where the original pink colour is randomly replaced by white, are also very popular in Japan. Both the sporting forms and the variegated forms are stable. These are the result of genetic mutations, not a viral infection. Flower forms range from the flat face, through to wavy petals, those that curl inwards at the edge as well as those that don't fully open, but remain enclosed in a ball or even twisted forms.



*Primula 'Shishifunjin'*



*Primula 'Jessica'*

**To sum up, this is a plant that is steeped in history. It makes an excellent garden plant.** Whilst it retains a sense of exclusivity, it is a plant that happily earns its place in a spring garden with little fuss but will reward you every year.

We have a number we have raised ourselves and are named after cats who have lived on the nursery. So when we took on a very elegant pure white Norwegian Forest Cat, she was called Torii – Mr Torii, (an authority on *Primula sieboldii*), as it turns out was thrilled as he loves cats. However, we are not sure how our latest pe(s)t has ended up being called Barrie!!!!



*Primula 'Essie'*



*Malvern Show Display*

It also goes without saying, we are always on the lookout for more information relating to *Primula sieboldii*, especially their history and would welcome any input you may be able to offer.

Contact details can be found on our website – [www.pennysprimulas.co.uk](http://www.pennysprimulas.co.uk). If you wish to see these beautiful primulas up close, we are happy to accommodate visits during the spring or else catch us at one of the following RHS Shows in the Floral Marquees – Cardiff, Malvern Spring and Chelsea.



## Romania and a Memory of a Holiday there

by Janice Bennetts

Romania was not a country that I had thought of visiting, but after **Razvan Chisu's** talk in November, I would consider it, if my husband Trevor and I were still considering mountain walks. In his talk, he explained that most of the mountains were easily accessible by car or cable car, with the highest of 2,519 metres in the Southern Carpathians that form the central range. To the north are the Apuseni Mountains, a smaller more isolated range, with the main Carpathian Mountains extending from Ukraine, in the north, to meet the arm of the southern ones, roughly in the centre of the country. Razvan began his talk in the Apuseni Mountains, then took an anti-clockwise route to the Southern Carpathians and finished with ones in the northern range. He showed many of the endemic and semi-endemic species growing in these habitats and the variations that may be found here.



romania-physical-map [www.freeworldmaps.net](http://www.freeworldmaps.net)

Like many mountain ranges where there is farming with no boundaries - cattle, sheep and goats roam, therefore some species only survive in quite inhospitable sites. Of particular note in the higher ranges were: *Carpathian carpatica*, *Dianthus callizonus*, *Artemisia petrosa*, *Soldanella alpina* and *Veratrum album*. The alpine meadows were also very fine with *Hepatica transsilvania* being the most well-known endemic of the country. Other plants included *Dianthus spiculifolius*, *Campanula patula*, *C. transsilvanica*, *Trollius europaeus*, *Gentiana lutea*, *G. Verna*, *Viola biflora*, *V. alpina*, *V. dacica*, *Aster alpina*, *Leontopodium alpinum*, *Digitalis grandiflora*, *Saxifraga corymbosa*, *Pedicularis verticillata*, *Primula minima* and *Senecio integrifolius*. *Rhododendron kotschyi* clothed the mountain in the late spring and early summer.



*Dianthus spiculifolius*<sup>1</sup>



*Soldanella alpina*<sup>2</sup>



*Viola dacica*<sup>2</sup>



*Hepatica transsilvania*<sup>3</sup>



Alpine meadows<sup>2</sup>



*Rhododendron kotschyi*<sup>4</sup>





*Viola sp*<sup>2</sup>



*Dianthus callizonus*<sup>2</sup>



*Dianthus callizonus*<sup>2</sup>

This talk prompted our member, Maureen Cole to remember the visit she made in 1989 to the ski resort of Poiana Braşov on the eastern side of the Southern Carpathians, near the town of Braşov. To explore the mountains nearby, Maureen wrote that a chair lift had been taken en route, giving wonderful views of the surrounding area. As she and her companion arrived, a sudden wind began to blow – cutlery and tablecloths at the restaurant went awry. This prompted a sudden mass exodus as the locals rushed for the cable car. They thought they would get another one later. However, they found that it was the last one! There was no alternative but to walk down, which took about 2 hours.

The walk gave them an opportunity to look at the various plants. There were many clumps of *Hellebore orientalis* that were not in flower. The best find was large clumps of *Hepatica transsilvanica*, about one foot across. These had distinctive leaves and beautiful flowers, usually blue. They found Soldanella in flower and dainty lemon Primulas. All the plants were growing on slopes with rainwater trickling through their roots. Suddenly they saw a large patch of excrement that prompted them to descend more rapidly. A few days later, another couple in their group, decided to ascend the same route where a mother bear and her baby crossed the path in front of them. Hence, Maureen and her companion's rapid haste on their walk!



*Hepatica transsilvanica, Veratrum sp. & Primulas*  
Photo: Maureen Cole

In his talk, Razvan's photographs were outstanding – the ones noted <sup>2</sup> are from his facebook page. Other images: <sup>1</sup> <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/481900>, <sup>3</sup> Ashwood Nursery Catalogue, *Hepaticas*, <sup>4</sup> <https://www.picfair.com/pics/08937352>

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## Books for Sale

Eva Pirie, an ex member of our Group, has just moved house and has kindly donated the following books. I intend taking a few for the raffle each month, but if anyone would like to purchase some prior, any money raised would go to our Group funds. Please email me if you would like any and I will bring whatever books are required to the next meeting. The book on the Caucasus is very expensive to buy online, 8 of the South African guides are out of print and the 3 others are all priced at over £50. I am sure Eva was not aware of their value, and if anyone bought these, our Treasurer and I have agreed that we would let her have the funds.

Title	Author/s	Date	£
<b>General</b>			
A colour guide to rare wild flowers - England & Scotland	John Fisher	1991	2
Bulbs	Roger Phillips & Martyn Rix	1989	5

Title	Author/s	Date	£
The Smaller Bulbs 1st edition (£16 online)	Brian Mathew,	1987	5
Field Guide to Butterflies & Moths of Britain & Europe	Dr Helgard Reichholf-Riehm, Consultant Editors: Barry Goater & Dr Jeremy Thomas	1991	2
A Field Guide to the Insects of Britain & Northern Europe	Michael Chinery	1985	2
Perennials Vol 1 Early Perennials	Roger Phillips & Martyn Rix	1994	5
Perennials Vol 2 Late Perennials	Roger Phillips & Martyn Rix	1994	5
Philip's Guide to Deserts	Andrew Warren & Tony Allan	2006	2
Plant Names Simplified, Their Pronunciation derivation & Meaning	A T Johnson & H A Smith	1986	1
Stearn's Dictionary of Plant Names for gardeners	William T Stearn	1993	3
Rural Life - Pictures from the Past	John Seymour	1991	1
<b>Specific General</b>			
Alliums - The Ornamental Onions	Dilys Davies	1992	5
Border Pinks	Richard Bird,	1994	2
Field Guide to Orchids of Britain and Europe	Karl Peter Buttler, Consultant Editor: Paul Davies	-	2
<b>Places</b>			
The Caucasus and its Flowers - tiptop condition anywhere from £87-110 for used	Vojtech Holubec, & Pavel Krivka	2006	50
Cyprus Flora in Colour - The Endemics	V Pantelas, T Papachristophorou, P Christodoulou	1993	2
Connaitre et reconnaitre la flore et la vegetation des montagnes	Georges Claustres, Cecile Lemoine	1985	1
Fleurs Sauvages du Maroc	Jose Lewalle & Norbert Montfort	1997	2
La Flore endemique de la Corse	Kacques Gamisans, Jean-Francois Marzocchi,	1996	2
Wild Flowers of the Mediterranean online £50	Marjorie Blamey, Christopher Grey-Wilson,	2008	20
Flowers of the Forest - Plants and people in the New Forest National Park	Clive Chatters	2009	5
New Zealand Alpine Plants, fully revised	A F Mark & Nancy M Adams	1995	2
New Zealand in Flower	Alison Evans	1987	2
Mountain Flowers, A field Guide to the Flora of the Drakensberg and Lesotho	Elsa Pooley	1992	5
Photographic Guide to the Wildflowers of South Africa	John Manning	2003	5
South Africa Wild Flower Guide 1 - Namaqualand - out of print	Annelise le Roux & Ted Schelpe	1988	30



Title	Author/s	Date	£
South Africa Wild Flower Guide 2 - Outeniqua Tsitsikamma & Eastern Little Karoo £26.50 online	Audrey Moriarty	1982	30
South Africa Wild Flower Guide 3 - Cape Peninsula - out of print	Mary Maytham Kidd	1983	30
South Africa Wild Flower Guide 4 - Transvaal Lowveld and Escarpment including Kruger National Park - out of print	Jo Onderstall	1984	30
South Africa Wild Flower Guide 5 - Hottentots Holland to Hermanus - out of print	Lee Burman, & Anne Bean	1985	30
South Africa Wild Flower Guide 6 - Karoo - out of print	David Shearing	1994	30
South African Wild Flower Guide 7 - West Coast - out of print	John Manning, & Peter Goldblatt	1996	30
South African Wild Flower Guide 8 - Southern Overberg, - £44.99 online	Penny Muscart; Richard Cowling, Janice Albertyn	1997	30
South Africa Wild Flower Guide 9 - Nieuwoudtville, Bokkeveld Plateau & Hantam £54.99 online	John Manning & Peter Goldblatt	1997	30
South Africa Wild Flower Guide 10 - Cederberg - Clanwilliam & Biedouw Valley - out of print	Gretel van Rooyen; Hester Steyn	1999	30
South African Wild Flower Guide 11 - Eastern Cape - out of print	John Manning	2001	30
<b>All 11 guides above for £250</b>			
Wild Flowers of Southern Africa	Indaba Mini-Curio	1998	1
Bulbous plants of Turkey and Iran - a Photographic Guide (AGS publication)	Peter Sheasby	2007	30
The Bulbous Plants of Turkey	Brian Mathew & Turhan Baytop	1984	10
The Special Eucalypts, Perth and the South-west	Malcolm E French	1994	2
Wildflowers of Esperance - Western Australia Vol 1	Esperance Wildflower Society	1997	1
Wildflowers of Esperance - Western Australia Vol 2	Esperance Wildflower Society	1997	1
Wildflowers of Esperance - Western Australia Vol 3	Esperance Wildflower Society	1997	1
Wildflowers of the Western State – Australia	Rolsh Productions Albany WA	1994	1

If you would like to buy a book or books, an online payment may be made to HAGS, account number 00159433, Sort code 20-97-01 – please let Ben know; a cheque to be made out to Hampshire Alpine Garden Society, or cash on a meeting evening. Whatever payment method used, let me know so I can give you the book/s at a meeting.

Janice Bennetts

## AGS Anniversaries

As it is the 90th Anniversary of the AGS it seemed appropriate to find out how the previous anniversaries had been recorded 50 years ago. *Rhinanthus*, the pseudo-name for the person who wrote the *Alpine Anthology* at the beginning of each volume, wrote that in March 1970:

'It was 40 years since the first *Bulletin* was published; it is exactly ten years since Rhinanthus' first Anthology appeared in the *Bulletin* and, looking back, we find the first paragraph concerned the garden of the Prince of Chien-an (*circa* 1590) in which we suggested that it might perhaps have been the first rock garden. Not only were we wrong, but we were many centuries out. Our valued contributor Miss Alice Coats has sent us the following:-

"Only five paces from the back of the house, there is a rockery formed of old hollowed rocks, covered with rare plants and grass, shining with mossy green and dotted with some red berries whose name I do not know. The colors remain that way all through the seasons ..."

Po Chuyi. A.D. 772-846. Translated by Lin Yutang in *The Importance of Understanding*, 1961.

F H Fisher reflected on past conferences under the heading *Focus on Past Conferences*. He noted that

**The first Conference** was held early in May 1936, some six years after the Society was formed. With a membership of 1,700 it had to lean heavily on the Royal Horticultural Society to support the programme. The Conference Show was an outstanding success, and the Alpine Garden Society was sufficiently strong and flourishing to be capable of filling the R.H.S. New Hall, for the bulk of the exhibitors were Members. There were 424 entries reinforced by non-competitive groups of plants from twenty-five nurserymen. Before the Conference a Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee, with equal representation from both R.H.S. and A.G.S., was set up to make awards to plants suitable for the alpine house and garden. The fear that the R.H.S. were prone to make awards to 'improved forms' rather than the original species (a trend which it was considered could not be looked upon with favour in dealing with alpine plants) was soon dispelled.'...

### The second Conference:

'Long before the end of the war general plans for a second Conference were being discussed, although due to the interference to the Society's activities it was not possible to hold it until 1951 – suitable because it marked the coming of age of the Society, and as the President said, it was anticipated that a number of people would be coming to this country from overseas to view our meat ration. If we showed them our ewe lambs we could show them something equally minute but with a greater aesthetic appeal. It is difficult to realise the six years after the end of the War we were still severely rationed.

On the principle that 'plants have no politics' it was felt that the interest and importance of the Conference would be increased, if it were possible to persuade the Scottish Rock Garden Club to join in the venture. This they undertook whole-heartedly by planning one week of the Conference in Scotland. Whilst, because of other commitments, the R.H.S. could not undertake responsibility for the Conference, they contributed generously. The A.G.S. President described the position thus: "In world affairs we are a small gardening organisation, and could not call on our friends across the Atlantic for Marshall Aid, and being neither growers of groundnuts nor keepers of poultry, nor could we dip into the public purse." The resources of the Society and the voluntary work of its members eventually saw the Society through.'...

### The third Conference:

'1961 was a very good year. The pattern for a Conference every ten years in conjunction with the Scottish Rock Garden Club was established, and 550 new Members were recruited. The difficulty in focussing events in the Conferences is that the society's history has already been published, and much detail of historic value has been written round each of these milestones, but there still remain features to interest at least the newer Members in the past.

Strangely, perhaps, a short biography of Reginald Farrer was also included in that number, justified by the Editor in an extract from the article: "It is not too much to assert that, but for Farrer's work, the Alpine Garden Society would not have been born". In any case it was a piece of writing that was due, for no one had previously attempted it during the forty years since his death'.