



# Alpine Garden Society Dublin Group

[www.alpinegardensociety.ie](http://www.alpinegardensociety.ie)



NEWSLETTER NO. 75 – WINTER 2021

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Cover: *Trillium rivale*, - see page 10. (Photo: Michael J. Campbell).

This newsletter is edited by Billy Moore who can be contacted at 32 Braemor Park, Dublin D14 YX39. Tel. 086 8183140. Printed by Snap Printing, Sandyford, Tel. (01) 2958860.

## From our Chairman

Greetings Alpinists!

We've reached the end of a very difficult year, one which has brought changes and sadness to us all. But though I'm afraid things won't get any easier for a while, at least we now have some hope for a return to normality.

When I last wrote, in the Summer Newsletter, we still expected that this might happen soon, and optimistically planned for a carefully managed Plant Sale. Alas, the second wave came upon us and this wasn't to be:

I'm sorry to have disappointed the many of you that got in touch to offer plants, and to participate. But we still have the plants from Gerd Stopp, apart from the annuals that is, and have tentatively pencilled in March next year for the sale. Given the uncertainty of the times we think it would not be sensible to set a date just yet (you see I've learned my lesson on this at least!), but we will get in touch to confirm the arrangements as soon as it seems possible.



Our lectures in the last half of the year have in no way been a disappointment, in fact I'd go so far as to say that as a Society we have learnt something that we'll take advantage of in the future. We had three superb lectures online, from John Good, Ken Cox and Jim Almond, and an audience of just under thirty for the first, and forty for the last, as you gradually got used to the technology. My thanks to Triona for organizing these on late notice. I was very pleased to find that the lectures worked so well, and the quality of the presentations was excellent. While I regret that we couldn't do this in the traditional way -

the tea, biscuits and chat afterwards were definitely missed - there are several benefits to going online that I want to dwell on.

First, and as several of you mentioned to me, it is sometimes nice to enjoy a lecture with a glass of wine in the comfort of your home without venturing into the dark and cold. Next, as we don't have all the logistical and travel expenses it is much cheaper to run and easier to organize the online lectures, and that means we can afford to have more of them and have them at alternative times. A side-effect of the technology is that we can record these lectures, so those of you who missed out can watch them at a more convenient time. And finally, as we are no longer tied to a physical location, we don't have to limit ourselves to lecturers who are prepared to travel to Dublin. Our online lectures this autumn came from Wales, Scotland and England and next year we will venture further afield: Panayoti Kelaidis of the Denver Botanic Gardens will be giving us an online lecture in 2021.

I'm very conscious that for you to participate in these lectures you have to have the right technology. That's easier to come by these days - you can join the lectures with a smartphone - and many of you got used to using Zoom for connecting with your families. But if any of you feel you are missing out, I urge you to ask your friends, family and fellow members of the Society for help. Most important is that you have an email address so you can receive notifications of the lectures and the all-important Zoom link. Please continue to keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for information about events.

Of course, there is no substitute for the real thing, and I hope we will soon be congregating once again in the Mount Merrion Community Centre or St Brigid's, but I think online lectures will continue to be part of our programme.

Speaking of the programme, regrettably, the Annual Show has had to be cancelled but we are hoping that the An Grianán Alpine Weekend, will be possible – speakers and venue have been booked. We have discussed holding a Local Show. Again, this will depend on circumstances at the time, but we'll give you as much notice as we can. Please keep growing those plants - their time will come.

It's been fun to see some of you on my screen in the Zoom lectures. The chat isn't quite the same, but at least there was some feeling of community. And to that end, I have set up a WhatsApp group for the Society to enable us to share our alpine passion (or should that be 'obsession'?) with photos, offers of plants, news of interest to others, etc. If you are interested and I haven't already contacted you, please let me know.

Please attend the online AGM if you can: it's on 21 January, and Fionnuala Broughan is giving a talk on 'The Adventures of a Tour Guide in Kilmacurragh'. There will be an opportunity to give us your feedback just as much as at a normal AGM, and it will be even more important this year.

Take care,

**Jamie Chambers.**

## **ALPINE MISCELLANY**

As I write this, on a cold grey day in mid-December, we're coming to the end of 2020. It has been a grim year for most of us, tragic for many. Few will regret its passing, but at least just now there is hope that with the introduction of vaccines things will improve in 2021, and perhaps, from mid-year on we can once again begin to enjoy the things we missed so much in 2020. On behalf of the Committee, I wish all our members a Happy New Year and I hope that 2021 will bring you good health and happiness in all aspects of your lives, including in your gardens, where maybe all that extra work you put in last year will bear fruit. In a very troubled, angry world we should relish the peacefulness of our gardens and try to be kinder to each other.

In this issue we have a great article from that very talented plantsman, Michael Campbell, who tells us about his adventures with the lovely *Trillium rivale*. He has managed to produce some amazing selections, not least the one pictured on the cover, which I hope we will see available commercially in the years ahead. Michael grows an extraordinary range of rare and beautiful plants in what he calls his 'small garden', as any of

you who follow him on Facebook will know, and I hope we will hear from him again in future issues. Triona Corcoran gives us an enthusiastic account of her time on Jimi Blake's deservedly popular plantsperson's course. Many of you will have visited Jimi's wonderful garden and if you haven't, Triona's article will encourage you to do so and maybe even tempt you to try the course. Harold McBride gives us an inspiring account of some of the lovely plants that helped him to cope during the lockdown. Harold is regarded by most 'alpinists' as the most talented grower of alpines on the island and your editor feels fortunate that he agreed to write this piece for us. I have written about the genus *Saxifraga* and I hope my short article will encourage more gardeners to grow these superb plants.

While trying to come up with material for this newsletter it occurred to me that readers might be interested in hearing about other gardeners' most-loved plants and I asked four members, Val Keegan, Patricia Kennedy, Paddy Smith and Martin Walsh to tell me a bit about their five favourites. On the basis that it's not fair to ask others to do what you're not prepared to do yourself, I participated as well. The result is on p. 21 and if you like it, I will ask five other gardeners to volunteer to do something similar for the next issue.

I am most grateful to everyone who contributed to this issue and I hope you find the results interesting and enjoyable. If any of you have suggestions for items for future issues, I would love to hear from you.

## **Zoom Talks**

As Jamie has said we had three great talks on Zoom last year and we have had enthusiastic feedback from members. Some participants with dodgy Wi-Fi experienced problems but, overall, the experience was excellent. Normally in the newsletter I include reports on our lectures written by various members and will do so again when we get back to having live talks. The excellent lectures from John Good on 'Crevice Gardening'; Ken Cox on 'Woodland Gardening'; and 'Growing Primulaceae in pots' from Jim Almond are still available to view for any of you who missed them first time round, but they will be deleted at the end of February. The links to the talks have been sent to members by

email.

## Fixtures

The fixtures list for 2021 is a bit attenuated for now due to the uncertainty about the virus, but it is the Committee's intention is to give members as much value as possible despite the constraints. In the first quarter, live events seem unlikely, but we have lined up three great Zoom talks for the first three months, of which more later. We will be offering talks thereafter as well of course, and you will be kept in touch about developments by email.

As Jamie has mentioned, we have pencilled in a plant sale for March, possibly in conjunction with a Local Show, and, if it's not possible to have it live, it is our plan to do it online. As well as the plants from Gerd Stopp, we hope that members will contribute plants also and if you have any to offer please contact Jamie and let him know what you have. This is particularly important if the sale has to be online.

Pershore has cancelled all Shows for the first half of 2021 so it will not be possible again this year to have our main show in Cabinteely but we will be having a virtual show so you will at least have the opportunity to let other members see your splendid plants.

Looking beyond the first quarter the optimists amongst us hope that garden visits or other outdoor events might be a possibility. Similarly, Termonfeckin might just be a runner also and, as you will see, we have booked two speakers for live talks in the autumn and a live Christmas Miscellany would be something to look forward to. We'll all keep our fingers crossed. All lectures will be at 8 pm.

We will start the year as usual with the **AGM** online on Thursday, 21 January, to be followed by **Fionnuala Broughan** with a talk entitled 'Adventures of a Tour Guide in Kilmacurragh'. Fionnuala gave the Committee a short sample and I guarantee that you will love it. I'm also certain that any of you who haven't already been will want to visit this wonderful garden as soon as it becomes possible again. It is a National Treasure! On Thursday, 18 February, we will have a talk from **Anne Spiegel** on her world-famous rock garden in Wappinger Falls, New

York. The garden has been described as ‘a testament to both Nature and Nurture: the site is spectacular, but the dedicated hand of the gardener is everywhere adeptly and discreetly in evidence’. This is guaranteed to be an interesting, enjoyable and informative talk, not least because it’s a rare opportunity to get a tour of a North American rock garden. Staying in the USA, on Thursday, 18 March, we will hear from **Panayoti Kelaidis**, Senior Curator and Director of Outreach at Denver Botanic Gardens who will talk about that celebrated Garden. Panayoti has lectured widely internationally, including to our Group, and is much sought-after as a speaker. He will talk to us about the Denver gardens which he loves. Not to be missed.

We will have further online talks in spring and summer which will be announced by email.

We are hoping that our autumn talks will be live and **Ger van den Beuken** has been booked to talk to us on ‘Cushion Plants’ on 14 October. Ger has lectured to us before and was well-received. **Declan Doogue** will address the subject of ‘Changes in the Flora of Ireland’ on 4 November. Covid-willing, our **37<sup>th</sup> Alpine Weekend** will take place from 19 to 21 November at An Grianán, Termonfeckin with three superb speakers: **Vojtech Holubec**, **Jim Jermyn** and **Brendan Sayers**.

On Thursday, 9 December we hope to be able to get together for our 2021 **Christmas Miscellany**.

There will be more information on the autumn fixtures in the next newsletter.

## **Subscriptions**

As promised in the last newsletter the Committee has decided to reduce the annual subscription for 2021 to €25 for family membership and €15 for single membership because we have had to curtail our activities due to Covid – 19.

## **Committee vacancy**

There is a vacancy on the Committee, and we would greatly welcome expressions of interest from members. If you feel you would like to play



a more active role in the affairs of the Group, please contact any member of the Committee.

### **John E. O' Reilly**

We were all saddened to learn of John's death on 11 September last at the age of 92. He and his beloved wife Mary were active members and familiar figures at lectures and other events in recent years. John had a great love for and knowledge of plants and will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences go to Mary and the family.

### **Bob Gordon**

As I was about to send this to the Printer, I learned to my great sadness that Bob passed away this morning (12 December). Bob was an outstanding plantsman, highly knowledgeable and a great grower; he was also a dear friend. He was generous to a fault with advice and with plants. Many of our members know Bob and have been to his wonderful garden; in its heyday it was one of the best in the country. He will be greatly missed by his family, our colleagues in the Ulster Group and by his friends down here. There will be a full obituary in the next newsletter. Our most sincere condolences to his family.

**Billy Moore**

## *Trillium rivale*

*Trillium rivale* is a monotypic genus of flowering plants in the family Melanthiaceae and grows abundantly in the mountainous regions of Oregon, spanning the border with California. It has very dwarf growths, springing from equally dwarf rhizomes just over 2cm long. Some of the guys in suits decided a few years ago that it should now be called *Pseudotrillium rivale* and should not be included in the genus *Trillium* at all. I am from the old school and it has always been called *Trillium rivale* and I have no intention of changing that now.

About twenty years ago I took an interest in *T. rivale* and was fascinated by the variation in shape and colour of flowers I got from one batch of seed, so I isolated the flowers and pollinated each flower with its own pollen. Growing tubers or bulbs from seed is something that requires patience and dedication.

I live in a townhouse with a small garden so most of my plants are grown in pots, which makes isolation much easier when in flower and prevents cross-pollination. *Trillium* seed must be sown straight from the pod otherwise you would have to wait for one or maybe two years for germination. I sow them straight from the pod in well-drained, humus-rich compost (they prefer acid to neutral soil) and put them in the shade house. I always get very good germination the following spring. The seed is sown thickly as they like company, especially at the seedling stage. Leave them in the seed pot for two years. By year three I have good flowering-size tubers with each pot having identical flowers to the parent. *T. rivale* is a hardy plant but growing it in pots leaves it vulnerable to temperature change which I found out to my





cost in winter 2010/2011 when the temperature got down to  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$ . I lost the lot. A friend in New Zealand to whom I had previously sent seed returned the favour and I started from scratch again. As luck would have it some of the seed was from plants raised from the seed that I sent him, so all was not lost, nevertheless, I had to start a new programme to get back to where I was

before. Having more experience now I decided to cross some of the flowers that I liked and was hopeful that I might get good results. I was surprised as I now had a pure white with fully overlapping petals, a very deep pink, a white with purple veins, and a white with blue spots. The problem now was how to reproduce the blue-spotted one without losing the colour. It only produced one seed pod with about 12 seeds. They were carefully harvested and sown immediately in my usual compost mix, two parts ericaceous compost, one part perlite and one part leaf mould. I cover all my seed pot with about 3cm of grit but on this occasion the bag was empty. This entailed a trip to my usual supplier. When back at home I quickly covered the pot with grit from the new bag and placed it in the shade house like I always do. The grit in the new bag was darker than usual but I paid no attention as the grit varies from time to time. The following spring I was waiting patiently and with a fair degree of excitement for the seed to germinate. Day after day the pot was



examined for signs of life, but nothing was happening. Wondering what had gone wrong I examined the pots of hepatica seed which had been covered with the same grit, again nothing, at that stage. I reckoned that the grit was at fault, so I took a shovel full and dipped it in a bucket of water. Beautiful colours started circulating on the top of the water. The seed had been



covered with oily grit and was lost. I have never washed grit in my life but now I know better. Having to wait another year for seed was very disappointing but the blue-spotted trillium produced two seed pods the next year and I now have a nice batch of seedlings and am patiently waiting to see if they are true.

Repotting is usually done just after the seed is harvested and the foliage has started to die back. I use 8-inch plastic pots and pack each with as many tubers as I can manage to squeeze in. They are then placed under the bench in the shade house for the summer to avoid overheating. They start producing new roots in early August and I found that repotting in the autumn did not give as good a result as the earlier potting. When the weather cools a little in the autumn the pots are placed on the bench in the shade house as that is when they start producing the new flower buds. If you haven't tried growing *T. rivale* give it a go, it is not difficult, and you might get a few surprises!

**Michael J Campbell**

Text and photos





*Daphne x rolsdorfii* 'Arnold Cilharz', see p. 21. (photo: Billy Moore)



*Cyclamen africanum*, see p.29. (Photo: Paddy Smith)

## Jimi Blake's plantsperson's course

Last year I finally got around to doing Jimi's course. I'd been thinking about doing it for a number of years but what finally prompted me to sign up was moving garden, or should I say house! We haven't actually moved into the new house yet, but the course has given me a lot of food for thought and widened my horizons on plants and how to use them.

The course is run one day a month from February to November, so you get a complete gardening year. When we started in February it was all hellebores, snowdrops and other early flowers. Apart from trees and



shrubs everything was quite low. It was great to come back each month to see what was new and see how many of last month's stars would still be in flower. Whatever illusions I had about being able to plant a garden up in its entirety and then admire the succession of interest while doing some dead heading and light weeding was completely blown out of the water.

Jimi is a very hardworking gardener. Not for him a few perennials underplanted with bulbs. It's serious seed sowing in spring, followed by bedding out in May, cuttings galore through the summer, then lifting all his tender plants in Autumn. There is nothing casual about Jimi's approach. It's constant vigilance.

Most days started with a walk around the garden with every bed being examined and all the star performers being discussed in detail. Jimi always supplied a list of the plants which were of interest in a particular month. This proved very useful as the year progressed as it could be

clearly seen that there were a number of stand-out plants. Certain names came up month after month and many of these are the ones that I will be looking out for when it comes to planting up my new garden.

One of the nicest things about the course was meeting up with so many keen gardeners; one guy enjoyed the course so much that he was doing it for the third time. The atmosphere was always one of breathless anticipation. People came from all over the country and one couple came over from the UK, every month! Lunch was always potluck and it was amazing the effort many people made to bring along delicious cooking and baking. It was altogether a great day out. Other highlights



of the course were a lecture from Hester Forde on 'Spring Awakens', seed and plant swaps, garden visits and nursery visits. We even made a list of our Desert Island Plant Suggestions. Jimi was always generous with information and never held back on his sources.

Although I have been gardening for many years, doing Jimi's course has stimulated my interest in trying new things and given me a renewed interest in some of the basics like seed sowing, particularly with regard to annuals. Jimi grows a lot of annuals and he uses many of these to tie his plantings together.

Some of his favourites in 2019, and I'm sure he had different favourites in 2020, were *Calendula* 'Indian Prince' and *Cosmos* 'Tango'. Having been in the garden every month of the Summer I was struck by the importance of annuals in keeping the colour going right up to the first frosts.

A very important plant in Jimi's war chest is the humble dahlia, particularly the singles grown from seed. These flowered for several months from mid-summer and are often combined with exotics such as bananas, cannas and several different salvias. Jimi grows a large selection



of salvias. Many of these are also very long flowering. My particular favourite is *S. 'Amistad'*, (right), it's well-known but I don't think you can ever have enough rich flowered spires. Other long flowering salvias grown by Jimi include 'Fulgens', (above), 'Flower Child' and 'Mulberry Jam'.



One of the things that came up again and again on the course was how useful sterile plants are when looking for a long flowering season. Some of the best include *Astrantia major* 'Bo-Ann', *Geranium* 'Anne Thompson' and *Geum* 'Totally Tangerine'. I have a suspicion that Jimi would be growing the latter irrespective of how long it flowers. For me Jimi is an incredibly colourful person and 'Totally Tangerine' just sums him up.

Unfortunately, the course didn't run this year due to Covid restrictions. However, Jimi, always the innovator, has produced an online gardening course with two modules to date, 'Late Spring to Early Summer' and 'High Summer with Jimi Blake'. The Plantspersons course is scheduled to take place next year so let's hope Covid-19 doesn't get in the way.

All details of courses and events are on [www.huntingbrook.com](http://www.huntingbrook.com).

**Triona Corcoran**

Photos: **Philip Hollwey**



## **Some of the plants that helped me through the Lockdown**

The months of Lockdown were long and lonely, luckily, gardeners were able to spend extra time out of doors tending their plants. Indeed, I noticed some previously non-gardening friends and neighbours also found it excellent therapy and I was able to encourage them by leaving boxes of plants on their doorstep which was much appreciated. I did, however, greatly miss the regular visits from gardening friends and the opportunity to share ideas and plants etc. But I soon discovered I could share images of plants on Facebook through specialist groups such as 'Friends of the SRGC' and the AGS N.E. England Group. I was delighted when I discovered that plants from many fine growers in the Dublin, Waterford, Wexford and other areas in Ireland were appearing almost daily on my screen. Later, I was so pleased to receive comments on my own postings from people whom I had met in USA, NZ and elsewhere when I visited on lecture tours during the 1990s, many of whom over time I had lost contact with.



The other big discovery I made during Lockdown was my ability to purchase from specialist mail order firms thus giving me access to many new sources of unusual plants. I have however resisted 'on-line' bulb auctions, especially galanthus, which can fetch incredible prices.

I am old enough to have started driving a car long before one needed to have passed a driving test, so, on my seventeenth birthday I drove my late father's car to Newcastle, Co. Down to visit the internationally famous Slieve Donard Nursery in the foothills of the Mountains of Mourne. I must admit that my interest in plants was probably quite

limited, but among the plants my father purchased was *Meconopsis* x 'Slieve Donard' and *Eryngium alpinum* 'Slieve Donard', both of which I still have in the garden today.

I have always regarded Sea Hollies as an acquired taste, but two visitors recently declared the Sea Holly as being their "very favourite plant in the world", so it is clear they do have a large following. Earlier this year I obtained a very dwarf and neat form (35x30cm) called *E.* 'Magic Blue Globe'. Still in full flower in mid-October, it has proved to be a welcome addition to my raised bed and a big hit with visitors. I am hoping it will set viable seed, although germination of *eryngium* seed can be quite problematical. Judging by comments on my postings on Facebook this

small Sea Holly is a scarce plant in cultivation and the smallest of all the many cultivars available to gardeners.



Japanese Anemones have a very bad reputation for being invasive in gardens, the

word 'thug' often being used to describe them. During a visit to a local garden centre which is part of a national chain (GB), I was browsing among the plants when I spotted a small double pink anemone, called *A.* 'Fantasy Belle'. The label suggested it was non-invasive and would only reach 35cm. Three years on I am pleased to say it has behaved impeccably! I grow it in a large trough, which enjoys full sun. Each autumn I lift the plant and remove four to six 'Irishman's cuttings' which grow to flowering size the following season. Unlike its larger brethren it does not produce stolons. I passed this plant to a well-known Scottish



Nurseryman and after I posted an image on Facebook he told me he had sold out!

I purchased a plant of *Digitalis* x 'Firecracker' in late spring with its buds starting to open. After a long flowering season, I recently cut off the old flowering stems and potted it up. I am planning to winter it under glass as research has confirmed that both parents of this hybrid hail from countries with much warmer winters than Co. Antrim. It has been a star during the summer months, the rather unusual peach/flame-coloured flowers attracting much comment. Being a hybrid, no viable seed is set, perhaps cuttings in early spring would be a possible means of propagation. A smaller and much neater plant than our native Foxglove, it enjoys perfect drainage and full sun in a raised bed in the company of salvias and penstemons.

In recent years I have been growing lots of penstemons, the smaller border varieties can bring a wide variety of form and colour to the garden and are very attractive to bees. I also have been collecting seed from some of my plants which I find ripens very late in the year. Although I have raised lots of seedlings, 'Waverley Pink Pixie', (below), is the only one I have named to date. The plant is neat in form, an attractive colour and very easily catered for in sunny, well-drained conditions. Cuttings from penstemons root easily in a cool propagator.

Often seen growing in gardens where they can be provided with deep



humus-rich soil, not appearing above the ground until early June, the lovely, blue *Codonopsis forrestii* which has been in cultivation for many years will clamber up a support reaching heights of up

to 1.5m and will disappear below ground in September usually setting copious seed. Seedlings reach flowering size in two years. Seed is often available from seed exchanges. Like most Himalayan plants it enjoys cool moist conditions. It was first introduced to gardens by the great plant collector George Forrest. The white form, *C. forrestii* 'Himal Snow', (below), was collected and named much more recently by the former editor of the AGS Bulletin, Dr C. Grey-Wilson. Dr John Good, whose recent Dublin Group lecture I enjoyed online, commented on my recent Facebook post saying that *C.* 'Himal Snow' was very short-lived in his N. Wales garden, so, I count myself very fortunate to have it stay with me for several years.

As I write today, we are starting another lockdown period. No doubt the much-appreciated IT skills of Jamie and others will allow us to enjoy many more fine lectures as the long dark days of winter add to our lockdown woes.



**H. C. A. McBride**

Text and photos

## Five gardeners and their five favourite plants

Musing recently about what members might find of interest during these strange times it struck me that asking a few people to name their top five plants and to say a few words about each might have its attractions. I felt that, in fairness, if I were asking other people to participate, I should do so myself on the first outing. If this idea proves popular with members, I would like to run a series in the newsletter with, of course, five different 'volunteers' each time.

When one gives serious consideration to deciding on one's favourite plants difficulties arise immediately, mainly in relation to what to leave out. Also, I think it is fair to say that today's five favourite plants might differ from those of a year ago, or even a season ago. There are always a lot of plants that one wants to include. I hope Paddy Smith doesn't mind me saying so, but his contribution on this occasion illustrates this dilemma perfectly: initially he named his top four alright but included a large number of potential candidates as well and offered an entire genus as his fifth. In fact, he has given us so much information that his account could have served as a stand-alone article. I could say the same about Martin's contribution, and his also illustrates the difficulty in choosing. I am most grateful to Martin, Paddy, Pat and Val for taking the time and trouble to participate and to do it so eloquently.

I will start proceedings with my selection.

The genus *Daphne* has always been a favourite of mine, but my first choice among the many species and cultivars has varied over the years. Most growers of alpines look to this genus for suitable small shrubs for their gardens because of the attractive flowers and in most species, the wonderful scent. My current favorite is *D. x rolsdorfii* 'Alfred Cilharz', see p. 13. It is easy going, reasonably fast-growing, reaching around 50cm in height, with rich pink, sweetly scented flowers. It stays in flower for about four weeks in April and May, sometimes with a second flush around late July.

In a similar way to my feelings about daphnes I would never be without saxifrages in the garden. Again, the choice is enormous, but I have little



hesitation in selecting *S. longifolia* as my current number one in the genus. See the article on saxifrages for more.

Primulas are a staple in the world of alpinists ranging from easy, attractive garden plants to some more difficult ones which require alpine house conditions. My favorite primula at the moment has to be *P. henrici*. This is a beautiful plant and requires similar treatment to that needed by dionysias. The fact that I have won a Farrer Medal with *P. henrici* is possibly one reason for my picking this species. It can be variable but the form I have is, I think, among the best I have seen. I got the original plant from Aberconwy maybe twelve/fifteen years ago as *P. bracteata* and I have propagated it by cuttings over the years. I have given plants to

others but in most cases the recipients have not had great success, even some who are among the best growers around. The secret of success lies in the watering regime and the provision of



compost with perfect drainage. It grows at c. 5,000m on steep cliff faces in China. The top growth must never receive any moisture and any watering should be done sparingly from the base. It can be grown from seed also, but the results are variable.

Like Paddy Smith, I couldn't do without cyclamen and have no hesitation in naming the spring-flowering *C. coum* as my favorite. It again is variable in both flower color and foliage markings, but I have yet to see a poor specimen. It seeds around but not as aggressively as *C. hederifolium*.

In the last newsletter Martin Walsh wrote eloquently about a number of blue corydalis cultivars. I have always had some of these plants in the garden and I love them, but one of the newer selections mentioned by Martin in his article is my favorite at the moment and that is *C. curviflora* subsp. *rosthornii* 'Blue Heron'. Apart from the rich blue flowers it has very distinctive blue foliage which persists all year. It should be planted in semi-shade in moist soil which never dries out. I recommend it highly. Now let's hear from the other contributors on their choices.

### Val Keegan

Who could pass by the gentian family for their first choice – *Gentiana acaulis*, *verna* and the herbaceous willow gentian? I love them all, especially *Gentiana verna*, small and beautiful, grown in a large pan. Sometimes I find them hard to keep alive in the summer – and vine weevil just love them! Perhaps I may have to think of a crevice bed to give a deeper root run.

Another plant I cannot be without is *Zalunzianskya ovata* – Night Scented Phlox from South Africa, right, (Photo: Bernard van Giessen). The



red backs to the white petals and the glorious perfume in the evening are its main attributes and it grows easily from cuttings. I keep mine in a pot beside the door so that I may enjoy the perfume.

My number three is *Asperula suberosa* or Woodruff. It has tiny pink tubular flowers growing on woolly, fine grey-green foliage and grows in gritty, well-drained soil. It does not survive the winter outdoors with us, being used to the drier climate of Greece. It makes a superb plant on the show bench.

Plants you love, you never want to be without!

*Salvia macrophylla* 'Royal Bumble' is in that category. I bought it years ago from Camolin Nursery at Bloom and though many crosses have followed, I think the original is hard to beat! It is a lovely clear red colour, flowers



continuously and propagates easily from cuttings.

Soldanellas are difficult to grow, but they are the treasures of the melting snow in spring. Dainty little fringed bells push up through the snow – not lasting very long but really beautiful. I first met them in Austria on our honeymoon! The photo above is of *S. carpatica* x *pusilla*.

### Pat Kennedy

I have always loved Snowdrops which I think of as very brave little flowers. The first to appear is eagerly awaited every year. For me it is always *Galanthus* 'Barnes', an *elwesii* hybrid, arriving in late November. It has a large flower and bulks up well. Two other favourites of mine are



'Greenfinch' and 'Godfrey Owen', both distinctive and happy to increase in semi shade and moist soil.

Hepaticas are lovely plants with good flowers and nice



leaves. I prefer the single flowers although some of the doubles are very pretty too, but more demanding in their requirements. *H.* 'Millstream Merlin', above, is a lovely blue and is my favourite. Unfortunately, it is not readily available. I was fortunate to get my plant at the auction in Termonfeckin a few years ago. It came from Harold McBride. A situation in the shade of trees or shrubs and an open loose soil with lots of leafmould suits them. In pots I use 1/3 each leafmould, JI no.3 and Perlite.



With careful selection it is possible to have cyclamen in flower for most of the year although some are better suited to an alpine house. My favourite is *C. hederifolium*, see p. 34, which is autumn-flowering and the easiest to grow. The flowers come in various shades of pink and also white and it seeds itself around. The leaves last for many months and show great variation in marking. Some are worth growing for the beautiful leaf markings alone. The Spring flowering cyclamen are also lovely, and all do best in the garden when sheltered by other plants. I love the small *Daphne petraea* but find it difficult to grow. The large pots produced for shows, covered with beautiful scented flowers, are a sight to behold. I feel very envious as despite my best efforts I can never get *petraea* to do well. However, there are others that flourish in the garden

such as *D. 'Eternal Fragrance'*, *D. tangutica* and *D. bholua 'Jacqueline Postill'*, the last a very large bush. In my garden it is tree-sized, and the beautiful flowers fill the garden with scent from January to early April. I would not be without *Rhodohypoxis baurii*, above, (Photo: Billy Moore), as it flowers from April until late summer provided it is not allowed to dry out. If this happens it can be difficult if not impossible to get it flowering again. A well-drained soil with humus and grit is required, also full sun. They do not like to be too wet when dormant, so I move my pots to a cold frame in winter and protect the troughs in wet weather. *Rhodohypoxis* are very colourful, forming large mats of red and various shades of pink and also white. One of my favourite plants.

Choosing and describing my favourite plants has provided a most welcome escape from our 2020 reality. I have many other favourites that I grow and love but the plants I have selected are ones I have been growing for many years and look forward each year to their flowering.

### **Paddy Smith**

*Gentiana verna*, (below), (Photo: Billy Moore), is my absolute favourite plant. It is one of our native plants and it grows in the Burren. When in bloom its deep blue flowers are a sight to behold and they live long in the memory.





I have been growing it for at least ten years now and it is still a very challenging plant to grow well. I continue to adjust my growing methods. It certainly likes a cool habitat away from strong summer sunshine, growing in an ericaceous, moisture-retentive, free-draining compost. I grow it in my own homemade compost that contains 10% each by volume of garden soil, peat and leafmould. The remaining 70% is a combination of Perlite, 5mm grit and coarse sand. To each litre of this mix I add three grams of bonemeal and three of Vitax Q4 slow release fertiliser. I grow it outside all year round and it is most important that roots remain damp during dry spells. It grows easily from seed when sown before the end of January, otherwise germination will follow in April the next year.

*Primula allionii* (see p. 34) in its many colour forms is a beautiful plant when grown well. It is dome shaped and



when covered all over in single saucer like flowers is a memorable sight in early Spring. When a few basics are followed it is an easy plant to grow. It needs alpine house protection, good ventilation, summer shading, watering at base of pot and use of a compost both low in fertiliser and organic material.

*Narcissus rupicola* is a neat, petite, all yellow, species daffodil growing to 15cm in height on cliff ledges in shallow soil in central Iberia. Flowering in April, it is best grown in a very gritty compost kept well moist during growth and then dry and baked until repotting in early September.

*Hepatica nobilis* including *var. japonica* and *var. pyrenaica*, (above), - slow growing early spring-flowering easy plants that will thrive in deciduous woodland conditions. They grow relatively easily in pot culture in a moisture retentive free draining soil. These slow growing, charming plants are a favourite with collectors who avidly seek the various distinctive flower colour forms that may also include some with very attractive marbled leaves. Some of the rarer colour forms and especially the *japonica* double flower forms can be difficult to obtain and expensive to buy.

As they are plants of deciduous woodland they should be shaded from April to the end of September and then given plenty of light to improve flowering during February and March.



Paddy's *Cyclamen coum*. (Photo: Billy Moore)

Growing cyclamen has given me great pleasure over the last twenty years. Of the twenty-three species in the genus, I grow approximately eighteen and this allows me to enjoy plants in flower almost all year round with the exception of June. Added to the beautiful flower shape and colour shades, several species have a wonderful array of leaf patterns and an alluring delicate scent and it is easy to understand their hypnotic

attraction. Easily grown from seed, all the species can be grown either in the garden or under glass. To start, I would suggest growing two species that are garden hardy and floriferous and have extensive leaf patterns namely, *C. hederifolium* for autumn flowering and *C. coum* for early spring.

Other species that will complement the above include *C. purpurascens* and *C. confusum* flowering in autumn and then *C. repandum* in springtime.

Most species generally perform better under glass due to their Mediterranean origins where they enjoy Summer heat and protection from excess wet.

Indoor species worth growing to complement the aforementioned species are *C. africanum*, see p. 13, *C. graecum*, *C. cilicium*, *C. mirabile* and *C. cyprium* for autumn flowering and *C. elegans*, *C. pseudibericum*, *C. persicum* and *C. peloponnesiacum* for spring flowering. I love them all!

*(I asked Paddy to nominate his best cyclamen and he replied: "This is as difficult as having to choose one of your children over the rest!" I suggested that he should consider what his response would be if he were told that he could grow only one species; he chose C. coum, an excellent choice in my opinion. Paddy couldn't help adding that he would nominate C. confusum, "an excellent plant in every respect" as his favourite autumn-flowering cyclamen. Ed.)*

## **Martin Walsh**

What a difficult challenge our editor has set. It is an almost impossible task to choose just five plants when it means having to exclude favourite genera like cypripediums, paris, corydalis, epimediums, hedychiums etc. and not to mention all the other woodlanders, ferns, alpine, herbaceous perennials as well as all the trees and shrubs! I have based my final selection on what the plant contributes to the overall display in various parts of the garden or because the plant is special as it was a gift from a good friend.

While I grow several different species of arisaemas, undoubtedly the most spectacular of these is the Chinese Cobra Lily, *Arisaema fargesii*. I originally purchased three tubers of this plant from Rob Potterton when he lectured to our Group several years ago and these have now grown into quite a respectable colony. While the relatively large liver purple-



and-white-striped flowers are certainly very striking, it is the enormous trifoliate glossy green leaves that provide many months of interest long after the flowers have faded.

In a good year, when the plant receives a plentiful supply of rain the leaves can be up to 80cm across. In the autumn, the display is further enhanced when brilliant red seed heads are produced, often rather late in the season. I grow it in moist, humus rich soil in my main woodland garden where it only ever receives early morning sunshine. This is in fact an easy species to grow provided you give it well-drained conditions in order to prevent it rotting off over the winter. To this end I plant the tubers on a bed of perlite.



While I grow several hardy orchids none of them, as yet, makes such a colourful display as the large-flowered rose-pink flowers of *Dactylorhiza x grandis* 'Blackthorn Strain', (above). This spectacular orchid is now a favourite feature of the garden in June. It is a hybrid of the heath spotted orchid, *D. maculata*, with the southern marsh orchid, *D. praetemissa*. With its hybrid vigour the plant grows considerably taller and produces much larger flowers than either of those two species, often attaining a height of 60cm, especially when divided regularly and given rich conditions. I obtained three tubers of this plant from Keith Wiley just six years ago and now have quite a number of clumps of it planted

throughout my fern garden and adjoining borders. In the fern garden, I also have planted the heavily-spotted *Dactylorhiza* ‘Madame Butterfly’, which I purchased at a plant sale in Margaret Glynn’s wonderful garden in Ballymena, Co. Antrim – a plant that had been donated to the plant sale by the late Jim Price of the Ulster Group.

Similarly, from the same source, albeit indirectly, comes my next favourite plant, *Meconopsis gakyidiana*. This big blue poppy was a most welcome present from long-time friend and discerning plantsman, James Wickham, who originally acquired it from Margaret Glynn. It was labelled as *Meconopsis grandis*, which would have been a correct name when Margaret grew it. However, I am fairly sure that it is in fact *Meconopsis gakyidiana* as it has all the characteristics of that species. The form of *Meconopsis grandis*, which was known for years as ‘GS 600’ was introduced from eastern Bhutan by the indefatigable British plant-hunters, Ludlow and Sherriff. However, it has recently been determined by Toshio Yoshida, Rinchen Yangzom and David Long that this is not in fact that species after all, but rather a different species of meconopsis that has been named as *M. gakyidiana*, a name however that is a bit more of a challenge to pronounce! I am particularly pleased to have this blue poppy as I, along with colleagues from Sweden, Belgium and the UK, travelled to Bhutan in 2015 to see if we could rediscover it where George Sherriff had first found it in 1934. This we duly did, often finding it growing in spectacular colonies.

While I have struggled to decide on a favourite roscoeas as I like so many of these wonderful garden plants including *Roscoeas* ‘Harvington Royale’, ‘Raw Silk’, ‘Purple Peacock’ etc., I finally opted for *Roscoeas* *purpurea* ‘Vannin’. What I particularly like about this plant is that it flowers reasonably late, and for quite a number of weeks, unlike so many of the early flowering roscoeas. It was collected in North-eastern Nepal by modern day plant collectors, Bledodyn and Sue Wynn-Jones, well-known owners of Crug Farm Nursery in north Wales and named for their grandson. This really is a superb plant as it flowers from August right into early November producing quite large white, purple stained flowers on robust reddish-brown stems that can grow up to 60cm. I have used it

as the key feature plant providing late interest in the main woodland garden along with *Actea matsumurae* 'White Pearl', *Isodon longitubus* 'Tube Socks', *Gentiana asclepiadea* and *Anemone* 'Wild Swan' etc. I acquired this plant as well as the following choice of favourite plants from Finlay Colley of Rare Plants Ireland, a leading supplier of desirable plants.

Like last year's (2019) Man Booker Prize my final choice is shared equally between two superb trilliums that I could not possibly choose from!



As we gardeners know, April is a magical month in the garden and even more so in the woodland garden. The moment that I always look forward to with great anticipation each year is when *Trillium flexipes* 'Harvington Selection', (above) comes into flower, amidst a tapestry of ferns, brunnera, epimediums, drifts of *Erythronium* 'Minnehaha' and a carpet of white *Anemone nemerosa*, *Saxifraga cuneata*, *Paris sp.*, *Saxifraga x geum* etc. I find *T. flexipes* 'Harvington Selection' to be one of the very best pure white flowered trilliums and it is quite a vigorous form growing to around 40cm. The disposition of the flowers is also a very attractive attribute of this trillium as they are outward facing and held well clear of the foliage on long pedicels.

A month earlier, the giant trillium, *Trillium chloropetalum* var. *giganteum* is the star plant in the fern garden. This spectacular trillium with its deep



blood-red, sessile flowers and heavily mottled foliage makes a magnificent display as I now have several clumps of it. When it is mature it grows to around 45cm in height, especially when grown in rich conditions. The late Allie Pigot, a great gardener and friend who gardened in Sandymount, very kindly bequeathed her collection of this trillium to me. She had bought plants of it from the English nurseryman Kevin Hughes at a lecture he gave to our Group many years ago.

*(I asked Martin also to come off the fence but, unlike Paddy, he just couldn't bring himself to choose, so, exercising editorial privilege, I'll do it for him and suggest that his fifth favourite should be the Trillium flexipes. Ed.)*

So, there we have it, a list of choice plants which could feature on anyone's wish list. I have made a note of some of them to add to mine. I had made up my list before I saw any of the others and after seeing them was very tempted to make a change or two. For example, I am very fond of trilliums, gentians, arisaemas, roscoeas, rhodohypoxis, galanthus, hepaticas, narcissus and others which I could easily have included in my five but then what about the five I had chosen? Interesting that the only species to be included at the top of more than one list was *Gentiana verna* and I would be surprised if it didn't also feature in at least one of the lists in the next instalment in this series. The only other plant to get more than one vote was *Cyclamen coum* and who could disagree with that?

**Billy Moore**



*Primula allionii* at Loughborough Show 2020, see p. 27. (Photo: Billy Moore)



*Cyclamen hederifolium*, see p. 25. (Photo: Billy Moore)

## SAXIFRAGES

Alpines are often referred to as 'jewel-like', an epithet that is particularly apt for many members of the genus *Saxifraga*. Reginald Farrer called saxifrages "the backbone of the rock-garden and no less". It is a huge genus, containing roughly 480 species of perennials and annuals mostly from the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere, including Ireland, as well as thousands of hybrids both man-made and natural. The genus contains a high proportion of excellent garden plants the majority of which are easily grown, although there are some species which will test the skill of the most expert growers. Hence, an article like this can serve as only a brief introduction to these beauties. If you want to learn more go to the web page of the Saxifrage Society at [www.saxifraga.org](http://www.saxifraga.org).

The genus is divided into fifteen sections but for simplicity we will deal mainly with just four: the 'silvers' (Section *Ligulatae*), the 'kabschias' and 'englerias' (Section *Porphyryon*), the 'mossies' (Section *Saxifraga*) and the 'London Pride' types (Section *Gymnopera*). The real gems of the genus come from the first two sections so I will concentrate on those. Before doing so, however, I must mention two little plants from other sections that are worth growing. Firstly, *S. fortunei* (section *Irregulares*), which is an ideal saxifrage for the woodland garden where it will light up a shady corner in October. It has handsome, rounded, glossy leaves, green on top, becoming tinged with bronze, and rich red underneath with, normally, pure white flowers. Aberconwy Nurseries in North Wales (when will we see them again?) has introduced new selections with pink flowers and even more attractive foliage such as, 'Autumn Tribute', 'Pink Haze' and 'Pink Cloud' all of which are worth seeking out. The only annual saxifrage that I grow is *S. cymbalaria* (Section *Cymbalaria*) and, although it is a prolific seeder, I would not be without it as any unwanted seedlings are easily removed. It is tiny with bright green foliage and cheerful yellow flowers in early spring, an ideal under-planting for dwarf bulbs such as *Muscari*.

The 'silvers' are so called because of their beautiful silver coloured rosettes, the colour coming from the encrustation of lime on the hard



leaves. While these plants all produce attractive flowers they are worth growing for their rosettes alone and no rock garden should be without a selection. Most of them will thrive in full sun or partial shade in ordinary garden soil, but require sharp drainage which can be provided by incorporating generous amounts of grit, ideally limestone chippings, in the soil. In the absence of limestone chippings the plants will benefit from an occasional dressing of dolomitic lime which you will find in good garden centres – they do not require feeding. While most of the plants I will mention can be grown in the open garden some will do better in a pot protected from excessive winter wet. The trickier subjects



are for the alpine house or, even better, will do well outside planted into tufa. Propagation is by seed or cuttings.

One of the very best saxifrages is *S.*

*longifolia* (left. Photo: Billy Moore). Sadly, it is monocarpic, but its very handsome rosette, which can be 30cm across, takes up to five years to reach

the flowering stage. Meanwhile its silver rosette will delight you through each of those years. It is almost a pity when it decides to flower but the inflorescence, which can be 70cm tall, and consists of a multitude of small white flowers, is quite spectacular. It sets abundant seed. Ideally you should keep a succession of the plants growing so that each year you can enjoy the rosettes of some and the flowers of at least one. A hybrid with *S. callosa*, aptly named ‘Tumbling Waters’, is worth looking out for as it produces side rosettes which will grow on to flower after the main rosette has died.

*S. paniculata* is an easy-going but variable species with lime-encrusted rosettes and white or cream, occasionally yellow, flowers with varying degrees of red spotting. There are many excellent cultivars available including 'Hirtella' and 'Labradorica', both smaller than the type plant, 'Orientalis' with very silvery leaves, 'Rex' with large pale cream flowers and mahogany red stems and 'Balcana' whose white flowers are heavily spotted with red. A widely available and easy plant is *S. x* 'Whitehills' (*S. paniculata* x *S. cochlearis*) with grey green lime encrusted rosettes, the leaves coloured red near the base, and with dense panicles of cream flowers.

A natural hybrid from the Maritime Alps between *S. paniculata* and *S. cochlearis* is *S. x burnatii*. It has tight rosettes of frosted leaves and arching reddish stems 20 cm long with panicles of many pure white flowers. This is a long-time favourite with growers and is a very decorative addition to any rock garden.

*S. cochlearis* itself is a delightful, easy plant with tightly packed rosettes, heavily lime-encrusted, bearing white flowers on red stems. The species is variable in size, the smaller ones being the more attractive. Var. *minor*, the smallest, is especially effective in a raised bed or trough.

Another very obliging, but variable, species is *S. cotyledon*, which, unusually, does not need lime. Its large flat rosettes have glaucous, toothed, silvery leaves. The flowers are generally white, occasionally spotted with red, on stems of up to 60cm. 'Pyramidalis' is a particularly good form. That well-known, fine cultivar with red spotted flowers and attractive rosettes, *S.* 'Southside Seedling', has *S. cotyledon* as one of its parents. It received the RHS Award of Merit in 1953 and was described at the time as follows: "above a rosette of leaves 4 inches across, the graceful flower stems, 15 inches in height, bear masses of white flowers, heavily blotched and spotted with dull crimson, particularly towards the centre...the individual flowers are  $\frac{5}{8}$  inches across and the stems and leaf stalks are covered with glandular hairs". A striking plant which is deservedly popular.

Moving to Section *Porphyryon* we have a range of quite different but equally beautiful plants. Two excellent cultivars with Irish connections

are *S. 'Bridget'* and *S. x hornibrookii*. The former was raised at Lissadell in Co. Sligo and is a cross between *S. marginata* and *S. stribrnyi*. 'Bridget' has small, crowded rosettes with silvery foliage and pale mauve flowers on 15cm stems covered in pink hairs. *S. hornibrookii* (*S. lilacina* x *S. stribrnyi*) is named after the plant collector Murray Hornibrook, who lived in Abbeyleix in the early twentieth century. The form 'Riverslea' has glaucous green, lime-encrusted foliage and deep red upward facing flowers.

*S. stribrnyi* itself is a fine plant and not too difficult, although if grown outside it will probably do best in a trough or raised bed. A plant of this species that I raised from seed was adjudged 'best at show' in the Ulster Group AGS Show in 1998, earning for me the coveted Farrer Medal, so I have a particular fondness for it.



*Saxifraga stribrnyi*. (Photo: Billy Moore)

Hybrids of *S. burseriana* that have stood the test of time are *S. x irvingii* 'Jenkinsiae', *S. Elizabethae* and *S. 'Valerie Finnis'*. They are all first rate garden plants the first and last having yellow flowers and 'Jenkinsiae' pale lilac-pink.

*S. 'Winifred'* is a very good cultivar having large flowers of a deep, rich crimson which are almost stemless and seem to sit on the cushion of small green rosettes. It received the RHS Award of Merit in 1963 and is number one on the Saxifrage Society's list of all-time favourites.

An important species in this group is *S. oppositifolia*. It is again very variable with foliage that is more green than the species mentioned so far, although the leaves do have lime glands. The flowers, pale pink to deep purple, rarely white, are carried on very short leafy stems. It is a very good garden plant but needs more shade than most saxifrages and must not be allowed to dry out. Good forms are 'Theoden' and 'Splendens', both with large, rich, rosy-purple flowers.

A plant that is very popular with alpine enthusiasts is *S. federici-augusti* subsp. *grisebachii*, especially in its form, 'Wisley'. This is a very handsome plant with heavily lime-encrusted foliage and crozier-like flower stems 15 cm high, covered in rich crimson glandular hairs. It is best under glass but can be grown successfully outside in a trough, raised bed or scree. Somewhat similar in appearance, but perhaps slightly more difficult, is *S. porophylla* with rich rose purple flower stems.

Most of the kabschia hybrids (photo p. 38) that I have mentioned are well established in cultivation but new cultivars are being introduced all the time by breeders in the UK and mainland Europe, notably the Czech Republic, maybe too many, and we are now spoiled for choice. They come in a range of colours, white, yellow, many shades of pink, and red – try to buy yours in flower.

The 'mossy' saxifrages are quite different from the plants mentioned already. They form loose mats of soft, usually green, rosettes with flowers ranging from white to yellow through pink to scarlet. They are easily grown and there are many named varieties. One of the best is *S. 'Ballawley Guardsman'*, very free-flowering with glowing, crimson-scarlet flowers. It was introduced by Ballawley Nursery which flourished in Dundrum, Co. Dublin for thirty-plus years up to the early 'fifties. These hybrids are derived from several species including the white flowered *S. rosacea* which grows in the Burren. In this group also is *S. granulata*, a graceful little plant with white flowers that can become



naturalized in the garden. Its double form, 'Plena', also known as 'Fair Maids of France' has larger flowers but lacks the elegance of the type.

Finally we come to section *Gymnopera* which contains *S. × urbium* (*S. umbrosa* × *S. spathularis* - the latter grows in Co. Kerry), known as London Pride. These easy, shade-tolerant plants were once very widely grown but seem to have fallen out of favour. 'Ingwersen's Variety', syn. 'Walter Ingerswen', has red stems with attractive rosy pink flowers.

As Farrer said saxifrages are the backbone of the rock garden and for many people are the quintessential alpine. They are quite widely grown but not, I think, by people new to gardening. It is somewhat surprising that with gardens becoming ever smaller, more new gardeners are not turning to alpines which come in such variety and are such interesting plants, beautiful, small and easy to grow.

**Billy Moore**



Some of the author's kabschia (mainly) saxifrages.



## FIXTURES

**Thursday, 21 January, 8 pm. AGM** followed by **Fionnuala Broughan**, 'Adventures of a Tour Guide in Kilmacurragh'. Zoom.

**Thursday, 18 February, 8 pm. Anne Spiegel** on her garden. Zoom.

**Thursday, 18 March, 8 pm. Panayoti Kelaidis**, 'Denver Botanic Gardens'. Zoom.

**April, May, June, September** – events and dates to be announced. These will include Zoom lectures on the third Thursday in each month as well as outdoor activities such as garden visits.

**Thursday, 14 October, 8 pm. Ger van den Beuken**, 'Cushion Plants'. Venue TBA.

**Thursday, 4 November, 8 pm. Declan Doogue**, 'Changes in the Flora of Ireland'. Venue TBA.

**19 to 21 November. 37<sup>th</sup> Alpine Weekend. Vojtech Holubec, Jim Jermyn and Brendan Sayers.** An Grianán, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth.

**Thursday, 9 December, 8 pm. Christmas Miscellany.** Venue TBA.

**More details about the fixtures can be found on p. 7.**

## NOTES

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

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*Daphne bholua* 'Jacqueline Postill' in the Editor's garden in January 2017. See p. 26.