

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2020 Number 523

The Picnic at Rawreth was a great success, the weather was kind to us, it was a lovely warm sunny afternoon. Twenty six members attended and sat round in a large circle, socially distancing of course and an excellent raffle was organised by Ray and Ruth, many thanks to members who bought along plants for it and also to all at Forge for allowing us the use of their field.



The raffle in progress.



Winners choosing their prizes.



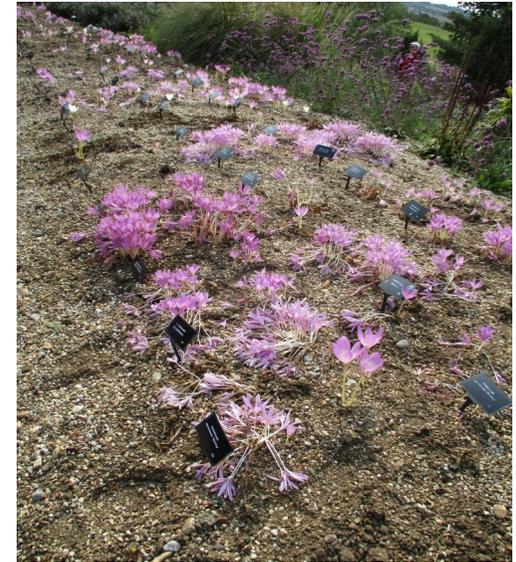
Ray giving us his expert knowledge and advice on the plants bought along for the display table.

Congratulations to Ray Drew.
Ray has been given an Award of Honour by the Alpine Garden Society for his work, both past and present within the Society.

COLCHICUM'S AT HYDE HALL.

The launch of the long-awaited Colchicum book, born from the RHS trial, took place on Friday 11th September at Hyde Hall. A low-key affair, due to Covid19 restrictions and associated social rules but none-the-less fairly well attended. The three authors, Kit Grey-Wilson, Rod Leeds and Robert Rolfe were in attendance, posing gleefully amongst the Colchicums for the now necessary launch photos and book signing.

The trial itself was a great success, with plenty of necessary identifications and re-naming taking place. It was confirmed on the day that Hyde Hall are applying for National Collection status of the genus - an obvious conclusion.



If you grow Colchicums in any numbers and are constantly wondering about the naming of your plants then this book is a must. Cultivars like the widely grown *C. 'Violet Queen'* had apparently disappeared from existence a number of years ago (a description of the original selection matches nothing presently in cultivation) so the imposter has now been re-christened *C. 'Hollands Glory'*. *C. tenorei* (often misspelt as *tenorii*), recently dumped into *C. cillicum* has now been re-christened *C. ambiguum*, because of its chequered and somewhat unknown past. Many other corrections and re-assignments have been made, too many for a short article. A stand-out plant for me was *C. 'Glory of Heemstede'*, probably the darkest CV on show, with good tessellation and a solid white throat it's freely available in the trade. The trial itself is long finished but the bed is still worth a visit in early to mid-Autumn.



Ray Drew.

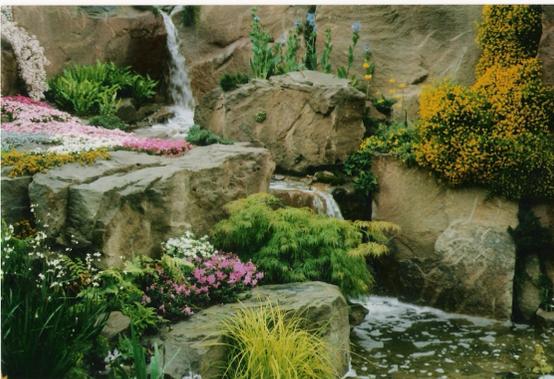
Robin had a mention in the AGS September Journal, his plant of *Pleione forestii* x *humilis* *Sirena* gx. was considered a highlight of the Show at the Early Spring back in February this year at Theydon Bois.

Continued from last month.



My first experience of working on the AGS exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show and meeting Michael Upward. The top picture shows what faced us and bottom is Michael surveying the finished exhibit.

The plants came from all parts of the country, many were collected by Dick Bathe in his little van, Dicks wife Val then spent hours cleaning them all up before use.



'The Magic of the Mountains'
The 2000 exhibit displayed on the Rock Bank



Dactylicapnos Scandens
Yellow Bleeding Heart Vine.

Ok, so this isn't an alpine but I thought it was a plant that's unusual and I had never seen it before. I bought it from Edrom Nursery at the Early Spring Show as I wanted something to grow up a metal trellis to block out the neighbour's fence panels...I hate looking at fence panels, it has worked well. It is quite fast growing and clings without having to tie it, which I am not good at. As you can see I have grown it through a clematis. The stems are quite fragile so it's no problem if it starts to go where you don't want it. Edrom say it is perennial so I hope it will be hardy although it dies back for winter. The colour is a lovely bright yellow and I really like it and it flowers for a long period. I will be trying it from seed whether I will be successful I don't know, but I would recommend it so far!!!



Margaret.

As it looks like this awful virus is not going away and more restrictions will be put in place, we need to keep this Newsletter going to keep members informed of what's going on while we still can't meet together. To do this I need articles, it has been the same few people sending me stuff and for this I am very grateful but there are many more members who grow beautiful plants and have their own ways of cultivation etc. so come on write a short article or send a photo or two of that special plant. For those who don't use email you can send it by post to me. Address below.

Paul.

Chairman	Secretary	Show Secretary	Editor
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