



# Alpine Garden Society

## Hampshire Group

### Newsletter: January 2021



\*\*\*\*\*  
**Contents:**

Page 1	Chairman's message
Page 2	Hampshire AGS Social Media; Group Officers
Page 3	2021 Spring Programme Online Plant and Photographic Competitions
Page 4	Plant Sales
Page 5	Mavis Dean – an Obituary Abbey Water, Romsey
Page 8	Some Favourites for the Winter Garden
Page 10	An Apprenticeship at Mottisfont Abbey
Page 14	Fifty years ago

**Editor: Janice Bennetts**  
**2 Terriote Close**  
**Chandlers Ford**  
**Eastleigh, SO53 2QF**  
**Tel: 02380 252149**  
**Email: [ujbennetts@gmail.com](mailto:ujbennetts@gmail.com)**  
**Deadline for the next edition is**  
**1st August 2021**

### Chairman's Message

I think we are pleased to see the back of 2020 and all the restrictions that COVID-19 have brought. It has decimated our AGS life with a curtailed programme in the Spring; shows, competitions and plant sales cancelled, and an online Autumn programme courtesy of Zoom. How much we have missed the face-to-face interaction. However, all of this has helped to keep us safe and our Zoom meetings will continue into the Spring with a full programme planned until May, and an element of flexibility in case the vaccine rollout gives us some respite.

The Spring programme is detailed on page 3. We are also planning to run online plant and photographic competitions during the coming months and, again, details are on pages 3 and 4. We hope that many of you will join in. Subject to restrictions being lifted, we are also hoping to open the garden during the Spring and early Summer, even if only to smaller groups and with appropriate social distancing precautions. Our aim is to meet as many of the group as possible before we, hopefully, will be able to run our monthly meetings at Chilworth Hall once again from September.

Our Zoom meetings to date have been run in a 'bubble' with our neighbouring friends and AGS Groups from Dorset and West Sussex. Jon Evans was our Zoom guinea pig in September talking on 'Late September in Paxos'; and the success of this talk led to increased interest in our Zoom programme from AGS members around the country and indeed some from overseas. Hampshire and Dorset member, David Hughes, presided over our Open Lecture giving a superb presentation on 'Hunting Alpines in Yunnan'. What was fascinating was to see so many plants we grow in the garden growing at such high altitudes in the wild.

David's wife Christine organised our November speaker, Jenny Wainwright-Klein, the Supervisor of the Schachen Garden, part of Munich Botanic Garden. Over 100 people 'zoomed' in to listen to Jenny talk on the plants of the Schachen Garden which included flora from around the world. The most amazing thing was that the garden is only open for about 12 weeks a year due to its altitude and snow cover.

We closed the autumn/winter programme with short talks from a member of each Group: Martin Sheader (Hampshire), Peter Liverman (West Sussex), and Caroline Seymour (Dorset) talking respectively on growing 'Oxalis', 'Lockdown Projects' and 'Coastal Gardens of Maine'. These were interspersed with the usual challenging quiz, this year written by David Butcher, and won by Becky Getgood and Malcolm Calvert with Martin Sheader in third place. Congratulations to all. Well done and thank you to everyone who has contributed this year.

I know from conversations with you and postings on Facebook and other Social Media that lots of projects have been taking place; and here at Hursley Road is no exception, with Ben building another boardwalk. The bottom end of the pond bank was slowly slipping into the pond so Ben has built a boardwalk to work from when weeding and tending that area of the garden. A bench could provide a lovely place to sit and enjoy the garden.

The Iris bed has been largely dug out to rid us of the Mares Tail which has become a real nuisance; we just need to plant back the 20 – 30 Irises removed in the process.



The boardwalk

Autumn Crocus, Sternbergia and Colchicum all performed well this year and the snowdrop season has started early with many of the sales pots already showing growth, indeed blooming and some already over. The show pots are looking good but sadly no shows to go to at this time of year; I think many are flowering early. The early Narcissus are blooming and a *Daphne bholua* from Michael Baron is just wonderful sending scent across the garden. It's an exciting time of year as all those hidden bulbs are breaking the surface and we look forward to being able to share all this with you in the spring.



In the meantime, enjoy your gardens and stay safe.

**Paddy Parmee**

*Crocus speciosus*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Hampshire AGS – Social Media

If any help is needed with Social Media, just contact Paddy.

Links are as follows:



**Website Hampshire Group** <https://www.alpinegardensociety.net/local-groups/hampshire/>  
**AGS Members' Group** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/alpinegardeners/>



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

Paddy's new 'Alpine Gardeners' Facebook page which is a blog of Ben and her garden

<https://www.facebook.com/alpinegardeners/>



**Twitter @HampshireAGS** <https://twitter.com/HampshireAGS>



**Instagram** <https://www.instagram.com/alpinegardeners/?hl=en>

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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>	David Hanslow	Jo Whitfield	Angela Lobley
	Dorothy Searle	Steve Lobley	

## 2021 Spring Programme

The programme will all be via a Zoom link. For those who have not used Zoom, full instructions will be issued well in advance and Ben will be available to help.

Dates – all Thursdays 7 for 7.30 pm	Speakers	Topic
28 January	Michael Myers Lecturer at Craven College	<i>Snowdrops from October to April</i>
25 February	Graham Poynter Tour Guide & a member of Dorset AGS	<i>On the Trail of Farrer from Dales to Dolomites</i>
25 March The 21 <sup>st</sup> Lionel Bacon Memorial Lecture	Kevin Hughes of Cally Gardens	<i>Cally Gardens a Plant Extravaganza</i>
22 April	Dr Celia Wright a member of Shropshire AGS	<i>Flowers of Lesotho. Kingdom in the Sky</i>
13 May Annual General Meeting	<b><i>Online Plant and Photographic Competition Results *</i></b>  The David Benton Rose Bowl is awarded to the winner of the Plant Competition, and the Margaret Hedges Trophy for the photographic competition winner	
27 May	David Charlton AGS Judge & Tour Guide with Colletts Mountain Holidays	<i>Flowers of the Pyrenees</i>

### \* Online Plant and Photographic Competition

The annual competitive Plant Show for the David Benton Rose Bowl and Photographic competition for the Margaret Hedges Memorial award will this year take place online. We are most grateful to Steve and Angela Lobley who have taken on the task of organising the competitions this year. We have also been lucky to secure the services of professional judges: Martin Sheader AGS Shows judge, who will judge the Plant Competition; and, Jon Evans one of the AGS official show photographers, who will judge the Photographic Competition.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions the online photographic competition and digital photographic plant show entries and results will be published and announced on 13th May 2021, at our AGM Zoom meeting.

The same image is not allowed to be entered into both competitions.

#### **Hampshire AGS DIGITAL Photographic Competition Guidance and Rules**

1. Entrants must be a member of Hampshire AGS.
2. Ideally images should have been taken during or since the first lockdown in March 2020.
3. Images can be of any Alpine flower, in macro, or normal mode, in the ground or in a pot. The pot does not have to be shown.
4. If necessary the organisers will divide images into appropriate categories (macro, close up, garden view etc.). If so there will be class winners and an overall winner who will receive the award.
5. Entries will be judged on the quality of the image, not the rarity or quality of the plant.
6. Digital Images ideally to be in jpeg or jpg format.
7. Maximum 3 images per person.

8. If possible can you name the image and send to Steve Lobley as follows:
  - a. Competition type - Your name - Plant name. (i.e. Photocomp - Steve Lobley - *Pelargonium Ardens*)
  - b. If you are not able to name the image, then please add this information in the text of your email
  - c. Email images to:- [lobville@gmail.com](mailto:lobville@gmail.com)
9. The competition opens on 1st January 2021.
10. Closing date is 18th April 2021.

### Guidance

Images taken on a camera phone are acceptable. However, these need to be of a minimum file size of 1mb (approx. 1200 x 1200 pixels). Sending by share or message text will not typically give this size. Images should ideally be downloaded from a phone and sent as an email.

### Hampshire AGS DIGITAL Photographic Open Plant Competition

These images should represent the whole plant as would be displayed and judged at our local show. For guidance on acceptable plants please click on this link to the AGS shows directory below:

[http://shows.alpinegardensociety.net/pdf\\_files/show/Wimborne.pdf](http://shows.alpinegardensociety.net/pdf_files/show/Wimborne.pdf)

- 1 Entrants must be a member of Hampshire AGS
- 2 Ideally images should have been taken during or since the first lockdown in March 2020
- 3 Images can be of any Alpine Plant, either in flower or for foliage. Ideally the pot or small section of the surrounding soil should be shown.
- 4 Entries will be judged on the quality of the rarity or quality of the plant, not the quality of the image
- 5 Three categories are available
  - a. An alpine plant in flower/bud
  - b. Grown for foliage
  - c. A miniature Alpine Garden i.e. in a pan no bigger than 36cms.
  - d. There will be class winners and an overall winner who will receive the award
- 6 Entries will be judged on the quality of the rarity or quality of the plant, not the quality of the image
- 7 Digital Images ideally to be in jpeg or jpg format
- 8 Maximum 5 images per person, but no more than 2 in any one class
- 9 If possible can you name the image and send to Steve Lobley as follows:
  - a. Competition type - Your name - Plant name. (i.e. Plantcomp - Steve Lobley – *Saxifraga* 'Mossy Red')
  - b. If you are not able to name the image, then please add this information in the text of your email
- 10 Email images to:- [lobville@gmail.com](mailto:lobville@gmail.com)
- 11 The competition opens on 1st January 2021
- 12 Closing date is 18th April 2021

### Guidance

Images taken on a camera phone are acceptable, however these need to be of a minimum file size of 1mb (approx. 1200 x 1200 pixels). Sending by share or message text will not typically give this size. Images should ideally be downloaded from a phone and sent as an email.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Plant Sales

**Annual Plant Sale** – it is hoped that we may be able to organise some outdoor plant sales at our outdoor open garden events if Government restrictions allow in the spring of 2021.

Details will be circulated in advance of any event.



## Mavis Dean, 7 April 1932 – 23 November 2020

My Mum had a love of plants, she grew so many, and over the years she taught me so much. She was like an encyclopaedia. She was a member of the AGS and Local Hampshire Group for many years before she moved to N. Ireland. She returned to the Group when we brought her back to England in 2018. Mum loved alpines. She had many trips to the mountains to see them. She would ring me with a plant she wanted to find, so with the plant finder and a map, we went all over the countryside to find nurseries and treasures we sadly cannot find today.



There are many lovely memories, but of note were: our trips to 'Blackthorns' on a Friday morning with lunch at The Globe in Alresford; trips to the AGS show at St Vincent's hall, where I used to park the car outside on a parking metre then fill it up with treasures we found. Lunch would be at the Westminster School of Cookery which was next door.

Mum loved an audience and many of you will remember her talks, she had you in fits of laughter, and her photography was amazing.

It was so nice to have her back home these last few years where she could enjoy the meetings, our garden openings, chat to so many of you, and get more cake!

She will be missed but never forgotten.

Thank you all for all your kind messages.

### Paddy Parmee

\*\*\*\*\*

## Abbey Water, Romsey

by Jo Whitfield

Those of you who have visited my garden in Abbey Water, Romsey, when it has been open for La Ronde, Romsey Festival, will know that it is a small garden facing south. There is a high wall around it, which allows for an interesting microclimate. The year starts with the garden looking bare, but what appears to be lots of pots! Snowdrops and crocus appear in the flower beds - not a lot of specialist snowdrops but a large collection of *Galanthus nivalis* and several clumps of *Galanthus* 'Sam Arnott', which seem to like my garden.

This year I decided that I would try to increase the plants in the garden that would be beneficial to bees and hoverflies. My knowledge of bees and hoverflies has been increased by joining several groups on Facebook, which has provided amazing insights into bees lives. I was fascinated to discover that we have 270 species of bees in Britain and Ireland; and that the bumblebee and the honeybee account for only one tenth of that figure.

I was also surprised to learn that over a quarter of our bee species do not collect pollen or make nests but are 'cuckoos' of other bee species.

I knew that I had already got a number of plants that were important to pollinators, that I have had for a number of years, but thought I would try to introduce others. We have lived in Abbey Water for 45 years on 1st December this year. The garden is tiny so that the idea of a wild flower patch or meadow was not possible.

I love Erythronium and Epimedium and have a nice collection. I have always been amused by the early bumblebees that hang off the tiny flowers of *Epimedium davidii*, which came from Robin White's nursery a long time ago. I have two beds of Erythronium: one with *Erythronium*. 'Pagoda' and *E.* 'Joanna', and one with *E.* 'Knighthayes', *Revolutum*, 'White Beauty' and 'Snowgoose'.



*Galanthus* 'Sam Arnott'



*Erythronium 'Pagoda'*

The *Erysimum* 'Bowles Mauve' was bought in 2018. It started to flower this year in early spring and is still flowering. When the weather is suitable for bees, it nearly always has several buzzing about it. A black bee visited every day, which I discovered was a Hairy-footed Flower Bee, *Anthophora plumipes*.

In April, *Erythronium Revolutum*, 'Snowgoose', 'White Beauty' and 'Kinfauns Pink' are looking beautiful. The spring of 2020 was very warm and their stay in the garden was short lived, but they were stunning.

Behind the Erythronium there is a *Geranium phaeum* 'Samobor', which is loved by the bees. It seeds all over the place but I allow some new ones to grow which the bees can enjoy when there may not be much about. They get the 'Chelsea Chop' in June. This seems to extend their flowering period. The geraniums species in general seem to be loved by the bees, so I have a number. By early May, the bees have lots of flowers to keep them busy. *Cirsium Rivulare* 'Atropurpureum', which I have had for years is flowering and regularly visited by bees. *Allium* 'Purple Sensation' and *Nectaroscordum siculum* are flowering and the garden is humming. At the back of the garden, *Geum* 'Totally Tangerine' and *Aquilegia* 'Ruby Port' flower together.



*Erythronium revolutum*



*Erythronium 'White Beauty'*

As 'Purple Sensation' takes on its 'sputnik' look, *Gladiolus communis* subsp. *byzantinus* are flowering in various places in the garden. They seem to require lots of watering in my garden, especially on my west facing wall bed, where *Thalictrum aquilegifolium* flowers are loved by hoverflies as well as bees. *Geranium* 'Anne Thompson' begins to spread herself with her wonderful coloured flowers along the length of the bed, and flowers into November. There is also the off-spring of *Geranium* 'Johnson's Blue' which I've had since 1976, in the garden, mostly in this bed. There are also a number of roses starting to flower. In the east facing bed there is a 'Constance Spry' which is forgiven for its one flowering, because it is spectacular. Near this rose is *Iris sibirica* from Spinners, which refused to flower for years and now is beautiful. Along the back wall is my collection of Hostas. Originally bought because that end of the garden was very dark, because of the wall and there was a large double flowering cherry tree, which although beautiful, presented challenges. However, it was because this part of the garden was dark, that I started being interested in Erythronium. The Erythronium beds are on either side of the black flower pots. When the Erythronium die back I place large pots of bedding plants, that I know are of interest to bees on the beds, rather than having other plants in these beds. Sadly, the cherry tree has gone and the Erythronium beds are in sun for half the day.

Last summer I discovered some salvias that I have not had before. In particular the deep pink *Salvia microphylla* 'Bordeaux', which has really pleased me, encouraging lots of bees in late summer, especially *Bombus terrestris*, the buff tailed bumble bee we are all familiar with. So funny, when hanging off the small flowers. The yellow,

Bronze Fennel, was usually populated with hoverfly. On the right there is a Honeysuckle on which the bird feeders hang and a *Thalictrum* 'Splendide'. At the front, *Cosmos bipinnatus* 'Double Click Bicolour Rose' nearly took over the garden by November.



*Thalictrum aquilegifolium*



*Thalictrum aquilegifolium* distant view



*Salvia microphylla* 'Bordeaux',



*Cosmos bipinnatus* 'Double click Bicolour Rose'



**Top Row:** Honeybee on Geranium Samobor, Honeybee on *Geranium* 'Anne Thompson'

**Middle Row:** Ashy Mining Bee on *Geranium* 'Brookside', Buff Tailed Bumblebee on *Cirsium rivulare* 'Atropurpureum'.

**Bottom Row:** Carder Bee on *Echinacea* 'Delicious Candy', Late Carder Bee on *Salvia guarantica*, optimistically trying to fit in to the flower. In October the Buff Tailed Bumblebees nectar-rob from the base of the Salvias.



Hoverfly *Episyrphus balteatus*

**Bibliography:**

Ball, Stuart. and Morris, Roger. 2015. Britain's Hoverflies, a Field Guide.  
 Falk, Steven., 2015. Field Guide to the Bees of Great Britain.

## Some Favourites for the Winter Garden

by Jennifer Harmer

I have always loved winter gardens. My father was in the army and in the early 1950s he was stationed near Nottingham. His office was in a large requisitioned Victorian house with a garden which had been allowed to run wild. Occasionally, he worked on a Saturday and, as a special treat, I was allowed to go with him. When the weather was good, I played in the garden where I discovered a magical corner. Under a bowed old yew tree, was a seat and, next to it, a slate slab on which was written: *The Winter Garden*. I spent many happy hours there, although I recognised few of the plants, dreaming that one day I would have my own winter garden.

I have never had a large enough garden to create a special section for winter but, over the years, I've grown various shrubs like *Cornus*, hollies and *sarcococca* as well as hellebores, snowdrops and cyclamen which were attractive in the winter. However, about five years ago, two very large trees had to be felled and their absence transformed the garden. I suddenly realised that, without them, there was not nearly enough form or colour in the borders during the darker months of the year. I began to spend time looking at gardens with good autumn and winter colour and noting their best plants.

This process coincided with my plan to simplify my garden as I grow older by replacing large swathes of perennials with shrubs. I have also needed to replace several plants which have begun to struggle as our summers have grown hotter and drier. Gradually, I have been replanting the garden with shrubs and perennials which come into their own in late autumn and winter, and I have really seen the benefit this year now that the planting is beginning to mature.

For me, autumn colour starts in early September with my favourite *Crocsmia* 'Star of the East' which, in these days of mild autumns, is quickly followed by what I have always previously thought of as 'winter-flowering' plants. Despite the changing growing conditions, *Cornus* still seem to do well on my London clay and their leaves turn the most stunning yellow before falling to reveal wonderful coloured stems for the winter. One of the first shrubs I planted forty years ago was variegated *C.* 'Elegantissima' which is now a large specimen. It has done so well that I have recently added



*Cornus* 'Elegantissima'



*Cornus sanguinea* 'Anny's Winter Orange'

red-stemmed *C.* 'Midwinter Fire' and *C. sanguinea* 'Anny's Winter Orange', as well as yellow-stemmed *C. stolonifera* 'Flaviramea'. The newer cultivars have now reached a size where I will be able to prune them in the spring to ensure that I have good coloured stems each winter.

A holly I planted all those years ago was *Ilex* 'Golden King'. It is now huge and I prune it every Christmas, supplying the neighbourhood with its wonderful golden branches laden with berries. 'Golden King' doesn't revert like so many variegated trees do. *Ilex* 'Milkmaid' is lovely as long as you don't cut it – the minute you do, it reverts very quickly.

*Ilex* 'Golden King'



*Viburnum farreri* 'Bodnantense Dawn' is another of my original shrubs which never fails to flower for most of the winter. *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Pallida' finally gave up the ghost this summer and I've replaced it with *Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata Aurea' or Golden Irish Yew. Five years ago I planted *Acer palmatum* 'Sango-kaku', commonly known as the Coral Bark Acer and I am delighted with it. It has lovely yellow autumn leaves which drop to reveal a tracery of red branches for the winter.

I always lusted after *Callicarpa bodinieri* 'Profusion' but could never seem to grow it but now, as I write, its purple berries are glowing in the border – at the third planting attempt, the bush is really thriving. Perhaps the garden is now drier or warmer, or both? Two more shrubs which seem to be enjoying the changing climate are *Daphne odora* 'Rebecca' and *Daphne bholua* 'Jacqueline Postill'. I planted the latter about five years ago and the fact it is flourishing now is due to Kevin Hughes who told me to water it very sparingly. He said that most daphnes are killed by over watering in the early days.

A shrub which seems to flourish whatever the climate is *Choisya ternata* 'Sundance' which provides a cheering splash of yellow on the darkest of winter days. Again, as I write, the yellow flowers of *Jasminum nudiflorum* are lighting up a dull corner just outside the French doors. This is a familiar old garden plant and another I planted when we first arrived in Chandlers Ford. It doesn't care whether it is wet or dry and is as tough as old boots – I would never be without it.

I have never grown a lot of grasses. I think you need cold frosty gardens to enjoy their silhouettes in the winter; here, it is too warm and they disintegrate into soggy black heaps. Having said that, I would not be without *Miscanthus* 'Morning Light' which stands tall until February whatever the weather throws at it; as does the short *Hakonechloa macra* 'Alboaurea'.

Having struggled for many years to grow both *Cyclamen hederifolium* and *C. coum*, they grow so well now that they seed happily all over the



*Acer palmatum* 'Sango-kaku'



*Daphne odora* 'Rebecca'



*Callicarpa bodinieri* 'Profusion'



*Choisya ternata* 'Sundance'



*Jasminum nudiflorum*

garden and are almost a weed. I also used to find that the flowers on *Iris unguicularis* were very sparse but it is now covered with flowers from October onwards. This means remembering to cut all the leaves off in early September! The only *Bergeria* which is really happy here is *B. 'Bressingham Ruby'*. I like its bright magenta flowers followed by good winter colour. I am afraid drought has driven out the *Pulmonaria* and they have been replaced by *Carex* and *Ophiopogon* in various forms. I've chosen mainly evergreen cultivars with variegated and coloured foliage and they seem to cope well and provide winter interest.



*Cyclamen hederifolium* and *C. coum*



*Iris unguicularis*



*Begonia 'Bressingham Ruby'*

My old friend, the late Jane Sterndale Bennett, always used tell me the death of any plant wasn't a loss but a planting opportunity. This is a very positive attitude and one I have increasingly come to appreciate. As the climate changes, I can no longer grow some of my old favourites but I can grow new plants which I have always hankered after! I now have a garden which gives me pleasure even in the depths of winter and reminds me of the magical garden corner I knew as a child.

### MacPenny's Nursery

I have always gone to MacPennys Nursery at Bransgore for my shrubs. They also have a good selection of perennials. The nursery was founded by Marcia Ashley-Corbett who grew drought resistant plants and sold them in small pots for one penny each – hence the name MacPennys. The nursery was bought around 1934 by Douglas Lowndes who planted up the site with many rare trees and shrubs, camellias, rhododendrons azaleas, heathers and many more unusual *Ericaceae*. This arboretum is well worth a visit. The family still run the nursery and raise most of the plants themselves. I can also heartily recommend their sausage sandwiches followed by slices of scrumptious cake.

\*\*\*\*\*

## An Apprenticeship at Mottisfont Abbey

by Clair Fuller

Well, what a year it has been, so full of unexpected events. I hope this newsletter finds you well and making the best of what you can during these times of social restriction. Without boring you with too much detail I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself and what I have been up to over the last couple of years.

In the summer of 2018 I was fortunate enough to obtain a position on a two year, LANTRA Garden Apprenticeship scheme, based at the National Trust property Mottisfont Abbey, near Romsey. Everything was ticking along nicely, and in March 2020 I was nearing the completion of this Gardening Apprenticeship when I was furloughed, along with most of my team. Luckily, literally the week before, we had managed to prune the last of the roses ready for the rose season in June. We were quite worried about the gardens and the idea of the dreaded weeds taking over! But, I have to admit, this unexpected break in full time work did give me an opportunity to get stuck into my revision.

As well as spending the last two years building a portfolio full of practical evidence I had two exams scheduled: a written exam (which I could complete remotely on a computer) and a practical assessment based at Mottisfont Abbey. So I spent the next couple of months studying the books and keeping my practical skills honed in my own garden. During this time, my husband Keith, took the following picture with his feet up, admiring his handy work - he was putting up wires on the fence/wall for *Trachelospermum jasminoides* that we are training at the bottom of the



garden. Definitely work in progress, although they are growing fast after the hot summer we have had! The picture was taken in April when the weather was just glorious! I finally made it back to work in June, and as you would expect the gardens were blooming despite our absence. In the Lime Walk behind the house, *Chionodoxa* bloom in the Spring, and when we returned, we found a few splendid orchids had appeared.



*Anacamptis pyramidalis* in the Lime Walk

Unfortunately the weeds were doing rather well, and I spent quite a lot of the next few months weeding.

After spending many weeks speed weeding I finally finished all of my exams, and the apprenticeship, at the beginning October. I passed with a 'Distinction' award which I was very pleased about as I really put the hours in revising and practicing for the exams.

The two years that I have had at Mottisfont Abbey have been very special. I have gained so much horticultural experience due to the properties diverse portfolio. I



Central Rose Border before weeding



After weeding

have recently learned, and am delighted that I have now been made a member of their permanent staff in the Rose Garden.

I have added in a few photographs that I took during my apprenticeship. I hope you enjoy them. They took me a while to choose, as I have so many favourites!.



Walled garden



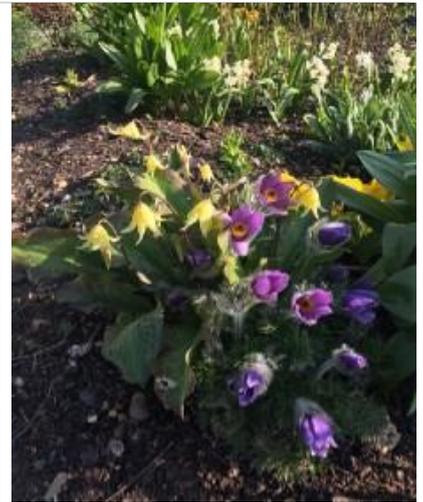
Winter garden



*Pulsatilla vulgaris*



*Pulsatilla vulgaris* 'Alba'



Pulsatilla & Erythronium



*Erythronium* 'Pagoda' in the North Rose garden



*Iris unguicularis* in the Winter Garden



*Cyclamen hederifolium* in the North Paddock



*Cyclamen coum* in the Winter garden





*Tulipa turkistanica*



*Tulipa tarda*

Both in the Rose Gardens



*Tulipa turkistanica*



*Anemone nemorosa*



*Tulipa saxatilis* 'Lilac Wonder'



Some more Anemones

## A Special International Rock Garden Conference Number

This bulletin was planned in anticipation of the 4th International Rock Garden Conference that took place in Harrogate in May 1971. The bulletin was intended to focus on *Alpines of the World*, and a number of distinguished writers were each asked to choose six favourite plants endemic to a great mountain range of the world of which they had first-hand knowledge. Professor W R Phillipson from Christchurch, in South Island New Zealand divided the best plants into three broad categories and wrote:

'There are, firstly, many dwarf evergreen shrubs of varying shape and with leaves coloured red, purple, bronze, blue-grey or silver as well as all the shades of green. Secondly, plants with close-growing shoots build up compact cushions or spreading mats that provide fresh-looking ground cover at all seasons. The third class is less clearly defined, but includes all herbaceous species with more open, leafy habit and with rather large blooms.'

My husband, Trevor, and I were fortunate to go on an AGS tour to South Island, New Zealand, in January 2003 and saw many of the plants that he listed. As I had recently been looking at the photographs I took on the tour, it seemed an appropriate item to select from Professor Phillipson's lists. For the first group he chose *Gaultheria rupestris* and *Haastia pulvinaris*; the second, *Hectorella caespitosa* and *Lyallia kerguelesis*; and the third, *Gentiana bellidifolia* and *Ourisia macrocarpa*. The only plant we did not see in his list was the *Lyallia* that is confined to the sub-antarctic island of Kerguelen. I have made my own selection from the three groups.



*Haastia pulvinaris* & *Raoulia grandiflora*

the 2 plants are commonly known as *Vegetable Sheep*



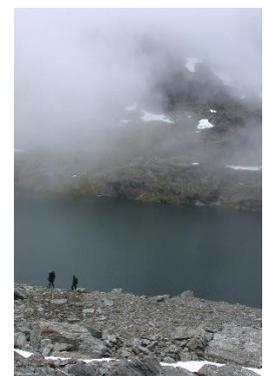
Black Birch Range – habitat



*Hectorella caespitosa* - Remarkables Range



*Coprosma Perpusilla* - Remarkables Range



*Celmisia viscosa* – Mt St Patrick



*Ourisia macrocarpa* – Gertrude Valley