**Hampshire Alpine Garden Society Annual General Meeting April 2022**

**Chairman’s Report**

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a festive Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. We’ve certainly had every type of weather thrown at us over last 4 months culminating in very high winds causing huge amounts of destruction. I hope you all escaped the worst of these storms.

Firstly I would like to welcome all new members to our group especially the former members of the West Sussex AGS. I hope you’ll enjoy the coming year’s talks and shows and welcome your support and participation.

January started with our first talk on Zoom. Again an excellent turnout for Chris Gardeners talk on ‘Flora of the Silk Road’. A fascinating journey through difficult country with fantastic pictures and stories.

February’s meeting was also via Zoom. Jim Jermyn of Branklyn Gardens, Perth, Scotland gave a talk on ‘European Alpines in Nature’. A wonderful insight into the specific growing situations of alpines. This information and understanding of how and where alpines grow and thrive in nature enabling us to provide them with similar conditions in our gardens. Jim’s interesting talk with amazing pictures was very enjoyable.

In March we met at Chilworth Hall, unfortunately due to Covid I was unable to attend but I understand the attendance was very good and everyone enjoyed the talk by David Dickinson on ‘Isolated in time - How the Cevennes uniquely survived the Ice Age’.

This April we have our AGM at Chilworth Hall with a talk from Tim Ingram of Copton Ash Nursery on ‘Gardens of the Czech Republic’.

On 11th February we had a visit to Ben & Paddy’s garden to see their Snowdrop collection. This was a wonderful day to an amazing garden. Loads of people came to enjoy the garden and bought plants.

Ben & Paddy opened their garden again on 30th March & 1st April. I went on the 30th and the garden was so different from the February visit. There were an amazing array of plants to purchase, supplied by a variety of members and we thank them for their generosity. It was a great day with loads of tea and Paddy’s homemade cakes.

The garden was also featured in Gardeners World a few weeks later. Although the filming was made the previous year once again the garden was fantastic and a great advert for growing alpine plants and encouraging people to join the AGS. Well done Ben & Paddy.

Coming up in May we have our photographic competition. This was very popular last year and closing date for entries is 30th April. Please email your pictures to Steve & Angela Lobley. All entries will be shown at the May meeting.

I would like to finish by thanking all of the committee for their continued support and dedication in providing interesting and entertaining talks and competitions for our enjoyment and participation.

Malcolm Calvert