



NEWSLETTER

February 2024 Number 557

This Months meeting will be held on Thursday 29th February at the Village Hall, Church Road, Rawreth, SS11 8SH at 8pm.

Doors open 7:30

Our Speaker this Month is our Chairman, Rod. He is talking to us about the Flora and Fauna of Newfoundland.

Plants in the January Competition.

Photo credits to Ray Drew.



Photo Graham Mee

Although I wasn't there Ruth reported the AGM went well. Paul Ward encouraged members to look at both the Group Website which is updated regularly, and the list of library books available to borrow. Our Show Secretary Mike gave an interesting talk on Propagation and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

'Dragons'
Margo's Garden

Photo's
Ray Drew

Yucca prostrata
'Saphire Skies'
Galanthus 'Magnet'
Galanthus 'Madelaine'
Eranthis Schweflglanz
Iris 'George'



Margo's Puddle



It's always good to plan visits well in advance but when you plan for one so early in the year, eight months in advance, it pays to have a little bit of luck on your side and so it was on Sunday 3rd February, when we visited the garden of Margo Grice. We had to plan around several Galanthophile meetings (Margo's first love), so we had to pick a day which was potentially a little early in the year. Since the turn of the year, we had heard that the garden had already been underwater three times - not just heavy rain but literally underwater, from the stream that runs around two sides of Margo's property breaching its banks, all the way up to the patio steps, along with some icy-blasts and gale-force winds in the preceding weeks, so only time would tell. This is where the luck came in: the weather was kind, the sun popped its head out from behind the clouds every now and then but most importantly, the season was running about 10 days early, so the garden was at its peak when we arrived. Around 20 people made the journey to 'Dragons' where they were fed and watered not only on cake and tea but on a feast of so many Snowdrops that to see every named cultivar and species alone would have taken hours. Not only Snowdrops but early flowering Crocus, Iris, Cyclamen, Eranthis and Hellebores brought colour to the vibrant white ground cover amongst the manicured lawns. I was particularly taken by a plant of Yucca rostrata 'Sapphire Skies', which takes pride of place on the Patio. Scant evidence of the flooding remained after Margo had washed the mud from, what seemed like each individual leaf, for us to enjoy. Margo also had some plants for sale, which made a tidy sum for her chosen charity (and made for some very happy members). As a small token of our appreciation, the group made a presentation to Margo to thank her for allowing us to enjoy her magnificent garden.

Note: 9th February — Margo's garden is under water again!
Ray Drew.



'Dragons'
Photos
Graham Mee

Coming in February

Class 1 Any Alpine, excl. plants from Class 2

Class 2 Galanthus or Narcissus

| Chairman | Secretary | Show Secretary | Editor |
|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Rod Willett | Ruth Jones | Mike Sullivan | Paul Nice |
| 'Ashtree Cottage' | 5 Ballingdon Gardens | 3 Barn Mead | 162 Parklands |
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