



Staffordshire Newsletter

Spring 2022 Issue No. 51



Welcome

I hope this finds you all in good health. As we move into Spring this Newsletter signals the start of a new gardening year for us all. Our Covid landscape is slowly beginning to change as the new shoots of normality begin to emerge.

In our gardens, we have always been able to step into a world of calmness. Our plants have remained locked in a bygone time, before masks and social distancing bore heavily on our freedom. They have always been there for us, ready to provide our crutch back to normality.

In this issue you will find the report from our January AGM and a letter from our newly elected chairman, Jackie Hemingway. There is also a Report from our secretary, Fiona, and a financial report from our treasurer, Ruth.

Anita highlights the risk of living with trees in the garden, and I have picked a plant from the Conservation Scheme to showcase. To mark our 25th Year, Katie Holmes has written an article celebrating the start-up of the Group all those years ago, of which she has many memories.

The front cover is from our 2021 Picture Competition, provided by Emily Hamilton, along with all the remaining photographs from this years entries.

You will also notice a new look and feel to our Newsletter, so I do hope you all like what you are about to see in this edition.

Lastly I would like to thank Graham from 'Mr. Print It' who spent a couple of hours one evening in helping me to get the new design of our Newsletter set up to be ready for printing.

Thanks also to Yoke for a comprehensive handover.

If you would like to send me material for the Autumn Newsletter then do so to : Clive at pottyplantz@aol.com. I am literally starting from scratch, so your articles are very much needed.

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Chairman's Letter
by Jackie Hemingway



To start my first letter as Chairman I would like to say a great big thank you to retiring Chairman Helen Harrison, her Committee and all the members who have helped to keep the Staffordshire Group running throughout the last two challenging years. Despite covid restrictions we have enjoyed a full programme of speakers, open gardens, plant sales and, for quiet afternoons a magazine, website and facebook page to keep us in touch. Thanks also go to you, the members, for mastering zoom and staying with us. The result is a strong membership and funds available to plan an exciting year ahead.

We welcome Clive Plant and Anita Wright to the committee. Clive has taken over production of the Staffordshire Group Newsletter from Yoke van der Meer who has done a sterling job for many years. Clive awaits your news, views, anecdotes and handy tips for the next edition. It is our local magazine about our gardens and garden enthusiasts in Staffordshire.

Please share your experiences, we would love to hear from you. For those who don't already know Anita, she, along with friends will be organising the raffle so do say 'Hi' when purchasing a ticket.



Whilst Her Majesty The Queen looks forward to a Platinum Jubilee, Staffordshire HPS celebrates its Silver Jubilee and there are plenty of dates for your diary.

Meetings with speaker, plant sale, raffle, refreshments and a chat continue every 3rd Friday of the month in the evenings from 6.30pm.

Bring along family and friends, all visitors welcome. Meetings started in January with Samantha Hopes delivering a fascinating presentation of the highest quality on Roscoes. This had to be by zoom but we are optimistic that we can meet in person at Colwich Village Hall here onwards. Watch out for our plant stall at Stafford Farmers Market the second Saturday of each month. Come and have a chat, share horticultural advice or join us to sell your excess plants. Our annual Grand Plant Sale will take place at Colwich Village Hall on Sunday 22nd May.

The committee were delighted to hear that Carol Galley would be able to continue as Speakers Organiser this year after all. Thank you Carol.

You can also see us again at Staffordshire County Show on 1st and 2nd June and also at Sandon Hall and Rode Hall 'Flower Power Fairs'.

I love this time of year, gardens look so fresh and vibrant, full of spring bulbs and flowers and trees poised to burst into blossom. So much to do and look forward to and days lengthening to allow us to fit it all in. Better still if we can share the experience with friends. So do come along and get involved with any or all of these events.

Collect a programme at the next meeting, see the website, watch out for emails or get in touch with any member of the committee for information.

Contact details are printed in this issue.

See you soon and happy gardening.

Jackie



*Crocus.. seen at Compton
Acres Garden*

THE 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 25th AGM was held on 21st January 2022. It was held by Zoom to conform with the Hardy Plant Society National expectation.

Helen Harrison opened the AGM and welcomed members and guests
Helen asked members to raise a hand when required for proposers and seconders. Then after the AGM there would be a short break before the speaker.

1. Apologies:

Mary Dale and Heather Holyhead

2. Minutes of the last AGM – January 2021

Minutes of the AGM meeting were published in the Spring 2021 Newsletter.
Taken as read and accepted by all present.

Proposed: Angela Alexandra

Seconded: Peter Hargreaves

3. The Chairman's and Secretary's Reports

Chairman's Report – Proposed: Harold Potter Seconded: Alison Rose

Secretary's Report – Proposed: Carol Galley Seconded: Jenny Fareham

Officers' reports, Chairman and Secretary, are published in the spring Newsletter.

4. The Treasurer's Report

Ruth had circulated copies of the accounts and these and her report is printed in this Newsletter.

Proposed: Jackie Hemingway

Seconded: Sue Potter

5. Election of Officers

There was only one nomination for each of the posts and the following will serve for the next year.

Chairman – Jackie Hemingway

Secretary – Fiona Horwath

Treasurer – Ruth Plant

6. Election of other Committee Members:

Bernie Norbury

Trish Edwards

Anita Wright

Clive Plant

They will serve for the next year. As and when required further committee members may be co-opted.

Carol, Lesley and Hilary have retired from the committee. Thanks were given for all their hard work over the last year.

The Group looks to be healthy & safe for another year.....hopefully this Spring picture of crocus flowers is minus the snow as you read this.....



The group, this year, has managed with a mixture of zoom and face-to-face lectures covering a very wide spectrum of subjects. Many thanks go to everyone for the smooth running of these events. Carol will complete the lecture arrangements for 2022, and then step down as a committee member. She has been Programme Secretary/ Plant Sales Organiser for very many years and our sincere thanks go to her.

Our Newsletter Editor is also retiring, after producing some excellent editions. We will look forward to seeing Yoke at future events. Also leaving are Hilary and Leslie, and we thank them for their contributions.

All the committee have been very busy this year with alterations and last minute changes to events and keeping up with the national health restrictions.

Excellent support has been given to the group by all the 'growers and helpers' at the many plant sales, thus helping with our yearly income.

This is my last year as your chairman. Was it 3 years or just the one year I originally signed up for... time flies when you are enjoying yourself.

My thanks go to all for your support and for the friendship of the HPS. My time as chairman has been made very easy with the support of the good committee of the Staffs. HPS Group

I know the HPS Staffs Group will be in safe hands with the new Chairman and I wish you all a healthy and prosperous year ahead.



Helen Harrison 21st January 2022

Secretary's Report 2021

Good evening everyone. I sincerely hope, as I'm sure you do, that this is the last time we need to hold our AGM by Zoom. It has been a great boon over the last couple of years, but it was wonderful to resume lecture meetings in person at the village hall in September.

Tonight was not the night to meet together, but I hope to see you all in February. Roll on the spring!! There is little to report on the HPS National front - sadly the AGM - now moved to the autumn - had to be cancelled once more, but will SURELY take place this year. I'm looking forward to receiving my quota from the Seed Exchange and sowing some little gems.

Several of us enjoy propagating for the monthly Farmers' Markets in Stafford town square - we have our first event of 2022 on Saturday 12th February. It would be lovely to see familiar faces so do pop into Stafford and say hello! Or contact myself or other committee members if you would like to lend a hand, or have a few little treasures to sell.

Our Annual Plant Sale will hopefully take place in May once again - our intentions were thwarted in 2021 but those clumps in your borders have multiplied and definitely need splitting soon ready for Sunday May 22nd. Carol Galley may think she has left the committee, but will most certainly be needed for the third weekend in May!

Please make an early note in your diaries for Sunday 3rd April, when your committee hope to have a real, live, plant hunting trip to Northamptonshire for the Rare Plant Fair at Evenley Wood and perhaps a second more intimate garden in the afternoon. Thank you all for supporting us this year, both online and in person. In particular may I add my thanks to your own, in applauding Mrs Helen Harrison, who stepped into the breach 3 years ago, when we had no Chairman in sight, and little knew what a sticky wicket she ventured upon!

Happy gardening to you all in these s-l-o-w-l-y—lengthening days .

Accounts for the year ended 31 December

	2021	2020
Income	£	£
Subscriptions	945.00	1,071.00
Visitors	111.00	28.00
Raffle	122.00	103.00
Catering	35.00	35.90
Card Sales and Interest	0.36	31.51
Monthly Plant Sales	178.08	169.10
Summer Plant Sales	1,429.79	76.55
Annual Plant Sale	-139.50	-139.50
Open Garden Event	0.00	57.80
Surplus/deficit (-) on outings	0.00	0.00
	2,681.73	1,433.36
 Expenditure		
Administration	151.60	199.85
Speakers	1,426.80	400.00
Catering	26.00	7.92
Raffle Prizes	0.00	0.00
Magazine incl postage	728.70	1,042.66
Equipment & Website	0.00	0.00
Advertising	175.50	175.50
Room Hire	108.00	72.00
Photo Comp Prizes and Cards	63.05	60.00
	2,679.65	1,957.93
 Surplus/Deficit (-) for the year		
	2.08	-524.57
 Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021		
Funds at start of year (1 January 2021)	6,247.69	6,772.26
Surplus/Deficit (-) for the year	2.08	-524.57
Funds at 31 December 2021	6,249.77	6,247.69
 Represented by:		
Current account	2,862.73	2,850.01
Capital Reserve Account	3,655.04	3,654.68
Floats	200.00	130.00
Account outstanding Village Hall	-108.00	
2022 in advance (subscriptions)	-360.00	-387.00
	6,249.77	6,247.69

Treasurers Report 2021

We made a surplus of £2 in 2021 which, considering the effect of the Covid epidemic, is an excellent result.

Income increased by around £1,200 compared to 2020, this reflects the net surplus for the Plant Sales that we attended during the year.

Subscriptions were down slightly as not all members were able to take advantage of zoom, and so did not renew, but this was offset by increased visitor fees.

There was a net cost for the Annual Plant Sale of £139.50 as we place the advert for the sale in the previous year.

Expenditure in 2021 was more than that in 2020. This reflected a full “normal” year of speaker’s fees as we operated a mix of in person and zoom meetings depending on the latest Covid advice.

It should be remembered that we were only able to meet in person in the Village Hall in September, October and November 2021, and the accounts reflect this.

The reserves at 1 January 2022 stand at £6,249 and it is clear that the group is still on a sound financial footing as we continue serving the members in rather uncertain times.

Ruth



2021 Photographic Competition

- foreward.

As the 2021 Photographic Competition closes, (then) so the new 2022 Competition begins.

I am pleased to see that the entries are steady at around 15 members but a few more entries would be most welcome. Given today's choice of media with which we can take a picture it's never been easier.

Most of us have a smart phone, and these days the picture is of a high enough quality, and they are mostly, always at hand.

Just remember, while you are out and about, try and think 'Photo. Competition'. Then it seems that when it comes around to Christmas, my last minute reminder works wonders. From only having one entry (mine!), I am soon overwhelmed with entries, mostly arriving the last week of the year. Suddenly I have a competition!

This years entries are scattered throughout this Newsletter. Firstly see if you can pick a winner from the entries, then make a judgement call and say 'I can match that'....but you will not know the answer until you send it to me.

Our judge Roy Alexander is impressed by the improving quality of our pictures. Don't forget I will use them in the Newsletter—check out Emily Hamilton's gorgeous picture on the front cover. Fiona is also using the Lily picture, on a leaflet she produces for her Dorothy Clive publicity....again another Emily entry!

Do please join in, and get those pictures off your camera or phone and into an e-mail..

I will be expecting them during the last week of the year then!

by ClivePlant

2021 Photographic Competition Judges Notes

I was really impressed by the quality of this year's entries. It made my job of giving marks and choosing the winners very difficult.

Once again I have given marks out of 20 simply because that's normal in photographic competitions

I hope I haven't been too harsh with my comments, they are meant to be helpful, also they are just my opinion and others may not agree with them.

I have to judge on images that are sent to me and the quality of those is variable,

some are of good quality where it is easy to see if they are sharp, others are so small that it is difficult.

I have tried to be fair, I hope you agree?

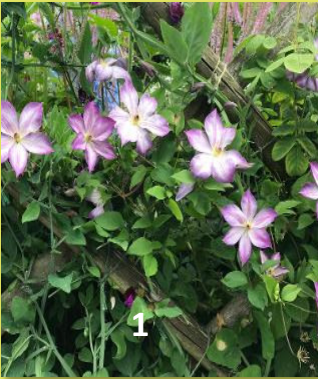
Editors Note:

it's always a pleasure to read Roy's comments..you will find them tagged onto the winning entries starting on Page 16.

Also, Anita has found a novel way of promoting husband David....see page 24.



Plant Portrait entries



1. Peter Hargreaves 2. Pam Vaughan Sawyer 3. Janet Lee 4. Pat Broome

Plant Portrait entries



5 Geraldine Freeman 6. Bernie Norbury 7. Anita Wright 8. Ruth Plant
9. Jackie Burwood

2021 Photographic Competition

Plant Portrait Entries



10. Eileen Johnson 11. Emily Hamilton 12. Hannah Clendon
13. Shivaun Suleman 14. Ann Buckland 15. Clive Plant

Plant Portrait: Results



1st. Geraldine Freeman

“Only a Rose” Yet another close up and again this one is in focus. Well framed. Being picky the leaves bottom right are a little too clear.



2nd. Hannah Clendon

Good picture. The flower really stands out. I like the diagonal placing.



3rd. Emily Hamilton

Lilium Pyrenacium” Another in focus close up with a well blurred background. I find the Lily in the background a little distracting though.

Gardening brings surprises.

Usually quiet, working on clearing borders, I think a nice job at this time of year. It transforms your patch quickly. Doing this on Friday suddenly a creak, something next door was the first thought, then a louder creak and 'bang'! Flo ran indoors, sat looking and saying it wasn't me! David came in, better look at this he said, and the old eucalyptus tree had fallen.

Luckily across our own border and garden. Once a fine upright majestic tree of about 70 ft, it had been trimmed and shaped a couple of times, reduced its branches and height because of dieback. Standing at about 20 ft, still stately, beautiful shining bark, grey and silver.

All the bark had peeled over the years and it had been placed around the garden and profusely used in flower designs until rotted.

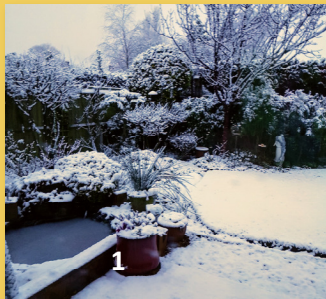
Our grand stately old man of about 30 - 35 years had fallen. Now what to do? It's 6ft in girth, no lovely angles, odd chunks or designer pieces, but to be sawn up for firewood, never to be forgotten.....



By Anita Wright

2021 Photographic Competition

Landscape Entries



1. Pat Broom 2. Clive Plant 3. Emily Hamilton 4. Geraldine Freeman
5. Shivaun Suleman 6. Janet Lee 7. Jackie Burwood 8. Anita Wright
9. Bernie Norbury

2021 Photographic Competition

Landscape Entries



10. Ann Buckland 11. Pam Vaughan Sawyer 12. Peter Hargreaves
13. Eileen Johnson 14. Hannah Clendon

Landscape: Results



1st. Eileen Johnson

Beautiful! The eye is led down over the rounded shrubs and grasses like cascading water until they fix upon the kniphofia in the centre. Love the colours too.



2nd. Geraldine Freeman

Through the arbour" Beautifully symmetrical. Strong colours with detail in the shadows. Not too much blank sky and the red pot makes a good focal point.



3rd. HannahClendon

Lovely Laburnum arch. The dappled sunlight is handled well and it looks sharp. The arch leads the eye into the picture.

Conservation Corner

(by Clive Plant)

Date Introduced

2001

Introduced by

Somerset Group

Reason for Inclusion

Bred by Cecil H. Pugsley (b. 1900).

AGM awarded 2009.

Brief description of plant

Evergreen rhizomatous perennial.

Held by x2 Staffs. Group Members

Height x Spread

45cm x 45cm **Flowers**

Clusters of deep pink flowers.

Bergenia 'Pugsleys Pink' AGM



Foliage

Evergreen. Large rounded, fleshy mid-green leaves, colouring red in winter.



Flowering Time

March and possibly autumn.

Soil type

Any soil.

Aspect

Full sun or part-shade

Pests and diseases

Leaves may be damaged by slugs and snails or adult vine weevils, whilst weevil grubs may eat away the rhizome.

Cultivation

Remove dead foliage and cut back elongated stems to keep plant tidy.

Propagation

Propagate by rooting pieces of stem/rhizome detached from the main plant.

Wildlife Entries



1.Clive Plant 2. Emily Hamilton 3. Geraldine Freeman

4.Shivaun Suleman 5.Janet Lee

Wildlife Entries (cont'd)



**6. Jackie Burwood 7. Anita Wright (Anita's Husband David..but more fitting for the 'Wildman' category) 8. Geraldine Freeman
9. Ann Buckland 10. Pam Vaughan—Sawer**

Wildlife Results



1st. Clive Plant

Great picture of a squirrel. Lots of impact. Lovely and sharp around the eye. Could perhaps be improved by darkening the white line on the right.



2nd. Geraldine Freeman

Dragonfly” Lovely sharp picture of a dragonfly. Well framed. The background is a little busy but there was probably no



3rd. Pam Vaughan—Sawer

Super shot of a snail on a dead flower. Really eye catching, it’s like a starburst. A few blurred seed heads are a little confusing but overall handled

Members 'Snippets':

*Get ahead of
the growing
season...*

Seeds to sow in February:

It can prove a busy time of the year for gardeners as it's time to make early sowings of many summer bedding plants, such as geranium, petunia, impatiens (busy lizzie) and nicotiana along with some perennials.

Wondering which vegetables to sow in February? Now's the time to sow early carrot, parsnip and broad beans outside. In a greenhouse or a warm place, sow chillies, cabbage, celery, parsley,



peppers, tomato, leek and onion

If you have a lawn, it's time to start

mowing regularly, and you may want to treat the grass if there are any issues.

Get ahead of the growing season by planting out some of your summer flowering bulbs. While you may not see results for a while or even any shoots, it helps to lessen the load of the busier spring months in the garden.

If you prefer flowers, April is the month for planting your summer bulbs, such as dahlias and lilies.

- ◆ In the month of May, if you still have young plants, these can now be planted out as hopefully, the risk of frost has long gone. May can mainly focus on making your garden feel like a relaxing space. It may be that you start to remove some of the dead foliage of your spring-flowering plants to make way for summer bulbs.

Pests start to become more apparent in May, so keeping on top of weeding and protecting your plants is top of the priorities this month. If you love to grow vegetables, April can be the peak time. In April, you can plant out potatoes and sow outdoor seeds and plugs such as carrots, beet-root, cauliflowers, lettuces and leeks, as well as many more. Some vegetable plugs, such as courgette, tomatoes and aubergines, may still prefer the warmth and shelter indoors, and now is a time to start establishing them and keep them on your windowsill or in a greenhouse.

Open Plant Sale

Sunday 22nd May 2022. (by Carol Galley)

We are back!!

For the benefit of old and new members, the usual system applies:

- ◆ Each pot should have **two** labels, written in pencil or waterproof ink,
- ◆ One label to show the **plant name** and a second label to show the **seller's name & price** (If a pot contains the plant name only it will be assumed that the full sale proceeds are to be donated to our HPS group funds).
- ◆ Please **DO NOT USE INITIALS** on the labels, only full names as it can be confusing for the helpers totalling the labels at the tills and in the counting house. Please price the plants in units of **50p** as this makes the addition of the labels so much easier.
- ◆ The plants should be well rooted in clean pots and pest free.
- ◆ The plants can be dropped off at the hall between 10.30a.m. and 3.00p.m. Saturday. If this is a problem please contact me to make alternative arrangements. We do accept plants on Sunday morning between 9.00a.m. and 9.30a.m. but this is not ideal as we may not be able to display the plants to their full potential

Please arrange to collect any unsold plants Sunday between 2.00p.m. and 2.30p.m. on the day of the sale. Any that are not collected will have to be disposed of unless alternative arrangements are made.

Members will be paid their usual 60% share of the sale proceeds directly into their bank account as soon as possible after the sale.

If you've never taken part in the plant sale before either as a grower or a buyer, please do try and come along to support us. It is a lot of hard work for so many people but it is also tremendous fun and very enjoyable. We manage to work and have a laugh at the same time.

National Garden Scheme—2022
Members Open Gardens for charity

The Garth. 2, Broc Hill Way, Milford, Stafford.ST17 0UB. Sun 5, Sun 26 June (2-6)
Admn. £4, chd. Free, Cream Teas
Mr & Mrs David Wright 01785 661182 anitawright1@yahoo.co.uk
www.anitawright.co.uk

Grafton Cottage - Barton-under-Needwood, DE13 8AL . Sun 3rd, Fri. 15th, Sun 17, Sun 31. July Sun 7, Sun 21. Aug (12-5) Admn. £4.50, child free. Home-made Teas
This garden also makes a donation to Alzheimer's Research Trust.
Margaret & Peter Hargreaves 01283 713639

Monarchs Way, Park Lane, Coven, Wolverhampton WV9 5BQ. Sat 18 June. Admn. £6
chd. free. Please book through the NGS website as limited parking spaces. Group visits
by arrangement (5-20) May to Oct
Eileen & Bill Johnson 07785934085 <http://www.monarchsway-garden.co.uk>

The Old Vicarage - Fulford, nr Stone, ST11 9QS. Sat 18 June Admn. £5 child free. Home
-made Teas (11-4.30)
Mike & Cherry Dodson

23 St. Johns Road - Rowley Park, Stafford, ST17 9AS. Sun 20 Mar,Thur 28 Apr, Fri 20
May,Thur 7 July Admn. £4 child free (2-5). Fiona Horwath 07908 918181
fionahorwath@yahoo.co.uk

Yew Tree Cottage - Podmores Corner, Long Lane, White Cross,
Haughton, ST18 9JR. Thur 7, 14, & Thur 21 July(11-4). Sun 24 July Admn. £4 child free
(2-5).
Clive & Ruth Plant 07591 886925 pottyplantz@aol.com

Taking rose cuttings... *by Clive Plant*

I came across this trick a few years ago, so thought it was worth sharing as a reminder. One of the easiest ways to grow roses is by taking cuttings. We probably all just prepare our stems, as below, and stick them into sharp sand or by making a slit trench with a spade and placing a line of stems into the trench.



This third tip makes use of 'potatoes'. Just stick the rose cutting into a potato, and then push both into the ground. The potato keeps your cuttings moist while the roots are developing.

For best results, it is recommended taking softwood cuttings in late spring and early summer, choosing pencil-sized stems just beneath a faded flower.



Hardwood cuttings are taken from mature stems in winter, and are the slowest and most difficult to root.

For best results it is recommended to take softwood rose cuttings in late spring and early summer. If you can, try to leave 2 nodes above ground for leaves to sprout out of, as well as 2 nodes below ground, where the roots can grow from. **Roses** will root quite easily if **taken** as **cuttings** in late summer/autumn.

New Members for 2022

Finding new members to join the group has tested many a Chairman and their Committees over the years. We have attended shows just to promote the Group and have spent all day in past years handing out promotional flyers containing our details to join.

These days we are a bit more savvy. Gone are the pricy adverts in our local papers, replaced now by a page in the NGS Leaflet, which covers a larger number of readers. We also use social media with our 'facebook 'page, and also our own website.

We now have our own stand at the local shows which allows us to sell members plants. This covers the cost of our pitch, and also attracts any future members who come to buy, but are not always aware of who we are.

So if any, or all, of the New Members below have joined us through this route, then the Group can look forward to the coming year with the anticipation that we will multiply our numbers again.

Hopefully you will all become an 'old' member!

- ◆ Rowena Nunn & Anne Macfarquhar.....Stafford
- ◆ Kate & Charles Davies..... Stone
- ◆ Jill Timmis Stafford
- ◆ Maggie Bamber..... Stafford
- ◆ Indy Rana Barlaston
- ◆ Irene Lukkarinen Stone



We very much hope that our new members will enjoy being part of the Staffordshire Group.

Speakers for 2022/23

2022

- 18 Feb Alun and Jill Whitehead
"Fish and Chatto, Garden Heroes"
- 18 Mar Duncan Coombs
" Flowers of the Steppes of Central Asia"
- 8 April Razvan Chisu
"Confessions of a Plantaholic
Plants I wouldn't be without"
- 16 Sep Diane Clements
"Alpines in the Wild and Cultivation"
- 21 Oct Andrew Ward
"Brilliant Borages and Pulchritudinius
Pulmonarias "
- 18 Nov Dr Peter Thomas
" The Value of Trees "
- 9 Dec Ruth Plant.
"Adventures in Scotland - In Pursuit of the Blue Poppy".

2023

- Jan 20 Eddie Roberts
"Snowdrops , From Landscape to a Cabinet of Curiosities"
- Feb 17 Timothy Walker
"Spring into Gardening again".

My 25 Years of Memories with the Staffordshire Hardy Plant Society Group

It is almost exactly 25 years ago this month that the National Society printed an appeal in their Spring Newsletter 1997 for any members living in Staffordshire, who might be interested in forming a Staffordshire Group, to make contact with Jean Harris. Jean—who is now sadly deceased, was the Group Co-ordinator for the National Society. Trevor and myself, along with Adrian Hubble, Janet Broome, Margaret and Michael Stapleton and Marie Lowe, met Jean at the Crown Public House in Stone, and formed a committee to set up a Staffordshire Group.

We had our Inaugural meeting in March 1997 at Sandon Village Hall and the Staffordshire Group was formed.

Sandon Village Hall was too small for the many members who joined the Group and so, by the autumn of 97, we moved to the Colwich & Little Haywood Village Hall for our meetings—we have been there ever since!

Adrian Hubble was our first chairman, elected in 1997, followed by Ben Green, Margaret Stapleton, Trevor Holmes, Ben Green (2nd term), Ruth Plant, Fiona Horwath, Helen Harrison and Jackie Hemingway (current).

During the 25 years of the Staffordshire Group's existence we have built up a very impressive portfolio of organising national events, as well as group events, taking part in many national and local shows and plant fairs.



The Group Plant Sale Table at the Stafford Farmers Market...it never fails to look good on the eye.

25 Years of Memories (cont'd)

We organised the Autumn Weekend in 2007—also on behalf of the National Society, and we were oversubscribed with applicants – with a waiting list of members desperate to join the weekend event! We were able to showcase many of the beautiful gardens on offer in our lovely county of Staffordshire.

The twice yearly Newsletter has been printed every spring and autumn. From its humble beginnings of being a basic photocopied magazine in black and white, it has developed into a superb colour magazine which we all enjoy. Newsletter editors over the years have included myself (at the beginning), followed by Dick Hope, Jacky Hewitt, Yoke Van de Meer and to the current editor, Clive Plant.

The monthly lectures have been outstanding over the 25 years and well worth coming out on a Friday evening for.

Carol Galley has been mainly responsible for organising and vetting the speakers and continues her good work to this day.



Hellebore Orientalis

By Katie Holmes

Committee details:

Chairman: Jackie Hemingway, Lawn Farm, Hollington Lane, Stramshall, Uttoxeter, ST14 5ER. Tel: 07549 194006 or jackiehemingway1@gmail.com

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Our Committee



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Jackie Hemingway



Treasurer
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Items for publication in the Autumn edition of the Newsletter should reach the editor by 31st August 2022.

Remember the questionnaire sent around last summer for your 'want to see' content in the Newsletter. Suggestions were:

- Articles by members of their own garden & plant experience.
- Articles relating research visits.
- Poems and quizzes
- Spontaneous reflection of members thoughts/activities/ observations at the time. Imagine telling a friend the same over a glass of wine..now jot a few lines down on paper. Job done!
- More pictures !
- Cultivation details for particular plants by some members with specialist knowledge.
- Tips (from members) about recommended plant nurseries, both local and further afield, plus seed sources.

So, if you have anything for the next Autumn Newsletter (using the above list as a guide), then please e-mail me. After all we do like to gossip, don't we!...and what better way to let everyone know what is in the news....The Newsletter!!!!

I really do need your support as my in-box is **extremely** empty!