



Shade Monthly

The journal of the Shade and
Woodland Plants Group

Welcome to the July 2021 edition of Shade Monthly

Some notes from the editor

Summer is here!

...and this means that it is 'all hands to the pump' in the garden.

One of our regular contributors, Walt Bubelis, is based in Seattle, which is one of those areas of the Pacific North West which has been encountering very warm weather recently. I will reach out to him to see how he has been coping in his garden in such heat.

Derrick Saville has been at work this spring building an ericaceous bed. His notes are below.

Caroline Stone has penned a book review for us. The book is written in French, but Caroline's text is enough to have me obtaining a copy and brushing up some very rusty schoolboy French!

We also have a plea for help from Barbera Dygnas, who has been suffering some vandalism

The AGM has also taken place since the last edition, the minutes of which are contained below.

What has worked for you this Spring? – what has delighted and what has not? Why not pen a few lines (and maybe a photo or two) and I can include it in the August edition.

Building an ericaceous bed - Derrick Saville

I have been looking to build an ericaceous bed, using an existing bed that I have.

This spring I topped up with more leaf mould, added a packet of Chempak base fertiliser and sulphate of iron.

The bed, a triangle, is now approximately 220sq/ft and 10-12" deep. I removed all the plant pots and settled them into their new home. As of today all are looking healthy and lush. The plentiful recent rains have also contributed. My only regret, is that I wish I had more shade and wind resistance.

So far I am pleased with the current results; just wished it was bigger. I have also been experimenting with planting shade tolerant smaller plants and bulbs, as I am looking to see which works and which doesn't.

So an on going fun experiment, which if successful will be worth the effort I have put in.

Snaps taken 30 May 2021





Toutes les plantes pour l'ombre – Caroline Stone

A couple of years ago I was shocked when rearranging my bookshelves to find how many books I had on shade and woodland plants. So, do I really need more? I have been enjoying Cédric Basset's Facebook posts so when he put out a new book in April, I decided that yes, the bookshelves did have space for another. 'Toutes les plantes pour l'ombre' is a lovely book. It is full of photographs which means that I can pour over it looking for inspiration for new plants to acquire. Do not be put off by the fact that it is in French. Firstly, French makes everything sound nicer! And secondly, it is not difficult to understand the text.

S&W Group members will not need convincing of the book's concept "Shade in the garden is not a problem, it is an opportunity!". The trouble with a book like this, however, is that it reminds me of all the things I have planted and never seen again! I am sure I had *Ajuga incisa* 'Frosted Jade'! And having become very tempted by the photographs of different forms of *Syneilesis palmata* the question will now be, where can I get them?

I am learning plenty from reading this book: salvias for shade – I had never considered that. Not only are there five salvia species for shade listed but a number of cultivars of those species. There were so many plants new to me that I was surprised that there wasn't more said about Eranthis. But there is so much included in the book that something has to be squeezed I suppose. I have recently had a bit of an epiphany about Mahonia so the two pages devoted to that family seemed a little too succinct too.

Cédric runs a nursery near Mont St Michel in Normandy. Problematic these days to get plants from there, I look forward to S&W Group meetings starting again in the hope that the plant sales tables might yield some of the temptations this book holds.

320 pages, ISBN 2379220980 £20.47p on Amazon currently



Any ideas? – Barbera Dygnas

Since the end of April I have been experiencing 'vandalism' in the garden. The first sign was an attack on *Ranunculus ficaria* 'Brazen Hussy', two plants of which were completely stripped of their leaves and flowers (photo attached). There was no sign of the leaves or flowers either around the plant or elsewhere in the garden.

I then found a selected pile of leaves left in the middle of the path: some cyclamen hederifolium, a sprig of epimedium, a piece of *Saxifraga urbium*, some narcissus leaves ... Something has been rollicking under the *Magnolia stellata*. *Dicentra spectabilis* 'Valentine', *Narcissus* 'Thalia' and *Geranium nodosum* 'Tony's Talisman' were flattened, as was *campanula portenschlagia* E.H.Frost and said *S. urbium* (no mean feat).

Many of the Shade Group members have woodland gardens with probably fairly extensive wildlife. Mine is a small suburban plot bounded by brick walls and fences. However, there is a badger hole in the corner from a sett in my neighbour's garden and a gap under a fence used by the neighbourhood cats. Foxes have been spotted at night on the road in front. Does anyone know which might be the culprit? What were they doing picking sprigs and leaves and leaving them on the path? And what did they do with the ranunculus leaves and flowers?



HPS Shade and Woodland Plants Group
Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting held by
Zoom on Wednesday 19 May 2021 at 7.00

1. Approval of the Minutes of the previous eAGM on 3 March 2020

A copy of the minutes was sent to all members and adopted

Proposed by Susie Mitchell, seconded by Wilma Keighley and carried unanimously.

2. Chairman's Report 2021 – Nigel Parkes- Rolfe

This will probably go on record as the shortest ever Chair's report of this or any other HPS group! A crazy year for all of us and no doubt tinged with sadness and tragedy for some. My thoughts go out to everyone and let's just hope things are slowly improving and we will all be able to meet up again soon.

You will have seen we have made plans, virus permitting, hopefully starting with a visit to Diana Garner's garden on Sunday 23 May this year. Then we can all look forward to visiting Cally Gardens in 2022.

As usual there have been comings and goings this year. Becky Middleton, who stepped up to edit Shade and Woodland monthly has found that other commitments mean she cannot continue in the role. I just want to thank her for her sterling work in the time she did that job and also for the very fact she volunteered.

We don't get far as a group without volunteers!

On that note of 'volunteers' I have to express huge gratitude to Jonathan Segar who will be taking over from Becky. I hope we will all be doing our best to support him with articles and/or photos...anything really which we can share about our plants and gardens as shade and woodland enthusiasts.

There is a theme here as my last request is also for volunteers...this time to work on the committee. Many of us as current members are at risk of overstaying our allotted times on the committee, so I would urge you all to consider whether you can help out. It's not arduous work and business is done mostly by email and more recently zoom.

Keep safe

Nigel Parkes-Rolfe Chair

Copy of report sent to members with Notice of AGM

Proposed by Jan Vaughan, seconded by Sue Lander and carried unanimously.

3 Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2020: Wilma Keighley

We have more funds than planned as the Lecture Day had to be cancelled this year.

Copy of report and accounts sent to members with Notice of AGM

Proposed by Helen Brown, seconded by Diana Garner and carried unanimously.

4 Nomination and election of officers:

Our Chairman is standing down so

Standing for election as Chairman: Sue Lander

Proposed by Diana Garner, seconded by Jan Vaughan

Standing for election as Acting Vice-Chairman: Jan Vaughan

Proposed by Diana Garner, seconded by Wilma Keighley

The rest of the Management Committee are both standing for re-election:

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Wilma Keighley

Proposed by Jon Segar and Seconded by Jan Vaughan

Secretary: Diana Garner

Proposed by Keith Scott and Seconded by Penny Ariff

Election of three new committee members:

Heather Farquhar

Proposed by Mick Dunstan, seconded by Wilma Keighley

Tricia Fraser

Proposed by Sue Lander, seconded by Diana Garner

Jon Segar

Proposed by Beccy Middleton and Seconded by Diana Garner

5 Election of Independent Examiner of Accounts – Graham Rennells proposed by Wilma Keighley, seconded by Sue Lander and carried unanimously.

6 Any other business – The new committee members were thanked for volunteering.

The meeting closed at 7.15.