



THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY CENTRAL SUSSEX GROUP



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

Mr. Keith Moorhouse 1934-2009



It was with deep regret that we learnt of Keith's sudden death on the 6th February.

Keith was one of the most enthusiastic of alpine gardeners. He was Secretary to both the Central Sussex (and Chairman over a number of years) and Weald Groups of the Alpine Garden Society, serving two terms on the main committee and frequently visiting and giving talks to other Groups and horticultural societies. In spite of falling numbers in our own Group, he was the driving force behind our continuing existence and among his other endeavours, promoting us at Ardingly Spring Shows and other venues. We received the benefit of listening to his fascinating travels in search of plants in the USA, Iceland, Norway, and the European alpine flora, visits to his garden and as the main contributor of plants for our raffles in recent years – he had an exceptional gift for growing from seed and was an advocate of crevice gardening.

Before he became involved with alpinism, Keith was an agricultural engineer and a graduate in education. He began working at the Plumpton Agricultural College in 1961 and was its Vice-Principal from 1975 until his retirement in 1990. He was a parish councillor and his interest in local government took him to being a member of the Lewes District Council for 30 years, the leader of the council and leading the Conservatives for 12 years.

Keith's presence will be deeply missed by not only the alpine gardening fraternity, but also many other bodies. Our heartfelt sympathies to his Wife Edith and Family. Although there was some suggestion that we should cancel our next meeting, Edith wished that this should go ahead (see page 3).

The funeral will be at 1.45 on Friday 27 February, at St. Michael's Church, Plumpton (adjacent to the grounds of the Agricultural College with access from the B2116 along Wales Lane – west of the main entrance) and park as near to the church as possible) followed by cremation at 3.00 in the North Chapel of the Woodvale Crematorium, Bear Road, Brighton. There will be refreshments in the college after the service or following the cremation. Family flowers only, but donations welcome for Leukaemia Research to R.A. Brooks and Son, 35 Wivelsfield Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 4EN. There will be a Thanksgiving Service in St. Michael's Church at 1.45 on 2 March..

Mr. COLIN KITCHENER THE DOLOMITES AND BEYOND

We began with the 'Beyond' which was firstly Croatia and then Slovenia. *Trifolium incarnatum* has splendid crimson flowers in dense cylindrical spike. Then on to the scenic Plitvice National a world heritage site with 16 intensely blue and clear water lakes with brown trout and green frogs, interconnected by curtain-like waterfalls, and travertine terraces. So north to Slovenia and north of Ljubljana, the Kamnik Alps and the limestone karst of sub-alpine Velika Planina. There are very few permanent residents, but in the summer months it has a sizable population of herdsmen who bring their flocks to the highland pastures. The architecture is interesting, the huts re single-room dwellings with wooden-shingle-



Velika Planina

covered oval roofs extended nearly to ground level, making the space created by the extended roof suitable for sheltering livestock. In the Second World War the chapel In 1939 The Chapel of Snow Mary (St. Marija). along with 100 other wooden dwellings were burnt down ion WW2, but rebuilt in 1988. In contrast to Croatia's cone-shaped haystacks, Slovenia's hay is dried on racks. Among the plants, *Lilium carniolicum*, *L. martagon*, *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus*, *Globularia cordifolia*, *Gentiana tergestina*., *G. verna* in colour forms, *Platanthera bifolia*, *Pseudorchis albida*, *Campanula zoysii* in a rock face crevice and a purple flowered Aconite. Almost on the border with Austria's Carinthia there was a view of Logarska Dolina (national park), a glacial valley with nearly twenty waterfalls. North west of Ljubljana are the Julian Alps most easily accessed from the east via Bled with its church on an island in the lake. In meadows *Gentiana utriculosa*, *Pedicularis verticillata* and higher *Rhodothamnus chamaecistus* flowering over, but there was *Saxifraga cristata*, *Androsace villosa*, *Leontopodium alpinum*, yellow flowered *Paederota lutea*, *Rhododendron hirsutum* and *Bupthalmun salicifolia*. Beside a broad path down to the lake, *Paris quadrifolia*, tall, blue-black flowered *Phyteuma zahibruckneri* and *Cyclamen purpurascens* in woodland. Approached from the north, the Vrsic Pass has an alpine garden with *Crepis aurea*, *Epipactis rubens*, *Gernaium argenteum* with silver-grey leaves, *Eryngium alpinum*, *Cephalanthera rubra* and *C. longifolia*.

At the eastern end of the Dolomites almost into Austria, a road and path leads northwards from Sappada to the 2164m Rifugio Calvi P.F. On the way there, *Physoplexis comosa*, *Gentiana utriculosa*,

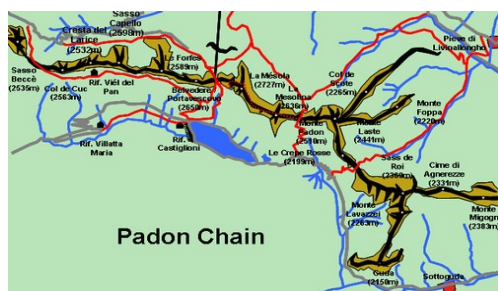


Physoplexis comosa

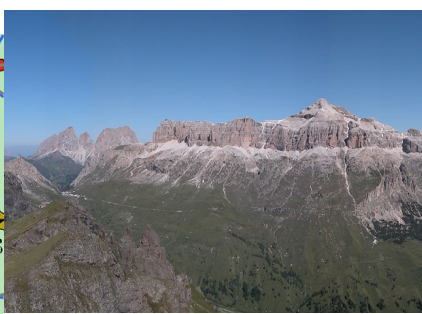
Pedicularis comosa (?), a big spread of *Gypsophila repens*, *Saxifraga aizoides* in a horizontal crevice, *Paederota bona rota*, *Hedysarum hedysaroides*, a natural rock garden with *Potentilla nitida* and *Primula*, *Campanula ochlerifolia*, *C. barbata* and yellow flowered *Aconitum ranunculifolium*. Also a huge "garden shed" and lots of timber. West now to the Sexten Dolomites and the spectacular triple spikes of the Drei Zinnen (Tre Cima di Lavaredo) around which there is *Sempervivum wulfenii*, *Gentiana acaulis*, *G. punctata* and *Trollius europaeus* in damp spots;. Further west to the Pordoi Pass and an easy walk along the immensely popular Bindelweig (Vial del Pan) a largely volcanic ridge (Padon) at around 2400m. with views south to the north face of the Marmolada and occasionally north to the Sella

Group. Here marmots and the likes of *Silene acaulis*, *Gentian verna*, *Soldanella minima*, *Saxifraga paniculata* and rather poor. pale forms of *Eritichium nanum*. Mainly yellow flowered *Papaver rhaeticum*,

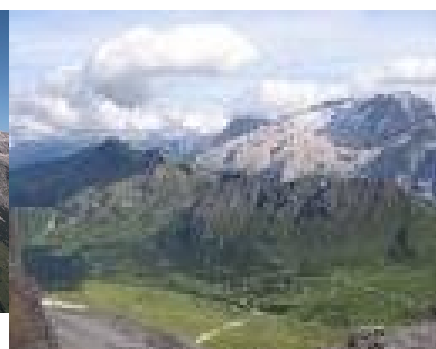
Saxifraga oppositifolia, *S. facchinii* *Thlaspi rotundifolium*, *Draba* and the pioneer plant *Oxyria digyna* are to be found in the seemingly barren Sella Group towards Piz Boe. From the Marmolada there are fascinating views northwards over the dark Padon ridge to the gleaming whitish dolomite of the Sella . Towards the



Padon Chain



View from Belvedere northwards
from Sassolungo to Sella Group



From Piz Boe (Sella) to the Padon
Ridge and Marmolada

bottom by Lake Fedaia, *Campanula barbata*. Further west above the Sella Pass the steep walls of the Langkofel (Sassolunga) into which a two person “coffin” gondola will take you to a gap below the Cique Dite with a view into the Val Gardena to the north. On the cliffs, *Saxifraga paniculata*, *Anemone baldensis*, *Leontopodium alpinum* and, *Arenaria alpina*, while on the mixed rocks and deeper soils at the base, *Pulsatilla alpina* and *P. alpina* ssp. *apiifolia*, shade-loving *Viola biflora*, *Soldanella minima*, *Sedum atratum*, *Rhododendron hirsutum*, *Salix reticulata*, brown-stemmed *Hieracium*, *Pedicularis*, *Nigritella nigra* and light blue forms of *Campanula barbata*. A descent northwards and a right turn takes you to the Gardena Pass around which there is *Pyrola rotundifolia* and pink flowered *Aster alpinus*. Away to the south between the Rodella Pass and San Martino di Castrozza is the often cloud covered pyramid of Cimon della Pala. Around its base *Rhodiola rosea*, *Primula glutinosa* and *Petasites* – butterburrs with huge leaves. and in the woods *Cypripedium calceolus*. Seen elsewhere (not sure where!) *Geranium sylvaticum*, *Primula halleri*, *Vitaliana primuliflora*, *Hormium pyrenaica*, *G. verna* (pale blue and inky-blue), *Saxifraga exarata*, and *Adenostyles alliariae*.

This was a delightful view of mainly photogenic limestone and dolomite mountains with a good selection of its flora, many endemic to south east Europe. Too many sources of further information to quote, so look in the Consolidated Index. A good selection of web sites by Googling flowers or flora dolomites. Paula Kohlhaupt's *Blumenwelt der Dolomiten* also available in Italian as *Il Fiori Delle Dolomiti* is an excellent illustrated book, but apparently now out of print.

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MEETING 21 FEBRUARY

Mr. David Lang

In the footsteps of Hooker in NE Sikkim

David has taken us on his adventures over the years – the last to Patagonia. He is always a interesting speaker and in remembrance of Keith please make every effort to come to this meeting



World of Alpines

Sunday 15th March

10 am to 4 pm

The Hillside Events Centre

R H S Gardens Wisley

