In 2013, we lost two of our valued specialist advisers through retirement. The members are very grateful for help received in the past from Dr Allan Hall (archaeobotanist) formerly of the University of York, and Dr Ralph Forbes (botanist) formerly of Queen’s University Belfast. We wish them both a happy retirement.

ASPNS was consulted on two plant-names last year by the Dictionary of Old English, and we also received the following queries: from a researcher in the University of East London working on tenth-century wound-healing plants; from a project investigating aspects of Scottish garden history; from a researcher in Spain interested in the plant *lustmoce*; from a researcher in the University of the Highlands and Islands on early references to barley; and a query on the stylized flowers in medieval embroidery.

Our latest publication, which has suffered all manner of delays and vicissitudes, has finally emerged, thanks to the University of Leeds. The volume appears as vol. 44 of the Leeds Studies in English, edited by C. P. Biggam, with Alaric Hall as editorial assistant. Full contents can be viewed below.

As always, thanks are due to English Language, School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow, U.K., for hosting and supporting ASPNS.
Dr C. P. Biggam, Director of ASPNS
1st February 2014

Plant-Related Publications by ASPNS Members


This book contains the following articles:

Biggam, C. P., ‘An Introduction to Anglo-Saxon Plant-Name Studies and to this Special Issue’, pp. 1–9.


Meaney, Audrey, ‘What was Lybcorn?’, pp. 146–205.


Glossary of Medical Terms (Historical and Modern), pp. 242–243.

Lexical Indexes, pp. 244–261. [Includes plant-names in Modern English, Middle English, Old English, Proto-Indo-European, several historical Germanic languages, Old French, Middle French, several historical Celtic languages, Latin, Greek, and Botanical Latin, as well as Old English geographical and botanical terms].