



# The Scottish Rock Garden Club

## SHOW REPORTS

### EDINBURGH SHOW

#### 2013



A bright sun lit up the Pentland hills, south of Edinburgh, on the Friday evening before the 2013 Edinburgh show. Snow glistened on the high slopes as if it were January instead of early April. The tree branches were still bare although a few catkins have started to open and the familiar pussy-willows beckon flower arrangers. On show Saturday the sun was bright and as dawn broke, sparkled like it has done on most mornings in the last fortnight.

This was the first day of the new Financial Year. Too late to top up your ISA! Buy plants instead. Share prices falling! [again]. Sow some SRGC seeds. Alex Salmond couldn't attend the show since he was in the USA! Make do without him we have our own President in the SRGC!

The weather folk on the telly tell us that each day, week, month or whatever is the coldest, wettest, snowiest since records began. Wild animals are dying in hibernation. Birds aren't nesting. Doom and gloom! Even Private Fraser in Dad's Army on Saturday night's repeat, dressed as German soldier for a pretend wartime propaganda film sounded like an optimist compared to these pedlars of gloom. A slight exaggeration perhaps but its no exaggeration to say that fairmilehead Parish Church Hall was buzzing by mid-day on Saturday. Edinburgers come out in their droves. SRGC Show? Must be spring and ...it felt like spring, as long as you kept out of the wind. Plant sales were busy and after a long cold spell it is super that our favourite nurserymen can start to recharge their coffers so that they can later find new treasure for us all to buy. There is little doubt that one of the main reason for the visitors is

#### Capital plants in the Capital city.

**NO MATTER HOW MANY PLANTS YOU GROW  
THERE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE MANY MORE TO  
TEMPT YOU AT THE NURSERY STANDS**

that Edinburgh suburbs and surrounding towns are full of gardeners.

With Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden on their doorstep they have the world's finest gardening canvas to copy. With so many top nurseries at the show one might expect that many would be selling the

same plants but there is not really such a huge overlap at all. Each has its own speciality. I bought a really expensive Adonis with a Japanese name, which took my fancy as soon as I saw it. It was still there in late afternoon so I knew it was for me. At the same time I bought a much cheaper plant so that the average cost





worked out to be quite reasonable. Both promise new delights for next year. So with the show. Every year is different. Every year the plants are different. Several years ago the Edinburgh Show schedule was revised and classes for Crocus were dropped as no Crocus had made it to the show for ages. This year there Crocuses! Not only that, there were Snowdrops as well.

However this year will be remembered as 'L'annee des Hepaticas'. David Boyd won the Forrest medal with his magnificent *H. transilvanica* 'Blue Jewel' and scattered his collection of hepaticas throughout the show in 6 pan, 3 pan and single pan classes. Wonderful! You didn't have to be there to believe it but they were a wonderful sight. Hopefully many will appear next week at Hexham. The pictures serve to remind me of these treasures and I hope they give you an idea of just how splendid they were. Before the plants, first SRGC treasures.

Top

Anne Bush selling Anne Chamber's note-cards. They are hand made from prints of her own paintings. Make a point of getting some for yourself at the next show.

Middle

The Colourful Ladies from Ayr getting ready to step out. They won't get lost in a snowdrift. What goodies are in the big bags?

Below

SRGC secretary Carol Shaw with the SRGC book-stall. Several new books took my fancy. I am saving up for the new Cyclamen book and how about *Cypripediums*? Check out the list in the year book. Lastly - two retired dentists ponder a biscuit





Left to right - top to bottom  
Some of David Boyd's Hepaticas

- H. nobilis* var *asiatica*
- H. insularis* usual white form
- H. insularis* a rare pink form
- H. nobilis japonica* 'Shikouden'
- H. nobilis japonica* 'Akone'
- H. nobilis japonica* 'Shirayuki'
- H. x schlyteri*
- H. maxima*



David's *Hepatica x schlyteri* is  
*H. nobilis* 'Bauer's Blue' x *H. maxima* -

A deliberate cross was made and seed sown in 2003. 50 seedlings flowered 4-6 years later. *H. x schlyteri* is sterile and is propagated vegetatively. Supposedly tender, David's plants have survived temperatures of -15C under cold glass. Pot culture in a shaded frame is advised. It is less suitable to being grown in the open garden. David notes that seeds of Asiatic hepaticas and this hybrid can take 2 - 3 years to germinate. The hybrid name commemorates Severin Schlyter a Swedish enthusiast who did a lot of hybridising



**The Big Pan s**

<b>Top to Bottom</b>	<b>Exhibitor</b>
<b>Crocus 'Ard Schenk'</b>	<b>Lynne Henderson</b>
<b>Ipheon uniflorum</b>	<b>Peter Semple Cert. of Merit</b>
<b>Iris graeberiana</b>	<b>John Lee</b>
<b>'Yellow Fall'</b>	
<b>Tecophilea cyanocrocus</b>	<b>Cyril Lafong Cert. of Merit</b>
<b>'Primula megaseifolia</b>	<b>Tom Green</b>
<b>Corydalis malkensis</b>	<b>Jim &amp; Janet Paterson</b>
<b>Pulsatilla vernalis</b>	<b>Cyril Lafong</b>

**The Bhutan Drinking Cup  
for Best Asiatic Primula -  
Stella & David Rankin's P. sonchifolia.**



The lower picture is of the 'best' plant of **Primula sonchifolia** in the pan. Look carefully and you will note considerable variation in the plants in the pan, showing seedling variation. This is a good sign as the last thing you want with Primula species is to have only one clone.

**The K.C Corsar Challenge  
Trophy for Best European  
or American Primula -  
Sam Sutherland's P. allionii**



Above A nice Primula pubescens 'Jackie Richards' from Jane & Alan Thomson .Who is Jackie Richards? Bottom left is scintillating white

form of Primula marginata grown from seed by Margaret & Henry Taylor. And bottom right Tom Green's P. 'Blindsee'



**Hard work preparing  
and serving food**

Graham said he was not working too hard and just did as he was told in the kitchen. Elspeth and the other ladies did not have time to be photographed



**It's not so  
hard enjoying  
the food**

While some were busy eating Stella relaxed in good company



**Taylor's  
Treasures**



**Narcissus cyclamineus x alpestris**



**Below Mgt & Henry's  
Primula obtusifolia  
Primula limbata [& above]  
Primula nana**



**Narcissus provin-  
cialis x alpestris  
sown 25 5 06**  
This is the first  
flowering of this  
cross. Note the 'sad  
' shape' inherited  
from male parent

**Narcissus  
blanchardii**  
Named for the  
famed British ex-  
pert on the genus





Townsendia hookeri from Tom Green was awarded a Certificate of Merit



above and below Cathy Caudwell with her tiny Tulipa sogdiana



Corydalis cava  
Jim & Janet Paterson

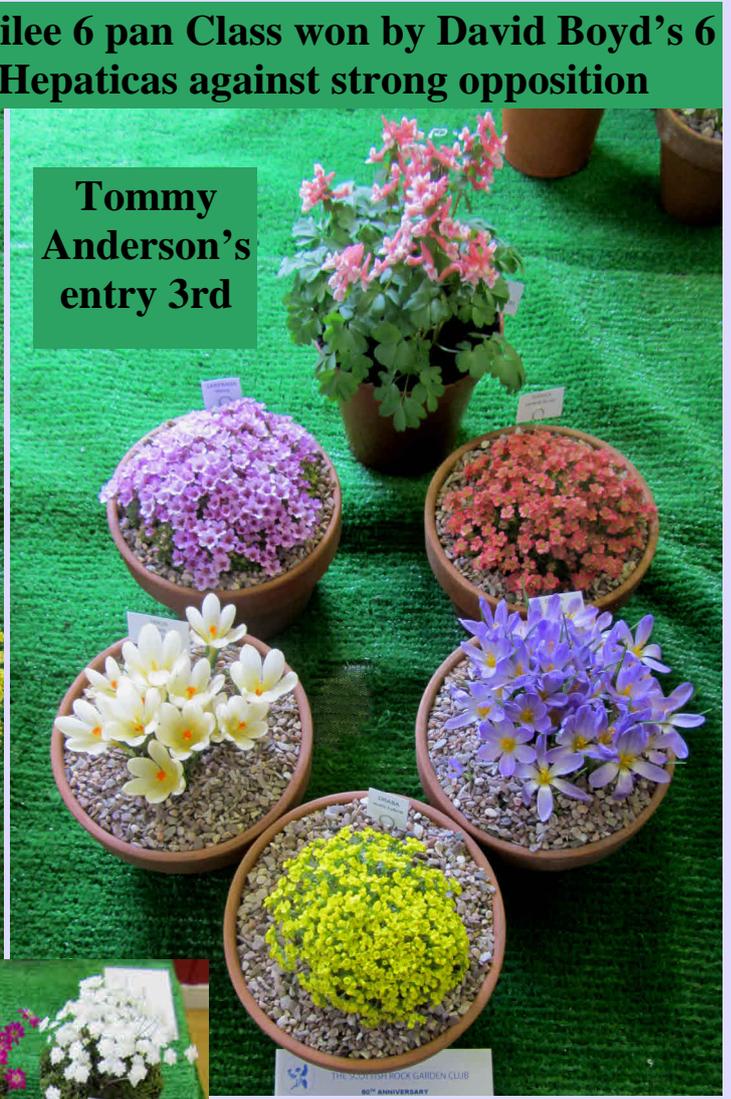


Peter Semple's Corydalis solida 'George Baker' was awarded a Certificate of Merit

**Cyril  
Lafong's  
entry 2nd**

**Jubilee 6 pan Class won by David Boyd's 6  
Hepaticas against strong opposition**

**Tommy  
Anderson's  
entry 3rd**



**SOME JUBILEE STARS**

- Top left clockwise
- Paraquilegia anemonoides
- the winning 6 pan
- Saxifraga lilacina
- Narcissus 'Snipe'
- Androsace vandellii



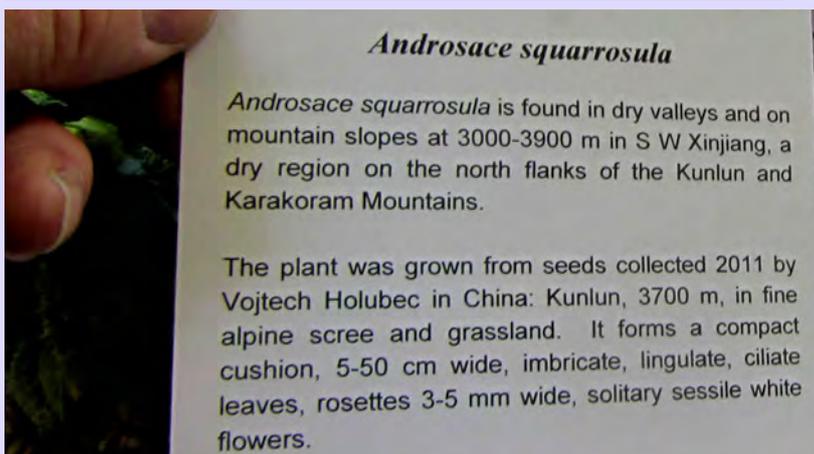
**The Elsie  
Harvey  
Memorial  
Trophy  
for the winner of  
Class 3  
Cyril Lafong**



***Fritillaria (crassifolia subsp.) poluninii***  
Collected by Oleg Polunin on his Iraq expedition in 1958 but not described till 1998. It is the smallest and slowest growing of *F. crassifolia* group. Requires standard bulb treatment. Rich gritty compost with plenty of water while in growth, dryish dormant



***Primula odontocalyx***  
Belongs to Section Petiolares and is named for the toothing of the calyx lobes. Distributed in Gansu, Hunan, Hubei, Shaanxi and Sichuan. The plant was grown from seeds collected in 2011 in Shaanxi. In cultivation it requires a humus-rich compost that is never allowed to dry out completely although this species would probably grow in warmer conditions than most Himalayan Petiolarids. A cool shaded environment suits it best

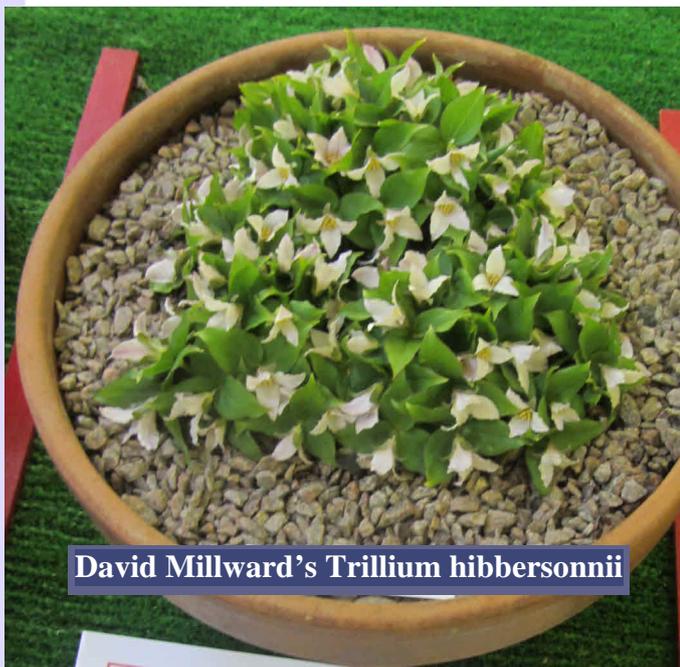




Cyril Lafong won the Henry Archibald Rose Bowl in Class 1 with these crackers



Jean Wyllie's *Shortia uniflora*



David Millward's *Trillium hibbersonii*

