

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Forrest Medal Stirling [in Dunblane] 2022

Ramonda Nathalie JCA 686

Shown by David Millward



David's fabulous plant of Ramonda Nathalie JCA 686 wowed everyone as soon as they saw it sitting there, glowing on the show bench. By afternoon when the sun shone through the petals it was positively vibrant. The pan seemed too big to lift but since he has carried it into the hall I knew Dave would manage. Every pale blue flower was in perfect condition, each with its yellow eye. The leathery leaves, when you could glimpse them looked like they had been cut from dark green suede leather, their dark shade perfectly complimenting the bright flowers. This plant has won two Forrest medals for Dave at Aberdeen shows in 2008, 2018 and 2019. We in Dunblane were indeed fortunate that it flowered a week earlier this year. Well done Dave!

This Forrest Medal is Dave's tenth. Many congratulations on reaching Silver Forrest status. Dave is only the 9th exhibitor to win 10 George Forrest Memorial Medals in the history of the Scottish Rock Garden club. He is one of only three who are still alive!



Silver Forrest Medal winners

Cyril Lafong has 61

Sandy Leven has 14

David Millward has 10

Now departed recipients

Harold Esselmont 43,

Jack Crossland 30,

Fred Hunt 26,

Jack Drake 14,

Christin Boyd-Harvey 11

Eric Watson 10



Dave Millward with Ramonda at Aberdeen in 2019 below is part of my report . I gushed with enthusiasm in 2019 and in 2018. three years later and I an just as enthusiastic in my admiration for the ramonda and Dave’s prowess as a grower.

“I was interested to see that David’s superb plant has been raised from seed collected by Jim & Jenny Archibald. According to Jim’s field notes which are on the SRGC

web site, it was collected as Ramonda serbica, [difficult to tell the difference out of flower] in the Radika Valley and Gorge in ‘Yugoslavian Macedonia’, along with Lilium martagon and Sempervivum heuffellii Ramonda nathaliae grows in Serbia and Macedonia, mostly in the east of both countries. Whereas most flowers in Gesneriaceae have of five lobes in their flower, Ramonda nathaliae has two fused petals which give the overall appearance of four lobes (usually), making it distinctive among Gesneriad flowers. The Ramonda nathaliae flower is considered a symbol of the Serbian Army’s struggle during World War I. The plant was scientifically described in 1884 from specimens growing around Niš, by Sava Petrović and Josif Pančić, who named it after Queen Natalija Obrenović of Serbia.