SRGC/AGS

Kendal joint show 14 March

2026 Farrer Medal

Saxifraga 'Coolock Gem'

Frank & Barbara Hoyle





After a break in 2025, our early show with AGS colleagues made a welcome return to Kendal in 2026.

Large floriferous cushion plants always feature at this show. This year the Farrer Medal was awarded to Frank & Barbara Hoyle's magnificent *Saxifraga* 'Coolock Gem' despite stiff competition from Geoff Rollinson's *Primula* 'Alice Evans' and *Androsace ciliata,* both of which received certificates of merit.

'Coolock Gem' was raised by Jim Almond and named after the place where he lives near Shrewsbury and his daughter Gemma. It has been successful on the show bench before and has won both Farrer and Forrest Medals over the years including at Kendal in 2022. Its parentage seems to involve *S. georgei* and *S. poluniniana*. Saxifraga enthusiasts will know that Gemma's sister Kate also has a fine saxifrage named after her.

Growing these large cushion plants to the size where they fill a 36cm pot without dead patches appearing takes real skill. Watering the roots but not the foliage and good ventilation are crucial.