

Edinburgh & the Lothians 11 April 2026



Our show was in its second year in the new venue of Liberton Kirk centre. There is a range of halls and rooms to comfortably accommodate the nurseries, the café with the customary good selection of home baking, as well as the show hall—which was well filled with exhibits. Show secretary David Millward reports the best-ever numbers post-Covid with 198 entries (293 plants) compared to the five previous year average of 147/202, although not quite up to previous levels (2010-2019-average of 265 entries). *Narcissus* was the most numerous genus this year with close on thirty pots to be seen around the show, though oddly none to be found in section 2, mostly of miniature or dwarf hybrids. Cultivar names can be misleading, and even irritating to some who prefer wild species. ‘Twinkling Yellow’ is actually a selection of *N. jonquilla* var. *henriquesii* while ‘Tiny Bubbles’ is a cross between *N. jonquilla* and the cross between *N. minor* and *N. cyclamineus*. Daffodils dominated one side of the two main benches where most of the bulb classes are located.

The best plant in show was on that same bench, not a *Narcissus* but Cyril Lafong’s (*Pseudo*) *trillium rivale*, winning him yet another Forrest medal; it had also won in both 2025 and 2024. Cyril also won the Kilbryde cup—named for R B Cooke of Northumberland—for the best small (17.5 cm) pot with his *Androsace pubescens*, part of a three-pan class for European species where he also showed *A. vandellii*. His *Saxifraga andersonii* won the Bill Mackie quaich for best saxifrage; Bill had been an Edinburgh member. Another trillium, *T. hibbersonii*, formed part of the trio that took the Henry Archibald rose bowl for class 2 for David Millward, the others being *Rhododendron dendrocharis* ‘Glendoick Gem’ and *Fritillaria meleagris* ‘Alba’. The award commemorates Henry, who had been vice-president of the SRGC in the 1950s. David’s *Benthamiella patagonica* won the Gothenburg trophy for best cushion plant. This trophy travels between groups each year. He also won the intriguingly named R E Cooper—who had collected in the Himalaya–Bhutan drinking cup for best Asiatic primula with *Primula* ‘Netta Dennis’, the hybrid from *P. aureata* x *gracilipes*; these petiolarid primulas are seen less and less now and are becoming harder to obtain. However, a smaller ‘Netta Dennis’, *P. gracilipes* and the rarely seen *P. bhutanica* were part of Borders’ branch convenor Margaret Thorne’s entries in Section 2, which contributed to her bronze medal. Another primula, *P. algida* from the Caucasus along with *Pulsatilla nuttalliana* and *Androsace mariae* var. *tibetica* featured in Carole & Ian Bainbridge’s three-pan exhibit, which took the Elsie Harvey memorial trophy for new or rare plants. The K C Corsar cup is the oldest of the Edinburgh trophies, named for a past president, journal editor and enthusiast for the genus, given for the best European primula; it went to Jane & Alan Thomson’s *Primula* ‘Linda Pope’, a fine old form of *P. marginata* introduced around





Rhododendron 'Lady Alice Fitzwilliam'

1911 and named by a nurseryman for his daughter. The couple had success with a well-flowered pot of the scented Victorian hybrid *Rhododendron* 'Lady Alice Fitzwilliam' (*R. edgeworthii* x *R. formosum*). After being wintered under cold glass, it was in peak condition and took the Midlothian vase.

There was one pot of daffodils that did win a trophy: Peter Semple's large pot of *Narcissus obesus* received a merit certificate as well as being one of the three-pan exhibits along with *Fritillaria recurva* and *F. pallidiflora* that won him the AO (Alexander Ormiston) Curle trophy for seed-raised plants. Curle had been club president as well as a

Pulsatilla nuttalliana



Iris magnifica
Erythronium citronella





Lewisia 'Little Raspberry'

distinguished antiquarian, at one time *director* of the Royal Scottish Museum. Another winning bulb was Richard Green's *Iris magnifica*, which received the Henry Tod Carnethy quaich. Tod had been active



Primula allionii



Narcissus sennocke

after WW2; he was a past president who had collected plants in the American Rockies. A striking Chilean blue crocus, *Tecophilaea cyanocrocus*, from Helen Knowles was judged best plant in section 2, winning her the Midlothian bowl. An unassuming little plant of *Tristagma nivale* in flower from southern South America received a merit certificate for David & Stella Rankin. Finally, your correspondent won the Alf Evans—the ericaceous enthusiast of RBGE fame—quaich with *Andromeda polifolia* 'Compacta', and the Reid rose bowl—named for Alex Reid, another Edinburgh member—for most points in the show.

Stan da Prato, with the assistance of *Carole Bainbridge*

Photographs: *Liz Cole*



Trillium rivale

Many of the award winners are well-known to readers so our photographs are chosen to give a flavour of the many fine exhibits in the other parts of a very successful occasion (Ed.)

Leptinella pyrethrifolia

(Aptly, Spinnrad, with nn rather than n, is a German word for spinning wheel)

Sempervivum 'Kramer's Spinrad'

