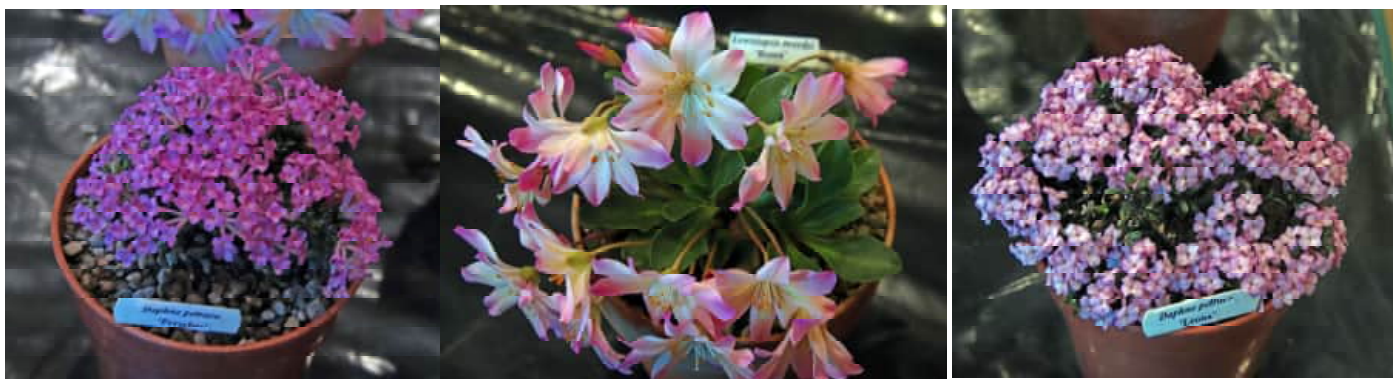


SRGC Glasgow Show

2nd May 2026



Glasgow is currently the last of the spring shows, held this year on Saturday May 2nd in the Baljaffray church hall in Bearsden, where the parking is very convenient for those carrying in pot plants. And there can be rather a lot of pots as the Glasgow schedule calls for two 6 pan and seven 3 pan classes along with many 2 pans in the 62 classes in the Open section. Club president Richard Green still acts as show secy, assisted by Neil McCully; they tell me 14 exhibitors brought 216 plants in the Open section, down from 2025, though section 2 with four members bringing 28 pots was up.



Class A for six small pans attracted four entries and was won by Cyril Lafong whose six included two forms of *Daphne petraea*, two androsaces, *A. robusata* and *A. himalaica* with a *Primula bracteata* and a form of *Lewisiopsis tweedyi*.



Second were Carole and Ian Bainbridge whose V shaped six pan display featured the yellow *Tetranneuris scaposa* from SW USA at the point, backed by two lewisias, the dwarf *Clematis marmoraria* and the rarely seen *Primula daonensis*, a dwarf relative of *P. hirsuta*.



The Henry Archibald Challenge rose bowl for class 2 for three pans from different genera was duly won by Cyril. One of his trio, the aptly named *Epimedium grandiflorum*, received a certificate of merit, while *Primula* 'Delight' received the Joan Stead award for best primula. This compact yellow flowered plant is thought to be a hybrid between *P. auricula* and *P. x pubescens alba*





Class 1 is for six (usually larger) pots for the Dr William Buchanan Memorial rosebowl won by your correspondent (Stan da Prato). Buchanan was a local farmer whose land is now covered by a housing estate. One of the two andromedas won the Urie cup for best ericaceous plant other than a rhododendron. Another trophy commemorates Mr Buchanan, the cup for class 3 three rare plants, but it was not contested this year.



Continuing the multi- pot theme I received the Edward Darling trophy for class 4 three dwarf rhododendrons with *R. 'Glendoick Ruffles'* and two evergreen azalea types as well as the Rhododendron Challenge trophy with another azalea, this time *R. 'Pleasant White'*.



Cyril's best in show Forrest medal plant was in a single pot class. The large *Cypripedium* 'Ursel', a cross between two Chinese species: *C. fasciculatum* and *C. henryi*, is a veteran of the show bench with a certificate of merit award at Perth the previous week where it was also considered for the top award. It also took the Charles M Simpson orchid trophy.



A nice pot of *Gentiana ligustica*, a member of the *G. acaulis* group from the Alpes Maritime, won Cyril the prize for best plant in a small (17.5cm) pot. Another strikingly blue flowered plant, John di Paola's *Penstemon uitahensis* in his two-pan entry to Class 45 for American plants, was awarded a certificate of merit.

Mossy saxifrages include some easy and extremely vigorous types for the garden but also some choicer species, notably the Pyrenean *S. pubescens* which, in the form 'Snowcap', often appears on the show bench at this stage of the spring. Glasgow member John di Paola always stages one or more good examples of this plant at his local show and one of several covered in white flowers received another certificate of merit.





'Snowcap' featured in classes for saxifrages and cushion plants. A truly versatile plant!





The Ulster group (travelling) quaich for foliage went to *Sempervivum arachnoideum* in a very shallow container in the form of a plant pot saucer. I received the Don Stead prize for most points over 16 bulb classes and the Crawford Silver Challenge cup for most (15) firsts in show though again the multi-pot aspect comes into play as there were 27 pots in all. A further certificate of merit went Richard Green's impressively large *Arisaema griffithii*.



Margaret Thorne continued her progress in section 2 winning the James Wilson trophy for most points and an SRGC bronze medal. This is based on a complicated formula (20% of the total available first points but not just from firsts!) which regularly causes confusion at joint shows with the AGS in the north of England – see page 8 of the SRGC show handbook. Margaret's large pot of the hardy succulent *Rhodiola rosea* took the Ian Donald memorial trophy for best Scottish native plant. Three other members also exhibited giving a total of 28 pots and good coverage of the Section 2 bench.



Lewisia provide vibrant colours at this time of year

Variation among the dwarf shrubs





Ferns

Gesneriads





The Glasgow show has a section for cut daffodils and tulips which this year attracted a dozen vases. I'm surprised more members don't enter blooms; perhaps cars are already full of pot plants.





For years Glasgow had a section for rhododendron flowers. I understand it stopped around the time *Phytophthora* became such an issue. However, this year Mike and Sue Thornley brought around 20 trusses from their historic garden at Glenarm at Rhu on the Gareloch, allowing showgoers to enjoy some very mature and in some cases rare plants in the comfort of the show hall. Most were species rather than garden hybrids with *R. arboreum*, *falconeri*, *edgeworthii*, *lindleyi*, *xanthostephanum* and *forrestii* among others. The display included a well-illustrated history of Glenarm which was appreciated by the public.





People make shows