

# The Scottish Rock Garden Club & The Alpine Garden Society Newcastle show 11th October 2015



Thanks to Cowell's Garden Centre owner, Mr Cowell, Alan Newton, Show Secretary and Garden Centre Manager, Jane



We knew that the autumn show was changing venues and what a change it was! The Darras Hall in Ponteland was the historic venue for the SRGC and AGS shows in Northumberland. It was excellent as far as staging and selling plants and at the same time feeding members. It was comfortable and comforting in that it was the place we all knew. However an organisation which stands still and does not innovate struggles in the modern age. It was a brave move to leave what they knew and branch out to the new venue, Cowells Garden Centre in nearby Woolsington. It proved to be a superb idea. Whereas natural

light was restricted in the Darras hall, in the glasshouses of the Garden centre the plants luxuriated in sunshine. What about scorching? What about overheating? All taken care of! The commercial glazed houses are huge with excellent air circulation. Many of the glass roof lights on the south side were screened to reduce the sunlight on the plants. Still there was more than enough brightness to enable us properly to appreciate the plants.



Plenty of light and adequate shading showed the plants to best advantage

Like the Aberdeen show in the Duthie Park Greenhouses the setting in Cowells Garden Centre showed off the show plants to their best advantage. There was even room for specialist Nurseries and Club Plant sales tables. Our show was surrounded by acres of the garden centre's own bulbs, shrubs and flowers for sale. One look at the quality of the sales plants and the excellent displays shows why Cowell's has been voted 'Garden Centre of



the Year' since 2011.

The quality of their plants rivalled many of ours on the show benches. In fact, I am sure some members of the public must have wondered why we prize species Cyclamen over the Florists big cultivars, a wall of which plants screened off one side of the show. There was a continual buzz at this show as first SRGC and AGS members flocked in, to be followed all day by a constant stream of interested gardeners. If you shop at Cowell's you can find everything you might need [and several that you did not realise that you now need] for your garden. Hopefully most visi-



Glassford and Brian relax in front of Cowell's florists Cyclamen

tors now realise that rock garden plants are what they need to bring interest to their garden at this time of the year. Some will join us.

For dedicated alpinists the huge range of excellent 'other non-alpine; plants on sale must have tempted them to grow Heucheras or Phormiums, Roses or Clematis.





Beryl McNaughton with Gentiana 'Troon', one of husband Ian's new hybrids. Below is his wonderful pure white Gentiana 'Oban'.



This wonderful trio won the 3 pan class for Rannveig and Bob. It was the first of their 21 first prizes at this show and ensured that they won the Ponteland Bowl for most first prize points in Section I [the Open section].

*Oxalis purpurea* 'Ken Aslet', *Biarum marmariense*,  
*Hyacinthoides ciliolata*

The latter two were awarded Certificates of Merit



Beryl McNaughton was second in the class with her 3 Gentians  
John Richard showed that he is an expert grower of more than Primulas by fielding this eclectic mix of desirable beauties. -

*Cyclamen hederifolium*, *Verbascum arcturus* and a *Roscoea*  
Stan da Prato rules in SRGC foliage classes and here he won the open 3 pan. – *Salix x boydii*, *Calluna* H.E.Beale and *Leucothoe* 'Curly Red'.

While the 3 pan bulbs class was won by 3 well grown, unusual, perhaps difficult to source plants, Stan showed that by recognising good more easily available plants and growing them well is also the road to success. Stan should know. He has been SRGC Plantsman of the Year for several years now.



Rannveig and Bob Wallis bring a wide range of superbly grown Cyclamen and other bulbs to the late shows. Few people are able name their *Cyclamen graecum* plants so accurately. *C. graecum* as we all know has been split into several subspecies. By looking at the Wallis' plants it could be possible to name ones own plants more exactly. I, like many others, have grown most of my plants from SRGC, AGS or Cyclamen Society seed, which has probably been collected from cultivated plants, so my seedlings are not 'pure'. The great thing about such seedlings of *graecum* is that they show a lot of variation in leaf pattern as well as flower size and colour. Great for the gardener, not so great for the botanist. It is possible to get seed of known provenance from the Cyclamen Society exchange. Several of their members take care to grow 'pure' strains of seed from plants collected under license for scientific study. Indeed it is through observations in the wild and of licensed collected material that the advances in naming have been made possible. You will have noticed no doubt that now *C. hederifolium* also is being split. This attention detail must be a good thing in ensuring that different populations of what were thought to be similar plants of the same species are recognised for their differences and then protected.

Cyclamen. one genus; infinite variety; exquisite leaves!



The standard of Cyclamen exhibits at shows in Northern England always impresses me. Part of this is because there are a large number of growers to draw from and who are prepared to travel to the show. Part is also due to the weather. By this I mean that there is more sunshine and more heat in that sunshine than there is further north in Scotland. However Roma Fiddes always confounds this idea of mine by regularly showing well flowered plants of *C. rohlfsianum*. There were probably more cyclamen at the show than any other genus.

*Cyclamen rohlfsianum*

*Cyclamen colchicum*

*Cyclamen africanum*

A very dark form of *C. hederifolium*

*Cyclamen cilicium* ex PD 25789

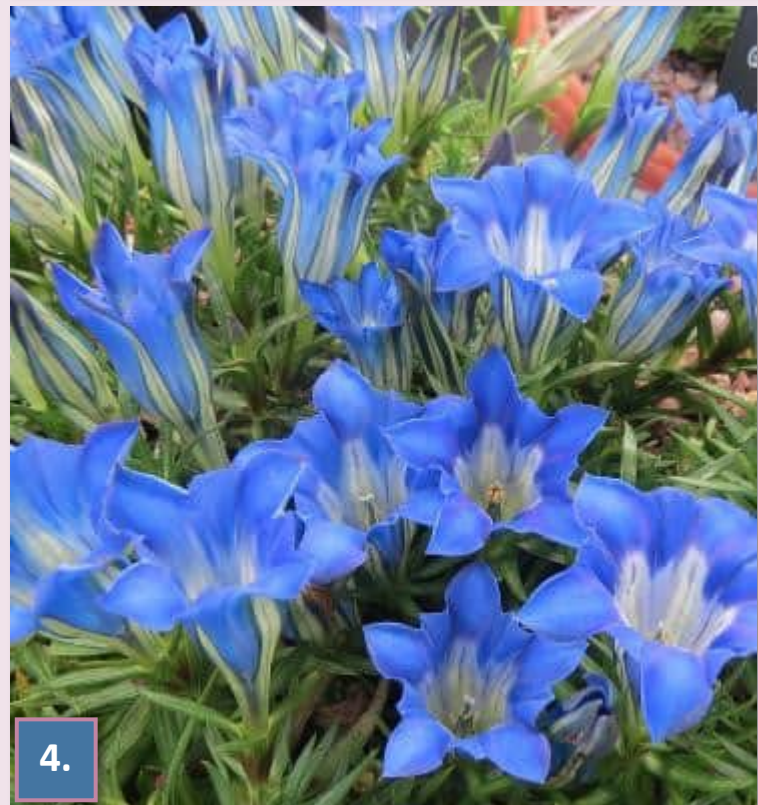
*Cyclamen cilicium* album

There were many other superb Cyclamen but I could not include everyone.





- 1. *Gentiana farreri* 'Alex Duguid'
- 2. *Gentiana* 'Braemar'
- 3. *Gentiana* 'Blue Silk'
- 4. *Gentiana sino ornata*
- 5. *Gentiana* 'Barbara Lyle'





1.



2.

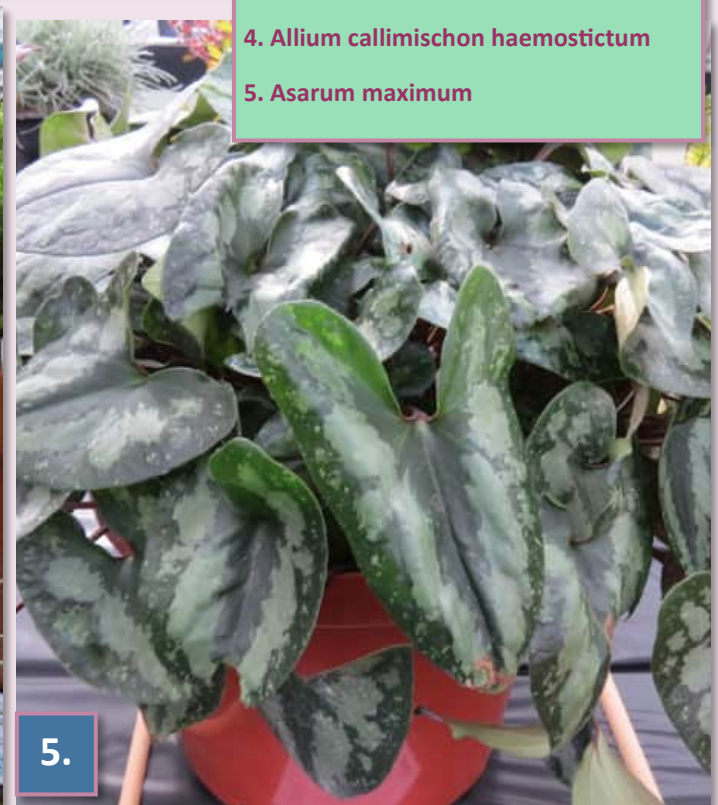


3.

- 1. *Galanthus peshmenii*
- 2. *Colchicum macrophyllum*
- 3. *Colchicum baytopiorum*
- 4. *Allium callimischon haemostictum*
- 5. *Asarum maximum*



4.



5.





## The leaves are the stars!

*Fascicularia bicolor* in flower

The winning three in the Foliage Class were exhibited by George Young.

*Senecio bidwillii* 'Basil Fox'

*Leucogenes grandiceps*

*Ozomanthus coralloides* [formerly *Helichrysum*]



*Aruncus aethiesifolius*

Winner of The Millennium Trophy for  
Best Foliage Plant  
Alan Furness'  
*Celmisia semi-cordata*





Alan Furness being interviewed for local radio



I think Sandy Leven's picture broke my lens!





*These SRGC members love plants.*

*If you love plants, join us on [www.srgc.net](http://www.srgc.net)*





- Crocus banaticus**
- Crocus serotinus**
- Crocus kotschyanus**
- Crocus niveus**





### Ficinia truncata 'Ice Crystal'

The species is a sedge from South Africa, native to fynbos on nutrient poor sandstone soils. It has flat leaves with white margins which wear away appearing tattered and membranous. Like many sedges it likes moist areas where its rhizomes help to purify water. It may not be completely hardy outdoors, especially in the north. It makes a beautiful addition to the grass like plants in cultivation.

Agapanthus 'Tinkerbell' similar in appearance with strap shaped cream edged leaves but totally different genus! It is tho' native to South Africa. [Alan Newton]

Coprosma petriei impresses me every year at the 'Ponteland' show. How do they get all these wonderful blue berries. I do know you need a male and a female plant! [Trevor and Angie Jones]

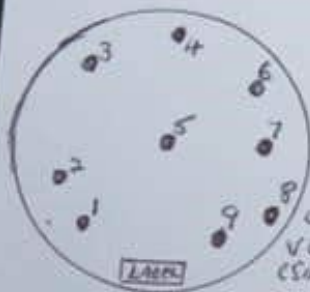
Picea abies 'Pusch' I have never seen so many cones on a dwarf conifer in one of our shows. This plant deserves a special award.

Coprosma repens 'Pino Colada' how can you beat colour like this! Note the different coloured Coprosmas behind it. [Stan da Prato]



ONE PAN TO SHOW VARIATION

THE SEED WAS SOWN 14/11/14 AND COLLECTED FROM A PARENT PLANT OF *CELMISIA SEMI-CORDATA* SSP. *AURIGENS*, A SPECIES THAT HAS PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE GOLDEN LEAVES. THE PARENT PLANT WAS ONE OF SEVERAL RAISED FROM WILD COLLECTED NEW ZEALAND SEED CROSS GRAMM, E. ORIGO (SOUTH ISLAND). THE 23 SEEDLINGS RAISED HAVE BEEN GROWN ON IN AN OPEN CITRUS NURSERY AND THE 9 SEEDLINGS EXHIBITED SHOW THE VARIATION TYPICAL OF THE BATCH.



SEVERAL OTHER *CELMISIA* SPECIES GROW NEAR THE PARENT PLANT AND THEY WILL HAVE PLAYED THEIR PART IN THE VARIATION SHOWN. THOSE SPECIES INCLUDE *C. OTHER SEMI-CORDATA* SSP. *AURIGENS*, *MONROI*, *VERBASCIFOLIA*, *SEMI-CORDATA* (SILVER LEAF), *SPECTABILIS*, *ATHLETICII* + *BOTYPLANTATA*.

LOCATION OF THE 9 YOUNG PLANTS IN THE POT

PLANTS 1+2 - AS PARENT - *C. SEMI-CORDATA* SSP. *AURIGENS* X *C. " " "*

PLANT 3 - SMALL, SLUMPING - PARENT X *C. ATHLETICII*?

PLANT 4 ROBUST - PARENT X *C. MONROI*.

PLANT 5 ROBUST, 'FURRY' LEAF - PARENT X *C. VERBASCIFOLIA*

PLANT 6 MULTI-SHOOTS - PARENT X *C. VERBASCIFOLIA*

PLANT 7 PARENT X *C. SPECTABILIS*?

PLANT 8 NO GOLD, ALL SILVER - PARENT X *C. SEMI-CORDATA* (SILVER)

PLANT 9 AS 1+2 BUT MUCH LESS GOLDEN

(N.B. ALL *CELMISIA* FLOWER WITH WHITE DANCY FLOWERS IN LATE MAY/JUNE IN NORTHUMBERLAND)

Seedling variation in *Celmisia semicordata aurigena*.

Alan Furness provided one of the best exhibits in the show.

These are his notes to accompany this pan of seedlings - Jan 2014





Fabulous & all under one roof!

*Oxalis flabellifolia*

*Crocus mathewii* 'Dream Dancer'

*Crocus serotinus salzmannii* 'El Torcal'

*Crocus hadriaticus*

*Habranthus martinezii*

*Eucomis vandermerwii*

*Myrteola nummularia*







Superb stamp display from Mike Dale  
Bargains from Edrom!  
Heather colours matched to customers' hair

