

# The Scottish Rock Garden Club

## Aberdeen Show

### 19 5 18

It is not often in Aberdeen that one must retreat out of doors in to the sunshine to cool down!



First things first!

This year's was a lovely show - more entries than last year and a remarkable selection of quite large (demonstrating having been well maintained over many years) plants - some of the largest potfulls [pots-full?] of the smallest plants were the nicest!

The very lovely sunny day made the Victorian Corridor where the show is held a tad too hot for many of the plants on show, sadly, meaning that some were looking a little weary by the end of the day - quite a lot of the people feeling the heat, too. There was a light breeze at times but not enough to protect some plants.

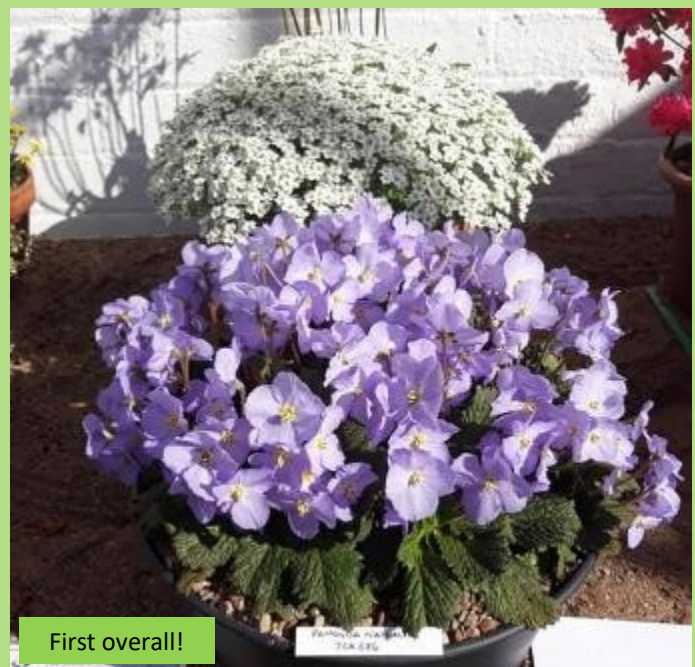
David Millward's *Ramonda nathaliae* won the Forrest Medal for Best Plant in Show.

The very large and fab *Paris japonica* was from Francis and Margaret Higgins who made the long trip to Aberdeen from Berriedale (a small village on the northern east coast of Caithness, Scotland) with a lot of most excellent (and large!!) plants.

I think the furthest travelled exhibitor from the south was Tom Green from Rowland's Gill in Tyne and Wear, England who brought a number of his first quality plants.

Bill and Helen MacGregor's large double trillium was a whopper. It must have come in a truck on its own!

Well done to all involved in the Show for their good work in making it another success in Aberdeen!



First overall!



### Take the TARDIS to the Show

A lot of work goes into preparing plants for the shows and getting them to the show without damaging them. The top pictures are of Stan's car .... YES it is a car!.....being packed with show plants. The picture on the left is of Ali Sutherland of Ardfearn Nursery, near Inverness, packing a few shrubs behind stacked crates of alpines. Can you see the wee plants on the trays under the false floor. Below him is Sarah selling on the sales table in the show. When you look at the hundreds of plants on the bench and on the sales tables in the hall, you imagine that a great big pantechnicon might have been needed to transport them.

Below is John Owen of Askival Nursery in Fort Augustus. Bottom left is Jackie Bibby from Solstice Nursery in Aberdeen. Between them these three nurseries offered a wide range of exciting plants.



## What happens after the plants have been staged?



The judges are grouped in trios. Some are very serious while others look much happier



Next, the stewards record the results. Any problem?.....ask the show secretary



The show secretaries can confer ..... Across the room. Then the results of each class are recorded and points are added up



What will we do while we wait? Why not have a cup of tea?





Once each class has been judged, the judges have to make some difficult decisions.

Which is the best Rhododendron?

Which is the Best Primula?

Which Plant is Best in Show?

There are rounds of voting till they get a winner.



Stan da Prato took the Walker of Portlethen trophy for most points in Section I, due to bringing most plants. [his own words!] He also received the Simpson Salver for best Rhododendron with a very small *R. groenlandicum compactum*. [his words again] Top right is Stan's winning entry in Class 1.



Ian Christie won the Craig Cup for Best Primula with his fine *P. rusbyi*

(above). Certificates of Merit were awarded to Roma Fiddes' *Gentiana acaulis*; Cyril Lafong's *Trillium grandiflorum flore pleno* and *Daphne calcicola*. The latter two have won Forrest medals at previous shows.





Stan da Prato won Class A for 6 small pans of rock garden plants with his colourful entry. I like the way Stan includes ericaceous plants in his multi-pan classes .

We will now take a walk along the show benches starting at the end and ending up at Class 3. We have to start at the end because of the way the classes are set out and the way photographs work!













In Section II Angela won both the Brian Bull Trophy and the Aberdeen Quaich with *Cypripedium tibeticum*. Bill & Helen McGregor received a Certificate of Merit for another double white *Trillium grandiflorum*

At 3.30pm the show closed to the public. Duthie park staff helpfully closed the corridor to allow exhibitors to remove plants from the benches. By 4pm the local group had cleared things away. By Monday the Victorian corridor will be full of seasonal indoor plants again. Thanks to all at Aberdeen for such an enjoyable day in the sunshine - special thanks to Ian and Anne Christie for helping carry Stan's crates and to Stan for the pictures.



*The hanging baskets are planted with Streptosolen*