The Scottish Rock Garden Club Dunblane Early Bulb Display 21st February 2015





gardener. During lunch I received many compliments on the choice of speaker.reflected glory felt great! One member who had travelled quite a distance told me that he. 'could listen to my speaker all day!' in the afternoon Kit talked about her travels botanising on Northern Spain, Turkey and several 'Stans'. Her pictures were excellent with a nice balance of close ups, habitat shots and views. As we went from place to place she left us wanting just a bit more of each. Thank you Kit for giving us such excellent presentations.

Thanks also to John and Helen Amand who drove Kit up from London. John also caused a stir when he unveiled a selection of Alan McMurtrie's Iris reticulata hybrids. Alan lives in Toronto and has been hybridising reticulate Irises since 1989. His first crosses were with I. histrioides ssp sophensis and I. danfordiae. Over the years he has introduced other reticulate species into his programme. The results are fabulous, with flowers in a wide range of colours and combinations. Truly 'something for everyone'. John had several clones for sale and had several other in the Flower display. These were later presented to the Joint Rock Garden Plant committee for consideration as Award plants. John's sister Nesta also put several of Alan's hybrids to the London Meeting of the committee on the Friday before our show. The results of both meetings will soon be known.

espite a run of wet and windy days interspersed with hard frosts, we woke to find that the Bulb Day would be bright and sunny. Parking regulations had changed since last year and members had to contribute £1.10 to Stirling Council for the privilege of parking or 4 hours outside the hall. Who decided that the 10p was necessary. That just means finding two coins instead of one! An unnecessary inconvenience and irritation at the start of the day. Not only that, the notice stated that cars had to be moved after 4hours. The other choice was to park for nothing up on the main road or over our new rail bridge in that car-park. From the comments I got one might have though that I was parking supremo for Dunblane. Jill and Tony Lee were OK. Their unusual 'disabled Space' was still available for their smart sporty roadster!

Star of the day was our lecturer, Kit Strange, Alpine Horticulturist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Her talk on 'Cultivation of Bulbs at Kew' was encyclopaedic on its coverage and delivered with the assurance and humour of the expert hands-on





1 Iris Spot -on2 Storm

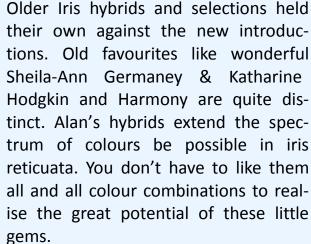
3 Sunshine

4 Sea Green₂

5 Vivacious Beginnings6 un-named brown







One danger ,in growing irises is that of viruses. Katharine Hodgkin in particular seems to be prone to iris mosaic virus which is spread by aphids. It shows as yellow streaks in the leaves and inky dark blue 'splashes' on the flowers. Infected plants and bulbs should be destroyed.

'Check your reticulatas regularly' would be sound advice. Grow new ones away from your current collection till you are sure they are healthy.

















Perhaps there were fewer Narcissus than in previous years but I was surprised to see such a large pan of N. romieuxii in full flower, as mine had past their best and equally surprised to see N. Betty Mae, which usually waits till the Stirling show. I should have waited till later in the day to photograph Narcissus albidus as its white flowers were bleached out by the flash. In the afternoon the show room would be lit by sunlight. There again ,I might have forgotten to take the picture. The purple of the trough may appear garish but it did provide a big splash of colour. The idea of the trough was to show that it is quite easy to plant up a spring trough using bulbs from a garden centre. The N. tete-a tete are easy to acquire and sit nicely beside the Muscari armenicum. Similar 'troughs' were planted with small pots-full of snowdrops. The individual flowers were easy to examine and the differences assist to appreciate.











Primula whitei Arduaine Form











Not that kind of internet type inappropriate!.. but those which concentrated of aspects of gardening focused well away from rock gardens. Julia brought several boxes of these ex library books and found a willing market for many of them. The sale will be repeated at other shows. The fact that so many books were bought shows just how eclectic are our members tastes. Two lucky members managed to snap up their own copy of Alf Evans' 'The Peat Garden'. Anyone interested in becoming the new SRGC Librarian should contact the SRGC secretary, Carol Shaw.

