

# The Scottish Rock Garden Club

## Edinburgh Show

8th April 2017



**EDINBURGH! SCOTLAND'S CAPITAL!**

**Home of the RBG!**

**Naturally one expects the best in one's own capital city.**

**Changes.** Years pass; exhibitors change; the show secretary changes; the President of the SRGC changes; different names go on some trophies; some oldies are missing; weel kent faces have developed a few more lines; grey rinses are more popular; different judges; new plants are on the bench; fewer Androsaces... more bulbs; more conifers and foliage plants [good!];

**What doesn't change at Edinburgh?** Nice friendly welcome; The show and its plants are exciting; exhibitors come from all over Scotland and Northern England; the weather is always good and the sun shines [at least 9 out of 10 times; there is a cold east wind [most times]; the show benches are full of excellent plants; the quality of the plants is top class; Section II thrives; new exhibitors replace the retiring ones; there are new plants to buy from busy nurseries; the Edinburgh public supports the show and folk turn out in droves to see the plants and just as importantly they come to buy plants for their own gardens; at Edinburgh they queue to get in! ; the teas, coffees, sandwiches and cakes are delicious; the Edinburgh team members work well together.

Whether you come for inspiration, new plants for your garden or vital sustenance to tide you over till tea time you will find it at the SRGC Edinburgh show. One slight down side with positive consequences is that unless you arrive early parking may involve a short walk. The health benefits of this are obvious but the walk is worth it because it allows you to admire the local gardens in the Frogston area of Edinburgh. Most of the local residents are keen gardeners or at least maintain their front gardens to a high standard.



Spring bulbs, polyanthus, aubretia and flowering shrubs which burst into colour a few weeks beforehand ensure that it is a pleasure to walk to the show. Just a few hundred yards from the notoriously busy Edinburgh Bypass this is a horticultural heaven.



Welcome to Edinburgh! You'll have had your tea?  
 So wrong! So old fashioned! So music hall!

Today the patter is more like, "Welcome to the SRGC's Edinburgh show. Would like to buy a raffle ticket? We have lots of great prizes" and so there were. Many people were lucky and Club funds benefitted.

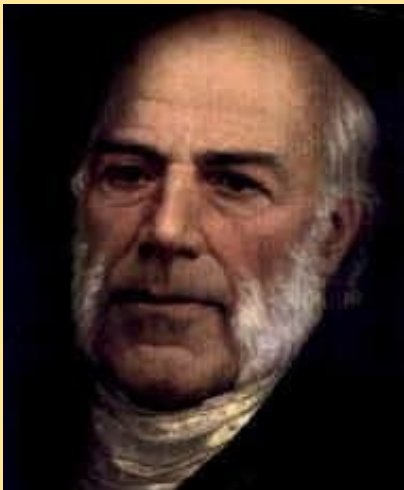
There was no need to have had your tea or breakfast or lunch for that matter as the Edinburgh Group worked hard all day making up sandwiches, cutting up cakes and serving teas and coffees. They have developed a very efficient system where every one knows their job, a real club event. Income from food etc. is very important as along with group plant sales it the source of income needed to pay for hall hire and this is not cheap these days.

Don't you think china cups would be better in Edinburgh?





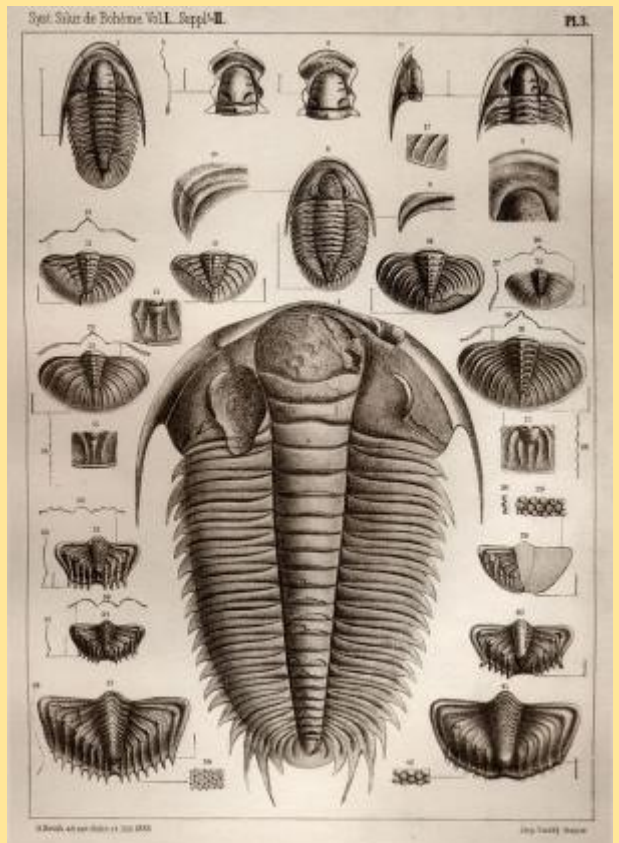
Sue Simpson won the Jubilee 6 pan class with a typically well presented sextet , a mix of old favourites and new plants. New to me were the Primula 'Celtic Maiden' a nice pure white with well farinated marginata type leaves. It is a Rumbling Bridge hybrid raised by Graeme Butler with P. pubescens, auricula and marginata blood.



Saxifraga 'Joachim Barrande' has delicate pink flowers which roll back nicely to form tiny bowls. It was released in 1998 by Karel Lang. Interestingly Joachim Barrande was a French engineer with quite a history. Sufficient to say that when he left France with the exiled Charles X in 1830 he came to England and Scotland. He subsequently moved to Prague where he became interested in fossils and geology. He did not agree with Darwin's theory of

evolution. In Bohemia he 'engaged workmen to collect fossils and obtained upwards of 3500 species of molluscs, trilobites, brachiopods and fishes. In recognition of his work he was honoured by scientific societies in the UK, Sweden and USA. The Prague district of Barrandov is named in his honour. I find it fascinating that exploring the background to a plant's name has led me to learn about one of Europe's foremost scientists. His memory is celebrated in Prague by the naming of the Barrandov Rocks in the city.

That his name was chosen for this Saxifrage hybrid by Karel has brought him to wider attention and I thank him for that. And to Sue "keep on choosing plants with interesting names and growing them so well."





Cyril Lafong won the Henry Archibald Rose Bowl for Class 2 with 3 great plants :- *Draba longisiliqua x mollissima*, *Hymenoxis acaulis caespitosa* and *Androsace vandellii*. It is a sign of just how great a plant needs to be to win a Forrest medal that the *Androsace* was not even awarded a Certificate of Merit. Ian & Carole Bainbridge came second with another fine entry. Their *Calanthe brevicornu* was still in fine fettle, *Narcissus x cazorlanus* and *Saxifraga marysandi* accompanied it.

Cyril won the Elsie Harvey Memorial Trophy and the Bill Mackie Quach for Best Saxifrage in the Show, for his entry in Class 3, for new, rare or difficult plants, with a superb pan of *Saxifraga quadrifaria*. He also supplied copious information for which I thank him.



*Saxifraga quadrifaria*

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*Saxifraga quadrifaria* (family Saxifragaceae) is a rare saxifrage belonging to section Porphyrium, subsect. Porophyllum (Kabschia).

It grows in south-eastern Tibet, Nepal and south-western China, where it grows at an altitude of about 3000m and was brought in cultivation in 1976.

In cultivation it requires sufficient humidity and cool temperatures in partially shaded sites.

*Berneuxia thibetica*

*Berneuxia thibetica* grows in Wet *Abies* forests, broadleaved deciduous forests, thickets; 1700-3500 m. NW Guizhou, Sichuan, SE Xizang, N Yunnan.

It is closely related to *Shortia* and needs an acid soil and semi-shade. It is grown in a mixture of Swedish peat and grit. Rare and very seldom available commercially.



Class 3 Won by Cyril with  
*Saxifraga quadrifaria*  
*Berneuxia thibetica*  
and *Daphne juliae alba*



*Daphne juliae alba*

*Daphne juliae* is a shrub, of the family Thymelaeaceae. It is native to the mid-Russian plateau, specifically the Voronezh region, south of Moscow.

It is closely related to *D. cneorum* but this Russian plant grows at low altitudes (~200 m above sea level) in limestone hills.

Several forms of *D. juliae* are in cultivation but the white form is quite rare and more difficult to grow.

In cultivation, it requires a well drained but humus rich, limy compost and sunny places.





*Primula hirsuta subsp. valcuuvianensis 'Renate'*

***Primula hirsuta ssp. valcuuvianensis 'Renate'***

A new taxon of the genus *Primula*, which is closely related to *Primula hirsuta*, was described in 2005 as *Primula hirsuta ssp. valcuuvianensis*. It is found in the district of Varese (Northern Italy) on various mountains around the Valley of Valcuuvia where it grows on dolomitic rocks at 1200m. The new subspecies is distinct in its morphological character from *P. hirsuta subsp. hirsuta* and is also isolated in its ecological and geographical character. The new subspecies was introduced into cultivation by Gerd Stopp.

The white flowered variant was only found recently (2015) by the Czech František (Franto) Paznocht and was named 'Renate' after his wife.



*Androsace aff. selago*

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Seeds sown November 2011 germinated April 2012. *Androsace aff. selago* was collected as seeds in Kyrgyzstan (by one of the Czech collectors) and is closely related to *A. selago* and *A. tapete*. The flowers are borne on 3 mm stalks and are occasionally twinned (similar to *A. selago*). It has adpressed silky hairs at the entire upper end of the lower surface of the leaves (similar to *A. tapete*). *A. selago* has hairs only on the edge of the upper end of leaves.

*A. selago* grows in Xizang [Bhutan, India, Sikkim]. *A. tapete* grows in S Gansu, Qinghai, W Sichuan, S Xinjiang, Xizang [Bhutan, Nepal, Sikkim]. So both species are not reported to grow anywhere near Kyrgyzstan and *Androsace aff. selago* may turn out to be a new species.



*Primula specuicola*

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*Primula specuicola* belongs to the Section *Alantifolia* (includes species like *P. laurifolia*, *P. farinosa* and *P. scobica*). It is perhaps the showiest species in the Section and is named for being a 'false cowslip'. It is known by the common name 'Easter Primrose' because it flowers at Easter time. It grows in Southern Utah and Northern Arizona, USA. It most analogous on study (*P. crucea* (aloeve)) along the Colorado river.

It is rare and has been lost in cultivation. It was reintroduced from seeds collected by in 2016.

Seeds sown 21/1/16, germinated 04/1/16



***Primula bullata var. bullata***

*Primula bullata* was discovered by Pere Delavay in Yunnan in the 1880s, only a few km from *Primula brocoteata*. It was rediscovered in 2014, when it became clear that these two, and *Primula forrestii*, are varieties of a single species.

Seed was sown in January 2015 in a gritty, limy compost and plants have been grown on in a cold 'alpine house' (actually a polytunnel).

The relatively narrow leaves and copious farina on the inflorescence are distinguishing features.



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The classes for One pan and for Three pans, 'new rare or difficult' were won again by Cyril.

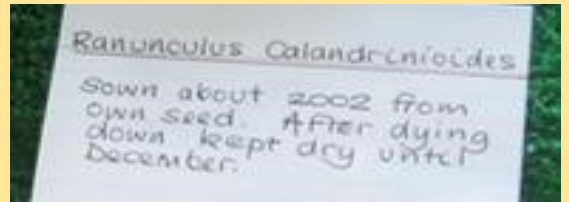
The 3 pan entry won the A.O.Curle Memorial Trophy.



THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB  
 Established after The Curle Memorial Trophy 2011  
 Rock & Fossil Garden  
 Llandudno  
**SECOND PRIZE**



One of Peter Semple's magnificent *Ranunculus calandrinoides* won the 'raised from seed' class. Peter's notes were much more succinct! It is good to know that a plant from the Atlas mountains can be grown so well in Buchlyvie.



Margaret & Henry's trough of *Paraquilegia* elicited a lot of interest and won 1st prize





**These Primulas all won their classes**

Pr. marginata from Sue Simpson

Pr. 'Adrian Evans' from Sue Simpson

Pr. allionii alba x hirsuta alba from Stella & David Rankin

Pr. 'Lilac Fairy' from Watt Russell

Pr. kisoana noushoku was **Best Asiatic Primula and won the R.E. Cooper Bhutan Drinking Cup** for Jim Watson

Pr. White Lady from Sue Simpson



Stella and David exhibited the nice 'dwarf' form of the yellow *Meconopsis pseudointegrifolia* sp. nova. It is a rich yellow in reflected light but much paler when seen back lit. its huge boss of stamens looks like a target. Despite the plant's diminutive proportions the flower is almost as big as the more usually seen blue *Meconopsis*. [is that a proper plural of *Meconopsis*?] Their notes accompanying the plant at last year's Glasgow show state that the plant was first noted by Jens Nielsen on their expedition in 2013. Seed was sown in Jan 2014 in a gritty humus rich compost. The plants flowered in 2016. plenty of buds on these plants, so it might well turn up at Glasgow this year



The show bench seen through *Calanthe* flowers. The open spikes are difficult to photograph unless against a plain background *Calanthe tricarinata* [ right] from Watt Russell was first.







*Saxifraga 'Christine'*



*Pulsatilla vulgaris*



*Clematis columbiana  
var tenuiloba*



*Anemonella thalictroides*



*Pleione Britannia 'Doreen'*



*Fritillaria uva vulpis*



These are all first prize winners. Some were in multiple classes. Members take a keen interest in all the exhibits. The shows are social occasions, a place for a chat with friends



*Fritillaria meleagris* ex Dordogne



*Fritillaria hermonis amana*



*Fritillaria glauco-viridis*  
S. Turkey in woods  
Bull exchange 2014



*Narcissus* 'Baby Moon'



*Tropeolum tricolor*



*Tulipa* 'Scarlet Baby?'



Narcissus bulbocodium



Narcissus bulbocodium

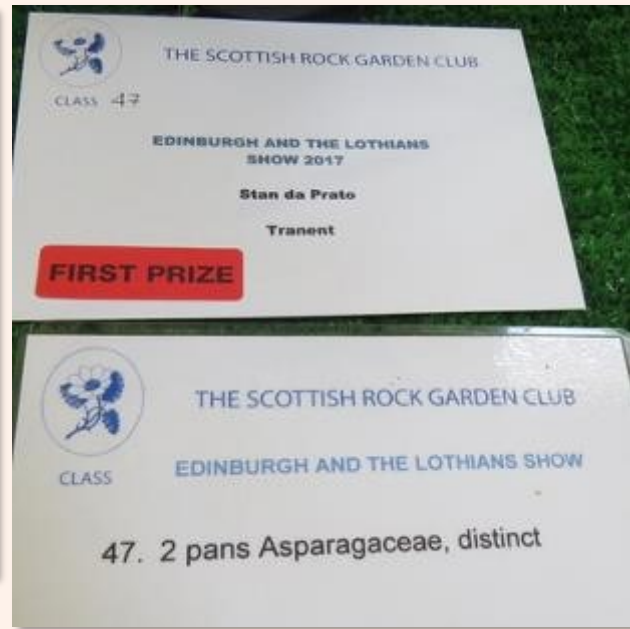


Narcissus 'Rapture'



**Would you know what is asked for by 2 Pans Asparagaceae?** Stan did. He got a first because he knew and grew the Asparagaceae. His Muscari 'Ocean Magic' and *Hyacinthoides italyca* won the 2 pan class. In the 1 pan class were Muscari 'peppermint' [Stan's] and *Bellevalia paradoxa*.

Formerly easily understood as Hyacinthaceae, a whole lot of favourites are now in the vegetable class.....but can you eat them?. ....Probably not. Some members are :-*Bellevalia*, *Camassia*, *Chionodoxa*, *Convallaria*, *Hosta*, *Hyacinthus*, *Lachenalia*, *Muscari*, *Ophiopogon*, *Ornithogalum*, *Polygonatum*, *Tritelia* and *Scilla*. I am looking forward to a class of Asparagaceae with bluebells, Lily of the valley and Solomon's seal vying with Muscari, Hyacinth and Scilla. Best consult the schedule in future. There may be a class which includes some of your favourites, e.g. *Asteraceae*, *Lamiaceae*, *Brassicaceae*, *Fabiaceae* or *Plantaginaceae*. I may stick with *Primulaceae*, *Liliaceae* and *Ranunculaceae*!



Muscari 'Ocean Magic'



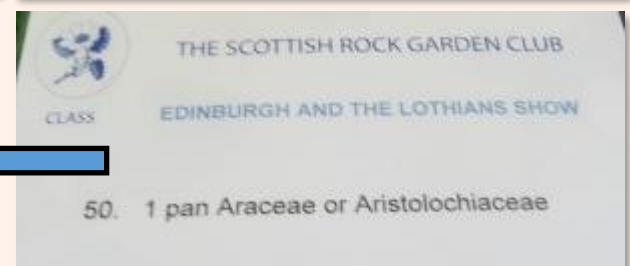
Hyacinthoides italyca



Bellevalia paradoxa



Muscari 'Peppermint'





Congratulations to Alan Furness whose *Cassiope lycopodioides* 'Suzuki'. It not only the Alferd Evans Quaich for Best Ericaceae [excluding *Rhododendron*] but was also judged Best Plant in a pan not exceeding 17.5cm and took the Kilbryde Cup.



# Show Snaps



# Sam & other SRGC People





## Section 2



ERIOSYCE CERATISTES  
 A HARDY CACTUS, FROM SEED  
 COLLECTED UPPER MAIPO VALLEY  
 CHILE JAN. AND SOWN IN MAY 1991.  
 SO NOW 26 YEARS OLD. THE FLOWERS  
 ARE YELLOW.



**Polemonium brandegei**  
 (Polemoniaceae)

Sown 03/01/2016 from own seed.

Polemonium brandegei is normally yellow flowered.

The original seed for its parent plant was sourced from the only known white flowered population; this is found on a mountain in Albany County, Wyoming at 2,255m (7,400ft) USA. Known in the US as brandegei's Jacobs-ladder and named for the American botanist Townshend Stith Brandege.

This young exhibited plant has been raised from my own seed and kept in the alpine house on capillary matting. It is growing in a compost of equal parts 71 no2 (Singletons), sieved composted bark, sand and alpine grit.



# Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

