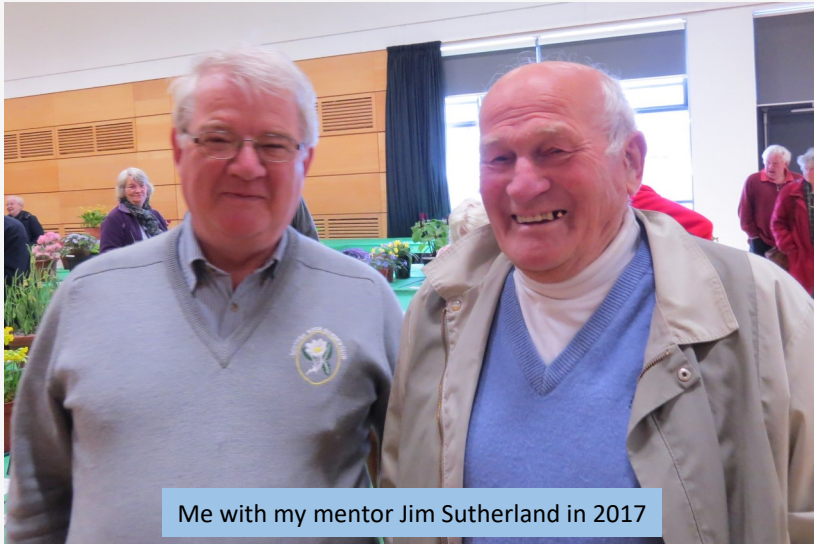


The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Highland Show

28 4 18



Me with my mentor Jim Sutherland in 2017

ALPINES BY THE SEA

I was unable to attend the show in Nairn this year this is the first time I have missed the Highland SRGC show since it joined the circuit of National SRGC Shows. I joined the Inverness [Highland SRGC group in 1969. this was my introduction to the Scottish Rock Garden club. Jim Sutherland, who was group convenor, had such enthusiasm for rock plants that I became smitten. He is knowledgeable and encouraging. He expected members to support the local show with entries and plants for the plant sale. Although I knew little about growing far less showing rock plants I entered some of my wee plants into the local show. As they say from small beginnings.....

Thank you Jim and Agnes. If I had not met you my life would have been much emptier.

That the show is on the main circuit means that points gained at the show count towards a points for the bronze, silver and gold Merit Medals and Plantsman of the Year award. It is due to the persistence and hard work of David and Carol Shaw that the very successful local show which the Highland Group have held every year developed into the successful event of today. So, on behalf of all members and especially of Exhibitors and show groupies, I offer a big thank you to David and Carol.

John Owen continues to oversee the show and to ensure that it continues to be popular with local and more distant members. If anyone reading this



Agnes and Alastair in Sutherland in 2017

has not been to the Highland show or even to Nairn, make a point of going next year. Make a weekend of it. Find a nice hotel and stay for a few days. In addition to the show and the tasty catering, you can enjoy the magnificent beaches of the Moray coast, superb views across the Firth to the Black Isle, porpoises and dolphins [if you are lucky], Castles, cataracts, rivers and of course a seemingly endless number of Distilleries. Another wee bit of advice would be to practice your whisky appreciation as soon as possible, this evening is the best time to start. Buy one different whisky each week and by the next show you will have studied nearly 50. You will be well on your way to becoming an expert. You will have discovered that there are no bad whiskies only good ones, better ones and excellent ones and that price is not everything. However like good gardeners and good show plants, good whiskies improve with age.

I want to record my thanks to Stan da Prato and to Ian Christie for the pictures in this report.



**SETTING UP
&
GETTING READY**

**NOBODY'S LOOKING
AT THE CAMERA**



**SARAH SETS UP
ARDFEARN'S
PLANTS**

**CAROLE SNAPS
&
JOHN CHECKS**



**ANDREW
DECIDES**



Here are a few of the magnificent plants shown at Nairn





Pteridophyllum
racemosum



Soldanella
minima



Shortia
uniflora



Sanguinaria
canadensis
Flore Plena



News from David Shaw of extra excitement for those attending the Nairn Show on 28th April
"We have a very special entertainment for you. At 13.30 massed pipe bands will parade down Viewfield Road (that is the access lane to the Community Centre) on their way to the Links. Nothing is too much trouble for Highland Rock Garden Club!"

