



The Scottish Rock Garden Club KENDAL SHOW 2014



Held jointly with The Alpine Garden Society

My memory of this joint show stretches back almost to its inception when it was held in Morecambe. The SRGC and AGS already ran a very friendly joint show in Ponteland by Newcastle. This show was initiated by our late SRGC President, Eric Watson. Then on 29th March 1980, the SRGC and the AGS held this first Morecambe Show and I think that Wilf Kirby was its first show secretary. He certainly ran it for many years afterwards until Lionel Clarkson took over. The show moved to Lancaster and later to Blackpool but in many members minds it is still the Morecambe Show. Most exhibitors are members of both clubs and if they are not then they should join. For SRGC members in the south west of Scotland and the north west of England this is their local show.

The Morecambe show in Kendal proved to be a great success.





Jim McGregor's *Narcissus bulbocodium conspicuus*



Narcissus 'Mite'



Narcissus alpestris



Narcissus 'Hawera'?

The show occupied most of the public areas of Kirkbie Kendal School. When you entered you had a choice of three directions whether you wanted to see the show, buy plants or have a cup of tea. The plant selling area would have pleased Kath Dryden who told me that at the Early Spring AGS shows in Harlow one could almost walk on top of the crowds, so densely were they packed in between the stalls. Whatever else happens in the Lake District next spring we can be sure that there will be more flowers than ever.

The show itself was big, magnificent, breathtaking, inspiring, instructive and friendly. Admiring glances and expressions of amazement drifted over the plants like mist over moorland and the plants lapped up all the praise which was heaped upon them. Statistics can be made to show almost anything they say. Well here goes for Kendal over 300 people paid to get in! Over 300 SRGC and AGS members attended. There were more than 700 plants on the benches.

Appropriately in the land of Wordsworth there were some great exhibits of Daffodils, Narcissus to the non-poets. Premier among these was Jim McGregor's *Narcissus bulbocodium*



The Farrer Medal was won by a wedding cake sized pan of *Cyclamen pseudibericum* shown by Frank and Barbara Hoyle. Several tiers of leaves were topped with tiers of rich purple pink flowery icing. How many flowers?--- 200?, 300? Who knows. The plant was simply wonderful. Even the leaves were well marked.

The amazing feature of the show was the large number of great big pans of plants on the benches. Many of these might have been considered for the top medal had the *Cyclamen* been slightly less than magnificent. Just look at Frank and Barbara's 3 pan enter in Class 1! [left]

Sometimes a pan just takes your breath away. Two such pans sat close together in the bulb classes. Transporting us to the Dolomites was a fabulous pan of *Crocus vernus albiflorus*. The flowers were pristine white, with no trace of purple in the throat. It would be impossible to see these wee flowers peeping through the snow unless the snow was dirty!

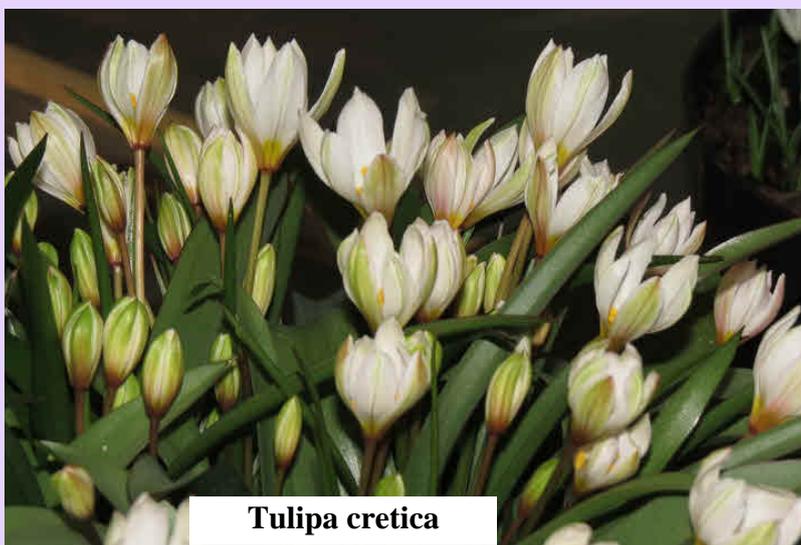


Crocus vernus albiflorus

The other was *Tulipa cretica*. Not since Alpines 2001 have I seen such a splendid full pan of this beauty. I find it difficult to get to flowering size. I have grown it for years and the bulbs keep splitting instead of bulking up to flowering size.

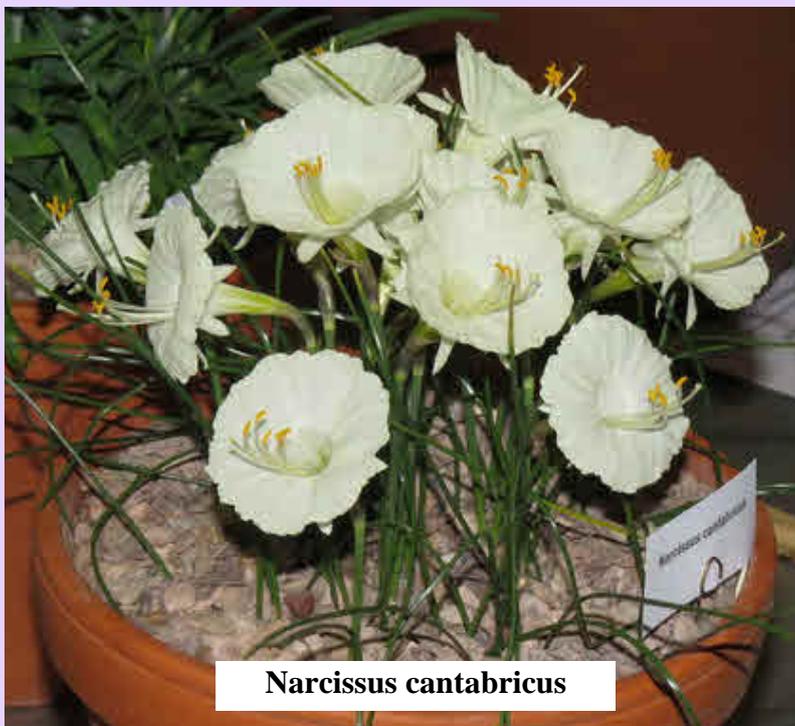
A picture for the Bulb Log-meister!

Snowdrops are all the rage at the moment but not with everyone. Ian Y has given lovers of *Leucojums* the title *Leucojocks*. So for *LeucoJocks* everywhere here is a splendid pan of *Leucojum vernum*.



Tulipa cretica





Narcissus cantabricus

The Duncan Lowe Award for the Best Plant in a 19 m pot went to Ivor Betteridge's *Narcissus cantabricus*. With its widely flared flat face it looked like the selection 'petunioides'. What a super panful. You can see it is just bursting with vigour.



Fritillaria pudica



Tommy Anderson of Kendal won the Hollett Trophy for most points in Section I. At the first show the Hollett was awarded to Eric Watson!

On the left is one of Tommy's winning 6 pan entries with a perfect *Pulsatilla vernalis* in the top centre and a well flowered *Cyclamen alpinum* at the front right.

In 1980 Dave Riley of Kendal won the AGS Medal for the small 6 pan class. Last year Dave won the Forrest medal at Blackpool!



Ornithogalum nanum



Iris nusariensis x aucheri Shown by Jim Almond and raised by Arnis Seisums of Riga

Show Secretary Alan Oatway [left with microphone] of Newby Bridge staged a gold medal winning display of photographs entitled '**Go Wild for Great Alpines**' featuring plants from Europe and Asia. Alan chose his pictures carefully and each was accompanied by a close up of a flower as well as a short description of the plant its habitat and the mountains in which it grows.

At the other end of the hall, the **Friends of Holehird Gardens** above Windermere have a magnificent display of pictures of the garden and its plants. It was well worth its Silver medal. AGS judges like words with pictures and this was all that stopped their display winning a higher award.



Below from the top left to right
Colchicum szovitsii and *Iris wilmottiana*
 In the centre Cyril Lafong's winning 3 pan entry
Fritillaria stanthera, *Corydalis popovii*, and a
Narcissus whose name I forget! Inset left and
 right are the new selection of *I. reticulata*, *Iris*
 'White Caucasus' and the best *Ipheion* of its type,
Ipheion 'Rolf Fiedler'





Hepatica 'Blue Jewel'
 Anemone caucasica
 Callianthemum anemonoides
 Anemone biflora
 Hepatica japonica [blue with white edge]
 Hepatica japonica [white]
 Ranunculus calandrinioides

Pictures are
 named from
 left to right
 and
 top to bottom





Primula 'Eveline Burrow', First in the small pan of Primula, shown by Frank and Barbara Hoyle, was awarded a Certificate of Merit. It had about 30 other plants in its class!



Geoff Rollinson
 won the
 3 pan Primula Class, left,
 with
 P. allionii 'Mrs Dyas'.
 P. A. 'Lepus' and another
 P. allionii selection

 P 'Oberau'
 above
 P. 'Ellen Page',
 right above
 P. Clarence Elliott
 below right

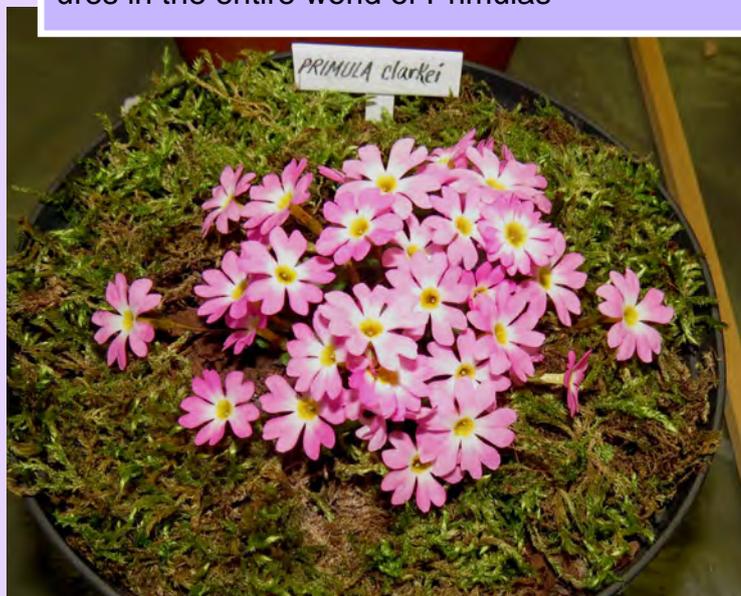




Alan Furness' *Primula marginata* 'Walmsley' in the centre won its class with Claire Oates' *Primula elatior* ssp. *meyeri* second.

P. davidii [right] is a rare beauty. It is found on wet cliffs in Sichuan. It was named by the French botanist Adrien Franchet in honour of his countryman, the missionary Pere David. Judging by pictures in 'Primulaworld.com' the flower stem elongates as it matures.

Peter Hood's *P. dubernardiana* in excellent form on right and *P. clarkii* below is one of the great treasures in the entire world of Primulas





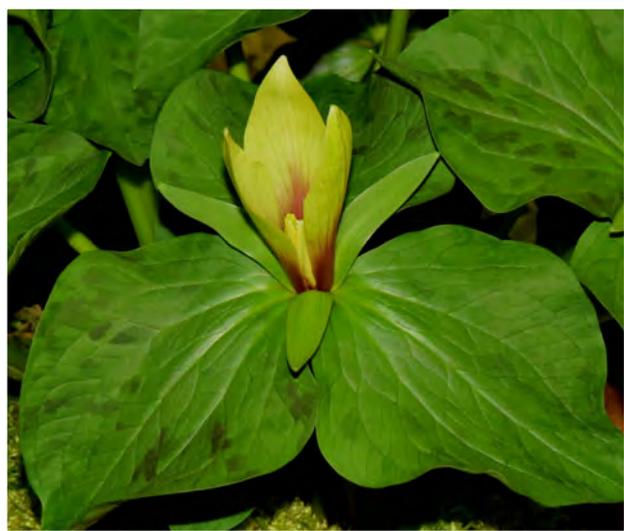
Carol & Ian Bainbridge's *Shortia soldanelloides* won the Kirby Cup for Best Foliage Plant beating Alan Furness' *Celmisia semicordata*, which pipped Brian and Sheilagh Smethurst's *Sedum spathulifolium* in the 'Grey or Silver Foliage Class'. The other two pictures show two plants both purporting to be *Meconopsis napaulensis*. Even I can see that they are different! I prefer the light green fuzzy one but the other had a card saying that it was 'true'. Its not just the flowers you have to worry about in the genus *Meconopsis*!





Some of my favourites
 Massonia jasminioides
 Gagea fibrosa
 Daphne jezoensis
 Arctostaphylos 'Redshanks'

2 plants of Dionysia aretioides 'Bevere' The plant on the right was judged first and helped Tony Stanley to win the Michael Roberts Trophy for most points in the Intermediate section



Left to right & top to Bottom
 Trillium nivale
 Gymnospermum pelponnesiacum
 Hermodactylus tuberosus
 Ypsilandra tibetica
 Trillium chloropetalum 'Val Mulvin....?'
Fabulous



Left to right & top to
 Bottom
 S. 'Leonardo da Vinci'
 Saxifraga
 'Coolock Gem'
 S. 'Christine/ s.
 S. 'Tycho Brake.
 S. 'Firebrand'
 S. scardicus korabensis





Elizabeth Dodd, of Carlisle receives the Reginald Kaye Trophy for most points in the Novice section, from Chris McGregor, Director of the AGS. I well remember Mr Kaye with his pipe stuck in his mouth as he searched for a plant of *Ilex crenata* for me. On another occasion while visiting my garden he told he was most impressed
... with a bracket fungus growing on the inside my wooden cold frame! It's always nice to be encouraging.

