

# The Scottish Rock Garden Club & The Alpine Garden Society Kendal Show 15 3 20 part 5

## Bulbs

More than Daffodils thrive in the Lake District



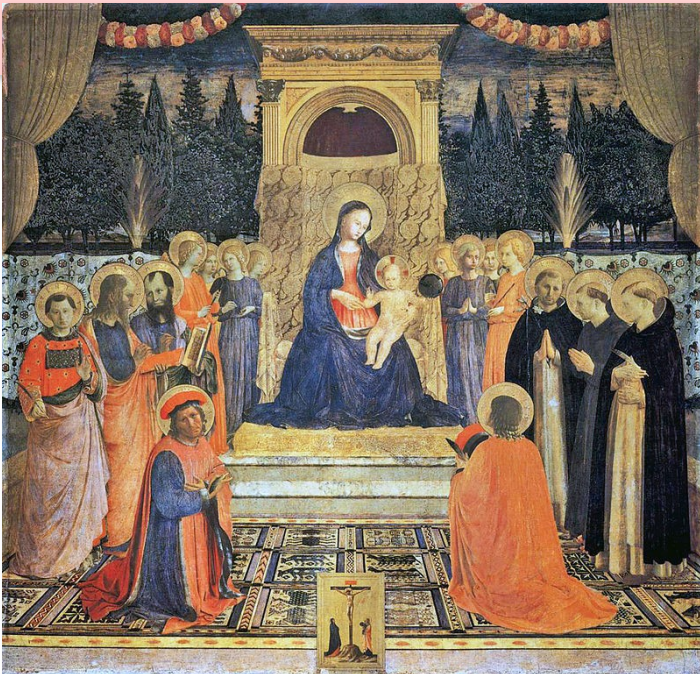
Diane Clement won the large 3 pan bulb class with her well presented and well chosen trio. The flowers were in subdued rather than garish shades, if you can call white a 'shade'. The brown and green of the *Fritillaria wendelbowi* complimented the two white flowered plants. *Galanthus elwesii* 'Compton Late' must be one of the latest snowdrops to bloom. The *Ornithogalum lanceolatum* was nice and compact. I like the way it opens its leaves like welcoming hands to reveal the white jewels in their palm.



Scilla x allenii 'Fra Angelico' won the large 1 pan bulb class for Don Peace. His *Scilla x allenii* is a naturally occurring hybrid between *Chionodoxa siehei* and *Scilla bifolia*. It combines qualities of both parents. Its flowers are sturdy but smaller than *Chionodoxa* but hold many on each stem like a *Scilla*. The *Chionodoxa* hails from Western Turkey while the *Scilla* has a wide range from Europe to the Caucasus. Since the hybrid occurs in the wild, I presume they met and raised their children in Western Turkey.

The Blessed Fra Angelico was one of the principal painters of the [Early Renaissance](#) in Florence. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1982. A contemporary of his Vasari wrote of Fra Angelico that *"it is impossible to bestow too much praise on this holy father, who was so humble and modest in all that he did and said and whose pictures were painted with such facility and piety."* I doubt if he had any hand in raising the man made hybrids of *Scilla x allenii*. Good description for a Scottish Rocker!

Below is his painting of Madonna and Saints from San Marco Church in Florence



Above is *Trillium nivale* from Barry Winter and below *Asphodelus acaulis* from John Bunn. I have never had the patience or skill to raise a big pan of *Trillium nivale* from seed but I have tried to flower the *Asphodel*. I get plenty leaves but never a flower. I first saw it as a fabulous plant at a Loughborough spring show many years ago. I bought one and have had it in leaf for over twenty springs. They do say 'Hope Springs eternal' but why must I wait an eternity? It is native to the mountains of Algeria and Morocco. So that's why it doesn't much like Dunblane.





There is little doubt in my mind that Don Peace is the top grower and shower of Fritillarias. His presentation matches that of Scottish master grower Cyril Lafong. His plants exude quality and good health. Not only that he chooses excellent clones and varieties. The yellow smasher above is a complex hybrid, one which 20 years ago might have sounded improbable. Its label says it was from seed sown 25 9 14. which means it is only five years old, as it probably germinated in spring 2015. That to my mind is pretty good going! The plant is **Fritillaria aurea x pinardii x carica** and it does not look like any of them - aurea has large dumpy yellow chequered bells, pinardii is a 'dainty' plant with small bells which are often dull brown and carica is similar to pinardii but often with yellow flowers. Hybridism has brought out the best combination of characteristics. The parents are shown below.





*Fritillaria ariana* x *bucharica* was one of my show favourites. I have not seen this before. It was part of Bob Worsley's 3 pan entry in the small pan section of the open classes. Both parents come from Afghanistan and are in the rhinopetalum section. It's Certificate of Merit was well deserved.



Norman Davies won the well contested Narcissus class with his excellent *Narcissus bulbocodium* 'White Petticoat'. There were a few pans of this on the benches showing how popular this clone has become. The American sales site Brent & Becky's Bulbs says it is 'a beautiful cross between cantabricus and 'Diamond Ring'. The later is a clone of *N. bulbocodium* *obesus*.

Below left is a shimmering *N. bulbocodium* 'Oxford Gold' and below right is another white one, *N. bulbocodium* 'Spoirot'

At the bottom are 2 pics of another cyclamineus hybrid, *N. 'Little Emma'*





Left to right / top to bottom

Narcissus 'Elka'

Narcissus 'The Englander'

Narcissus pseudonarcissus ssp. moschatus

Narcissus 'Tiny Bubbles' [ cyclamineus x jonquilla]

Narcissus cordubensis

Narcissus 'Snow Baby'



Narcissus bulbocodium 'Arctic Bells'



Narcissus 'Hummingbird'



NARCISSUS JACETANUS SRCG SEED SOWN 15-1-10  
LEWISIA BRACHYCALYX



A nice wee Ipheion from David & Liz Livermore



Chionodoxa luciliae 'Alba'



The Kendal show is too late for many Crocuses. They flower very early. This year however, there was a good number of different Crocuses to see. Tiny orange *C. olivieri* ssp. *balansae* 'Zwanenburg' differs from ssp. *olivieri* in that it has dark streaks on the outer surface of the petals.

*C. heuffelianus* 'Brian Duncan' has quite large flowers. Is it named for the famous Irish Narcissus grower? It won a first prize for George Young. I will ask him when next I see him.

White *C. vernus albus* is one of the few crocuses I have seen in the wild. Many are purple. Those I saw were past flowering but I did see their leaves in the Dolomites.





**I am surprised that we have classes for 'prickly characters' at our shows. Everyone I meet is pleasant and kind!**



The novice exhibitors in Section II showed some good Fritillarias. The David Mowle Trophy for Best Bulb in the Section went to Fritillaria sewerzowi shown by Andrew Ward. It was pity that the front flower collapsed a but before I took its picture. With me it is the earliest Fritillaria to flower.



It is followed by Fritillaria raddeana, pictured at the bottom. The one with the blue background.

Fritillaria reuteri delights me because its coloration is like F. michailowski.







Colchicum hungaricum 'white form' from Diane Clement was part of her winning 3 pan entry of plants from Europe. Beside it her pan of the pink flowering clone.. Next row; Crocus chrysanthus 'Prince Claus' and Iris wilmottiana





Bob Worsley's 3 pan bulb entry with the unbelievably wonderful *Fritillaria ariana* x *bucharica* one of the stars of the show. It was worth travelling just to see this.







Muscari 'Mountain Lady'.  
A splendid name for a plant at an  
Alpine plant show!



Little blue bulbs abounded !



Tulipa 'Ancilla' won for Frank  
Dobson in section II



*This is the last of this year's show reports but hopefully there will be shows in 2021. I hope I will be there with my camera to see more wonderful plants. I would like to thank all the exhibitors, show secretaries and club members without them there would've been nothing to report. Without Maggi Young they would not have reached the SRGC web site. Thank you Maggi for proof reading and publishing my show reports.*

*Sandy Leven, Dunblane 8/4/20*