

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Late Bulb Day Aberdeen 23/9/17

In 1936 in the USA, Dale Carnegie's book 'How To make Friends and Influence People, was published. It is one of bestselling books of all time and apparently caused a quite a stir. Over the years it has sold more than 30 million copies! Where are they all? I have not read the book but many must have read at least some of it. I agree that it is important to make friends but why should we feel the need to influence them? Surely one of the joys of life is variety, of ideas as well as food! One of its aims was to get people out of a mental rut and presumably make them happier and more content. A synopsis on the internet reveals that the author offers his readers many ways in which they can improve how they communicate and relate to others. However it seems to me that he is advocating that you persuade others that you are someone else rather than who you really are. This may work for city slicker business folk but I fail to see how a hypocritical lifestyle will make anyone happier.

Three years before the book was published the Scottish Rock Garden Club was formed in Edinburgh. For 84 years it has offered a great way to improve one's happiness, self content and at the same time make new friends. That these friends share their interest via meetings, shows and events as well as by sharing their thoughts, experiences and ideas via our journal. The journal is now on the internet and thus makes the SRGC increasingly relevant in todays world where doom and gloom seem to headline newspapers and television news bulletins. Our journal is ap-

proaching its 140th edition. It is full of the many ways to fill your leisure time, plan holidays and probably it will influence your work as well. Most editions are free to anyone with a computer and an internet connection.

This year's Late Bulb Day in Aberdeen was the event of the week [or month?] to raise everyone's spirits. What more could you ask for after a dreich summer? We had three excellent, interesting, informative and well delivered talks in a hall full of old and new friends. The walls were lined with tables of plants in pots and flowers in vases as well as plants for sale. Rumbling Bridge nursery brought some special 'autumn plants'.

Our now well-established practice of funding the day with a prize draw at the end of each lecture added a bit of zing. This gathering of geophytophiles, chattering and discussing in a church hall in Scotland's granite city was a great success. Congratulations to Mike Hopkins and his team for all their hard work. One day after the autumn equinox, quines and loons together, we enjoyed the best of company amongst friends. Ye cannae whack it!





Our speakers were Matt Topsfield on his trip to Spain to study Narcissus, in the footsteps of John Blanchard, with additional sites indicated by Margaret and Henry Taylor. Ian Young, wearing Narcissus yellow, talked on growing Narcissi in Aberdeen and David Millward rounded off with a trip to Southeast Turkey and Lebanon to see autumn flowering bulbs. Maggi Young pictured with David, took time away from running the SRGC web-site to enjoy the talks with her legion of friends.

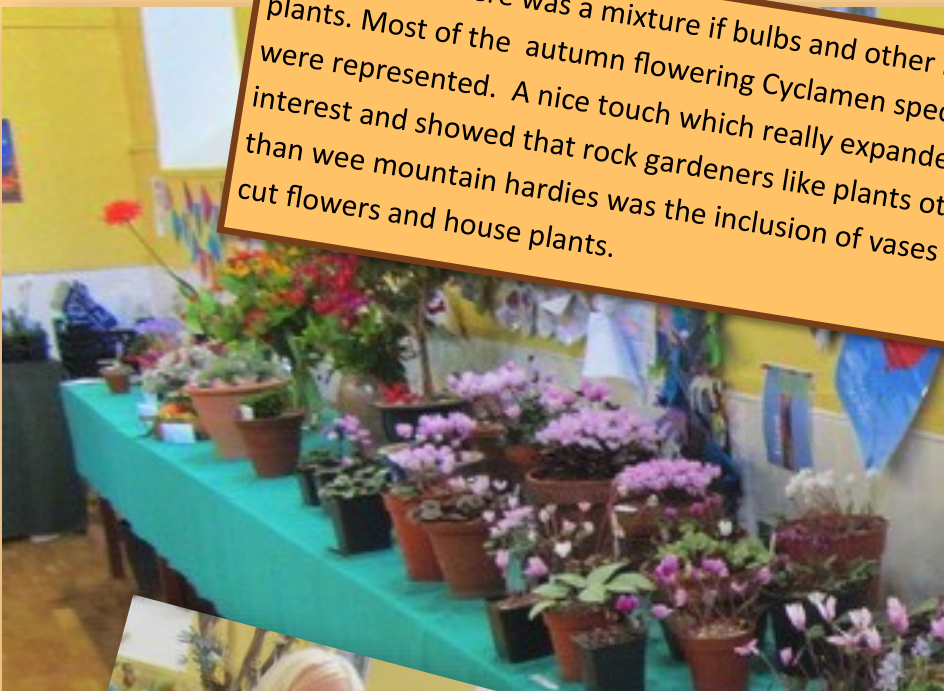
Our speakers were Matt Topsfield on his trip to Spain to study Narcissus, in the footsteps of John Blanchard, with additional sites indicated by Margaret and Henry Taylor. Ian Young, wearing Narcissus yellow, talked on growing Narcissi in Aberdeen and David Millward rounded off with a trip to Southeast Turkey and Lebanon to see autumn flowering bulbs. Maggi Young pictured with David, took time away from running the SRGC web-site to enjoy the talks with her legion of friends.

On the right is Roma Fiddes with her fabulous Cyclamen mirabile. Had this been a show and not a display then this superb plant would have won her a Forrest medal. Sitting along side she had two wonderful Cyclamen rohlfsianum plants





On the show there was a mixture if bulbs and other rock plants. Most of the autumn flowering Cyclamen species were represented. A nice touch which really expanded the interest and showed that rock gardeners like plants other than wee mountain hardies was the inclusion of vases of cut flowers and house plants.





Many colchicums were discussed in David's talk. These two however don't grow in eastern Turkey or Lebanon. The pure white is the large flowered bowl shaped *Colchicum speciosum album* and the lilac tessellated one is *Colchicum agripinum*.
Top right is *Crocus kotschyanus*
Bottom centre *Asperula nitida superba*
Bottom right *Clematis 'Bill MacKenzie'*



These exotic Streptocarpus from Ian & Clare Alexander proved a rich contrast to the rock plants



Its good to know that rock garden plants have heavenly support!





ANAPHALIS MARGARITACEA
DABOECIA 'WILLIAM BUCHANAN'
PERSICARIA AFFINIS
'DONALD LOWNDES'









Thank you Aberdeen group, the Cruickshank Botanic Garden and the SRGC Bulb Group for laying on such an enjoyable and successful day.

Thank you for the tea, coffee, rolls and cake. The soup was good too!

