

# The Scottish Rock Garden Club & The Cyclamen Society 'A Celebration of Cyclamen' Penrith 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016



**Below.** The first view of the flower show [above] was through the front window of the Evergreen Hall in the delightfully named Bluebell Lane, Penrith



**Over sixty members of both** the Scottish Rock Garden Club and the Cyclamen Society gathered in Penrith for a wonderful friendly weekend to learn more about Cyclamen. The idea of the Conference was conceived a few years ago when Martyn Denney and Melvyn Jope gave the lectures at the SRGC Dunblane Early Bulb day. As they say in Politics, 'the idea was discussed and thought about for a while until it was brought to fruition with tripartite agreement of the Cyc. Soc., SRGC, and the North Pennine Group of the SRGC. Barry Caudwell, Sandy Leven, Tony Mitchell and Vic Aspland worked hard to bring the conference to fruition. That the event was such a great success is due to their work and a lot of input from other members of both Clubs. Penrith, where we have a vibrant SRGC group, was chosen as the venue as it is relatively easy to get from central England and central Scotland. It sits on the M6 and main West Coast rail-line. The Cyclamen Society staged one of their flower shows at the Conference. The show must have been one of the major attractions and our thanks must go to Maurice Jackson, the Cyc.Soc. Show Secretary. The show was well supported by Cyc.Soc. members many of whom are also Scottish Rockers.

On a personal level I was keen to see one of their shows and I was pleased to see so many excellent plants. Show reports tend to be illustrated by the big pans in flower but the smaller exhibits can be just as interesting. I was pleased that our SRGC show exhibits of Cyclamen could compete with those grown by the experts. Hats off to Supremo, Ian Robertson, who sent his plants although he could not attend in person. Perhaps we should have had a Forrest medal to award but on this occasion the SRGC rules did not apply.



Vic Aspland & Maurice Jackson above, Martyn Denny below



Each day started with a talk on the flowers of Greece given by John Richards [bottom left with Diane Clement]; Springtime on Saturday and Autumn on Sunday. John's talks evoked in many listeners, memories of happy plant hunting breaks in Greece and its Islands. Those who have not bought John's Guide to Greece, 'Mountain Flower Walks in the Greek Mainland' should get one as soon as they can. In the book he tells you where to go and when and what you can expect to see when you follow his advice. John's love for the country and its plants were evident in his lively presentations. He even dared to provoke some discussion about the identity of certain Cyclamen species during his talk.

Vic Aspland, who lives in Stourbridge, followed on Saturday morning with his talk on 'Growing Cyclamen in England'. He described and contrasted weather conditions in the Midlands with those in Central Scotland, according to Vic the average conditions are pretty similar. I wonder about light levels and average summer temperatures. Vic used his vast knowledge of the individual species and the natural conditions to which they are exposed to guide gardeners in the cultivation of Cyclamen here. He included many helpful hints which should ensure that I, at least, will be able to produce better plants in future. Memorably, few species grow where it is ever completely dry in nature. I hope he will write it up for the SRGC journal.

Martyn Denney, Secretary of the Cyclamen Society, spoke on both afternoons. On Saturday his subject was 'The Cyclamen Society Field Trips' which he organises. This was always going to be a difficult subject to condense into one talk but Martyn revealed the hard work needed in preparing for trips, assembling the tools and equipment needed, getting permits for and accomplishing the trips to identify the distribution and variation of many Cyclamen species. Their work has helped to identify new species and define subspecies of recognised ones. It seems that the more one finds out the more questions there are to be answered. The fact that governments in Greece and Turkey grant col-



Above and below. Ian Robertosn's *Cyclamen graecum candidum* collected on a Cyclamen Society Field Trip



lecting permits for *Cyclamen* plants, as the genus is covered by CITES regulations, shows that they recognise the scientific importance of the Cyc. Soc's work. Few other amateur horticultural societies are so widely recognised the important scientific work which they carry out.

On Sunday afternoon, Martyn addressed another of his enthusiasms, '1500 Years of *Cyclamen* in Botanical Art'. This dry title opened up a cornucopia of fascinating pictures and illustrations, the history of art reproduction in herbals and of the nature of the evolving science of botany. Martyn has toured libraries and herbaria throughout Europe seeking information for this talk. He illustrated it with pictures from a multitude of sources. The audience were laughing when he told us that at one time botanists truly thought that there was a species of *Cyclamen* with Ivy stems growing from its corm. That no one ever saw it—[or is it still to be rediscovered]- did not stop generations of learned men writing about it. Perhaps life was easier when they recognised only two species—*C. europaeum* and *C. neoplitanum*.

The remaining talk, '*Cyclamen*—A Scottish Perspective', was delivered in two parts by Anne Bush and Sandy Leven [left]. Anne had consulted many eminent Scottish based growers of *Cyclamen* and used their reports on cultivation, along with her own experience to give a detailed overview of the Cultivation of *Cyclamen* in Scotland. Sandy Leven ended the morning session with an account of how he became hooked on *Cyclamen* blaming Glassford Sprunt and Jean Wyllie. Sandy expressed his debt to the AGS East Lancashire group's plant sales and to the *Cyclamen* Society's seed exchange. During his account of growing *Cyclamen africanum* he paid tribute to Jim Archibald whom he fondly remembers as a friend and inspiration. Sandy's final advice was 'look after yourself so that you can look after you plants'

Later on Saturday afternoon about 20 members took advantage of the guided tour of the magnificent Holehird Gardens near Windermere. We are indebted to Pat Murphy [left] for taking the time to lead the tour. The garden sparkled with rainbow colours



in the late afternoon autumn sunshine. As usual the trough area near the entrance was immaculate. The side beds and island beds in the walled garden were filled with tall herbaceous perennials and dahlias. The planting schemes are excellent. Every gardener could learn from these borders. The seemingly natural combination of trees, shrubs and plants looked quite relaxed but must have needed a lot of planning. Everyone was impressed the tufa house and alpine house. Much thought has gone into making this one of the UK's finest gardens for gardeners and in the distance, Windermere and the Cumbrian mountains. Thank you Pat.

The weekend was staged for our members to enjoy and hopefully to learn and not, as some non-SRGC events, to make a profit. Thank you to all the members of both the SRGC and the Cyc. Soc for supporting us by buying raffle tickets for each lecture. Congratulations to those who went home with a lucky 'Booth's Bag'. There are many other possibilities for joint conferences like this, so perhaps another will follow quite soon.

I would also like to thank the staff and 'locals' at the Black Swan in Culgaith, in the heart of the Eden Valley and quite near Penrith for a most relaxing stay and great food—salmon and crayfish followed by steak and chips, with the biggest onion rings in England. I tried most of the local ales and will have to return to decide on which is my favourite. On the Friday evening I was entertained at the local 'folk' meeting. Dave and Jenny explained who was who and made me feel welcome. I was entranced by the singing of a young lady singer, Melissa, whose voice was somewhere between Adele and Amy Winehouse. I am sure we will see her climb to national fame before long. I now know that English 'folk' music now stretches from Johnny B. Goode, Great Balls of Fire, 500 miles to Sloop John B. When it comes to chucking out time then the choice must be Hey Jude, whose chorus goes on and on and on and o.....!



Here is a collage of all the plants in the show



The Cyclamen Society

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**FIRST PRIZE**

Name of Plant: *C. maritimum*

Class: 3

Exhibitor's Name: *Jan Roffman*

Date: 24.9.16

Cyclamen maritimum  
shown for foliage





The Cyclamen Society

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**FIRST PRIZE**

Name of Plant: *C. maritimum*

Class: *3*

Exhibitor's Name: *Ian Robertson*

Date: *24.9.16*

Cyclamen maritimum from Ian Robertson would have been my choice for a Forrest medal if we had had one



INTERNATIONAL CYCLAMEN SOCIETY & SRGC SHOW  
HENRITH - SEPT 2016

**Class 1**

*Cyclamen graecum*  
shown for flower

... Society

**FIRST PRIZE**

Name of Plant: *Graecum CSE*  
ex 93642

Class: 1

Exhibitors Name: Steve  
Walters

Date: 24/9/16





INTERNATIONAL CYCLAMEN SOCIETY & SRGC SHOW  
WIMBORNE - SEPT 2016

**Class 2**

*Cyclamen graecum*  
shown for foliage

The Cyclamen Society

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**FIRST PRIZE**

Name of Plant: *C. graecum*  
*ssp. candidum*

Class: 2

Exhibitors Name: Roy Skidmore

Date: 24 '9' 2016



Cyclamen hederifolium for flower



Flower colour ranged from palest pink to deep purple in the class for Cyclamen hederifolium in flower. The darkest were even darker than the pictures show. Most flowered before the appearance of their leaves.





White flowers on Tommy Anderson's fabulous plant. These superb arrow shaped leaves with their central marking left me feeling left behind in my quest for hederifolia ( *I can't write a plural of a word ending in 'um' as 'ums'. Mr Downie would return and belt me!*).



A solitary *Cyclamen africanum*. I should have entered some of mine!  
*C. confusum* (below) has shinier and thicker leaves than *hederifolium*.





Cyclamen rohlfianum is a difficult plant to please in Scotland. The two plants in the show had fabulous leaves, almost mirror images of each other. To my eye, Paul Whitlock's magnificent winner had the best leaves in the show and it also flowered well. I preferred the deeper pink flowers on Bob Worsley's plant.





The Cyclamen Society  
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**FIRST PRIZE**  
Name of Plant: *Cilivium*  
Class: 9  
Exhibitor's Name: Steve Walters  
Date: 24/6/16



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**SECOND PRIZE**  
Name of Plant: *C. cilivium*  
Class: 9  
Exhibitor's Name: Bob Walters  
Date: 24/6/16



The Cyclamen Society  
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**FIRST PRIZE**  
Name of Plant: *C. intaminatum*  
Class: 10  
Exhibitor's Name: Tony Anderson  
Date: 10



The Cyclamen Society

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**FIRST PRIZE**

Name of Plant: *Mirabile*

Class: *11*

Exhibitors Name: *Steve  
Walker*

Date: *24/9/16*



The Cyclamen Society

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**SECOND PRIZE**

Name of Plant: *Mirabile*

Class: *11*

Exhibitors Name: *Steve  
Walker*

Date: *24/9/16*



**Class 11**  
*Cyclamen mirabile*  
shown for flower





We are usually told to grow *Cyclamen purpurascens* in the garden . The plants in the show exhibited nice variations in leaf pattern. Steve Walker's winner had superb deep purple flowers, the colour which is most prevalent in my *C. purpurascens*



The Cyclamen Society  
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**FIRST PRIZE**  
Name of Plant: *Cyclamen purpurascens*  
Class: 12  
Exhibitor's Name: Steve Walker



JOINT CYCLAMEN SOCIETY & SRGC SHOW  
PENRITH - SEPT 2016

**Class 15**

Any cyclamen species,  
other than *Cc. graecum*,  
*maritimum* or *hederifolium*  
shown for foliage

SECOND PRIZE

Name of Plant  
*C. Falsicum*

Class  
15

Exhibitor Name  
TERRY HUDERSON

Date  
24 SEPT



The Cyclamen Society

THIRD PRIZE

Name of Plant  
*C. maritimum*

Class  
15

Exhibitor Name  
TERRY HUDERSON

Date  
24 SEPT

The Cyclamen Society

FIRST PRIZE

Name of Plant  
*C. Coum*

Class  
15

Exhibitor Name  
TERRY HUDERSON

Date  
24 SEPT



The Cyclamen Society

Name of Plant  
Mirabile  
Tilke Ann

Class  
15

Exhibitors Name  
Steve  
Walter

Date  
24/9/16

The Cyclamen Society

Name of Plant  
*C. Cassini*

Class  
15

Exhibitors Name  
M. Tinsley

Date  
24 Sept





JOINT CYCLAMEN SOCIETY & SRGA  
PENRITH - SEPT 2016

**Class 17**

Any cyclamen showing  
new or unusual features of  
leaf, flower or both



During his lecture Vic Aspland mentioned this plant of *Cyclamen graecum graecum*. It started off with plain silvery leaves with a slight edge of dark green. One year, one trunk appeared with well defined dark green markings and this year another trunk had changed. This is quite unusual.

