

The Scottish Rock Garden Club & The Alpine Garden Society

Newcastle Show Ponteland 8/10/16



OE'R THE BORDER AND HOWAY THE LADS

The early October morning started bright and sunny in Dunblane but by Edinburgh a grey dullness had begun to envelop the sky and landscape. Beyond Dunbar the sun reappeared and highlighted the steam from the cement works near Torness. The shiny smoke signal pointed south!

It's strange that a building which I usually view as a blot on the landscape takes on a special beauty in the weak sunshine. It also looks good in the dark when bright lights twinkle from the buildings. Next door stands nuclear Torness. It looks at its best when the evening sun reflects from its hard silvery walls.

When I arrived in Ponteland there were traffic jams caused by road works. Then the Darras Hall car park was full! That has never happened to me before but this forced me to park in a side street—Runnymede Avenue no less. Here there are large elegant houses, close to town but sitting in a quiet area. The house in the picture was especially pretty and I was sorely tempted by the beautiful apples, especially the red ones!

Just over the road was the entrance to the hall with flower beds in front and bowling green at the side. All I needed was a seat, a sandwich and a pint of beer. I could have gone to Waitrose for my free coffee but I was impatient to see the show and plants sales and chat to friends.





Class 1 can be depended on to have good plants in fact here are three pans of excellent plants. Bob & Rannveig chose this trio featuring *Biarum marmarisense*. It is sometimes written as a subspecies of *Biarum davisii*. Presumably it comes from the area near Marmaris in Turkey. I like its elongated spathe with its rose tinted top half. It looks as if it is getting sunburnt! The *Colchicum* is *C. baytopiorum*, named for the late Turhan Baytop who co-authored 'The Bulbous Plants of Turkey' with Brian Mathew.



PERFECT

Sometimes a plant just takes your breath away. Such a plant is this extraordinary plant of *Cyclamen graecum* from Derek Pickard. Of course it was the best plant in a 19cm pot and so took the **Ewesley Salver**. I don't think I have every seen so many perfect flowers stacked on top of a tuber. Quite incredible!



MORE PERFECT

Above is the Farrer Medal winner from Bob & Rannveig Wallis, a Turkish form of *C. maritimum*. There are more pics of this plant on the Forrest Medal report. On the right is their well flowered *C. rohlfsianum*; a very fine form with dark rose flowers.





CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE?

Alan Furness had a big pan of *Crocus hadriaticus*. When he was repotting it he decided to big the bigger corms in one pot and the smaller corms in a second pot. Here is the result. Two virtually identical pans of the fabulous *Crocus*. Alan now knows that *Crocus hadriaticus* flowers from quite small corms as well as from larger ones. Both pans won first prize in their class. 1 pan Bulbous Plant and 1 pan *Crocus*. Even the stewards were confused as the prize ticket for the Patricia Furness Vase was placed first on one then on the other! Since the Vase is for the best plant excluding *Cyclamen*, the winner must have been in the running for the Farrer Medal. Alan wished he had planted all the corms in one bigger pot! That would have given the *Cyclamen* a run for their money. *Crocus hadriaticus* is a Greek plant, native to the southern and western parts of the mainland and nearby islands. The throat colour can vary. Alan's had wonderful dark purple throats. It reminds me of

Crocus mathewii in its colouring.

The lower pan was judged to be the better of the two!





Stan da Prato's 3 dwarf Shrub winners were *Ilex x meserveae* 'Little Rascal'; *Calluna vulgaris* 'H.E.Beale' and a nice silver *Helichrysum ambiguum*. Not often you get two 'U's together!

The *Ilex* was one of Stan's two hollies new to me. The other was *Ilex meserveae* 'Blue Angel' with nice red Christmassy berries.



A new name for an old friend

Cyclamen maritimum is a new name on the show benches, unless you are very old. It was first used by Hildebrand in 1908 but during its subsequent revisions was demoted to sub-specific rank, where it was known as *Cyclamen graecum* subsp. *anatolicum*.

As I quoted in my Farrer Medal report. "In 2014, Alastair Culham & Kalman Konyves sequenced DNA from 23 samples of *C. graecum* of known provenance, provided by the Cyclamen Society and determined that in the 'Cyclamen graecum Group' we should recognise two species, one of which has two subspecies.

Thus we have *C. graecum* subsp. *graecum* and *C. graecum* subsp. *candidum* and newly recognised as a full species *C. maritimum* [the former *C. graecum anatolicum*]."

Thus we have *C. graecum* subsp. *graecum* and *C. graecum* subsp. *candidum* and newly recognised as a full species *Cyclamen maritimum*. All pictures on this page are of plants grown by Bob & Rannveig Wallis

At the bottom right is their *C. graecum graecum* which won the Millennium Trophy for Best Foliage Plant





Growing more like Santa Claus each year is Honorary Member of the SRGC Ray Fairburn who was recognised for his work on Saxifrages and Primulas. They all have the Allendale name and feature prominently in the spring shows.





Cystopteris dickeana — front left
Woodsia obtusa — front right
Cheilanthes tomentosa—top from Don Peace
Cheilanthes eatonii from Rod & Shirley Johnson
Athyrium niponicum pictum from Ron & Hilary Price
Also with extraordinary long names :-
Polystichum setiferum plumosum densum
Dryopteris affinis crispa gracilis congesta





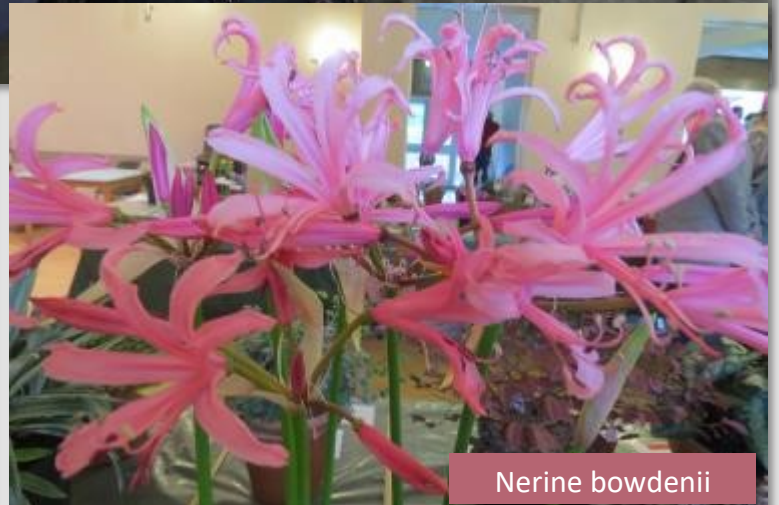
Narcissus obsoletus [formerly miniatus]



Colchicum bivonae Disraeli



Mary Randall, AGS acting Director of Shows [which position she held for many years in the past] with SRGC Past President Ian Christie and SRGC Council member Matt Topsfield. I don't know what the lads said to Mary but she seems quite tickled!



The Ponteland Bowl for Most Points in the Open Section went to Alan Newton



Celmisia semicordata won for Trevor Harding



Ficinia truncata 'Ice Crystal'



Hepatica nobilis: a first for Bob Worsley



Ledbouria socialis





Ian & Maria Leslie's *Celmisia philocremna* was awarded a Certificate of Merit.



Ian Instone took first with his multi-coloured *Sedum sieboldii variegatum*



Not seen so often these days, *Ozothamnus coralloides* won for George Young





Cyclamen mirabile
Vivipari Nobiles

Cyclamen graecum

Cyclamen graecum



CYCLAMEN
GRAECUM

CYCLAMEN
PASCHEANUM
PASCHEANUM

CYCLAMEN
LIDUM

Alpine Garden
Cyclamen



FRIENDS

