



**The Scottish Rock Garden Club
SHOW REPORTS
STIRLING SHOW IN KINCARDINE
2013**



**WELCOME TO THE SRGC
SHOW IN KINCARDINE**



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STIRLING SHOW IN KINCARDINE

2013



On the day after this year's Stirling show the Sunday papers announced that in Scotland, spring 2013 was the coldest one for 50 years and we can expect a white Easter. Luckily we have no SRGC shows that weekend. I thought our spring had started a fortnight ago but that 'warm' sunny spell lasted for only a week or ten days. That mild spell was preceded and followed by icy wintry weather, with extraordinary snell winds blasting us from the East adding wind chill to the equation. Heavy snowfalls fell in disparate parts of the country. Wherever you lived in Scotland, the temperature has hovered above and below zero centigrade for ages. The plants know it too! Snowdrops which were in good condition at the Dunblane Early Bulb Show a month ago, were still fresh enough to go to Kincardine. I was lucky that after the Bulb Display I had left my pots of snowdrops sitting outside in crates, waiting to be returned to their frames. However those pots in the sand plunge in the frames had by now frozen solid and were locked in situ. The snowdrops outside did not mind too much as long as they were in a 'sheltered' spot.



Snowdrops and blue flowered bulbs

Our strength is in the wide spectrum of plants which we grow and treasure.

Our weakness is that many of us are reluctant to enter into the spirit of sharing our treasures

For many other growers, especially in the North East and South West of Scotland, their gardens and plants have disappeared under feet of blown snow. At least those plants covered by snow drifts might be protected from the endless effects of the drying desiccating North-easterly winds lashing their leaves and whipping stems back and forth. Early flowering rhododendrons sitting unprotected must have been frosted everywhere. Indeed only one pan of Rhododendron appeared at Kincardine. However you look at it it was surprising to see so many good plants at Kincardine.

The old maxim that 'the main purpose of an alpine house is to protect the gardener from the harsh elements' could be disproved or elaborated upon this year, as those plants inside were definitely protected from the



Certificate of Merit Sam Sutherland's *Iris reichenbachii*



awarded a Certificate of Merit. He pointed out that once the plant is mature it often has two flowering stalks per stem. This is obviously good for ensuring seed is set in inclement weather in the wild but also makes it a good species to grow for exhibition.

IT WAS A BLUE BLUE DAY, BUT NOT FOR RUNNING AWAY!

Scillas too were much more plentiful, resulting in a nice swathe of blue through the show. Of note was a pan of *Scilla winogradowii* entered by Margaret & Henry Taylor in the 'Grown from Seed' class. The bulbs were grown from seed collected in Turkey under the number AHEP 8371. Sown in 1985 as '*Scilla rosenii*' it proved to be *S. winogradowii*. The two Scillas grow in the wild in the same place. Margaret & Henry gave me [Sandy Leven]

Margaret & Henry Taylor's *Scilla winogradowii*



wintery conditions of spring 2013. As I wrote above, even getting plants out of frames was difficult or impossible because glass in Access frames or lids on aluminium frames were frozen in place, preventing access to the Access!.

This was a show for protected plants. The difficult weather conditions meant that we saw some different plants in the show, which must be a good thing. It is a long time since so many Crocuses were shown at a 'Stirling' show. They normally go to the Early Bulb Display. We still had *Iris reticulata* and Sam Sutherland's wonderful *Iris reichenbachii* still looked as good as it did at Blackpool last week, although Sam had removed four flowers. It was

some bulbs a few years ago. The species was recommended for a Preliminary Commendation by the RHS Joint Rock Garden Pant Committee later in the day. Other blue Scillas were *S. latifolia taurica*; *S. ingramii* White *Scilla bifolia alba* and a pan of *S. bifolia rosea* completed the Scillas. *Pseudomuscari azureum*; *Muscari bourgaei* were two more blue bulbs.

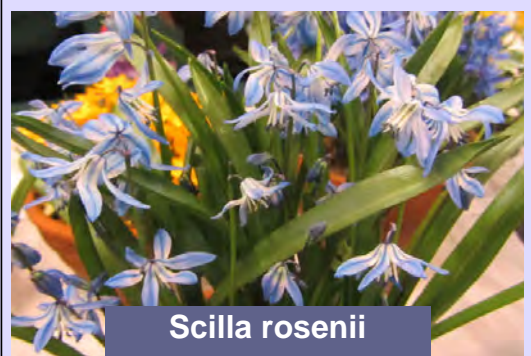
Scillas



Scilla sibirica 'Spring Beauty'



Scilla melaina



Scilla rosenii



Scilla winogradowii



There were several nice Saxifrages in the show—the best of which were Tom Green's Saxifraga 'Redpoll' and S. 'Winifred'. They were all a similar shade of pink-red.

In the one pan class for saxifrages, S. 'Dawn Frost' and S. 'Allendale Beau' took my fancy. As I have said before, Ray Fairbckrn from Allendale near Hexham, has produced numerous excellent Saxifrage hybrids, as well as Primulas. Since these have been raised high in the Northumbrian hills one would expect them to do well in Scotland.

Neil Huntly of Hartside Nursery, which is even higher in the Pennines than Allandal, is propagating many of them. Hopefully many of us will be able to ggt a good collection of these fine cushions.

❏ a reasonable spring Saxifrages do well in troughs.

**SPILLAR TROPHY FOR
BEST PRIMULA
Sam Sutherland's
Primula allionii
'Mary Berry'**



Top to Bottom
Tom Green's fabulous duo!
Primula 'JO-JO'
Primula x miniera
Watt Russell's Primula 'c'splendid white
r rpv'whose name I did not get'/ Sorry
Watt but a smashing plant.
Bottom<Sam's Primula Hartside No 12. I
remember when Betty Craig gained a PC
with this clone that it was given a name
which has been forgotten. We all know it
as 'Hartside No 12'- just like 'Lonesome
No 1', 'Chanel No 5' or the whole lot of
Heartaches by the number. However de-
spite these classics we are not supposed to
have numbers on PC, AM or FCC plants





Forrest medal.'Best European Plant'cpf

Best non-European Plant All from Cyril!

Cyril's Pulsatilla 'aff' vulgaris' and Trillium rivale 'Purple Heart' were in as perfect condition as they have been for the last few (Stirling) shows. Both continue to increase. They took top honours between them. The Pulsatilla won the **Forrest Medal for Best in Show** and vj g'Dgp'Ngf K'tqr j { hqt'Dgu'Gwtqr gcp'Rrcpv'kp'uj qy O' The Trillium retained its title and the vqr j {



hqt Best'P qp European Plant in show..



There was an excellent entry of Narcissus, enough to interest a specialist. In the yellow corner, Jean Wyllie's Narcissus 'Betty Mae' topped the bill and also received a Certificate of Merit. We have watched its progress from single bulb to large panful. I hope it gets into general circulation soon because its perfect tiny 'King Alfred' shaped flowers are among the smallest of all hybrids. However, despite the wealth of Narcissii in the classes, Bill Robinson's fabulous pan of N. obesus 'Lee





Martin Form' is still not flowering.
 Corydalis in pots don't care about the weather.
 Jim and Janet Paterson had several great pans of Janis Ruksans' 'Lord of the Rings' series among their exhibits, while John Lee won the Class for 1 pan Fumariaceae with a huge pan of Corydalis solida George Baker.

Left is Jim & Janet's well balanced exhibit with :- centre bottom is Iris reticulata and clockwise from it (C.)Mordorland), C.'incisa alba, C.(Dieter Schacht), C. (Frodo) & C. Loth Lorkgn. Bottom Left is Corydalis 'Strawberries and cream' also from Janis' selection. In the bottom right

**John Lee's
 C. 'George Baker**

picture, at the back are the darker, C. 'George Baker' on the left and C. Dieter Schact on the right. In front is Ian & Carole's Corydalis popovii, another plant which was at Blackpool last week. Sandy Leven showed C. solida 'White Knight' but most impressive were two of Jim & Janet's hybrid seedlings from C. Lahovice. One was un-named but the other has the regal name of 'Glamis Pink'



6 Pan Classes

One of the strengths in the show schedule for this show was that there are three 6 pan classes in Section 1. So, for someone with several more plants of some genera than the main classes allow they can combine them into the multiple classes. [6 small pans, 6 plants of different bulbous genera or just 6 different bulbous plants.] the entries in these classes provided a lot of interest and a lot of colour. Perhaps there is room for classes for 6 pans non bulbous plants distinct and 6 pans non-bulbous plants of different genera. This would relax the schedule and perhaps encourage more entries from those who specialise in particular genera like Primula, Saxifraga or ferns, crassulaceae foliage plants etc. The show schedule should reflect members' interest rather than force the exhibits into straight-jacketed classes. Change is often for the better and if new classes can be introduced without losing the old ones the everyone wins.



5 examples of the 6 pan classes. Another is the 6 pan Corydalis entry at the top of the previous page. While not all the entries are Forrest medal standard, the classes do provide scope for a range of species. Here they are all mixed genera because this is what these classes asked for. I well remember an entry at the Alpines 91 of Kath Dryden's 6 pans of Cyripedium. I believe that the AGS London shows have a class for 12 pans.



Sue Simpson showed a super Pulsatilla 'Budapest Seedling' in Section 2. The plant reminded me, both in shade and size of the fabulous plant which won a Forrest for Fred Hunt at the Stirling show in 1994. Beautifully presented with innumerable perfect pale purple flowers Sue's plant filled a 12 inch pan. Pulsatillas have long roots and need careful care over winter when grown in pots. Watering must be controlled to prevent rotting off or the other extreme of bud failure due to too little water.

P. 'Budapest' is a legendary plant. Fred's plant was grown from a rooted cutting of a plant, which was raised and grown for many years the late by Dr Molly Sanderson in her Irish garden. [Molly's name is commemorated in a black Viola]. All plants named Pulsatilla 'Budapest' should have been propagated from cuttings of the original plant.[owned by Valerie Finnis]. The strain of plants bearing the name 'Budapest Blue' was propagated by seed by both Jack Drake's and Joe Elliott's Nurseries. Many plants were grown in



THE LEGEND



Ireland. Sue is correct in naming her plant P. 'Budapest Seedling'. The name and legendary status of 'Budapest' provoked Mike Stone to write an article about it in the SRGC Journal. Only plants of a particularly shade of pale blue should carry the epithet. However I raised several' seedlings of Budapest' from Isa Hall's seed and none was of a shade anything like the real thing.

They did have nice flowers though. Isa, whose husband John had been treasurer of the SRGC, told me that because 'Budapest' flowered earlier than other Pulsatillas that if you harvested and sowed the early-set seed, ie from the first flowers pollinated, that you would get self pollinated seed which would be 90% true. Interesting. Has succeeded with this method?

Mike Stone wrote an article about Pulsatilla Budapest in The Rock Garden number 95 in which he describes it as 'the non-existent Holy Grail of Pulsatillas'. Read it and wonder. Its not Quite Dan Brown's 'The Da Vinci Code' but the mystery is interesting, encompassing so many famous names from Rock Gardening's past.





<p>Top to Bottom <i>Dionysia aretioides</i> <i>Crocus ancycensis</i> <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> [dwarf] <i>Thuja 'Golden Tuffet'</i></p>	<p>Gold and Yellow</p> <p><i>Primula Netta Dennis</i> <i>Fritillaria aurea</i> <i>Primula elatior</i></p>
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Thoughts on Section 2

When I was a new member in the Club one of our senior most respected members, David Livingstone, told me the secret of showing.

'The object of the shows is not primarily about winning but for members to share their plants with each other and with the general public'



In recent years, exhibitors and entries in section 2 have dropped dramatically but thank goodness not literally! The Club needs to encourage members to participate. Perhaps by allowing exhibitors to stay in section 2 for a longer time before they face the opposition in Section 1 would help. We could allow exhibitors to stay in section 2 till they had won 50 first prizes. The AGS have an intermediate section which may help to keep up their entries by novice exhibitors. Perhaps the inclusion of less closely defined classes say for 6 pans, 3 pans 2 pans and 1 pan of bulbous, non-bulbous and foliage plants would encourage more members, as happened in Aberdeen.

Our strength as a gardening club lies in the wide spectrum of plants which we grow and treasure.

Our weakness is that many of us are reluctant to enter into the spirit of sharing our treasures. If we all were to recruit one new member then the club would be infinitely stronger .

Cast your mind back. Did you grow rock plants before or after you discovered the SRGC? Did the SRGC encourage you in furthering your interest in rock plants?

Have you encouraged anyone to join our Club?

We know and grow plants from all over the world. Let us get together at these 'members days' we call shows and share our passion with other gardeners. You never know, some of that passion might rub off and we will gain new friends and recruits.





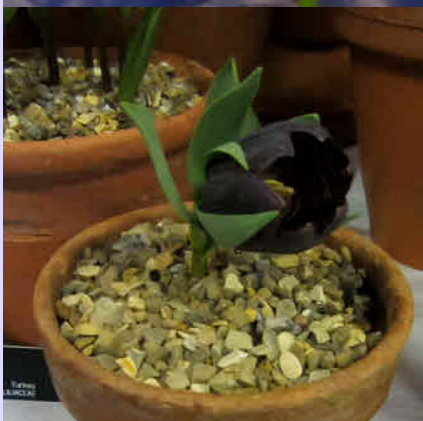
Fritillaria crassifolia



Fritillaria caucasica



Right to left above and back again below	<i>F. raddeana</i> flowers
<i>Fritillaria imperialis</i>	<i>F. latifolia</i>
<i>F. chitralensis</i>	2 forms of <i>F. aurea</i> and a
<i>F. caucasica</i>	<i>F. aurea</i> x <i>pinnardii</i> in the
<i>F. crassifolia</i> <i>crassifolia</i>	centre with
	<i>F. minuta</i> behind



Watt Russell's
super spring trough



Ian Christie's
Galanthus nivalis virescens