

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

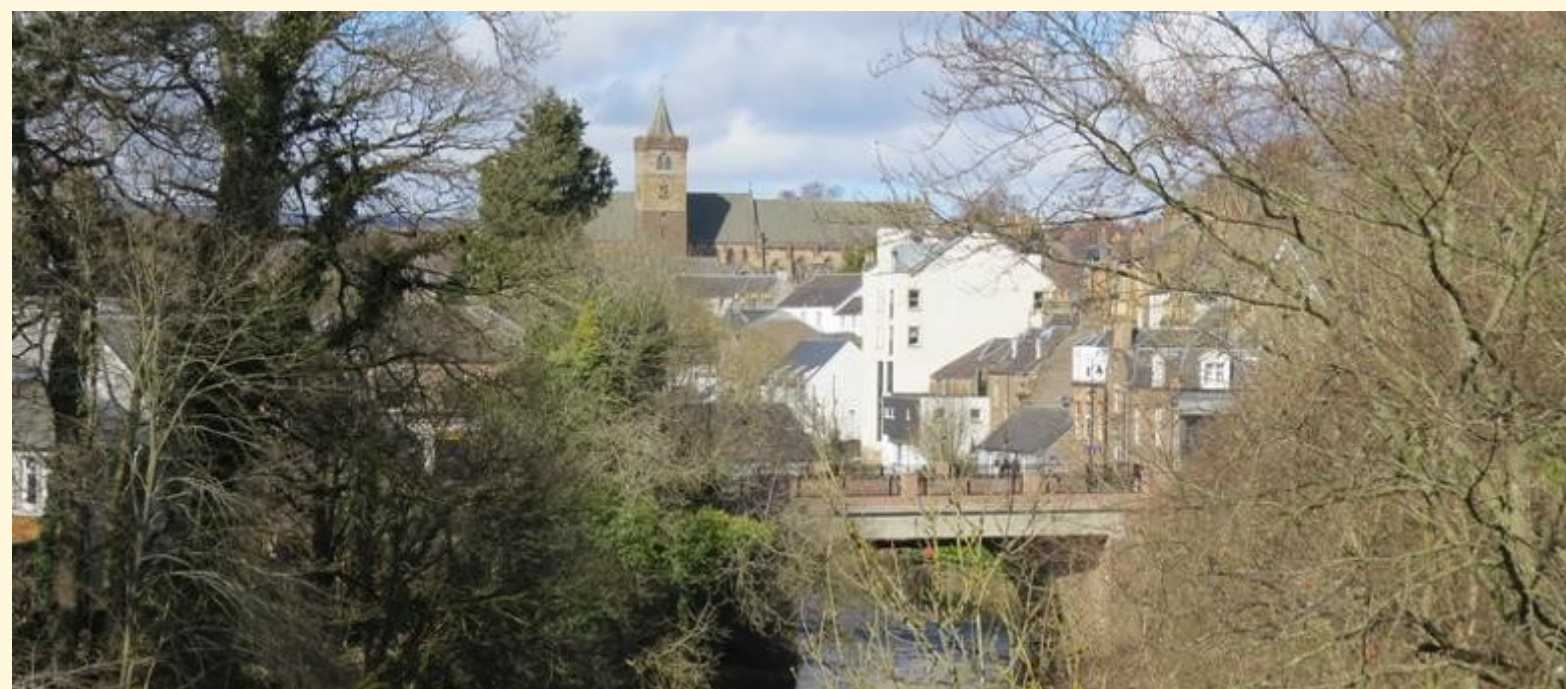
Stirling Show in Dunblane

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When the Stirling show started in the early 1980s it replaced the Dunfermline show, which had been abandoned with the dissolution of the group in West Fife. Hence the trophies from Dunfermline came to Stirling. That explains the trophy names The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust Trophy, The Institute of Quarrying Quaich and The Fife County Trophy. Mrs Spillar, a former Stirling Group convenor who loved primulas presented The Spillar Trophy. Another local rock gardener Bernard Barker who ran the nursery called Ben Ledi Plants presented us with The Ben Ledi plants Trophy. After a wee bit of discussion it was decided that it should be presented to the Best European Plant in the show. This means that we should have a trophy for best non-European plant

in the show. The Institute of Quarrying Quaich was thus designated. Inevitably the plant which won the Forrest medal would also win one or other of these trophies. Sometimes it challenges the judges to decide whether or not a plant is European! This year the George Forrest Memorial Medal for Best Plant in the Show was awarded to Cyril Lafong's superb pan of *Tecophilaea cynocrocus* so it also won The Institute of Quarrying Quaich. Ian Christie's pan of *Galanthus sandersii* was judged Best European Plant and won The Ben Ledi Trophy. Judging for the top award was not easy as there were several outstanding plants in the running.





Tom Green's fabulous *Primula megasifolia* x *juliae* was awarded a Certificate of Merit. This is a new cross to me! Turkish megaseifolia crossed with old low growing garden favourite purple primrose *juliae*, has produced a superb plant with the floral appearance of a low growing megaseifolia and neat habit of *juliae*. Nice one Tom!

Beautiful as Tom's primula was it was beaten in the race for the Spillar Trophy for Best Primula in the show by Anne Chamber's - the petiolarid Primula, *P. whitei* - Arduaine form. This Himalayan beauty with its soft powder blue flowers has been a favourite of mine since I first joined the SRGC. That this form sports a Scottish suffix to its name leads me to believe that with a bit of judicious form filling it could be adopted as a Scottish native. Arduaine is a wonderful garden which was rescued from neglect and overgrowth by the Wright brothers. It is now cared for by the National Trust for Scotland. It is south of Oban.





Both Anne's and Tom's winning Primulas were in a two pan class which Anne won. She paired her P. whitei with Primula nana [left], superficially similar to P. whitei. Tom paired his with a small plant of P. odontocalyx.

Tom won the one pan Asiatic Primula species class with another pink flowered plant, P. gracilipes. The smallest Primula if not the smallest in the whole show was Mike Dale's Primula hoffmanniana. The Asiatic Primula hybrid winner was Cyril's P. whitei x bhutanica



Primula allionii 'Rosemary'.
 P. 'Broadwell Violet'
 P. 'Broadwell Pink'
 P. 'Joan Hughes' all winners for Tom Green
 A Brian Burrow raised plant won for Jim Watson



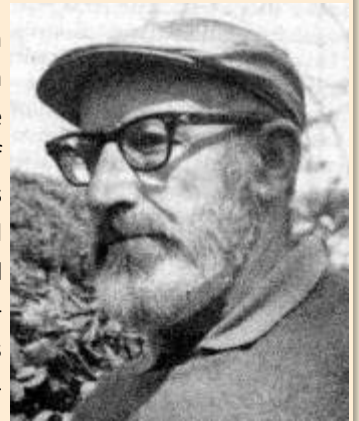
Traditionally at Stirling few Dionysias, spring flowering cyclamen or Androsaces were shown so the Primulaceae classes were made to encourage members up north to grow more of these. Jim Watson won the 2 and 3 pan classes. His 3 pan showed the diversity of the genus Primulaceae, Cyclamen coum, Dionysia 'Monica' and the Brian Burrow raised allionii. His 2 pan winners were another by Brian Burrow and a fabulous chrome yellow Dionysia 'Bernd Wetzel'. Tom Watson got his own back by winning the 1 pan Primulaceae class with an old favourite Dionysia aretioides. This would have brought back memories to Glassford Sprunt of his Forrest win many years ago with same species. Funny how plants come and go in favour with exhibitors. When I started both Asiatic and European Primulas, then Saxifrages were all the rage. Fritillarias and Pulsatillas caught the imagination but at present Hepaticas are the flavour of the month or several months if you get the right plants. One advantage would seem to be that you can get a lot of plants in a small alpine house. However this simple idea is disproved when you see the pots needed by some of the Hepatica plants shown today. Pleiones have always entranced me. I love their delicate intricacy and colours and though they may be expensive [like hepaticas!] they do multiply quite readily. Jim Watson won with this lovely pan of Pleione 'Shantung'.



Shelagh and Brian Smethurst with their fabulous Japanese Hepatica 'Gyousei' which gained a Certificate of Merit. This is one of the plants which challenged for the Forrest medal. Wonderful cerise pink flowers of a good size with a boss of yellow anthers surrounded by piercing white stamens. You can hardly see a leaf! Two years ago this plant won the Farrer Medal at the joint SRGC /AGS show in Kendal. Described by Edrom Nurseries as being suitable for a trough and spectacular in a cold greenhouse, 'Gyousei' is a plant to look out for.



In its class 'Merlin' faced stiff competition from Jane and Alan Thompson's Hepatica x media 'Millstream Merlin', a deep blue cultivar raised by the late president of NARGS, Lincoln Foster who lived in Falls Village, Connecticut. This time we had deep royal blue flowers with a central green /yellow boss and invisible [or absent] stamens. I liked the green bracts supporting the flower buds which disappear behind open flowers but reappear when the petals drop. Merlin was almost as big as 'Gyousei'. Both were fantastic specimens.



Third in the class was Tom Green's Hepatica nobilis, which has big strong white flowers. It has excellent marbled foliage. In this class we had three fabulous Hepaticas belonging to three species in three different colours, Red, White and



Blue. The Queen would have been delighted. When you start to look at the smaller, younger, plants in the show the diversity in flower form and colour can scarcely be believed. There is little doubt that Hepaticas are on the up and up! Brian & Shelagh and Alan & Jane have shown us what can be achieved. I just hope that when we see big plants of the varieties with intricate flowers that they do not lose their charm. In some cases, like show auriculas the beauty is the delicacy..... [a bit like myself!]





Ian Christie's entry in the
6 pan class A



Hepatica japonica 'SHUNRIN'
Hepatica japonica 'KIMON'
Hepatica japonica 'ISARIBI'
Hepatica japonica 'TENSEN'
Hepatica japonica 'DAISHIHOU'
Hepatica japonica 'LADISLAV'





Continuing with Hepaticas, the 2 pan class was contested by Shelagh & Brian and Ian Christie. [top to bottom on right]

Hepatica 'TOKI'

Hepatica nobilis

Hepatica 'KAONOA'?

Hepatica 'Lilac Hybrid'

Below is Sue Simpson's 3 pan winner in Class 1

Dionysia aretioides,

Saxifraga 'RED POLL' and

Hepatica japonica 'ANJU' with 2 details of the plant





PTERIS GALLINOPES

Accepted name *Pteris gallinopes* CHING
 Found on shady limestone walls often inside
 or near Karst Caves, Guizhou Province also
 in similar sites in Sichuan Province.
 Spores sown 16.7.2012



Pteris gallinopes
 spores sown 16.7.12
 in karst caves
 and cliffs



MELICYTUS
ALPINA
 sown seeds. 17.4.09
 SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN



Sue Simpson's winning Sextet



Saxifraga 'Wendrush'	Saxifraga 'Geoffrey Goidl'
Saxifraga 'Allandale Betty'	Dionysia 'Marica'
Saxifraga 'Alan Martin'	Saxifraga 'Coolock Kate'

Saxifrages

S. scardicus karabensis [Cyril]

S. 'Dawn Frost' [Sue]

S. 'Allandale Elf'

S. 'Mary Golds' [both Sue]

Sax 'Cumulus'

S Rembrandt van Rijn [both Sue]





The Stirling show has two 6 pan classes for bulbous plants to encourage members to bring as many pans of bulbs as possible. One class is for 6 pans of bulbs of *Different Genera* and the other for 6 pans *bulbs distinct*. Winning both classes helped Stan da Prato towards winning the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust Trophy for most points in Section I. Stars of the dozen to my mind were Corydalis 'Beth Evans', Crocus 'Cream Beauty' and Iris 'Polar Ice'.

On the left is Stan's pan of Crocus 'Snow Bunting'

At the bottom Crocus corsicus & C. biflorus from Margaret & Henry Taylor





Ian Christie with *Galanthus nivalis* hybrid x 'Green Tip' and right, his pan of *Leucojum wagneri*.

Below Elspeth & Struan with Mat Murray





The cold spring this year has caused some bulbs to flower just as they emerge from the soil as they would do in nature as the snow retreats, whereas in Scotland in warmer years the same plants can grow tall and weak stemmed. It is a balance between light and heat. Iris winogradowii and Fritillaria pudica 'Richard Britton' were shown by Peter Semple from Buchlyvie.

On the right. Mat Murray with famed horticulturist and author, John Grimshaw





Margaret & Henry Taylor are well known for raising their own hybrids. This delicate Narcissus 'Ballet Girl' so enchanted the judges that they awarded a Certificate of Merit.

Below: Narcissus 'White Petticoat'

Narcissus 'Rondita'



Tulipa 'Albion Star'





Fritillaria chitralensis & *F. gibbosa* from Cyril Lafong

F. aurea from David Millward & *F. stenantha* from Cyril

Corydalis oppositifolia & *C. popovii* from Cyril

C. oppositifolia was awarded a certificate of Merit! The colour combination and form of the plant remind me of a *Corydalis* raised and shown many years ago at Stirling shows by Dr James Cobb.



Tom Watson's 2 pan Corydalis C. 'GUNITE' & C. 'Dieter Schacht'
Below Corydalis 'Beth Evans' shown by Cyril but Mike Dale also had a good plant of 'Beth Evans'.

Centre Scilla winogradowii raised by Margaret & Henry







Everything looks brighter when the sun shines!