



# The Scottish Rock Garden Club

## SHOW REPORTS

### DUNBLANE EARLY BULB DISPLAY

### 2013



Glassford Sprunt receiving his Certificate of Merit citation from Pam Whittle, President of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society.

MANY YEARS of dedication to horticulture were celebrated by the Scottish Rock Garden Club in Dunblane on Saturday.

The Victoria Hall was packed to the rafters by those looking to hail the achievements of Mr Glassford Sprunt, who received a Certificate of Merit from the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society.

Glassford is a Past President of the SRGC. For many years he was publications manager and still works with the editor to maintain the index of the SRGC Journal, which he overhauled and corrected some years ago.



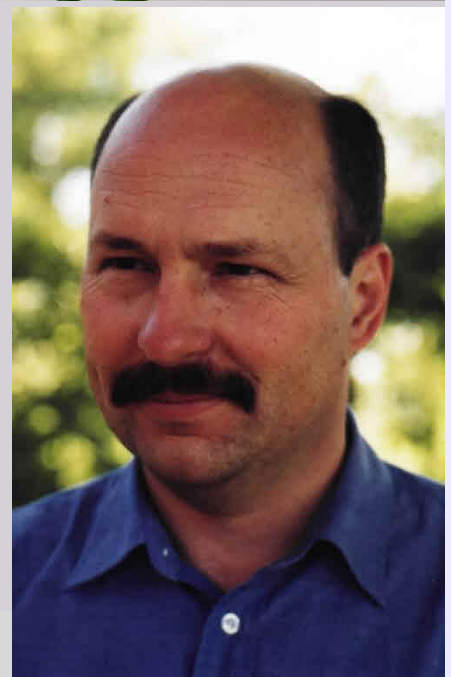
# Susan shows Alan McMurtrie's Irises



Iris 'Avalanche' was one of two Canadian bred irises brought by Susan Band from Pitcairn Alpines of Pitcairngreen by Perth. The other was Iris 'Sea green'. Both are striking but Avalanche had the edge by a long way [in my opinion] Both have very different colour combinations from other reticulata type Irises and indeed are very different from one another.

'Avalanche' as you see has petals of pristine white and a strong blue with splashes of yellow on the falls.

'Sea green' is browner than any reticulata I know and shares its colour combination with some of the border Irises.



**Iris Sea green**



**Iris 'Avalanche'**





Some people arrive at 8.30 am for a 9.00 am start. They are desperate to see what is on offer at the sales stands - even tho' these same stands are not set up till 9.00 am. Other like this cheery gang are content to wait until the hall has become more settled and civilised. Then, having parked their car some distance from the hall [c 200 yards away as they missed the closest parking spots] they gently amble along the pavement in the spring sunshine. As you can see, even after 20 or more years of the show folk from afar still expect cold

weather in Dunblane on Early Bulb Saturday. So far we have been very lucky with the weather and this year was no exception. Up until the Wednesday before it was cold



and windy but on Thursday a miracle occurred and it got sunny and warm.

Inside the hall it was even warmer even tho' we turned off the heating. Before long our amblers had transformed into shoppers and were keenly examining the snowdrops which Gerard Oud had for sale. On the Friday before the show, Gerard gave a very interesting talk on Snowdrops in the Netherlands. Whereas in Scotland the majority of 'wild snowdrops' are *Galanthus nivalis* it seems that in The Netherlands there are 'wild colonies' of *Galanthus elwesii*. He showed pictures of some superb selections, not only that he gave the conference attendees a special present. Thank you Gerard!



A picture tells a thousand words! If I put these pics in a certain order you might think that Neil Huntly is shouting at Stella Rankin but this would be quite wrong. Neil advertises his wares as 'Plants with Altitude' not 'Attitude'! I really don't know what got them shouting but they do look very happy



Ian Christie on the right is relaxed after giving his talk on Scottish Snowdrops while John Amand is a bit more reserved. John gave a super talk about Arisaemas and Cypripediums. Below is Alasdair Sutherland of Ardfean nursery. This is his first visit to the Dunblane show tho' his parents Jim and Agnes, like Ian C., have supported the show since its inception.







Chris Brickell had to work hard on his trip to Scotland. On Friday he gave a wonderful talk on Snowdrops in the wild - really wild! This wasn't a trip around the UK. We were whisked away to Turkey and the near east of Asia. Up mountains along deep valleys and were shown species I had hardly heard of. My collection has a long way to go. On Saturday, Chris gave us an overview of colchicums. He covered an amazing range of species from the autumn flowering ones I recognised to spring flowering miniatures. All were lovely, recognisable as Colchicums but within that it was amazing how different they could still be. Here is Chris looking to purchase plants from Beryl Macnaughton of Macplants. It looks like Beryl is having to search for a speciality



With their nursery situated between Inverness and Dingwall, its no wonder that Ardfearn folk smile a lot these days. The reason good sales or is it because Inverness Caledonian Thistle and Ross County football clubs are nearly top of the Scottish Premier division?



I forgot to take a pic of Graeme Butler of Rumbling Bridge nursery but here he is with a tray of his superb auricula 'Kusum Krishna'

**A love of rock plants keeps you active, alert and young at heart.  
It also seems to turn hair grey!**





**Lots of colour from bulbs and other plants**





**Galanthus nivalis Sandersii**



**Galanthus 'Scone Palace'**



**Galanthus 'Augustus'**



**Galanthus 'Little Ben'**



**Galanthus 'Benhall No 2'**



**Galanthus 'Sophie North'**







Iris 'Katharine Hodgekin'



Iris reticulata 'Alida'



Iris 'Frank Elder'



Iris reticulata 'Pauline'



Iris 'Sheila Ann Germaney'



Iris danfordiae





*Iris rosenbachiana* Purple Form



*Scilla mischtschenkoana*





**Crocus etruscus**



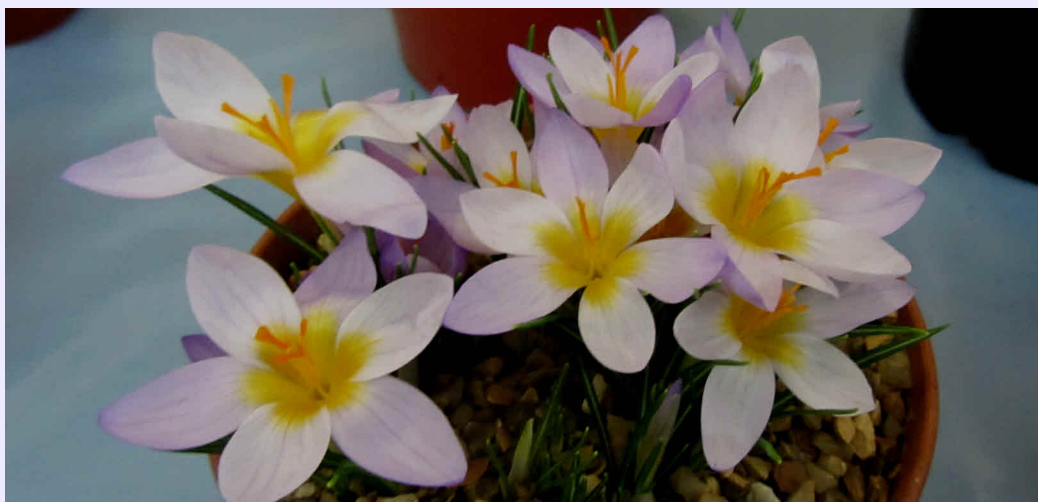
**Crocus 'Goldilocks'**



**Crocus korolkowii**



**Crocus 'Romance'**

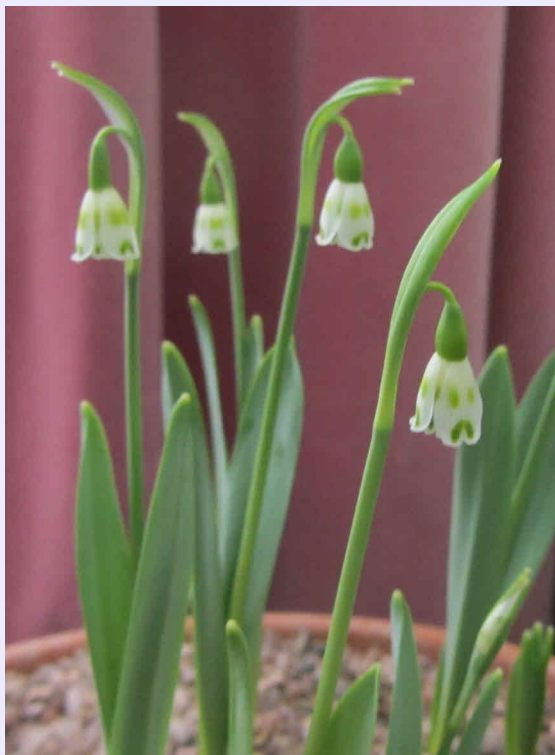


**Crocus sieberi 'Firefly'**





**Galanthus lagodochianus**



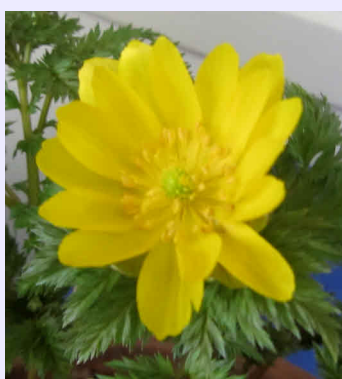
**Galanthus elwesii  
'The Groom'**

**They're not all the same!**

**Different leaves  
Different shaped flowers  
Different markings**







**Thank you to everyone who brought plants, bulbs  
and cut flowers to the display.  
Each one enhanced all the others.  
A garden needs lots of plants and our display shows  
what a spring garden could be.**