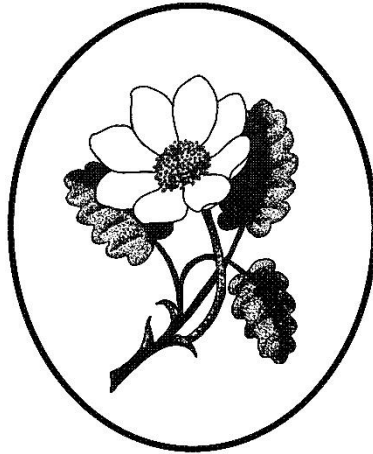


Dryas



News from your Club July 2021

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HELLO FROM THE NEWS EDITOR

The pandemic continues to prevent the usual programme of SRGC shows and events and so as a result this is another slimmed down issue of *Dryas*. How many more underweight versions will there be? I guess nobody knows for certain, but it feels like circumstances are getting better. Just in case normality has fully reasserted itself by next year, Dave Millward has provided provisional show and event dates for 2022.

The SRGC Annual General Meeting however will need to be another Zoom affair, but there are benefits to this, in that it does suit those who can't or aren't keen to travel. All this videoconferencing is also making it easier than ever to tune into the excellent talks given at SRGC events on looking for plants in wild and remote places. These talks do come with a health warning that viewers risk developing a case of wanderlust that cannot be satiated in current times! Afflicted members would do well to check out the 75th Seed Exchange, which will remind them of some of the pleasures to be had at home.

All the best for the rest of the summer.

News Editor

Ed SHAW, 01522 529663, edwardalanshaw@googlemail.com

VIRTUAL EVENTS

This autumn, Local Groups are arranging their meetings in the hope that they can be physical meetings, but some are also planning for talks to be given online via Zoom. Online talks can be expected from Perth, South West, West of Scotland, and possibly North Northumberland. However, flexibility is the watchword and before travelling, or assuming that talks are online, members should check the website or contact the relevant Local Group Convener (see the *Year Book* for contact details) to get an update on the latest situation.

SRGC MEMBER GRAHAM GUNN GIVES A *MECONOPSIS* MASTERCLASS ON GARDENERS' WORLD

Fans of Gardeners' World may have spotted Graham Gunn, Nursery Manager at Kevock Garden Plants, when he made an appearance on the programme in June to give an excellent talk on the cultivation of *Meconopsis*. His feature focussed on the 'big blue' group of Himalayan poppies, and provided practical pointers to the varieties and cultivation of this esteemed genus. Graham drew on his experience of travel in the mountains of Southwest China (facilitated by an SRGC Exploration Award), which he explained had opened his eyes to the harsh alpine habitats that *Meconopsis* inhabit in the wild. He also recommended what to do if you are unfortunate enough not to have a ready supply of yak dung in your garden.

If you missed it, the feature is well worth a watch and can be found here: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09mr8hr



Graham admiring *Primula spicata* on Cang Shan, Yunnan Province, China, 2016.

TWICE-YEARLY PHOTOGRAPHIC AND ART COMPETITION

We hope to hold the competitions next year at the usual times. If Covid restrictions prevent us from holding a competition at the spring show, we will move it to the next available show date, space permitting.

Photographic Competition Manager

Cathy CAUDWELL, 01828 686709, c.m.caudwell@fireflyuk.net

GOLDEN JUBILEE SALVER

The Salver is presented annually to an individual member for outstanding service to the Club. All nominations are considered by the Awarding Committee, which consists of previous winners of this prestigious award.

Nominations for the 2021 recipient should be sent to the Secretary no later than 15th August 2021. It would be helpful if a short account of the nominee's services to the Club and also the names of other supporters were included. You may submit your nomination again in subsequent years if initially unsuccessful.

The names of all previous winners are recorded in the Golden Jubilee Salver Book which is available for inspection at the AGM or on our website. In 2020 the recipient was Carolyn McNAB of the South West Group.

The Awarding Committee members (previous recipients) are: Sandy LEVEN, Elizabeth IVEY, Ron McBEATH, Jean WYLLIE, Lyn BEZZANT, Jackie THOMLINSON, Margaret TAYLOR, Ian YOUNG, Ann CHAMBERS, Ian BAINBRIDGE, Ian CHRISTIE, Jim SUTHERLAND, Julia CORDEN, Liz MILLS, Alan NEWTON, Ann CHRISTIE, Carole BAINBRIDGE, John LEE, David MILLWARD.

Secretary

Hannah WILSON, 07545 871304, secretary@srgc.net

EXPLORATION AWARDS - SPRING 2022

The SRGC set up the Exploration Awards in 1985 to give grants to help finance projects or trips pertaining to rock garden plants. Feedback from recipients such as articles, talks and photographs is appreciated. Recipients of grants need not necessarily be members of the SRGC.

Due to the continued pandemic, the committee was unable to make any awards in March 2021. As restrictions ease and if safe travel becomes possible, the committee will consider applications again, provisionally from spring 2022. Further updates will be provided via the website. The two individuals whose applications have been held back since April 2020 will have their awards honoured and will be asked to resubmit with updated costings and itineraries.

The next deadline for receipt of applications for Exploration Awards is Thursday 31st March 2022 (provisional). Application form and awards criteria can be downloaded from srgc.net/site/index.php/extensions/grants or by contacting the **Fund Secretary:** Carole Bainbridge, 01557 814141, greenscenedesign@hotmail.com.

Donations for awards are always welcome. Contributions should be sent to the Treasurer: Richard Green, Cedar Cottage, Balfron Station, Glasgow G63 0SQ, 01360440701, treasurer@srgc.net.

DIANA AITCHISON FUND

This fund, in memory of nurserywoman Diana Aitchison, awards grants and bursaries to support younger people who wish to pursue or further a career in horticulture and can demonstrate an interest in furthering their knowledge of alpine and rock garden plants. **The DA Fund is still accepting and determining applications for activity that can be undertaken at a future date when COVID-19 restrictions will permit, or for activity which can take place whilst restrictions are in place, so applicants should continue to apply.**

For application forms and awards criteria please go to: srgc.net/site/index.php/extensions/grants or contact the **Fund Administrator:** Matthew TOPSFIELD, 07775 812036, mtopsfield@icloud.com.

DEATHS

The Club has received intimation of the deaths of the following members: Ishbel CHAMBERS, Coupar; Alan HOLMES, Heatherslaw; Ana SUTHERLAND, York; G TURPIN, Carlisle; Henry TAYLOR, Invergowrie.

We extend our sympathies to the friends and families of the deceased.

URGENT: SUBSCRIPTION SECRETARY VACANCY

Christine BOULBY is due to retire as Subscription Secretary this year and so we are looking for someone to take on this role as soon as possible. The **Subscription Secretary** is an important member of the Club and on Council. They talk to many new and existing members to ensure that their payments and membership renewals go through smoothly. It is an interesting job needing some computer experience, but mainly a helpful and welcoming approach with people. We have an efficient computer system which holds the database and this is being improved and simplified to minimise the administrative time required. The post is only open to those living anywhere in the UK as it requires access to members' own personal information. The work required has been considerably reduced and has been split into several smaller jobs that can be done by two or three volunteers. It is therefore now VITAL that we have members in place to assist in the next month or so, as Christine demits office at the AGM. To talk without any obligation, please contact Christine BOULBY on subsec@srgc.org.uk, or the **Treasurer** Richard GREEN on treasurer@srgc.net.

DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

The Club is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue & Customs, and so both it and donors can benefit from a number of tax reliefs. Subscriptions and other donations by income tax payers under Gift Aid allow us to claim back income tax paid by the donor. In addition, such donations by higher-rate income taxpayers allow the donor themselves to claim back higher rate income tax relief on their tax return.

Leaving a legacy to the Club in your will allows us to do things which would otherwise be beyond our means. It is also tax-efficient and can reduce the liability of the donor's estate to inheritance tax. Previous gifts have helped us in many ways over the years.

The **Treasurer** Richard GREEN is always available to discuss possible donations, gifts and legacies with donors or their representatives in advance. He can provide relevant wording and more information to ensure that they are put to the very best use. Such discussions can of course be in confidence if requested.

75TH SEED EXCHANGE 2021-2022

We are very pleased to announce that over the coming winter we hope to be able to operate a near-normal seed exchange for members. This will be in real contrast to the 74th, very limited, exchange, but of course it remains subject to Covid and legal restrictions which might apply over the seed exchange period.

We have been concerned that Seed Donations this coming autumn would be limited by new phytosanitary regulations, but we now understand these will not be implemented by the UK government until 2022, and so donations from outside the UK will not require phytosanitary certificates this autumn. Please do read the detailed text on seed donations below before sending seed to the exchange.

Covid restrictions in the UK meant that it would have been impossible to run a normal seed exchange in 2020/21, as the seed reception, packeting and distribution processes all require teams of people to work together to complete each stage of the exchange. We hope that Covid regulations will not affect the forthcoming exchange, but we're sure you will all recognise that we cannot predict what the circumstances will be over the coming winter.

Parts of the seed distribution will be affected by the new EU Seed Regulations, which will require phytosanitary certification for seed entering the EU from the UK. We are exploring the implications of this with the UK and Scottish authorities, and hope to be able to offer seed to EU members. We will post information on the SRGC seed website as soon as it is available. If there are members in EU states who might be willing to receive a bulk order of seed to despatch to other members in their country/EU, we would be pleased to hear from you (email seed@srgc.org.uk).

Overseas members who do not live in the EU are unaffected by these changes; we will send seed in accordance with your country's regulations, as advised by you.

Seed Donations (Autumn 2021)

Please send fresh clean seed as early as possible (no later than 31st October) to Ian and Carole Bainbridge (see the Team subsection at the bottom of this item for the address). Late seed can be accepted if a list has been received by post or email by 31st October. The seed list will be compiled on 1st November, so late seed may not make the exchange.

On each packet please write the full name of the species, where it was collected (if wild), and your name or initials. Put all seed of one type in one packet, using small packets when possible (avoid big packets!). Supply a list of donated seed in alphabetical order. Note your email, phone number and membership number in case we have queries, and provide comments on any new or rare seed.

Wild Seed

The reputation of the SRGC is at risk if we offer seed that has been collected illegally or does not have distribution permission. This could harm future attempts by people who want to collect seed legitimately. The SRGC is not able to check seed submissions, so please do not submit wild collected seed that would put our reputation at risk. Please also retain the documentation giving any relevant permission for as long as possible.

Seed Lists

All members (except those with paperless subscriptions) will receive a seed list automatically by post in late November. Ensure your membership is renewed promptly to ensure you receive a seed list. The request system will be live until 15th January, which is the closing date for receipt of all seed orders. We encourage all members to both order and pay using our online system to save unnecessary administration time. If you do not have access to a computer yourself (or someone to help input your order), then please contact the Seed Request Manager Chris PARSONS for assistance as early as possible and certainly before posting your order.

Online ordering

The 75th seed list will be available on the website from 21st November at www.srgcseed.net. Please log on with your email address and the password you created last year. If you've not logged in previously, or forgotten your password, you will be able to create or reset it when you try to login. If you haven't used the online portal before, please use it this year, as the system is very simple. The portal will then open for orders on 30th November.

Seed Packeting

Packeting will be done during November / early December. The Ayrshire group would be very grateful to hear from any UK member willing to volunteer to packet seeds (see appeal on page 11).

Seed Distribution (Early 2022)

The West of Scotland Group will manage the distribution for the first time. Full details of the arrangements for ordering seed will be included in the seed list and on the website. Orders on paper are discouraged, but if necessary, they must reach the Seed Request Manager, Chris PARSONS, by 14th January 2022.

The seed distribution will begin in mid-January and all main requests will be sent out by late January. Donors' seed requests are completed first, then non-donors' in order of their arrival date followed by surplus seed requests (see page 10 for the benefits of being a donor). This means that main and surplus requests are sent out separately and may arrive a few weeks apart. The whole distribution

should be completed by the end of January. Please allow for delays in the postal system, waiting until after 9th February before enquiring. All seed correspondence, lists and queries can be sent to seed@srgc.org.uk. We will ensure that emails reach the relevant manager.

USA

Members from the USA must have an import permit, which is issued by APHIS, see: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/permits/plants-and-plant-products/permits/plants-for-planting/small-lots-seed>.

This must be a 'small lots' permit, as this does not require UK phytosanitary certification. Please apply for your permits ahead of the exchange to ensure there is no delay in getting your seeds to you. Permits are valid for three years so if you are using an old one please check it is valid to the end of February 2022. You must email or enclose a copy of the permit and conditions with your request. Each numbered green/yellow customs label may be used once only; please send one for each request - one for a main request, and one for each surplus request of 50 packets.

If you order seed online, you must still send the permit documents and labels to Chris PARSONS, as soon as possible - preferably to arrive well before 14th January 2022 (or you may send them to Ian and Carole BAINBRIDGE with your seed donation). We must stress that "no permit, no seed" is the SRGC rule! We will do our best to get everyone their seed, but it must be in compliance with USDA regulations.

Australia, New Zealand

There are lists of allowed/banned plant taxa. Please check your request against these **BEFORE** placing your order. Customs may bin or return your whole order to SRGC if it includes any banned seeds.

Japan

A phytosanitary certificate is required by Japan for imports. All the seeds must be examined by a UK inspector; his/her time is charged to the client. This charge is high and is payable by the member. Seed exchange for Japan has therefore been suspended.

All EU Countries (and Northern Ireland)

Unfortunately, following Brexit, all EU countries now require a phytosanitary certificate for each incoming parcel of seed (as for Japan). The cost is prohibitive, but if an EU-based member was prepared to receive all EU orders, separate them and post them onwards within the EU then only one phytosanitary certificate might be needed and could cover all shipments. If any EU-based member (or

members) is/are prepared to help, then please contact Richard GREEN, otherwise we may have to refuse EU orders this year.

Other overseas members

Please check with your authorities whether your country has any seed import requirements. Let us know what we need to do and send any necessary documentation. We do wish to comply with any laws relating to seed imports.

The Seed Exchange Team

You can contact any of the managers at seed@srgc.org.uk

Seed Reception Managers:

Ian and Carole BAINBRIDGE, Luckie Harg's, Anwoth Road, Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas, DG7 2EF, 01557 814141

Seed Packeting Manager:

George WATT, Burnside, Littlemill Road, Drongan, East Ayrshire, KA6 7EN, 01292 592445

Seed Distribution Team Manager:

Richard GREEN, Cedar Cottage, Balfron Station, Glasgow, G63 0SQ, 07714 227509

Seed Request Manager and Seed Accounts Treasurer:

Chris PARSONS, Lorbottle Hall Lodge, Whittingham, Alnwick, Northumberland, England, NE66 4TD, 07486 386288

THE VALUE OF DONOR STATUS

When seed distribution comes around, the SRGC Seed Exchange has a particular sequence for fulfilling your seed requests.

First, we do all the main requests, and the first picks always go to the **donors of seed for that year's exchange**. We sort the donors into a priority ranking; put simply, the donors who have sent the most seed for the most years will have their requests fulfilled first. The calculation we do means that if you send us 100 packets plus and it's your first year of donating to the exchange, you'll still be pretty close to the top of the list. In general, we like you to send five packets of seed to qualify for donor status, but if you send us a big packet of *Ranunculus lyallii* for example, we'll be very happy!

If yours is a family membership, you qualify for two donor picks at your donor ranking. This means it's better for you to **send us one donation on behalf of your family** rather than separate smaller donations from each of you, and it's easier for

us to administer in the seed reception process.

Second, we fulfil the non-donor main requests. These are processed in the order of the date of their arrival, so it is an advantage for non-donors to send in their seed requests quickly.

Third, after the cut-off date for receipt for seed requests, we will fulfil the surplus requests. These are also done in the order of the date of their arrival, so it is an advantage for members wishing surplus seed to order quickly. Please also remember that by this point, many of the numbers will have been exhausted, so send us plenty of alternatives on your surplus request. Again, a family membership qualifies you for two surplus orders if you wish.

So, donate some seed this year and enhance your chances of getting the seed you want from the SRGC Seed Exchange.

AN APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PACKET SEEDS

For new members of the SRGC, 'seed packeting' is the process of placing donated seeds into small glassine envelopes for later distribution. It is the middle process of the SRGC Seed Exchange and is of vital importance. Last year we had only just enough volunteers to cope and are therefore anxious to recruit new volunteers. It has been agreed that participants need not be members of the Club and that friends of members would be more than welcome to take part.

Please do consider joining the team. Detailed instructions will be given. Contact the **Seed Packeting Manager**: George Watt (01292 592445, seed@srgc.org.uk, Burnside, Littlemill Road, Drongan, East Ayrshire, KA6 7EN).

YOUR IDEAS FOR FUTURE DAVID BOYD EVENTS

The David Boyd Events are focused on outreach; intended to take our enthusiasm and expertise on rock gardening to remote or overlooked areas for the benefit of members and non-members alike. Previous events have been popular and successful, providing talks, workshops and tours to members, allowing the Club to engage with fellow plant enthusiasts who had not previously heard of the SRGC, and enabling fruitful collaboration with other plant societies.

We are looking for suggestions for future locations of David Boyd Events, and would also love to hear your ideas for topics and content of these events. All thoughts welcome. Additionally, if you already have an idea for an outreach event and would like help transforming it from an idea to reality, please do get in touch. Contact the **Secretary**: Hannah WILSON, 07545 871304, secretary@srgc.net.

SHOW NEWS

Well, rather disappointingly another spring show season has passed in which we have not been able to enjoy the splendour of benches bulging with wonderful rock garden plants, the pleasure of meeting friends and of delicious home baking. I'm sure we all yearn for this to become the norm once again – but not quite yet, I'm afraid. With the cancellation of the Discussion Weekend, once again there will unfortunately not be an autumn show in Scotland this year.

At the time of writing, it is still hoped that the pandemic situation will have improved sufficiently to allow our joint autumn show in Hexham to go ahead on Saturday 2nd October 2021. However, as we have become used to, nothing is certain. So please watch for updated information as the date approaches; this will be made available on the Club's website and on the Forum. If we are able to go ahead then exhibitors should note that the 2020 schedule and rules will apply, as published. For those members who require a copy then this can be downloaded from the website or obtained from me directly.

I'm ever hopeful that we will be able to return to a near normal programme next year. With that in mind, the provisional dates for the shows next year are given below. In the meantime, I hope you will continue to enjoy your gardens.

Convener, Show Secretaries

David Millward

PROVISIONAL 2022 SHOW & EVENT DATES

19 th February:	Early Bulb, Dunblane
19 th March:	Kendal Joint AGS/SRGC Show
26 th March:	Stirling (Dunblane) Show
2 nd April:	Hexham Spring joint AGS/SRGC Show
9 th April:	Edinburgh & the Lothians Show
16 th April:	Perth Show
30 th April:	Highland (Nairn) Show
7 th May:	Glasgow Show
21 st May:	Aberdeen Show
20 th August:	Dunblane Summer Event
8 th October:	Hexham Autumn joint AGS/SRGC Show
14 th - 16 th October:	Discussion Weekend (Grantown-on-Spey at The Grant Arms)

DUNBLANE SUMMER EVENT 2021

Unfortunately the Club confirms that this event has been cancelled.

DISCUSSION WEEKEND 2021

It is with regret that we have cancelled this October's event at Grantown-on-Spey and postponed our booking to 2022. The organisers have canvassed opinion, and several members have expressed reluctance in mingling, and there is continuing uncertainty about restrictions on travel. Instead we intend to have an online lecture afternoon/evening on Saturday 9th October 2021 using Zoom. The event will have illustrated lectures, with the provisional programme being:

4pm: Jim JERMYN on the European Alps

6pm: Nick COURTENS on Colorado

7pm: Hamish BROWN on New Zealand flowers

Further information will be given on the website and on the Forum in due course, or can be obtained by contacting Julia CORDEN or Richard GREEN (contact details in the *Year Book*). If this format is successful then further events might be arranged.

DISCUSSION WEEKEND 2022 BURSARY

An annual bursary is offered to any member of the SRGC who has never been to a discussion weekend, covering the cost of the weekend. All other expenses such as travel or extra nights at the hotel must be met by the recipient.

Group conveners as well as the forum administrators are asked to canvas interest within their group/forum and to select one individual to be nominated for the bursary. Members who are neither part of a group nor the forum should make their submissions directly to the secretary. The closing date is Saturday 26th March 2022. The successful name will be drawn on Saturday 16th April 2022.

SRGC 2021 ONLINE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT 10 AM (GMT) ON SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2021

This meeting will take place online using Zoom in view of the current difficulties and risks regarding physical meetings. You will be able to find the Zoom link to enable attendance on the SRGC website forum or obtain it by email on request from the **Secretary**; Hannah WILSON, 07545 871304 secretary@srgc.net.

Relevant documents (Treasurers Report, Summary Accounts, Council Nominations) will be made available in due course on the SRGC Forum via the forum menus under Events / SRGC 2021 AGM. Paper copies can be obtained on request from the **Secretary** by any member without internet access.

Voting will take place at the AGM, using a show of hands, or using the zoom “polling” feature.

No questions will be taken at the AGM itself as this is not practicable. Any competent business, or questions on the accounts can be **notified to the Secretary by 12 noon GMT on the day before the meeting**, and these will be answered at the online AGM by the appropriate official.

AGM Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held online on Saturday 20th February 2021
3. Matters arising
4. President’s review
5. Presentation of honours and awards
6. Proposed change to the Club constitution
7. Accounts: presentation and adoption of the accounts for the year ending 30th June 2021; appointment of examiner of accounts
8. Elections and appointments: office-bearers; ordinary members to serve on council; approval of other office bearers; approval of members of the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee
9. Date and place of the Annual General Meeting in 2022
10. Any other competent business

NOMINATIONS TO COUNCIL

Nominations are invited for membership of the council of the SRGC.

- Nominations must be received by the **Secretary** at least 30 days before the Annual General Meeting, **which will be held Saturday 6th November 2021**. Therefore, the deadline is Thursday 6th October 2021.
- Nominations must be in writing from the proposer – on paper or by email.
- Each nomination must state the names of one or more seconders.
- Each nomination must state that the candidate has agreed to stand for election.

The Secretary, Treasurer, Subscription Secretary, Web Manager, Publicity Manager and Editor retire annually, but are eligible for re-election. Nominations are required as described above. Ordinary members of council serve for three years; four are elected each year.

Secretary

Hannah WILSON, Flat 3, 24 Warriston Road, Edinburgh, EH7 4HN, 07545 871304
secretary@srgc.net

DUNBLANE EARLY BULB DAY 2022

At the time of writing there is still considerable uncertainty as to the extent coronavirus will be curtailing the SRGC's activities in the coming months, and therefore it has been agreed that the most prudent course of action on deciding whether or not to hold next year's Early Bulb is to monitor how well the vaccination programme succeeds in suppressing the harm caused by the virus. Check the January 2022 *Dryas* for news on the Dunblane Early Bulb Day (if you haven't already heard the decision by then through other media).

Sandy Leven

