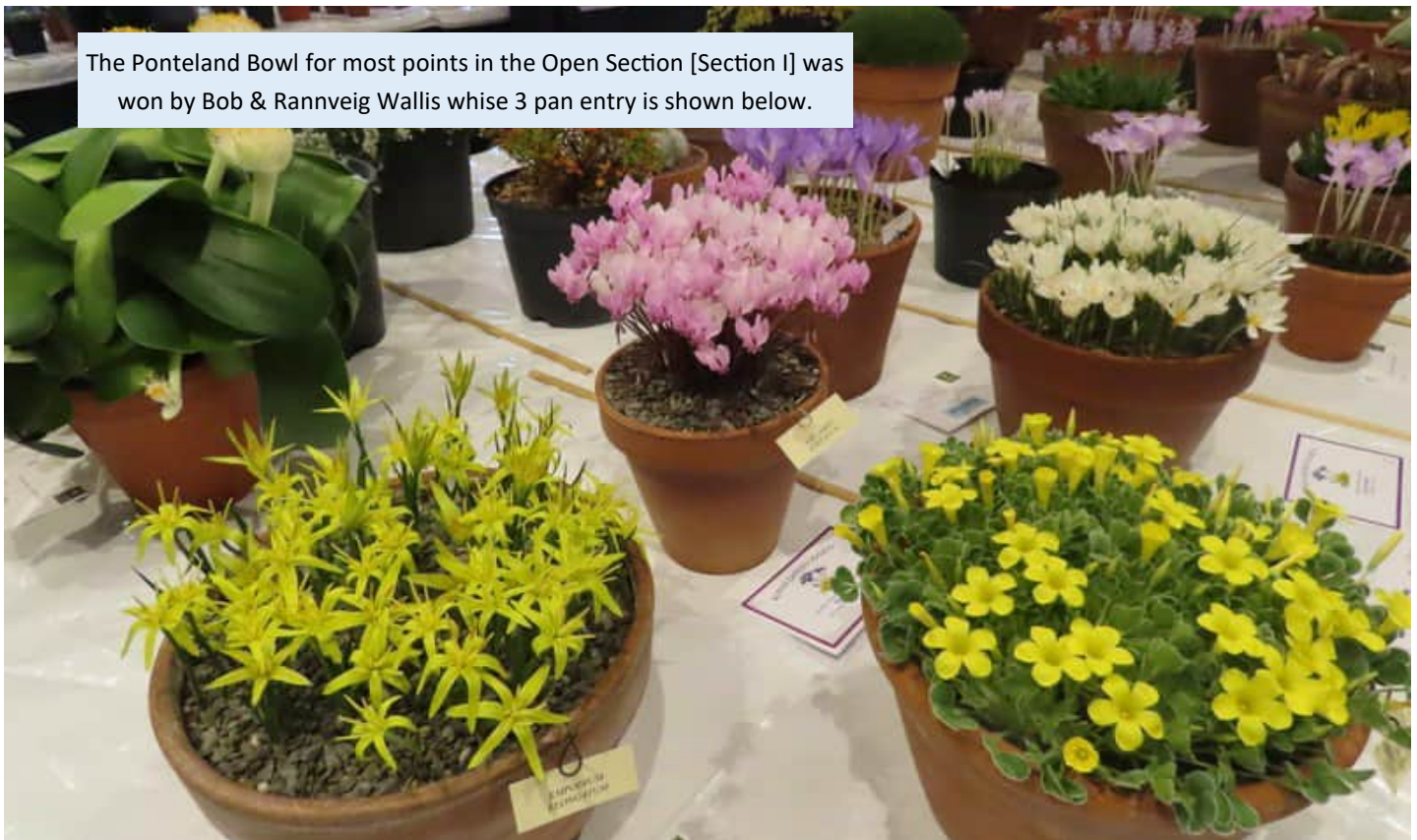


THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB and The Alpine Garden Society

Hexham Autumn Show

25th Anniversary 5/10/24

**Big pots, big plants and plenty autumn colour!
It must be Hexham**



The Ponteland Bowl for most points in the Open Section [Section I] was won by Bob & Rannveig Wallis whose 3 pan entry is shown below.

Hexham lies just a few miles south of Hadrian's wall. It is a beautiful town surrounding its ancient abbey. It is also well furnished with supermarkets where Scots can buy Whisky several pounds cheaper than in Scotland. The market we were first interested in was the Auction market. I understand that is the auction market where thousands of animals are sold each week.

The farmers meeting place was given over to rock gardeners for the day. Exhibits were here to be judged. In the foyer there was a superb range of plants for sale from several top nurseries. AGS and SRGC members were easily parted from their money in exchange for wee treasures to cultivate in their own gardens. Inside the main hall was an even larger treasure trove; fabulous bulbs, fiery autumn coloured shrubs, silver leaves, fabulous fronds of rare ferns and a forest of dwarf trees. Food for the eyes! There was literally something for everyone. Trophies and medals to be won. If you were hungry the on site restaurant offered pies, fish and chips alongside cakes and sandwiches.

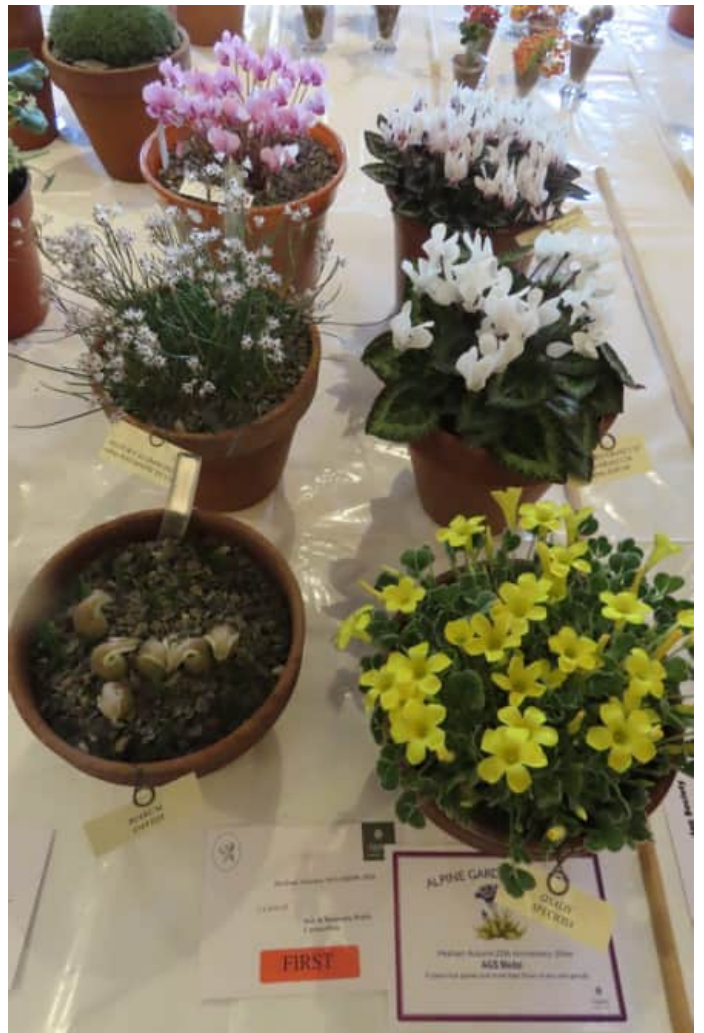
Fundraising is very important. I always try to make sure I support the Tombola or raffle. Sometimes I am lucky and at other times I remember that I am helping the show funds



The David Boyd Award was won by Ian Instone's magnificent *Sternbergia sicula*



Bob & Rannweig Wallis 6 pan entry in Class 45 was awarded an AGS Medal



The Millenium Trophy for Best foliage plant was won by Alan Furness's golden *Celmisia* hybrid and his *Raoulia eximia* won the Patricia Furness Vase for Best Plant in Section II



The Crocus Award was won by Alan Furness's *C. boryi*

The Newcastle Trophy for Best plant in the Intermediate & Novice Sections and The Inner Eye for most points in the Intermediate Section were won by Vivien Self of Maiden Law. I msu apologise for not having a picture of her *Abies koreana kristallkugel*



Certificates of Merit were awarded to Stan da Prato's *Microcachys tetrasana*
Bob & Rannweig's *Biarum marmarisense* and to David Millward's *Cheilanthes eatoni*



Some of the Cyclamen which contributed Bob & Rannweig Wallis winning most points in Section I



Cyclamen hederifolium



Cyclamen maritimum

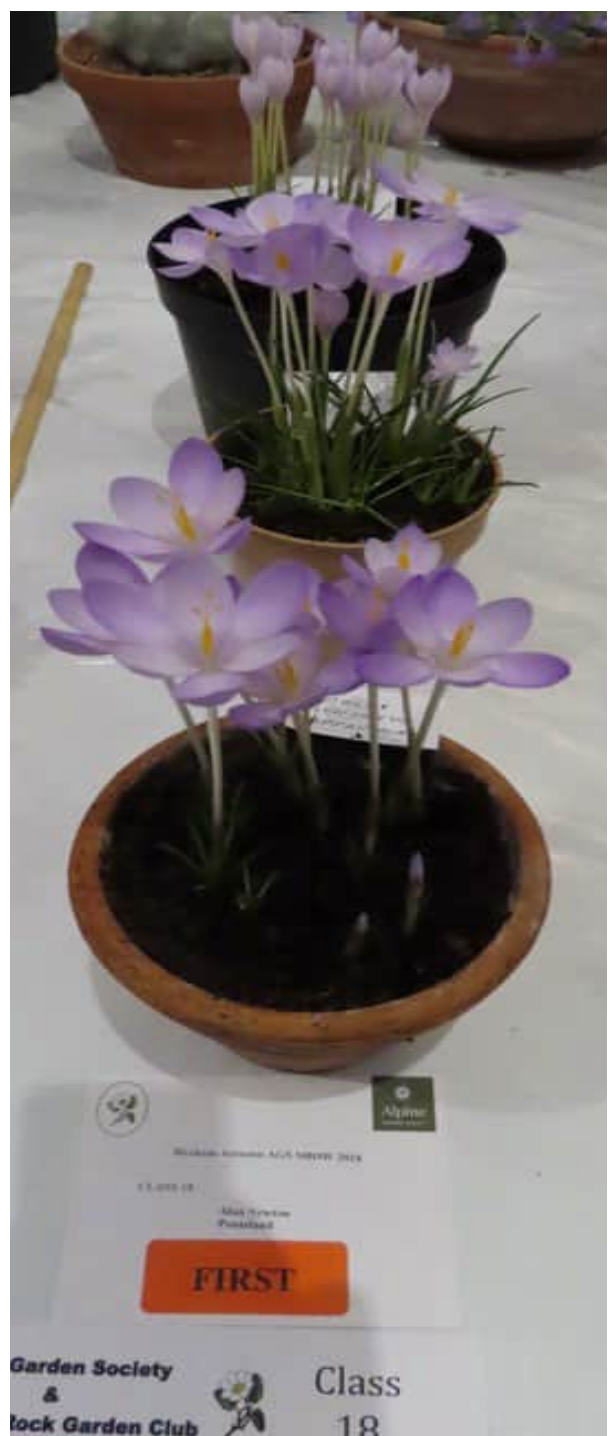


Cyclamen maritimum



Cyclamen graecum candicum







I like the classes for fruits and cut flowers. They should allow everyone to bring a wee bit or wee bits of their gardens to the flower show to share with other members. There is a perception that you have to be a 'top grower' to exhibit at our shows. This is far from the truth. The classes allow for entries from gardeners of all abilities and for innumerable species and varieties. I like all the plants and berries here. I admire the ingenuity of growers who find these treasures. I have chosen the Allium seedheads to illustrate a great entry.

When I was a lot younger, David Livingston, a senior member of the Glasgow group gave me invaluable advice which I share here.

"If you have a plant which you like, bring it the show and let others enjoy it as well"

You never know what might result. You will make new friends, probably share cuttings or seedlings of plants. You will definitely make new friends.







Gentiana 'Berrybank Sky'



Gentiana 'Oban'



An Autumn show must have Gentians!

At present we have fewer growers of these superb blue flowers. I know we have white and bi coloured ones as well. Stan grows them well in East Lothian. Coincidence or not Ian McNaughton who raised these varieties lived in the same county. Older varieties seem have gone missing!





COOKING WITH ALPINES



Satureja spicigera

Satureja spicigera was new to me. It is a shrub, colloquially known as “creeping savory, like nettles and catmint.” it grows in the Caucasus in N.E. Turkey and adjacent Iran. It should be grown in poor, well drained and even stony soil. It dislikes damp, rich soils and shady areas. It is a herb which can be used in cooking both fresh and dried.

Tamar Organics has a few hints on using it in your cooking. It has a peppery flavour. It can be used with beans and other pulses. Add sprigs to the bean water while cooking dried beans or chop fresh leaves and add to bean casseroles and soup. Chop and add to breadcrumbs for coating fish or vegetable patties.



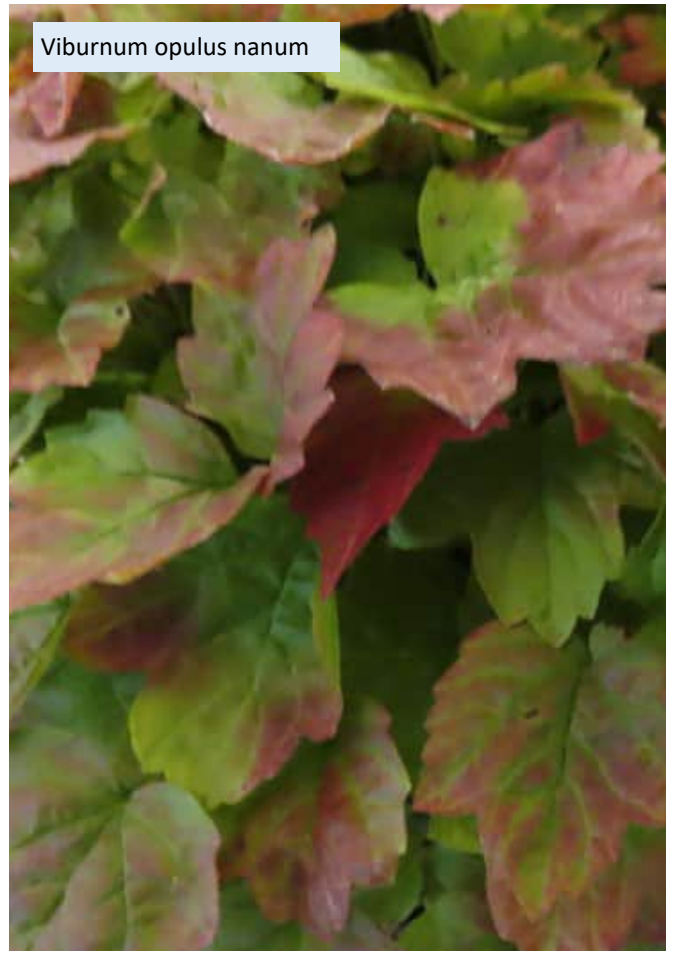
Gaultheria John Saxton'



Stephanandra incisa crispa



Viburnum opulus nanum





Houttuynia cordata 'Chameleon'



Carex Evergold



Oreostachys malacophylla var. iwarenge



Sedum spectabile 'Elegance'



Hosta 'Dance of Fire'



Petrocosmea forrestii

I have always liked **Houttuynia cordata 'Chameleon'**. It seems to be able to grow anywhere. I am attracted to its many hued heart shaped leaves. If you want colour, here this is one for you. It is mildly spreading in my garden. Few plants give such wonderful foliage colour for so little effort. It comes from S.E. Asia.

Oreostachys malacophylla var. iwarenge is also known as 'Chinese Dunces Cap' although it is native to Japan. It behaves like a sempervivum in that its spiky inflorescence and its rosette die after flowering. When not in flower it has flat grey rosettes.



I am looking forward to Hexham spring show in 2025

