

# THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB

## Scottish Autumn Show

### Livingston

### 28/ 9 / 24

#### A Super new venue with Super new ideas & Super plants

The Covid pandemic caused much disruption to the 'normal' SRGC calendar and the programme of events to which we were accustomed changed. One great loss has been that since Covid there has been no SRGC Discussion Weekend. Dave Millward, SRGC Chairman of Show Secretaries has tackled the problem head on. Along with his enthusiastic team Dave found this excellent venue and drew up a programme of talks for the day. We were treated to a 'Discussion Weekend light'.

We had a super one day show which attracted a large number of entries as well as a well planned programme of short talks chosen to appeal to members and visitors alike.

The talks were especially welcomed by the exhibitors who, at most shows, have to find something to do while judging takes place. Here there were 8 talks spaced during the whole day, starting with Margaret Thorne taking us on a trip to Greece. The full programme is on the next page.

Who knew there were so many apple varieties growing in Scotland? Special thanks to Professor Herbie Flowers for his interesting expedition into the extremes of the plants world. The National Trust for Scotland knew! Ian and Carole transformed fish boxes into troughs.



We learned about the Caley [ the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society] and about the creation of a community garden as well as the threats to Scotland's alpines. If you missed them you might be lucky enough to find them in the future. There was a plants fair with several top alpine nurseries offering a wonderful selection of plants, including our own 50:50 stall.

On site catering from Howden Park was excellent with a wide selection of meals as well as cakes.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this successful day.

Did I mention there was a plant show?



## See What you missed!

Talk: "Greece - a plant lover's paradise" with Margaret Thorne.

Talk: "The Status & Distribution of Scotland's native Alpines" with Mike Harding

Workshop: "How to turn a fishbox into a convincingly planted alpine trough" with Carole & Ian Bainbridge

Family Event: "The Weird and Wacky World of Plants" with Professor Herbie Flowers, Cerritulus University

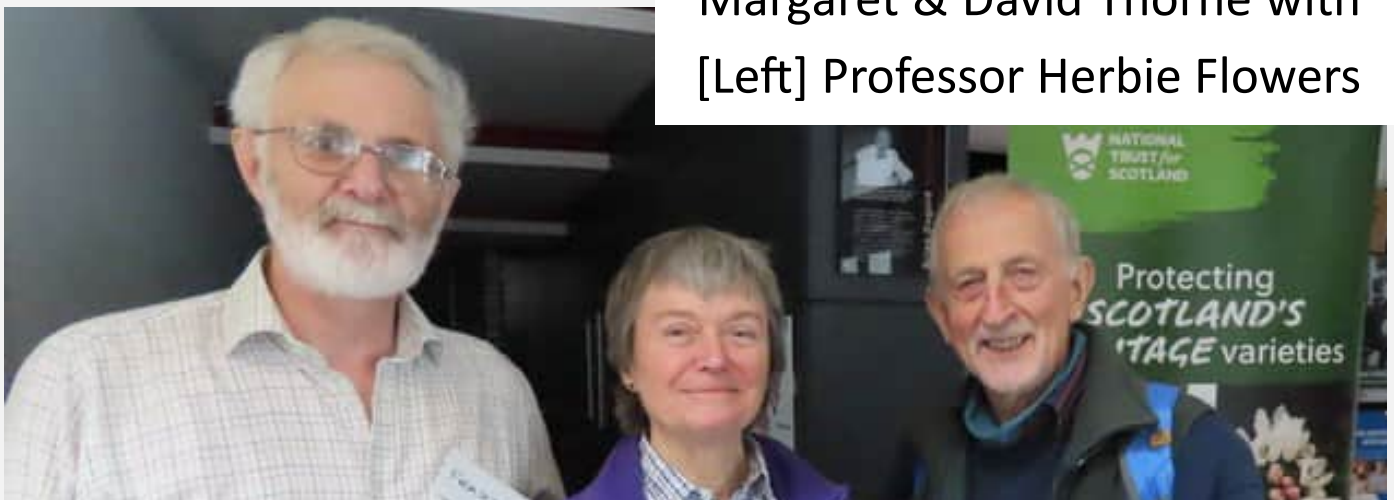
Talk: "Fifty shades of Blue? The genus *Meconopsis*" with Margaret Thorne

Talk: "Scotland's Heritage Apples" with Colin Wren.

Talk: "Creating a Community Garden in Murieston" with Dr Janey Cringean.

Talk: "The Caley" with Pam Whittle CBE SHM

Margaret & David Thorne with  
[Left] Professor Herbie Flowers



Jim Lever Memorial Trophy for Best Cyclamen  
Cyclamen mirabile shown by David Millward

J. L. Mowat Trophy for Best Conifer won by  
Microcachys tetragona from Stan da Prato



East Lothian Trophy for winner of Class 3  
for 3 Pans different was won by Stan.



The Logan Hume trophy for the best miniature  
garden was won by Shiela McNulty



The Mary Bowe Trophy for gaining the most  
points in Section 1 was won by Stan da Prato.



The East Lothian Cup for Best Plant in Sec-  
tion 2 went to Jean Horsburgh's Rebutia  
albi pilosa. Shown out of flower we could  
admire its 'fuzzy' appearance caused by  
the mass of thin white spines which  
covered the plant. It has bright orange  
flowers and is a native of Bolivia and Ar-  
gentina where it grows at 10,000 ft.



Barry & Cathy Caudwell won the Wellstanlaw Cup with their arrangement of flower, foliage and fruit. The picture doesn't do the arrangement justice.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to Stan da Prato's *Saxifraga fortune* 'Tini' [below] and to Graham Catlow's well presented *Sempervivum x barbulatum* 'Hookeri'. The judges liked its presentation, growing between rocks in a natural fashion. Stan won Class 1 with his 6 pan entry. 2 *Cyclamen hederifolium*, 3 *Gentians*, Troon, Oban and Berrybank Sky and another *Saxifraga fortunei*: this time 'Tessy'.



# Gold & Silver Medals



Gold medals were awarded to two displays. The National Trust for Scotland's colourful assortment of autumn flowers and foliage from Branklyn Garden in Perth greeted visitors to the show at the hall entrance. Frazer Henderson's ferns showed the range which can be grown in West Lothian. Both displays were full of interesting plants which demanded careful inspection. Frazer also staged an silver medal exhibit of how to use broken pots for aesthetic effect as homes for small plants. Carole and Ian Bainbridge exhibit several *Petrocosmeas* was awarded also given a silver medal. They are masters of this genus. Elsewhere in the auditorium the NTS displayed a formidable array of apples grown in NTS orchards in NTS gardens. It deserved an award but I think it missed out because the apples were not in the show hall. I hope we see all these exhibits again.

# NTS apples from NTS orchards







***Raoulia eximia***

*Raoulia eximia* is a species of plant in the family Asteraceae. It is endemic to New Zealand and grows on drier mountaintops of South Island only from 1700-1800m in stable rocks and scree. The plant is commonly known by its Māori name *tūtahi* and is known as the true "vegetable sheep", suggesting its appearance at a distance resembling a sheep.

It is one of the most beautiful and challenging of all high alpine cushion plants, requiring a well-drained but moisture-retentive compost that never dries out completely. It can take a fair bit of sun in Scotland but in hotter climates, a semi-shaded would be more suitable in cultivation. It is very slow growing and the plant shown has been grown from seeds sown November 2015, germinated January 2016.











As they said in  
Blantyre  
“Viva Livingstone”



Neil is still happy!

