



The Scottish Rock Garden Club

SHOW REPORTS

EDINBURGH SHOW

2013



A bright sun lit up the Pentland hills, south of Edinburgh, on the Friday evening before the 2013 Edinburgh show. Snow glistened on the high slopes as if it were January instead of early April. The tree branches were still bare although a few catkins have started to open and the familiar pussy-willows beckon flower arrangers. On show Saturday the sun was bright and as dawn broke, sparkled like it has done on most mornings in the last fortnight.

This was the first day of the new Financial Year. Too late to top up your ISA! Buy plants instead. Share prices falling! [again]. Sow some SRGC seeds. Alex Salmond couldn't attend the show since he was in the USA! Make do without him we have our own President in the SRGC!

The weather folk on the telly tell us that each day, week, month or whatever is the coldest, wettest, snowiest since records began. Wild animals are dying in hibernation. Birds aren't nesting. Doom and gloom! Even Private Fraser in Dad's Army on Saturday night's repeat, dressed as German soldier for a pretend wartime propaganda film sounded like an optimist compared to these pedlars of gloom. A slight exaggeration perhaps but its no exaggeration to say that fairmilehead Parish Church Hall was buzzing by mid-day on Saturday. Edinburghers come out in their droves. SRGC Show? Must be spring and ...it felt like spring, as long as you kept out of the wind. Plant sales were busy and after a long cold spell it is super that our favourite nurserymen can start to recharge their coffers so that they can later find new treasure for us all to buy. There is little doubt that one of the main reason for the visitors is

Capital plants in the Capital city.

**NO MATTER HOW MANY PLANTS YOU GROW
THERE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE MANY MORE TO
TEMPT YOU AT THE NURSERY STANDS**

that Edinburgh suburbs and surrounding towns are full of gardeners.

With Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden on their doorstep they have the world's finest gardening canvas to copy. With so many top nurseries at the show one might expect that many would be selling the

same plants but there is not really such a huge overlap at all. Each has its own speciality. I bought a really expensive Adonis with a Japanese name, which took my fancy as soon as I saw it. It was still there in late afternoon so I knew it was for me. At the same time I bought a much cheaper plant so that the average cost





worked out to be quite reasonable. Both promise new delights for next year. So with the show. Every year is different. Every year the plants are different. Several years ago the Edinburgh Show schedule was revised and classes for Crocus were dropped as no Crocus had made it to the show for ages. This year there Crocuses! Not only that, there were Snowdrops as well.

However this year will be remembered as 'L'annee des Hepaticas'. David Boyd won the Forrest medal with his magnificent *H. transsilvanica* 'Blue Jewel' and scattered his collection of hepaticas throughout the show in 6 pan, 3 pan and single pan classes. Wonderful! You didn't have to be there to believe it but they were a wonderful sight. Hopefully many will appear next week at Hexham. The pictures serve to remind me of these treasures and I hope they give you an idea of just how splendid they were. Before the plants, first SRGC treasures.

Top

Anne Bush selling Anne Chamber's note-cards. They are hand made from prints of her own paintings. Make a point of getting some for yourself at the next show.

Middle

The Colourful Ladies from Ayr getting ready to step out. They won't get lost in a snowdrift. What goodies are in the big bags?

Below

SRGC secretary Carol Shaw with the SRGC book-stall. Several new books took my fancy. I am saving up for the new Cyclamen book and how about Cypripediums? Check out the list in the year book. Lastly - two retired dentists ponder a biscuit





Left to right - top to bottom
Some of David Boyd's Hepaticas

H. nobilis var *asiatica*
H. insularis usual white form
H. insularis a rare pink form

H. nobilis japonica 'Shikouden'
H. nobilis japonica 'Akone'
H. nobilis japonica 'Shirayuki'

H. x schlyteri
H. maxima

David's *Hepatica x schlyteri* is

H. nobilis 'Bauer's Blue' x *H. maxima* -

A deliberate cross was made and seed sown in 2003. 50 seedlings flowered 4-6 years later. *H. x schlyteri* is sterile and is propagated vegetatively. Supposedly tender, David's plants have survived temperatures of -15C under cold glass. Pot culture in a shaded frame is advised. It is less suitable to being grown in the open garden. David notes that seeds of Asiatic hepaticas and this hybrid can take 2 - 3 years to germinate. The hybrid name commemorates Severin Schlyter a Swedish enthusiast who did a lot of hybridising



The Big Pan s

Top to Bottom
Crocus 'Ard Schenk'
Ipheon uniflorum
Iris graeberiana
'Yellow Fall'

Tecophilea cyanocrocus
'Primula megaseifolia
Corydalis malkensis
Pulsatilla vernalis

Exhibitor
Lynne Henderson
Peter Semple Cert. of Merit
John Lee

Cyril Lafong Cert. of Merit
Tom Green
Jim & Janet Paterson
Cyril Lafong

**The Bhutan Drinking Cup
for Best Asiatic Primula -
Stella & David Rankin's *P. sonchifolia*.**



The lower picture is of the 'best' plant of **Primula sonchifolia** in the pan. Look carefully and you will note considerable variation in the plants in the pan, showing seedling variation. This is a good sign as the last thing you want with Primula species is to have only one clone.

**The K.C Corsar Challenge
Trophy for Best European
or American Primula -
Sam Sutherland's *P. allionii***



Above A nice Primula pubescens' Jackie Richards' from Jane & Alan Thomson .Who is Jackie Richards? Bottom left is scintillating white

form of Primula marginata grown from seed by Margaret & Henry Taylor. And bottom right Tom Green's P. 'Blindsee'



Hard work preparing and serving food

Graham said he was not working too hard and just did as he was told in the kitchen. Elspeth and the other ladies did not have time to be photographed



It's not so hard enjoying the food

While some were busy eating Stella relaxed in good company



**Taylor's
Treasures**



Narcissus cyclamineus x alpestris



**Below Mgt & Henry's
Primula obtusifolia
Primula limbata [& above]
Primula nana**



**Narcissus provin-
cialis x alpestris
sown 25 5 06**

This is the first
flowering of this
cross. Note the 'sad
' shape' inherited
from male parent



**Narcissus
blanchardii**

Named for the
famed British ex-
pert on the genus





Townsendia
hookeri from
Tom Green was
awarded a
Certificate of
Merit



above and below
Cathy Caudwell
with her tiny
Tulipa
sogdiana



Corydalis
cava
Jim & Janet
Paterson



Peter Semple's
Corydalis solida
'George Baker'
was awarded a
Certificate of Merit

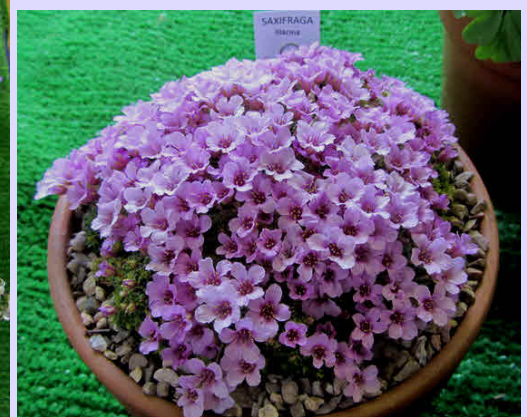
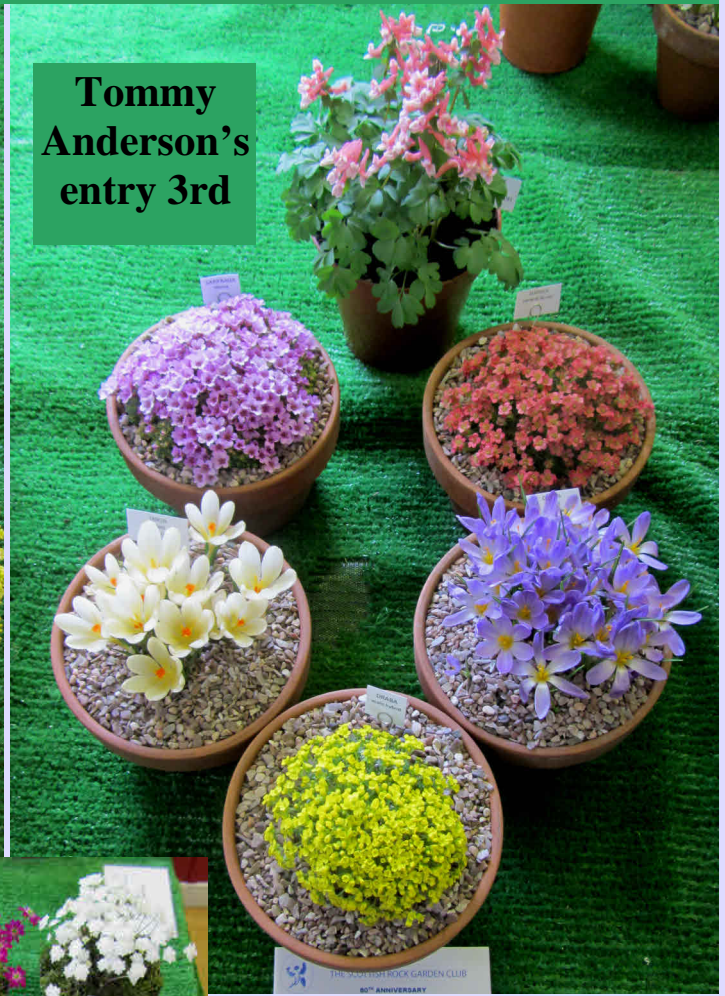


**Cyril
Lafong's
entry 2nd**



**Jubilee 6 pan Class won by David Boyd's 6
Hepaticas against strong opposition**

**Tommy
Anderson's
entry 3rd**



SOME JUBILEE STARS

Top left clockwise
Paraquilegia anemonoides
the winning 6 pan
Saxifraga lilacina
Narcissus 'Snipe'
Androsace vandellii



**The Elsie
Harvey
Memorial
Trophy
for the winner of
Class 3
Cyril Lafong**



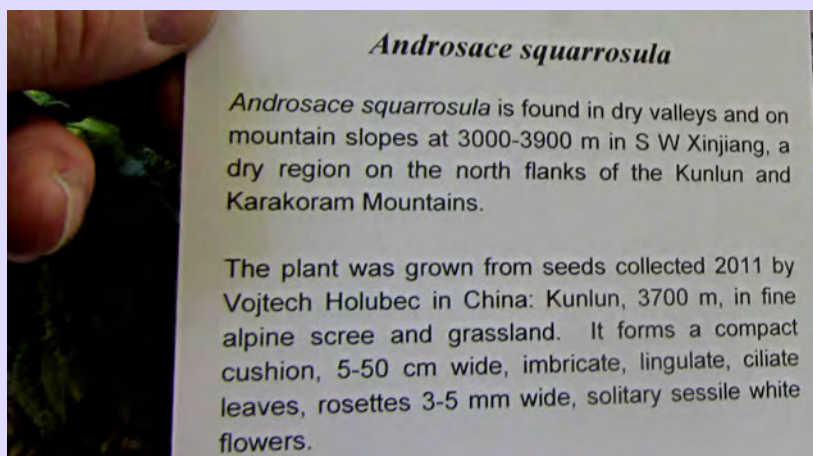
Fritillaria (crassifolia subsp.) poluninii

Collected by Oleg Polunin on his Iraq expedition in 1958 but not described till 1998. It is the smallest and slowest growing of *F. crassifolia* group. Requires standard bulb treatment. Rich gritty compost with plenty of water while in growth, dryish dormant



Primula odontocalyx

Belongs to Section *Petiolares* and is named for the tothing of the calyx lobes. Distributed in Gansu, Hunan, Hubei, Shaanxi and Sichuan. The plant was grown from seeds collected in 2011 in Shaanxi. In cultivation it requires a humus-rich compost that is never allowed to dry out completely although this species would probably grow in warmer conditions than most Himalayan *Petiolarids*. A cool shaded environment suits it best



Androsace squarrosula

Androsace squarrosula is found in dry valleys and on mountain slopes at 3000-3900 m in S W Xinjiang, a dry region on the north flanks of the Kunlun and Karakoram Mountains.

The plant was grown from seeds collected 2011 by Vojtech Holubec in China: Kunlun, 3700 m, in fine alpine scree and grassland. It forms a compact cushion, 5-50 cm wide, imbricate, lingulate, ciliate leaves, rosettes 3-5 mm wide, solitary sessile white flowers.

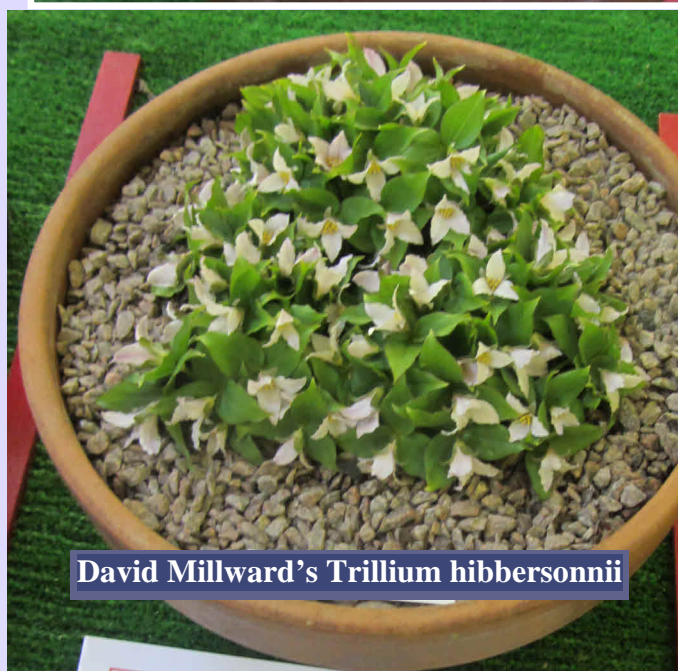




Cyril Lafong won the Henry Archibald Rose Bowl in Class 1 with these crackers



Jean Wyllie's *Shortia uniflora*



David Millward's *Trillium hibbertsonii*

