

# The Scottish Rock Garden Club

David Boyd Event  
4th—9th September 2019

Inverewe

Crevice Garden Project  
at

Inverewe Garden,  
Poolewe,  
Wester Ross

built by

Julia Corden, Paul Spriggs,

Ian Young

and Zdenek Zvolanek



**Ian Young's Bulb Log Number 37 of 11th September 2019** on the SRGC web site, [srgc.net] is devoted to the creation of this crevice garden. It is a superb and comprehensive article covering the preparation, building and planting of the garden. It also gives an insight into the friendly way these titans cooperated with one another and with The National Trust for Scotland's garden staff to produce this unique crevice just rock garden a few yards from the sea, on the far north west coast of Scotland. Also see Bulb Log 38 of 2019.

**You must read these bulb logs!**



I cannot cover the details which Ian describes so well but I can thank him, Julia and the SRGC for giving Anne, Andrew and me the reason to visit Inverewe garden in September. Most of my visits to the garden have been in spring and early summer when the Rhododendrons paint the woodland garden with a kaleidoscope of colour. In autumn these same rhododendrons, shrubs and trees provide the background structure for flowering herbaceous borders and plants with foliage in different shapes and colours. It is after bright the colours subsides that a visitor can appreciate all the other groupings and plant associations. Over recent years the gardeners of National Trust for Scotland's at Inverewe have worked hard to make it a garden for all seasons.



The billing for this even included the names of several rock garden super stars:- **Julia Corden, Paul Spriggs, Ian Young, and Zedneck Zvolanek {ZZ}**. This made it an event I was determined to see. I pride myself in attending as many SRGC events as I can. They are always enjoyable and you always learn something. However. Since this event involved a lot of digging, carrying and heavy lifting, I realised that I would be a voyeur and not a participant. When I saw the size of the rocks they used I knew I had made the right decision. These 'Crevice Guys' are strong!

Under the guidance of Paul Spriggs from Vancouver Island, Canada and ZZ from Czechia, they transformed a corner of the terraced rock garden into a star attraction. Their work will inspire gardeners and designers who visit Inverewe in the future. Quarries throughout the land will have lots of new customers and pharmacies will sell a lot of liniment for sore backs.



The outline shape is built first with gritty well drained compost. All the stones are set into it. Most of the stone is unseen below ground. The stone used is local stone of a uniform type. The stones are flat, though of different thicknesses. The stones are set on their sides. The big stones and large rocks are interspersed with smaller thinner stones. Variety within set limits is important. The space between them, the crevices, should not be more than 1 inch wide. Just like natural outcrops the top surfaces of the rocks are at different levels but all are firmly set into the substrate. Joints between stones are hidden by placing another one in front of the joint. This stops soil from leaching out of the crevices. Some flat areas are left just as you would expect in the mountains. The vertical faces above ground offer the plants protection from sun or a bit of shade. Grit and small stones are used to fill the crevices and top dress the garden.

Plants are bare rooted before planting. Their roots will grow down into the crevice along the cool root run offered by the vertical stone surfaces.







