

# The Scottish Rock Garden Club

## Late Bulb Day \_ Glasgow

### 22 9 19

#### THE SRGC COGNISCENTI GATHER IN GLASGOW



The first Late Bulb Days were held in Aberdeen, overseen by Ian and Maggi Young. After a few years the Late Bulb moved to Dundee and then to Scone under the guidance of Barry Caudwell. It is now a peripatetic event. Last year we were in Edinburgh and this year in Glasgow. John Lee who was in charge this year welcomed the members as the 'cognoscenti' of the SRGC otherwise known as 'the usual subjects'. All present enjoyed an excellent day in a less formal atmosphere than our big events. We had non-stop tea and coffee as well as cakes supplied by members of the Glasgow group. The talks were as well presented and interesting as they usually are at SRGC events. In the morning John Richards talked about bulbous plants in Greece highlighting several sites. John has visited Greece 65 times and has been there in most seasons. His extensive knowledge of the Greek flora, especially bulbs and where they grow is unrivalled. In the afternoon

Kit Strange adopted a novel strategy. Her subject was bulbs in the wild and in cultivation. Her approach was to restrict her talk to about 6 or 7 species. *Fritillaria sewerzowii*, *F. bucharica*, Juno irises, Muscari and Tulips. First she showed where the bulbs grow in the wild, describing the aspect of hillsides, their geology and whether or not the sites were cultivated. Most were uncultivated. After seeing the habitat Kit then showed us how they were grown at Kew. She demonstrated the compost used; sharp sand, grit, John Innes No2 and coir. This mix drains rapidly. She stressed that the size of the flower pot was important; don't use one that is too big! Pot size, compost mix and watering are intertwined.

Both talks provoked many questions and much discussion. As we sat around tables in the room we were encouraged to ask questions as the talks proceeded. There is no doubt that the intimate format of the event made discussion much easier than would be possible in a formal lecture theatre.



Jean Wyllie's Cyclamen formed the main part of the display. It is a pity that more members cannot be persuaded to share a few plants with fellow members at our shows and displays. Graham and Hilary Butler brought an excellent selection rock garden plants for sale. There are always many interesting, unusual plants on offer. Graham has a good eye for a good plant and the fact that they are grown in Rumbling Bridge is testament to their hardiness. We could also buy SRGC Seeds and packets of bulbils, many of which were brought by Barry and Cathy. At the close President Julia expressed our thanks to everyone who contributed to the event. Altogether this was a wonderful day out with friends, chatting about plants and reminiscing about events and other members. We all learned something and most of us went home with a few plants. I offer my own big thank you to John and the Glasgow members for organising such a good day out.



Above, *Cyclamen mirabile* and *Cyclamen cilicium* plants from Jean Wyllie

Below, a floriferous *Cyclamen hederifolium* from David Millward.





*Colchicum corsicum*





