

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Autumn Festival & AGM

Scone 10/11/18



Cheers! SRGC Honorary President Bette Ivey toasts new President Julia

PRESIDENTIAL HANDOVER



Our new President, Julia Corden, was given a rapturous welcome when outgoing President, David Rankin, presented her with the 'seals of office', namely two lapel badges, the Presidential Salver and the exquisite Presidential picture of the SRGC emblem, *Dryas octopetala*, painted by Anne Chambers. It may be fanciful to suggest that the song 'Julia' on Rod Stewart's latest CD was inspired by our Julia, but it is a nice thought.

David noted that Julia has taken up the office running as she has already been very busy. She has been Administrator of the SRGC's Diana Aitchison Fund; organised this year's Discussion Weekend in Pitlochry; booked The Grant Arms in Granttown-on-Spey for the 2019 and 2020; she has just retired as show secretary for Perth after 15 years; she is chairing the committee for the International Conference to be in Perth Concert hall in May 2021 and she is organising David Boyd events for 2019. In her spare time she is a tour guide. This has enabled her to visit many parts of the world. Professionally, Julia trained at the Royal Botanic garden, Edinburgh she is Garden Manager of the Explorer's Garden in Pitlochry. Under her guidance it has become one of the main tourist attractions in Perth-shire.

During his presidency David has injected new interest and vitality into our AGM day. In the morning we had three short talks. Two from beneficiaries of SRGC grants, Petra Palkova and Alex Samokhin and one from Ian Christie. Ian talked about this year's David Boyd event in the Uists during which he praised the organiser Matt Topsfield. Several members staged a small display of late flowering plants and arrangements of cut flowers and shrubs on the tables by the window. Bright colours on an autumn day!

David Rankin gave his inspiring Presidential Review but instead of limiting his words to the past years he took a much longer look into the Club's activities. As times change so do the Club. He listed our various activities and pointed out just how open and welcoming a Club we are, as many of our activities are freely available to non-members, through our grants, shows and web site. He ended by thanking the many people who contribute to the continuing success of the SRGC.



Immediate Past President David Rankin hands Julia her Presidential badges





Stan da Prato staged these beautiful Saxifraga fortunei varieties. They are hardy in Scotland but may need a wee bit of protection from frost when flowering so late in the year. This year Stan won the Plantsman of the Year trophy for the 9th time.



Soxifraga fortunei cultivars including several new introductions from Japan where the species grows wild. The taller forms are nearest to the wild plants. Some are a bit weak and better in pots. They are all late flowering so some are not yet open. They like leafy compost and light shade. Unfortunately vine weevils love them. Edrom nursery in Berwickshire has a very good range.





Petrocosmea is a genus in the family Gesneriaceae, the African violet family. However most of the species grow on shaded limestone rocks on mountains in Western China, where the genus is called Pinyin, meaning Stone Butterflies. They prefer cooler temperatures than the more familiar gesneriads such as *Streptocarpus* and can cope with a degree or two of frost but don't like our wet winters. These are all grown under staging in a greenhouse kept just frost-free. They need fast draining, leafy compost in shallow pots and humid air but allow to dry out between watering to prevent rotting. Infrequent re-potting works best, as they don't like the roots disturbed too much though some of these are due for a split. They have not been in cultivation all that long so have not yet been developed like *Streptocarpus* or *Saintpaulia*. Compare the size of their flowers with the *Streptocarpus* cultivar 'Crystal Ice' –incidentally one of the best for winter flowering.

Stan's Petrocosmeas



Stan's
Petrocosmeas









Meconopsis hybrid



A few pictures of the entries in the **Twice-yearly Photographic and Art Competition**. We would like to encourage more members to enter their paintings, art work and photographs. There are 5 Classes. The details of classes and how to enter are in the show schedules. Your next chance to enter is at the 2019 Stirling show.

PREVIEW OF PAINTINGS FOR AUCTION AT THE EARLY BULB DAY DUNBLANE, 16 FEB 2019

These are some of the paintings to be auctioned. Fred Hunt, one of SRGC's greatest growers and exhibitors, donated a number of flower paintings to be auctioned for Club Funds. All but one of the paintings in the auction are by the late Lawrence Greenwood, Lawrence was a stalwart member of SRGC who often exhibited his watercolour paintings of flowers at Club events.



The paintings are all rectangular and are framed. These photos have been trimmed illustrations. More photographs are posted on the Club web site and the group of paintings will feature in The Rock Garden

The Grand Picnic Lunch at the AGM



Peter McGuire who gave the afternoon lecture with our Plantsman of the Year Stan da Prato.



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