



The Scottish Rock Garden Club

SHOW REPORTS

SUMMER DISPLAY

Dunblane August 2012



The picture tells part of the story. This new event on the Scottish gardening calendar got off to flying start thanks to the enthusiastic support of many SRGC members. We had wonderful show of flowers and the plant sale was supported by 4 top alpine nurseries - Christie's, Hartside, Kevock and Rumbling Bridge as well as our own club plant stall.



The icing on the cake was to have four talks from four SRGC members on their own gardens. The talks were half an hour long and were held at intervals during the day. We are indebted to Barry & Cathy Caudwell, our SRGC Honorary President Bette Ivey, John Owen From Askival, Fort Augustus and to Ian & Carole Bainbridge from Easter Howgate. The talks were designed to emphasise the word GARDEN in SRGC.

Uniquely the flower show was non-competitive and divided into three parts.

Flowering Plants in Pots Foliage plants in Pots Cut flowers and Foliage



The latter class allowed us to include garden plants which are too large or difficult to lift to take to a flower show. Mounted centrally on each bench was the series of photographs taken by Julia Corden for her 'In Search of the Blue Poppy' display.

Cathy and Barry staged a large exhibit of cut flowers showing the variety they grow in their own garden. George Watt and Sue Simpson's selection of Clematis flowers was beautiful and informative.

FLASH CONTROL Very often, Cyril Lafong features as winner of the Forrest Medal on the first page of our show reports as his plants are hard to better. However this time Cyril and I [Sandy Leven] had different roles! The Stirling Observer sent a photographer to take some pictures for the paper. He wanted me [show secretary] as the subject and Cyril as his assistant. I could not resist taking a photo of the professional photographer and his celebrity assistant.





The tables in the hall were decked in gold and blue in recognition of the SRGC blue and the Olympic Gold. Both colours made a nice backdrop to the flowers as well as making the whole hall colourful.

Julia's pictures, as well as being interesting, made an excellent backdrop for the photographs of the exhibits.

You could almost believe some of the flowers were back in the mountains.

Another thing which the pictures showed was just how basic life becomes when you set off on an expedition to the mountains.

Myself I always said I would wait till there was a string of Holiday Inns along the Himalayas before I travelled there!



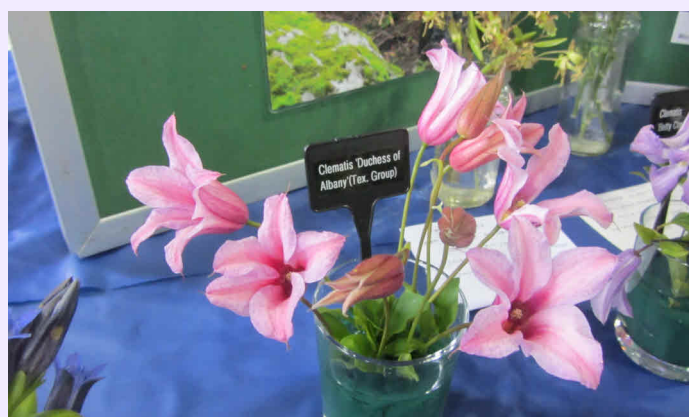




CLEMATIS
 Sue Simpson's Clematis Display was informative and inspiring. Unless shown as cut flowers, Clematis are difficult to exhibit. Sue set them out nicely. Thanks Sue for something that bit extra special.



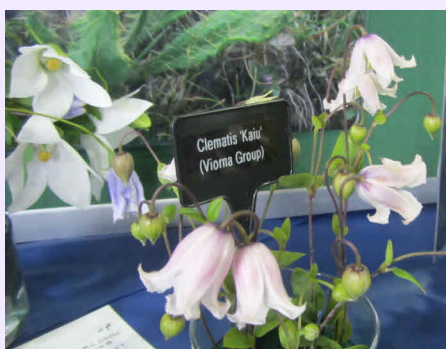
Clematis 'Etoile Rose'



Clematis 'Duchess of Albany'



Clematis texensis



Clematis 'Kaiu'



Clematis fusca violacea



Anemone 'Wild Swan'
Has a nice blue reverse on the petals



Buddleia 'Fascinating' from Margaret & Henry Taylor. It was clamped like a laboratory experiment to hold it upright. I was wishing we could distill it to see what we would get!



Double *Platycodon grandiflora*

Nice white & purple Roscoeas.
All the Roscoeas on the trade stands sold out after being recommended in one of the talks.
Hint there for future shows and sales of special plants!



A very unusual Gentian from Ian Christie. *G. kolakowskii*?

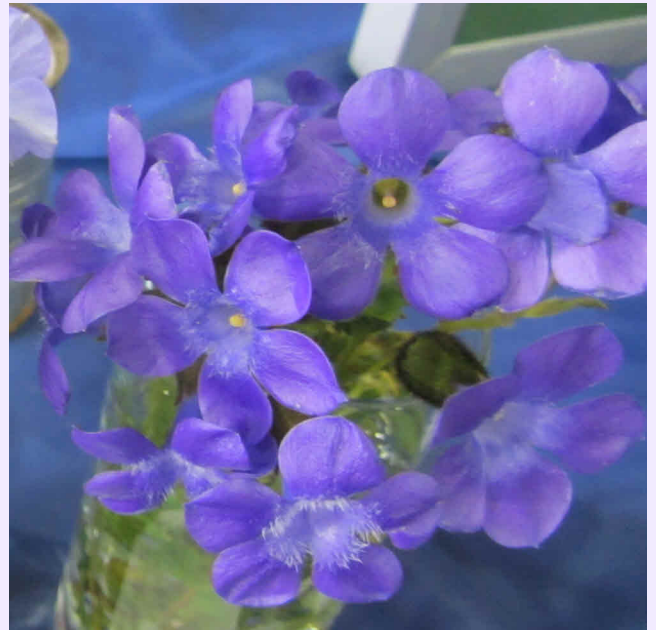


Have a break - have a cup of tea and a cheese scone.
Thank you to all the bakers who brought the scones and to those who served the tea and coffee. It was a good time of year for friends to get together for a natter about plants.



Barry & Cathy's exhibit of flowers from their garden in Abernyste

Two forms of *Cyananthus lobatus*. One with larger lighter blue flowers than the other



Black berries on *Paris quadrifolia*



Yellow berries - *Daphne mezereum album*

From Mgt & Henry two lilies with cultural instructions.
The orange flower is *L. henryi*, grown from SRGC seed and thus virus free. Henry suggests that to speed up germination you sow the pot, water it and put it in to

a polythene bag for 3 months warm and then for 3 months cold. They will germinate in spring and save a whole year.

On the right is white *Lilium Henry'* a hybrid between *L. henryi* and *L. leucanthemum* var. *centrifolium*



Marion McPee's colourful arrangement of many garden flowers





Festuca punctoria from Greece & Turkey and below a dwarf *Ginkgo biloba* named 'Troll'





Most of the plants I have featured I have done so anonymously but these two *Parnassia* are especially wonderful. David Rankin showed them. On the left is *Parnassia wrightiana* from the Himalaya and Western China. Below is *Parnassia nubicola*. You can see the resemblance of both to our native *P. palustris* but I find *P. wrightiana* especially covetable.





Troughs The artistic ones with nice rocks and slates from Ian Young. The others from Sandy Leven



Gentiana farreri grown by M&HT from wild seed from the German collector Holger Perna sown 8/12/09. Exquisite!