



## WEST OF SCOTLAND ROCK GARDEN GROUP

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### **NEWSLETTER AUGUST '09**

Dear Friends,

In the February letter I told you about my new house and garden. Well, I got stuck in and pulled all the rubbish shrubs out and completely replanted the front garden. I had left most plants in the ground at the old place, bringing a few choice bulbs with me which, after years of development, I had been loath to leave behind. I planted a good clump each of snowdrops Sophie North, and Fred's Giant, in the central bed under an acer. Imagine my horror last week to find, one morning, two holes scabbled out by some critter and not a single snowdrop left! Moral of tale: leave it all behind! This summer has turned out to be great for Himalayan plant growers, hasn't it! I managed to sit out on my decking (I know, I know; very 'Groundforce') only twice so far, and that was ages ago, in June.

Thanks are due from the Committee to all who helped at the Show, again, this year. From my perspective at the Tearoom hatch, there were more visitors this year. Our team were certainly kept busy, and we had a fantastic selection of tempting cakes to sell, which nearly all went! This year the Show itself was really superb. Anne Chambers had the most fantastic *Arisaema griffithii* on display, and it is here that I direct you to the club website: [srgc.org.uk](http://srgc.org.uk), where you will find a great review of the Show with wonderful photographs of the winning plants and personalities.

Here is the new season's programme of meetings at the Hopkirk Building, Glasgow Botanics:

Monday October 12<sup>th</sup>:

'Plants, People and Places in Tibet' – Margaret and David Thorne, West Linton, Peeblesshire.

This is a slide show of the plants and culture of Tibet, accumulated over their travels in this extraordinary country.

Monday November 9<sup>th</sup>:

'Bulbs in the wild from Portugal to China' – David Millward, East Linton, Edinburgh.

This talk, to quote David himself, will show some of the wonderful world of bulbous plants throughout the year, taking in examples from the Iberian Peninsula, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Caucasus Tien Shan, Himalaya and China.

Monday December 14<sup>th</sup>:

Club AGM, and a small number of brief 'In House' presentations by local members, also the usual delicious festive food.

Monday January 11<sup>th</sup> – **NO MEETING!**

This is because we have arranged a special talk in May instead!

Monday February 8<sup>th</sup>:

'Erythroniums in cultivation' – Ian Young, Aberdeen

This promises to be a great treat. Ian is a superb speaker and has agreed to come and talk to us, for the first time in Glasgow, on his passion for growing and propagating Erythroniums.

Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>:

'Japan' – Liz Cole, Edinburgh

Liz is a garden and flower photographer working at the Edinburgh Botanic Garden. She has visited Japan on two occasions and most recently in 2007. She will talk about the plants in Suzuyama, Kagoshima, the island of Yakushima and Kirishima National Park in Southern Japan.

Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>:

'Patagonia' – Ian Christie, SRGC President, Kirriemuir

This talk is a result of Ian's visit to Patagonia in November and December 2007 with a crowd of alpine enthusiasts. The plants seen include the extraordinary *Calceolaria uniflora* var. *darwinii* and, of course, many more gems from that wild and beautiful place.

Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>:

'Travels in Greece' – Melvyn Jope, Woking, Surrey

Melvyn Jope is an expert grower of Cyclamen. He has served on the Committee of the Cyclamen Society, both as a member and more recently as Chairman, for many

years. He has visited various parts of Greece and its islands many times, searching for and photographing Cyclamen in the wild. He has also been on Cyclamen Society expeditions into the field. He has a great reputation in the Society for his talks which, it is said, often involve not only wonderful plant photographs, but also scenery and stories of the people he meets on his travels. In this talk he will try and include spring and autumn bulbs, including Cyclamen, from recent trips to the Peloponnese.

So, as you can see, there is a lot to look forward to in the coming season.

With greetings and looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the weeks ahead.

Anne Bush (secretary)