

## Dunblane Early Bulb Display 2011



**Eranthis 'Guinea Gold'**

On the Saturday after the successful Snowdrop Conference at the RBGE we were able to gather again to further our knowledge about bulbs and rock plants. This time the Galanthophiles were joined by the Croconuts, Iridiphyls and Cyclamists, Narcissphiles, the last lot suffering from 'Yellow fever'. Whatever your enthusiasm among smaller-growing bulbs there should have been something here for you. If there wasn't it's you who should have brought your favourites to share with the rest of us.



**Crocus etruscus  
'Zwanenberg'**

As usual we were treated to two lectures. Brian Duncan talked on 'Species variation in Narcissus' in the morning session. In the afternoon Peter Erskine took us away from bulbs to talk about 'Daphnes'. So in the morning we were whizzed round Spain and Portugal looking at yellow daffodil and in the afternoon it was to the European Alps and Dolomites to see mostly pink shrubs. It is extraordinary just how many species and sub-species the genera Narcissus and Daphne contain. Lives could be spent and indeed are spent, dedicated to one genus. I am more fly by night and change my enthusiasms from time to time. While exact locations were never given we were given a flavour of the plants we could expect in different areas. Neither speaker combined Narcissus and Daphne in the same picture.

The SRGC members in the cafe were very busy from opening time to closing time feeding and overfeeding fellow members with an assortment of filled rolls, scones and cakes. Thank you to everyone who helped and to those who brought food.



**Crocus baytopiorum**



**Crocus paschei**



**Crocus sieberi alba**



**Crocus gargaricus**



**Crocus tommasinianus**



**Crocus sieberi**

"The golden crocus reaches up  
To catch a sunbeam in her cup." -Walter Crane (1845-1915)



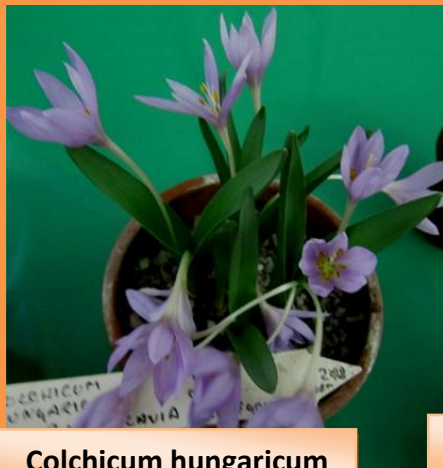
Crocus ancyrensis is offered for sale from many outlets. One would think the world would now be golden yellow but it isn't. The crocus seems to fade away in gardens, which is a pity because it is a beautiful plant and we all should grow it. I read a bit about it and its clone 'Golden Bunch' has been in cultivation since 1943. It is native to Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan.



**Colchicum trigynum**



**Colchicum szovitsii**



**Colchicum hungaricum**



**Colchicum doerfleri**



**Narcissus romieuxii**



**Narcissus romieuxii**



The above pictures illustrate many of the different forms of *Narcissus* species and hybrids. The very smallest species is *N. hedraeanthus* [left]. Note the various directions in which they hold their flowers



**Iris Lady Beatrice Stanley**



**Iris reticulata Harmony**



**Iris Katherine Hodgkin**



**Iris Sheila Ann Germany**

Reticulate irises and their hybrids have long been popular with rock gardeners. These four have been grown for many years and are hard to beat for reliability and floriferousness [is that a word?]. New selections are offered each year. In Scotland all these bulbs, Narcissus, Crocus and iris come into bloom in protected situations when snowdrops are still at their prime. Perhaps it is the distraction of rowers towards coloured bulbs has meant that Galanthophiles are thinner on the ground in Scotland than in England where the season is much earlier. I know that many garden have had snowdrops for many weeks but in the middle of February Galanthus are still just starting. We in the SRGC are fortunate to have growers and exhibitors who are enthusiastic about many genera.

**Sandy Leven**