The Scottish Rock Garden Club
Ruby Anniversary Party
HEXHAM, Northumberland SHOW
40th Anniversary 2012

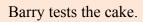Right; **SRGC Honorary President Bette Ivey** who won the medal for the Best Plant at the first Northumberland show, 40 years ago. Eric Watson, first show secretary, and also a Past President of the SRGC along with his fellows, organised the show and asked SRGC and AGS members to support it. Bette travelled with husband Bill from Dalry in Ayrshire to Northumberland, not an easy drive 40 years ago. Bette won with Cassiope 'George Taylor'. Among the Judges were Henry Tod, Chris Boyd-Harvey and Connie Greenfield, all well known as growers and showers. This being the first show, Henry Tod had a special medal made, for Best in Show. It was called the NEARGC Medal. [NEARGC is the acronym for the North East Alpine and Rock Garden Club, which until very recently was a joint SRGC /AGS group. Bette has a unique reminder of the show which for 40 years has encouraged and strengthened bonds of friendship between members from both sides of Hadrian's Wall.

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Northumberland show secretary   with SRGC President Liz Mills with the 40th Anniversary cake which the SRGC brought to celebrate 40 years of Joint shows and friendship at Hexham and Ponteland before then. Members also remembered the fabulous show 20 years ago at the Gateshead Garden festival when Betty Craig, from Edinburgh, won best Plant in Show with Physoplexis comosa.

Liz and Peter cut the cake.

Barry tests the cake.

Left, Former Northumberland show secretary Alan Newton cuts up the cake. Quite a difference from butchering bullocks but you can judge Alan's skill and steady hand by the perfect slices which he cuts.

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Past President Glassford
guards the Schloer

The Prize- giving Ceremony.

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Friends from North and South

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SCOTTISH
Rock Garden

PLANT...   ...STS
JOIN...   ...ER
AROUND THE WORLD!
AMATEUR OR
PROFESSIONAL
DISPLAYS
MEETINGS

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Mala Janes captured the Ruby anniversary perfectly with her display of 'Ruby' flowered and foliaged rock garden plants. The display was packed with information and its subjects, related to one another only by colour, would make a nice article. We keep reading about white gardens and hot gardens etc but here are the plans for a RUBY GARDEN. Mala even had some real plants to illustrate her ideas. She must have been well chuffed that the judges chose a plant with ruby flowers for the Forrest Medal.

Forrest medal winner Saxifraga x edithae 'Bridget'

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