

Stirling 2010



President Liz with Fred Hunt and Anne Chambers



Judges John Lee, Peter Semple & Fred Hunt



Judges Bette Ivey, Neil Huntley & Bill Robinson

Once again the Stirlingshire group show was held in the Victoria Hall, Dunblane and once again we were blessed with good weather, plenty plants to see and to buy and excellent food and drink to keep us fortified. I was going to say 'keep us going' but if you ate too much it was as well to have a seat and rest a while! A great big 'Well done!', to the catering team for the endless supply of bacon rolls for breakfast, morning coffee, followed by soup and salad rolls for lunch and afternoon tea and cakes. Home baked and home cooked food enjoyed with friends while chatting about plants is a fine way to spend a Saturday. Our new SRGC president Liz Mills enjoyed meeting fellow members and took time with many to encourage them to attend the International Conference in Nottingham next spring – Alpines without Frontiers, 14 – 17 April 2010. Great name for a conference! Liz had a display at the front of the hall and members were encouraged to take an information / booking leaflet.

Usually I mention the judges at the end but this time here they are fresh at the start of their day.

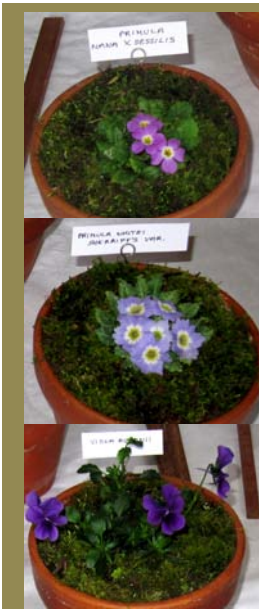


Roma Fiddes stirred folks' ideas up with this tantalising entry in the 'Grown from seed' Class. These splendid *Hepatica nobilis* seedlings were raised from Ashwood Nurseries' seed. What a wonderful range of colours and flower shapes! The white flowers show the biggest range of shapes from 5 spaced petals, 5 joined petals, 5 overlapping petals and 10 [or 11?] overlapping petals. I bet Ashwood get a few orders on the back of this exhibit.



I well remember several visits to Ashwood, another place where good food combines with excellent plants to make a wonderful day out. On one visit with the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee, John Massey {opposite} the owner showed us their fabulous Hellebores, singles and doubles as well as his own Hepaticas. If you visit later on there are fabulous Lewisias. Ashwood is home to the seemingly perpetual flowering *Lewisia* 'Ashwood Hybrids'. It is also home to the National collection of Cyclamen. John maintains all these genera and they are there for you to choose from.

However back in Dunblane, the judges were making progress.



Margaret & Henry Taylor also regularly exhibit plants in the 'grown from seed classes'. *Primula nana* x *sessilis* [top] is their own hybrid. *Primula whitei* 'Sherrif's Form' is a new generation of the popular petiolarid species. The *Viola* is *V. bubanii* grown from wild seed from the Picos de Europa.

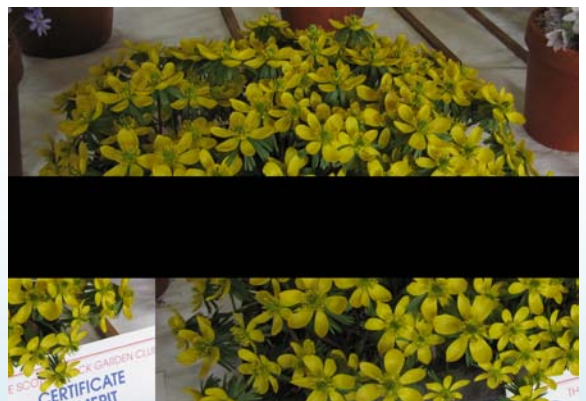


Primula vulgaris* ssp. *heterochroma from Cyril is known as the 'Caspian Primrose'. According to the notes it grows on the south shore of the Caspian in disjunct areas of the Elbruz mountains, Iran and Azerbaijan. The leaves are whitish-hairy beneath and the flowers can be purple, pink, red, white or yellow. Cyril treats it like a bulb, keeping it dry in summer when the leaves become limp and disappear. It is grown in a mix of John Innes and grit and kept in a shaded frame in summer.





Cyril Lafong is SRGC reigning show champion, regular winner of 'Plantsman of the Year', for which he receives The AGS Salver at the AGM. Anyone wanting to usurp Cyril's position will have to produce some extraordinary plants. This time his entry in Class 1 comprised *Corydalis popovii*, *Trillium rivale* 'Purple Heart' and **Primula 'Broadwell Milkmaid'**. The Primula won the Forrest Medal, Spillar trophy for Best Primula and Ben Ledi Plants Trophy for Best European Plant in the show. One great plant like this simplifies the administration!



Certificates of Merit were awarded to the other two of Cyril's plants in Class 1, *C. popovii*, *T. rivale* 'Purple heart', Jean Wyllie's *Narcissus* 'Betty Mae', [see Blackpool report for more], Peter Semple's *Iris winogradowii* and Ian & Margaret Young's *Eranthis* 'Guinea Gold'. The *eranthis* in its fish box trough reminded me of our first show, when Jim Jermyn, then of Edrom Nursery, won the Forrest medal with *Callianthemum anemonoides* in a wooden tomato box!

Moral.

It's the plant which counts not the container



Non-flowering exhibits get a poor representation in show reports, especially in the journal. I want to take time and space to record my thanks to everyone who enters the Crassulaceae, foliage and conifer classes. These plants are the backbone of many shows run by our sister society down south and the flowers are the icing on the cake. Up here we go for topping and are less bothered about the sponge. Most rock garden plants are in flower for quite a short time and for the rest of the year we have to look at the leaves. How much nicer if the leaves are beautiful and good to look at. With Sempervivums and conifers it is the form of the plant which is important to us. In the garden this importance is way up there along with rocks at number 1. In the hall the afternoon sun brought the 'Semperviva' to life. Many thanks to Watt Russell and Carole & David Shaw for reminding us of their importance. Even in a show hall the height provided by trees and shrubs contributes to the beauty of all the other exhibits



Light and shade. The reflection and interaction of light falling on the foliage or through flowers can alter their appearance. These scintillating changes add another dimension to our favourite flowers

Threesomes clockwise from top left

“2 from Roma and 1 from Ian & Maggi”

Centre. *Sisyrinchium douglasii* in both colour forms and *Narcissus x susannae* (triandrus x cantabricus petunuoides), the cross remade by Ian in 1994.

Below Maggi Y with Hazel Smith and Bette I. Ian Y with Roma F



I think they are thinking, ‘That photographer boy gets younger every year’ I think that of them!

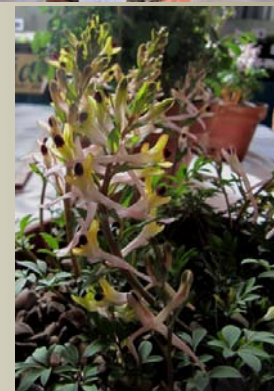
Interesting differences within 2 genera left to right from top

Gold Lace Polyanthus, Double Primrose, *Primula allionii* 'Pink Aire'

P. megaseifolia; *Corydalis* class, *C. malkensis*,

C. solida 'Alla Vita', *C. schanginii* *ainii*, *C. popovii*

Corydalis class, *C. solida* 'Alla Vita'



Bob Meaden with his pan of Galanthus 'Primrose Warburg'. This is a beautiful selection right down to its name which while celebrating the famous galanthophile, captures perfectly the shade of yellow.



Stirling member Evelyn Dick has been a steward at our shows for many years. After judging is over she can be found hard at work in the kitchen where she slaves away for the rest of the day. Thanks Evelyn!



While Winnie Milne enjoys the exhibits, husband Harley looks like he has been shopping. I bet he has room in that bag for a few more purchases. Like all dentists, Harley looks more relaxed year on year! So does Winnie!

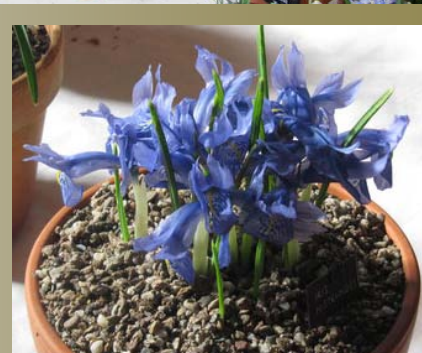


Lots of colour from the bulbs left to right from top

Iris classes, several different reticulatas

Crocuses galore

Narcissus ancyrensis 'Fueta de', Ipheion 'Rolf Fiedler, Iris histrioides





Narcissus 'Surfside'



Jill Lee won the Fife County Trophy for Most points in Section 2. Jill also showed one of the Narcissus sold at the discussion weekend in 2009. **Narcissus 'Surfside'** is by no means a dwarf as it is about 15 inches tall but it has an interesting flower shape and colouration. I hope that during the show season we can see a lot more of these bulbs



Stan da Prato won The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust Trophy for most points in Section 1. Stan won both 6 pan bulb classes

Iris 'Sheila Ann Germany' in Stan's Group





Elspeth and Struan, along with John Mitchell set up wonderful Gold Medal winning display from the Royal Botanic garden Edinburgh. Everyone had their favourite and pens were jotting down names of plants 'to look out for'. I know that would be better expressed as 'plants out for which to look' but that doesn't sound right. Eh no! Why are they all three looking in different directions? Must be the photographer!



Narcissus bulbocodium obesus



My display of snowdrops and other bulbs was also given a Gold Medal. I was worried that we might not get enough entries so I gathered as many plants together as I could.



Gymnospermium albertii

Next time Hexam, then Edinburgh, Perth, Glasgow and Aberdeen. Scottish Rockers are well into spring and have our weekends planned right up to May! I got my application for Alpines 2011 today [23rd March] with my AGS journal. **Time to book soon or I will miss the discount of £100 [over 15%]. Them's my kind of numbers, as we was learnt in skool!**

