

Dryas



News from your Club January 2019

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HELLO FROM THE NEWS EDITOR

I spent the New Year in Australia on a family holiday, in hot arid conditions about as far removed from a Scottish Rock Garden in January as you can possibly get! The majority of the flora encountered was a mystery to me, apart from classics such as the *Eucalyptus* and tree ferns that look like they were straight out of a dinosaur book. A particular pleasure was seeing woods of Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), which is the tallest flowering plant in the world, and the second tallest tree after the Coast Redwood. Another highlight was seeing the incredible Melbourne firework display midnight on New Year's Eve.

There's lots to look forward to in 2019 in terms of SRGC events, as you will see in this issue of *Dryas*. The third David Boyd Event (the Himalayan Weekend) has some fascinating talks lined up, and that's one I'd certainly like to attend. There's also a wealth of events being organised by Local SRGC Groups, as the Treasurer Richard Green explains below.

Best wishes for 2019 from the southern hemisphere.

News Editor

Ed Shaw 01522 529663, edwardalanshaw@googlemail.com

LOCAL GROUPS

There are currently 13 Local Groups which are organised separately from the main SRGC. These groups meet in different parts of Scotland and northern England, in Aberdeen, Dundee (Angus), Alloway (Ayr), Bowden (Borders), Milngavie (Glasgow), Edinburgh, Nairn (Highland), Elgin (Moray), Perth, Castle Douglas (South-west Scotland), Dunblane (Stirling), Lowick (North Northumberland), and Workington (North Cumbria). Each group is affiliated to the SRGC and runs a programme of talks during the winter. Some Groups organise garden visits and other events such as shows on behalf of the SRGC.

SRGC members do not automatically become members of Local Groups, but we encourage members to attend their Local Group meetings, where they will benefit from a varied lecture programme, and meet friendly like-minded folks. Local Groups welcome visitors and new members to their meetings, and full details of the convenors, the meeting venues, and their lecture programmes can be found on the main SRGC website under About Us > Local Groups. Do take a look at your nearest Group programme and attend a meeting this year.

Treasurer Richard Green

SHOW NEWS

As I prepare the Club's shows and events booklet on a dreary but unseasonably mild autumn day, I see that many plants have a distinctively winterish appearance. However, bulbs in my greenhouse are putting on plenty of growth and promise for the spring. *Crocus goulimyi* is still flowering in the garden.

When you read the new schedules, you will note that there are some changes for this year. Following the retirement of long-serving show secretaries at Glasgow and Perth, I am pleased to welcome Richard Green and Alison Hogg to these positions. I hope they will enjoy their new roles - they both have wonderful teams to help them put on these fantastic events.

The late date for Easter in 2019 has posed some problems for some of our shows. We are sorry to announce that there will not be a Highland show this year. The usual venue in Nairn is unavailable and no suitable substitute has been found for the available dates. However, the local group hopes to be able to run a non-competitive display and plant sale at a smaller venue-do support this if you can. Looking forward, a booking for the 2020 show has been placed and this show will be a welcome inclusion in the programme once again. A similar issue for the Edinburgh show was eventually resolved and this will now be held on the 13th April, a week later than advertised previously.

Other changes are to two of our joint shows. The Northumberland show will be renamed the Hexham show (to many of us it's always been known by that name anyway) and the Newcastle show becomes the Hexham Autumn show. The new venue for both will be the Auction Mart on the Tyne Green, not far from the Wentworth Leisure Centre. The venue is signposted on the way into Hexham and there is ample free car parking on site.

The premier awards at the last two shows this year are given below and you can read Sandy Leven's informative reports on these awards and the shows on the website (<http://www.srgc.net/site/index.php/shows/sample-menu>).

Newcastle (AGS rules in 2018; Farrer Medal): Bob & Rannveig Wallis, *Empodium flexile* Discussion weekend in Pitlochry: Stan da Prato: *Larix kaempferi*

Convener, Show Secretaries

Dave Millward

DUNBLANE EARLY BULB DISPLAY

Saturday 16th February 2019, 10 am - 4 pm

Organised by the Bulb Group

Contact: Sandy Leven 01786 824064 sandy.leven@btinternet.com

Location: Victoria Hall, Stirling Road, Dunblane, Perthshire FK15 9EX (Opposite to railway station).

Parking: This is limited outside of the hall. The closest is in Station Square and on Mill Row. Best for disabled parking is the lower carpark at Tesco, with access to the hall via lifts and bridge at the railway station. Charges may apply.

Entries: To be staged on the day at 9 -10 am.

RHS Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee: Meets at 12 noon. Plants for consideration must be registered by 11 am.

TWO IANS!

TWO PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE SRGC!

TWO MASTERS OF THE ART OF ROCK GARDENING!

11.00 am Ian Young 'The Bulb Log'

In 2003 Ian began his personal web-diary covering all aspects of the bulbs he and his wife Maggi grow in their Aberdeen garden, as well as other garden projects. His dedication to The Bulb Log is a feat unequalled in our Club. It is one of the mainstays of the SRGC webpages. His words and pictures have opened a window into Scottish rock gardening for members and non-members based all around the world.

2.30 pm Ian Christie 'Spring Delights'

Ian Christie ranks as one of the top propagators and growers of rock garden and woodland garden plants in the UK. He and his wife live in Westmuir, adjacent to the Angus glens, where he cultivates many hardy bulbs. He is a leading authority on *Trillium*, *Galanthus*, *Cypripedium*, *Hepatica*, and many other spring flowering plants. Ian introduced the famous Brechin Snowdrop into general cultivation.

Display

Members are invited to bring as many pans of dwarf bulbs and early flowering alpine plants as possible. Space will be available for cut flowers of plants which members do not wish to disturb in the garden (please bring your own vases). Plants will be grouped by genera during staging between 9 and 10 am. The rule of one pan per class per exhibitor will be waived. No points will be awarded. Members may also stage small displays comprising several exhibits to show variation within the species. Every contribution increases the value of the display for others.

Plant sales

Contributions are invited to the 50:50 plant sale and raffle, which will be held to cover expenses. Members are asked to help with the teas and plant stall as this day is organised by the Bulb Group rather than a local group.

GARDENING SCOTLAND 2019

Show Dates: Friday 31st May to Sunday 2nd June

Daily Set-up: Monday 27th to Thursday 30th May

The Club will have a stand and display at Gardening Scotland 2019, at the Ingliston Showground in Edinburgh. We plan to have a similar educational exhibit to that in 2018, with a display of plants and troughs, although other ideas are welcome.

As usual we need Club members to help.

First, Set-up. We would appreciate help with assembling the stand and setting out the plants, from Monday 27th till Thursday 30th May. Setting up involves building the stand, carrying plants and materials, arranging the plants, writing labels, as well as setting out the seeds and information tables. It is essential that the stand is tidied up by removing dead leaves and flowers and other tasks so as to bring it up to the highest standard.

Second, Show Days. We need volunteers to man the stand on the three show days (Friday to Sunday). This involves engaging with the public, handing out leaflets, talking about the Club, local groups and the benefits of membership. There will be questions about the plants, usually growing conditions or where they can be bought. All the seed packets are labelled. You don't need to know everything because other members are there to help you.

There is a prearranged rota and volunteers choose their own time slots. We would welcome some new members helping this year. It is good fun and an excellent opportunity to meet fellow Club members at Scotland's top flower show.

If you would like to help please contact Richard or Stan:

Stan da Prato standaprato@talktalk.net will be in charge of the stand

Richard Green treasurer@srgc.net is organising the rota

Sandy Leven will be joint stand manager sandy.leven@btinternet.com

HIMALAYAN WEEKEND – 3rd DAVID BOYD EVENT

Saturday 22nd to Sunday 23rd June,

(8.30 am to 4 pm; First lecture 10.00)

This event is organised by the SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB in partnership with the MECONOPSIS GROUP, the ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN, EDINBURGH, the ROYAL CALEDONIAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY and the SCOTTISH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY.

Contact: Sandy Leven 01786 824064 sandy.leven@btinternet.com

Location: Lockerbie Town Hall, High Street, Lockerbie, DG11 2ES

From the north, exit the M74 at Junction 17, or from the south at Junction 18, and follow the signs to the town centre. The town hall is on the junction of the B723 and B7068.

Unloading is permitted outside of the hall, and free **car parking** is available opposite the main entrance to the town hall in McJerrrow Park and at the railway station nearby. Lockerbie is well served by rail and the town hall is a short walk from the station.

RHS Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee will meet at 12.30 pm on Saturday. Plants for consideration must be registered by 11 am.

The SRGC David Boyd events promote and encourage the cultivation of rock garden and woodland plants. This event is open to members and non-members.

We are delighted that several other societies are joining us to further our understanding of Himalayan plants. There will be talks about mountain ecology and the conditions plants enjoy in their Himalayan habitats, and how we can best provide suitable conditions in our gardens to ensure success in cultivation. In the past there has been a regular supply of new plant material from the wild as live plants, cuttings, bulbs and seeds. This situation will not continue forever. The wild areas of the world are under constant pressure from human development and governments are introducing protections. The Club realises that with increased restrictions on collecting all over the world, gardeners must ensure that those species already in cultivation are maintained and any new introductions are raised and grown successfully.

Talks

The programme will include plant hunters who have travelled to the Himalaya and marvelled at the flowers in nature. Some collect plant material under license while others collect images and memories. There will also be contributions from experienced gardeners and nurserymen who maintain these species in cultivation and propagate them for us.

HIMALAYAN WEEKEND (Continued)

Speakers on Saturday

David Knott (RBG, Edinburgh) 'The Himalayas'

Willie Campbell (Doune) and John Ray (Ballachulish) 'Rhododendrons in the wild'

Margaret Thorne (Blyth Bridge) '*Meconopsis* in the wild'

Speakers on Sunday

Tim Roberts (Thornton-Cleveleys) 'Androsaces and saxifragas in the wild and how to grow them'

Tim Lever (Aberconwy) 'High Himalayan alpiners in the wild'

Ian Christie (Kirriemuir) '*Meconopsis*, Ericaceae and cypripediums in the wild and how to grow them'

Mike Thornley (Glenarn) 'Argyll gardens and the history of the *Rhododendron*'

Plant, flower and photographic displays

Bring your plants and bulbs in pots, and cut flowers and shrubs in vases to form a display. These should not be restricted to Himalayan plants, but any that are native to the region should be marked with special labels. Also, bring photographs of plants and their habitats in the Himalaya as well as plants in gardens. We encourage everyone to participate by bringing a few entries to share with other members. If everyone who attends contributes to the display it will be outstanding.

This meeting will be at a new venue and time of year in Scotland for the Royal Horticultural Society's Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee. Many plants flowering in late June in the north will not have been previously seen by the committee. All members are encouraged to bring plants for consideration for awards.

Plant fair

Several specialist nurseries will be offering a wide selection of plants for sale.

There will be a 50:50 plant sale. Please contribute to this by bringing you own plants. These need not be Himalayan plants. Pots should be double labelled with name of plant, price, and name of seller.

Garden visits

Several choice private gardens will be open for us on Saturday and Sunday after the talks. There are many excellent public gardens and nurseries in the area which you can visit at your leisure, before or after the event. Garden entrance fees, where applicable, are not included in the conference cost.

Tea, coffee, biscuits and cakes will be on sale, but you are asked to bring your own picnic lunch. A contribution of £5 per day is payable at the event to offset expenses.

For accommodation we recommend that you see the tourist board site at <https://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/lockerbie-p239131>.

We hope you and your friends will come along to enjoy our weekend of talks, demonstrations and garden visits, when you can share your ideas with fellow gardeners in the south-west of Scotland.

SRGC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND AUTUMN FESTIVAL

9th November 2019

The day's events will start at 11.00 and end at 3.30.

Location: Burnside Hall (Old Scone Church Hall), Burnside, Scone, PH2 6LP.

Directions: take the A94 Perth/Coupar Angus road from Perth. The hall is near the David Douglas Memorial, which is well signposted. As you approach Scone take the first left turn into Cross Street, and then an immediate sharp left into Burnside, which takes you to the hall. There is ample parking. The number 7 bus runs from Perth to Scone.

More details of the lecture, AGM and talks will appear in *Dryas* in July 2019.

VACANCY FOR SECRETARY

Our secretary, Carolyn McNab, is leaving office at the AGM in November. Have you thought of becoming more involved with the Club and meeting more members?

The secretary is one of the Executive Officers of the club and performs a valuable behind the scenes role.

If you would like to know more about the role please contact Carolyn either at 01557 870225 or secretary@srgc.net

NOMINATIONS TO COUNCIL

Nominations are invited for membership of the council of the SRGC.

- Nominations must be received by the **Secretary** at least 30 days before the Annual General Meeting, which is on **9th November 2019**.
- Nominations must be in writing from the proposer - on paper or by email.
- Each nomination must state the names of one or more seconders.
- Each nomination must state that the candidate has agreed to stand for election.

The Secretary, Treasurer, Subscription Secretary, Web Manager, Publicity Manager and Editor retire annually, but are eligible for re-election. Nominations are required as described above.

Ordinary members of council serve for three years; four are elected each year.

The **Secretary** is Carolyn McNab, 01557 870225, Barmagachan House, Borgue, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4SW; email secretary@srgc.net



INTERNATIONAL ROCK GARDEN CONFERENCE Saturday 8th - Tuesday 11th May 2021, Perth Concert Hall

The next ten-yearly international conference, a gathering for lovers of plants, gardens and mountains, is due to be held in Scotland in 2021. A committee has been formed and is already making preparations. More details will be revealed over the coming months and years, through our printed publications, website and Facebook.

AWARD WINNERS 2018

Golden Jubilee Salver

The Salver may be awarded annually to an individual who has given outstanding service to the Club, and is chosen by a committee made up of the previous recipients (see Page 6 of the Year Book). In 2018 the recipient was John LEE. John has been convener of the West of Scotland Group since 2001. He was the Glasgow Show Secretary for 17 years. John has also served on Council and been a show judge. He gives talks and his special interests are bulbs in pots and Juno irises.

AGS Salver - Plantsman of the Year

The AGS Salver for the highest aggregate of First Prize Points in Section I of Club Shows in 2018 was awarded to Stan DA PRATO with 6840 points.

Rutland Salver

The Rutland Salver for the highest aggregate of Prize Points in Section II of Club Shows in 2018 was awarded to Sheila McNULTY.

The President's Award

For service to a local group the President's Award was bestowed on Linda CROUCH, for her friendliness in meeting and greeting people attending Perthshire group events - which accounts for the growth of the group in recent years.

Merit Medals

Medals have been awarded as follows:

Gold	Nick BOSS Francis & Margaret HIGGINS Alan & Jane THOMPSON Jim WATSON Ron & Hilary PRICE
Bronze	John OWEN
Gold Bar 1	Ian LESLIE Sue SIMPSON
Gold Bar 2	Ian CHRISTIE John RICHARDS
Gold Bar 3	Dave MILLWARD George YOUNG
Gold Bar 10	Carole & Ian BAINBRIDGE
Gold Bar 14	Cyril LAFONG

AWARDS (Continued)

Crosland Award

This award for the best article in the *The Rock Garden* in 2018 was awarded to Bob MITCHELL for 'Alaskan Adventure' (Issue 140).

David Lane Award

This award for the best photograph in *The Rock Garden* in 2018 was awarded to David RANKIN for *Meconopsis punicea* forma *albiflora* (Issue 141 July p33).

The Alf Evans Award

This award for the best alpine stand at Gardening Scotland 2018 was awarded to Kevock Nursery.

The Williamson Trophy

This trophy is given to the best exhibit in the SRGC's art competition. In 2018 it was awarded to Ann SINCLAIR for her paper-cut cards of *Arisaema*. These were the winning entry from the Stirling Show and were re-exhibited at the AGM.

TWICE-YEARLY PHOTOGRAPHIC AND ART COMPETITION

A big thank you to all who have created and exhibited art works during 2018. The standard has been very high and there have been some imaginative and interesting entries including needlework, paper cuts, watercolours and very well mounted photographs. The John Boyd event on North Uist has inspired more than one entry to this autumn's competition. Perhaps the coming event in Lockerbie will generate some more? Some entrants are now well on their way to getting the first of the art medal awards. Ten firsts are needed for a bronze medal. Don't forget that since the start of

2018, there are no cash prizes, but points mean medals!

Results from the AGM at Scone 2018 Class 1 Photographic print of a rock plant

1st Carolyn McNAB, "*Meconopsis* species in bud".

2nd Ian CHRISTIE, "Wild Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) in North Uist".

3rd Sheila SADD, Blairgowrie, "Close up of *Parnassia palustris*".

Class 2 Photographic print of an alpine landscape or habitat

1st Ian CHRISTIE, Westmuir, "*Raoulia buchananii* in New Zealand".

2nd Carolyn McNAB, Borgue, '*Orchis quadripunctata* in limestone crevice, Crete'.

Class 3 A digitally manipulated image or design - No entries

AWARDS (Continued)

Class 4 A drawing or painting of a rock plant

1st Anne CHAMBERS, watercolour of "*Calystegia soldanella* (Sea Bindweed) in North Uist".

2nd Ann SINCLAIR, Stewarton, watercolour of "A series of grasses".

Class 5 Piece of artwork or craftwork inspired by a rock plant/alpine habitat

1st Carolyn McNAB, textile artwork of patchwork and pressed flowers "Inspired by an Asian Primula Meadow".

Also exhibited (winning entry from Kincardine and contender for the Williamson trophy) were Ann Sinclair's paper-cut cards of *Arisaema*.

Judges

Thanks to Lynn and Michael ALMOND and Anton EDWARDS.

"Firsts" totals

Anne CHAMBERS 2, Ian CHRISTIE 2, Margaret FRASER 2, Carolyn McNAB 5, Sheila SADD 1, Ann SINCLAIR 1.

Photographic Competition Manager

Cathy Caudwell 01828 686709 c.m.caudwell@fireflyuk.net

EXPLORATION AWARDS - AUTUMN 2018

The SRGC set up Exploration Awards in 1985 to give grants to help finance projects or trips pertaining to rock garden plants. Feedback from recipients such as articles, talks, and photographs is appreciated. Recipients of grants need not necessarily be members of the SRGC.

The next deadline for receipt of applications for Exploration Awards is Friday 15th March 2019. Application form and Awards Criteria can be downloaded from srgc.net/site/index.php/extensions/grants or by contacting the **Fund Secretary:** Carol Shaw findhorncarol@icloud.com 01309 641405.

Donations for awards are always welcome. Contributions should be sent to the **Treasurer:** Richard Green, Cedar Cottage, Balfron Station, Glasgow G63 OSQ treasurer@srgc.net.

DIANA AITCHISON FUND

This Fund, in memory of nurserywoman Diana Aitchison, awards grants and bursaries to support younger people who wish to pursue or further a career in horticulture and can demonstrate an interest in furthering their knowledge of alpine and rock garden plants.

For application forms and awards criteria please go to:

srgc.net/site/index.php/extensions/grants or contact the **Fund Administrator:** Matthew Topsfield 07775 812036 mtopsfield@icloud.com

SEED EXCHANGE & DISTRIBUTION

As you receive this January issue of *Dryas*, the 72nd Seed Distribution will be nearing completion. Queries about seed requests should be addressed to Neil McNulty, but please do not enquire about the whereabouts of seed until after Thursday 15th February.

A huge thank you goes to all the members who donated such a wide variety of seed without whom this seed exchange would not be possible. Thank you too to the many volunteers who help at each stage of the reception, packaging and distribution of the seed.

Details of the 2019/20 Seed Exchange will be given in the summer issue of *Dryas*.

Seed Order Reception Manager:

Neil McNulty, 6 Main Road, Crookedholm, Kilmarnock KA3 6JT, 01563 526 351, neil.mcnultysrgcseedexchange@talktalk.net

AN APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PACKET SEEDS

For new members of the SRGC, 'seed packeting' is the process of placing donated seeds into small glassine envelopes for later distribution. It is the middle process of the SRGC Seed Exchange and is of vital importance. Last year we had only just enough volunteers to cope and are therefore anxious to recruit new volunteers. It has been agreed that participants need not be members of the Club and that friends of members would be more than welcome to take part.

Please do consider joining the team. Detailed instructions will be given. Contact the **Seed Packeting Manager:** George Watt 01292 592445, seed@srgc.org.uk, Burnside, Littlemill Road, Drongan, East Ayrshire, KA6 7EN.

DISCUSSION WEEKEND 2019 Friday 11th - Sunday 13th October Grantown-on-Spey (Booking Form Page 16) Provisional Programme

Friday 11th October 2019

15.00	Registration	16.00 – 17.00	Plant Staging
18.00	Dinner	19.45	President's Welcome
20.00	The Jim Archibald Bulb Lecture: Dimitri Zubov (subject to Visa agreement) 'Bulbs in the Wild'		
21.00	Small Bulb Exchange		

Saturday 12th October 2019

7.00 – 9.00	Breakfast	8.00 – 9.00	Plant Staging
9.00	Optional activities	9.30	Guided walks, organised by the hotel
12.15	Lunch		
13.45	The Harold Esslemont Lecture: Anne Wright 'Growing Bulbs'		
14.45	Peter Korn 'Inspiration from the Steppe'		
16.15	Steve Newall 'Growing Plants for Seeds'		
18.30	Reception	19.00	Gala Dinner
20.15	Presentation of trophies	20.30	Plant Auction

Sunday 13th October 2019

7 – 9	Breakfast	8.00	Show Open
9.30	The William Buchanan Lecture: Christopher Bailes 'Gardening with Shade Perennials'		
11.00	Steve Newell 'The Alpine Gems of Te Waipounamu'		
12.15	Lunch	13.15	Show Closed
13.30	Peter Korn: 'Creating Conditions'		
14.30	The John Duff Lecture: Kevin Hughes 'Cally Gardens - my First Year'		
15.30	Closing Address		

Booking :

Please give details of your dates and room type in the booking form (page 16).

If you need extra nights, we will book these for you. Extra nights are to be settled by you with the hotel on checking out.

Please send the form on the last page of *Dryas* together with the appropriate remittance, made payable to "Perthshire RGC Discussion Weekend" to the Registration Secretary.

Registration Secretary:

Julia Corden, 2 Lettoch Place, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5BB,
julia.corden@icloud.com

Terms and conditions:

Your booking form and remittance must reach Julia no later than 31st August 2019.

Cancellations:

No refunds will be given for cancellations made after 31st August 2019.

DISCUSSION WEEKEND BURSARY 2019

An annual bursary is offered to any member of the SRGC who has never been to a Discussion Weekend, covering the cost of the weekend. All other expenses such as travel or extra nights at the hotel must be met by the recipient.

Group Conveners as well as the Forum Administrator are asked to canvas interest within their Group/Forum and select one individual to be nominated for the bursary. Members who are neither part of a Group or the Forum should make their submissions directly to the Secretary.

Closing Date Saturday 30th March 2019. The name will be drawn Saturday 20th April 2019.

DISCUSSION WEEKEND BOOKING FORM 2019

Please complete in block capitals

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

EMAIL

TEL No.

RESIDENT	Per Person	No.	TOTAL COST
Friday dinner to Sunday afternoon tea - double	£237		
Friday dinner to Sunday afternoon tea - single	£287		
Saturday morning to Sunday afternoon - double	£168		
TOTAL COST			

Please indicate your needs:

Double occupancy room preference:

Twin beds Double bed

Walk-in shower required:

Yes No

Dietary requirements:

Special requirements:

Name of roommate booking separately:

Extra nights DBB are payable directly to the hotel at £71-50 per person per night

Extra nights required:

NON-RESIDENT	Per Person	No.	TOTAL COST
Friday - evening (including dinner)	£30		
Saturday - morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea	£30		
Saturday - as above plus dinner	£70		
Sunday - morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea	£30		
TOTAL COST			