

THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB



2016 YEAR BOOK & JANUARY SECRETARY'S PAGES

NOTICE

The 2016 AGM will take place on Saturday 12 November 2016 at the Balformo Road Church Hall, Scone.

Full details will be published in the July Secretary's Pages

DISCUSSION WEEKEND PEBBLES

Friday 14th - Sunday 16th October

Details of the programme can be found in the January issue of "The Rock Garden"

The BOOKING FORM is part of this booklet.

THE SHOW SCHEDULES are printed as a separate document and include the Show Rules, Special Awards, Rules for Judges, RHS Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee information, full details of all Shows and the Photographic/Art Competitions.

Show Schedules are no longer sent automatically to overseas members. A copy is available here: http://files.srgc.net/show_info/SRGCShowSchedules2016.pdf

Honorary President

Mrs Elizabeth IVEY, 56 Tarvit Avenue, Cupar, Fife KY15 5BW

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Ms Sue GILL, 16 Grangewood Terrace, Stobswood, Northumberland. NE61 5QE
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Mrs Jean WYLLIE, 1 Wallace Road, Dunblane FK15 9HY 01786 822 593
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Diana Aitchison Fund Administrator

Ms Julia CORDEN, 2 Lettoch Place, Pitlochry PH16 5BB 01796 474 410
julia.corden@pitlochry.org.uk

WORKING GROUPS

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Publicity & Publications. Chairman: Dr P Semple. Members: Mr A Elliott, Mr M Topsfield,
Mr A Edwards, Mr S Leven

Group Conveners. Chairman: Mr D Shaw. Members: All Group Conveners.

Show Secretaries. Chairman: Mr F B Caudwell. Members: All Show Secretaries.

OTHER COMMITTEES

Aitchison Fund. Chairman: Mr R McBeath. Members: Dr C Bainbridge, Dr D Millward, Mr R Green.

Exploration Fund. Chairman: Mrs L Mills. Members: Dr A Bush, Mrs A Chambers, Mr M Almond, Dr D Millward, The Treasurer, The Secretary.

Golden Jubilee Salver. Chairman: The President. Members: Previous recipients

The Bulb Group. Chairman: Mr A Leven. Members: Mr F B Caudwell, Mr I Christie, Mr R Green, Mrs L Mills, Mrs C Shaw, Mr I Young.

GROUPS: CONVENERS, MEETING VENUES AND DATES

Aberdeen: Mr Mike HOPKINS, Sunfield, Leschangie, Kemnay, Inverurie AB51 5PP 01467 642 429. Rubislaw Church Centre, Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen: Last Tuesday in the month.

Angus: Mr Michael ALMOND, The Retreat, Grange, Errol. PH2 7SZ 01821 642232 Room 2F13, Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill, University of Dundee
First (or second) Monday in the month.

Ayrshire: Mr George WATT, Burnside, Littlemill Road, Drongan, East Ayrshire KA6 7EN 01292 592445 Alloway Church Hall, Alloway: Second Wednesday in the month.

Borders: Mrs Christine WATSON 14 Buccleuch Chase, St. Boswells, Melrose. TD6 0HB cawtd6@googlemail.com Bowden Village Hall: First Monday in the month.

West of Scotland: Mr John LEE, 25 Douglas Drive, Old Drumchapel, Glasgow G15 6SW 0141 944 2411. The Fraser Centre, Douglas Street, Milngavie: Second Monday in the month.

Edinburgh: Mr John MITCHELL, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20a Inverleith Row, Edinburgh. EH3 5LR 0131 248 2918 j.mitchell@rbge.ac.uk Second Tuesday in the month.

Highland: Mr John OWEN, Askival, Fort Augustus PH32 4DS 01320 366246 askivalpines@johnowen58.orangehome.co.uk Nairn Community Centre: Second Wednesday in the month

Moray: Mr Alan SOUTER, Stac Pollaidh, Aberlour, AB38 9LL 01340 871504. alan.souter@talk21.com New Elgin Public Hall Annex, Land Street, New Elgin: Last Friday in the month.

North Cumbria Rock Garden Group (North West England): Mr. Tony MITCHELL Eastwood, 132 Houghton Road, Carlisle CA3 0LD 01228 528546 Third Friday evening in month.

North Northumberland: Mr Mike DALE, Bradley Brook Farm, Felton, Northumberland NE65 9HR 01670 787714 Belford Community Centre, Belford: Various Wednesday or Thursday afternoons, details from Mr Dale.

Perthshire: Ms Susan BAND, Scotts Park, Pitcairngreen, Perth PH1 3LT 01738 583 213 susan@pitcairnarpines.co.uk Moncrieff Community Centre, Glenearn Road, Perth: First Tuesday in the month.

South West Scotland: Mrs Carolyn McNAB, Baramagachan House, Borgue, Kirkcudbright DG6 4SW 01557 870225 carolynmcnab@hotmail.com Threave Garden Visitor Centre, Castle Douglas: Usually second Thursday in the month October through March

Stirling: Mr Sandy LEVEN, 2 Leighton Court, Dunblane, Perthshire FK15 0ED 01786 824 064 sandy.leven@btinternet.com Dunblane Christian Fellowship Hall, Stirling Road, Dunblane: First Wednesday in the month.

Group Meetings are normally held monthly from September or October until March or April. The normal dates of meetings are given and the lectures usually start at 7.30 pm. Exceptions do occur, so it is wise to check by contacting the appropriate Group Convener.

AWARDS

Golden Jubilee Salver

Surviving recipients are: Mr A J Leven, Mrs E B Ivey, Mr J H A Milne, Mr R J D McBeath, Mrs J Wyllie, Mr A D McKelvie, Mrs L Bezzant, Mr T G Sprunt, Mrs J Thomlinson, Mrs M Taylor, Mr H Taylor, Mr I Young, Mrs A Chambers. Dr I Bainbridge, Mr I Christie, Mr J Sutherland. Ms J Corden, Mrs L Mills.

The Salver may be awarded annually to an individual who has given outstanding service to the Club. In 2015 the recipient was Mr A Newton.

AGS Salver - Plantsman of the Year

The AGS Salver for the highest aggregate of First Prize Points in Section I of Club Shows in 2015 was awarded to Dr Stan da Prato with 5790 points.

Rutland Salver

The Rutland Salver for the highest aggregate of First Prize Points in Section II of Club Shows in 2015 was awarded to Bob Worsley with 1319 points.

The President's Award

For service to a local group was awarded to Elspeth Mackintosh

Merit Medals

Merit Medals have been awarded in 2015 as follows:

Gold: Mr L Clarkson (1st), Mr & Mrs F Hoyle (1st), Mr & Mrs B Smethurst (3rd), Mr D Peace (4th), Mr & Mrs D Rankin (6th), Drs C & I Bainbridge (9th), Dr S da Prato (9th), Dr S da Prato (10th), Mr C Lafong (13th).

Silver: Mr T Lever

Bronze: Mr & Mrs F Higgins, Mr J McGregor, Mr & Mrs I McNaughton, Mr R Pickering, Ms S Simpson.

Peg Crosland Award

The Peg Crosland Award for the best article in "The Rock Garden" was awarded to Alan Elliott for "Exploration of the Darchula District Nepal, 2012" in the July issue.

David Lane Award

The David Lane Award for the best photograph in "The Rock Garden" was awarded to Liz Knowles for her photograph of *Oxalis adenophylla*: habitat and blooms in the Maule Valley on the way to Paso del Guanaco in the July issue.

The Alf Evans Award

The Alf Evans Award for the best alpine stand at Gardening Scotland was awarded to Kevoek Plants.

Best Exhibit in Art Group:

The Williamson Trophy was not awarded as there were no entries to the competition.

THE DIANA AITCHISON FUND

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

Further information and application forms are available from the Fund Administrator: Miss Julia Corden, 2 Lettoch Place, Pitlochry PH16 5BB Tel 01796 474 410 e-mail: julia.corden@pitlochry.org.uk and on the SRGC website.

THE EXPLORATION FUND

The Exploration Fund was set up in 1985 to award grants to help finance projects or trips pertaining to rock garden plants. Feedback in the form of articles, talks, photographs etc., is appreciated. Recipients of grants need not necessarily be members of the SRGC.

On a trial basis, applications for a grant for an expedition in 2016/7 will be accepted at any time during the coming year. Application forms are available from the Secretary.

Contributions to the Fund are always welcome and would enable us to offer more support. Any donations should be sent to the Treasurer, Mr Richard Green, Cedar Cottage, Balfron Station, Glasgow G63 0SQ

ANNUAL LECTURES

The Clark Memorial Lecture is given at the Annual General Meeting.

The Jim Archibald Lecture is given at the Discussion Weekend. The essential feature of this Lecture is that it is given on bulbs.

The W. C. Buchanan Memorial Lecture is given at the Discussion Weekend. The essential feature of this Lecture is that it is given on the raising and growing of plants.

The Harold Esslemont Lecture is given at the Discussion Weekend. The Lecture is devoted to plant hunting and the introduction of plants.

The John Duff Scottish Lecture is given at the Discussion Weekend. The Lecture is to be given by a Scottish speaker.

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Scottish Rock Garden Club became affiliated to The Royal Horticultural Society in 1954.

CLUB STATUS

The Scottish Rock Garden Club is registered as a Charity, No. SCO 00942.

INFORMATION DEADLINES

Show Schedules:	to the Chairman of Show Secretaries by 1 November
Show Reports:	to the Editor within one month of Show concerned
Journal Material:	to the Editor by 1 April for the July Journal to the Editor by 1 November for the January Journal.
Advertisement Copy:	to the Advertising Manager by 1 April for the July Journal to the Advertising Manager by 1 Nov. for the January Journal
Secretary's Page Material:	to the Secretary by 18 May for the July issue
Yearbook Material:	to the Secretary by 18 November for the January issue
Applications for Expenses	to the Treasurer by 30 June

SECRETARY'S PAGES

SHOWS

20th February DUNBLANE EARLY DWARF BULB DISPLAY*

Mr Sandy LEVEN, 2 Leighton Court, Dunblane, Perthshire FK15 0ED Tel 01786 824064
sandy.leven@btinternet.com

12th March KENDAL SHOW

Mr Alan OATWAY, Coulmore, Canny Hill, Newby Bridge, Ulverston, LA12 8NT Tel: 015395
30702, email: Alan.Oatway@agsgroups.org

19th March KINCARDINE SHOW#

Mr Sam SUTHERLAND, 18a Kirk Street, Kincardine FK10 4PT Tel 01259 731695
scsutherland@hotmail.com

2nd April NORTHUMBERLAND SHOW, HEXHAM*

Mr Peter MAGUIRE, 18 Princes Meadow, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 4AZ Tel 0191
284 0385 pandamaguire@btinternet.com

9th April EDINBURGH & THE LOTHIANS SHOW*

Dr David MILLWARD, 4 Newbyth Stables, East Linton, East Lothian EH40 3DU Tel 01620
870283 dmillward6@aol.com

16th April PERTH SHOW

Miss Julia CORDEN, 2 Lettoch Place, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5BB Tel 01796 474410
julia.corden@pitlochry.org.uk

30th April HIGHLAND SHOW

Carol & David SHAW, Delft Cottage, Dyke Forres. IV36 2TF Tel 01309 641405
delftdavid@googlemail.com

7th May GLASGOW SHOW *

Mr John LEE, 25 Douglas Drive, Old Drumchapel, Glasgow G15 6SW Tel 0141 944 2411

14th May ABERDEEN SHOW

Ian & Lillian Chapman, 3 Morningside Crescent, Aberdeen AB10 7NW Tel 01224 310188
ian.chapman7@virgin.net

20th August SRGC SUMMER EVENT

Mr Sandy LEVEN, 2 Leighton Court, Dunblane, Perthshire FK15 0ED Tel 01786 824064
sandy.leven@btinternet.com

24 - 25th September LATE BULB PENRITH WEEKEND "A Celebration of Cyclamen"

Mr Barry CAUDWELL, Abernyte Farm Cottage, Abernyte, Inchtute, Perthshire PH14 9ST
Tel 01828 686709 f.b.caudwell@fireflyuk.net

8th October NEWCASTLE SHOW

Alan NEWTON, 12 Main Street, Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE20 9NR. Tel: 01661
871974. Alan.Newton@agsgroups.org

Alan FURNESS, St Lukes Cottage, Wooley, Hexham. NE46 1TT. Tel: 01434 673445
a.furness944@btinternet.com

15th October DISCUSSION WEEKEND, PEEBLES*

Dr David MILLWARD, 4 Newbyth Stables, East Linton, East Lothian EH40 3DU Tel 01620 870283 dmillward6@aol.com

* Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee meeting at this Show

Show Schedules are no longer sent automatically to overseas members. Should any overseas member wish to receive a copy, please contact the Secretary.

EVENTS

Early Bulb Display 20 February - Dunblane

The speakers this year are Neil Huntley of Hartside Nursery on Roscoeas, Ian Christie on Trilliums and Alan McMurtrie on Reticulata Irises. Neil and Alan are expert growers who are well known to members, Alan is best known to Reticulate Iris enthusiasts. In 2010 he was awarded the British Iris Society's Foster Memorial Plaque for his work. This is the society's highest award. He has spent decades hybridising the different species of the reticulate section and has raised some amazingly beautiful plants. Those at last spring's Early Bulb would have seen on the benches and John Amand's stand, half a dozen or so of his hybrids. This is a rare opportunity to learn from three masters on one day. Don't forget to bring your plants for the display!

Brookfield Prize: One pan crocus grown from seed by the exhibitor. First prize £10 Second £5 Third £3

Gardening Scotland Friday 3 June - Sunday 5 June

The SRGC is building its own stand again this year. Help is needed in setting up the stand, loaning plants and shrubs and being present at the actual event to sell seed, talk to visitors and generally promote the Club. For further information please contact Liz Mills 01383 852321 liz.saline@hotmail.co.uk

Flowers of the Hills & Mountains SRGC Summer Meeting 20 August 10:00am to 4:00pm Dunblane Christian Fellowship Hall & Victoria Halls

- 11am John Mitchell - From the Wild to the Garden - Central Asian Plants
- 3pm Elspeth Mackintosh - Looking after bulbs at the RBG Edinburgh
- Display of rock garden plants, flowers, foliage and fruits.
- Seedling and plant exchange.
- Plant Sales.

Late Bulb Penrith Weekend "A Celebration of Cyclamen" 24 & 25th September

The SRGC and The Cyclamen Society are cooperating to offer our members a special weekend of talks centred on the genus Cyclamen. The venue is Evergreen Hall in Penrith. The M6 and the West Coast Railway network serve Penrith.

The talks will cover cultivation of Cyclamen in the UK and the Netherlands with the results of the many expeditions sponsored by the CS. Over the years the Society has studied most Cyclamen species in the wild. We will learn about the new research carried out at Reading University, how species are related and how research has identified new species of Cyclamen. Complimenting this new scientific work will be two more general talks on the bulbous plants of Greece.

To keep costs for those attending to a minimum we are not arranging overnight accommodation. Members should bring their own picnic lunches. There are supermarkets, shops and restaurants near the hall. There are many hotels and B&B's in the area.

Full details will be in the July Secretary's Pages and online at the SRGC website srgc.net to be kept in touch or for a list of local hotels contact: Barry Caudwell; telephone 01828 686709 or E-mail f.b.caudwell@fireflyuk.net

Young SRGC

Over the last few months a group of young(ish) people have got together in an informal group that has come to be known as 'Young SRGC'. It started as mainly people in horticulture, predominantly students, in their 20s and 30s. The age range spread as it was realised that many horticultural students are career changers, and the news is now reaching other interested people.

There is no formal structure, just a list of emails and a Facebook page. So far they have met once, with about 20 people meeting for a day near Edinburgh for a practical session on seed cleaning (very popular), short talks from three of the group about their activities, a talk from an 'oldie' about raising plants from seed, a hike, and of course food and drink.

Graham Gunn, who initiated the group with Marcus Melin, says "I found that there was a large interest in the meeting even for people outside of horticulture. I feel as though this group could utilise the huge amount of knowledge within the SRGC and help bring in new members. This is particularly important to some of the younger people who may not be interested in the traditional lecture style of meeting and want to learn and meet in different ways."

There are now nearly 60 people who have expressed interest, and future meetings will take place wherever there are people who want to meet together. As that first event had participants from China, America and even England, we hope that this will benefit other societies, not just the SRGC.

If you are interested, send an email to Graham (grahamgunn58@hotmail.com), and follow the Facebook page.

Email addresses

The club would like to use email as an efficient way of communicating with members. If you are happy for us to do this, please send an email to emails@srgc.net. Just give your name, or in the case of several family members using the same email address, all of the names. And if there are likely to be several members sharing your name, please provide another piece of information to identify yourself.

The information will only be used for club business, and will not be passed to any other person or organisation.

If you are a member of council or a group convener or a show secretary, or you signed up at the AGM, or you are an electronic member of the SRGC, we already know about you!

If you don't use email, you will still receive communications. Thank you. And thanks to Petra Palkova, one of the Young SRGC members, who offered to collate all the addresses.

Heeeeeeeelp!

We want to involve more people in the wide-ranging activities that make our club so vibrant, and would like lots of people contributing, maybe in small ways. And some of these contributions can be made from a distance – so all our members around the world can have active roles in the club.

There are some specific roles to be filled, but we would also like to know of talents that you have that could be used.

Specific

Minutes Secretary – two council meetings a year plus the AGM

Secretary – from November 2016

Seed exchange packeting – organisation of the packeting. The packeting itself is shared between lots of people, but we need someone to take overall responsibility.

General

Computer skills – websites, databases, conferencing. We already have a committed team, but this area continues to develop, and it changes fast. We can use people with specific technical knowledge of such things as stylesheets, JavaScript, responsive web, etc., but willingness to contribute to the content of the website will also be most welcome. That doesn't require any specialist skills.

Similarly, we would welcome anyone who is willing to write press articles, or to take photographs at shows (and other events). And there is a continuing need for material for both the printed journal, the Rock Garden, and for the on-line International Rock Gardener.

Don't be shy! Please let us know how you might be able to help. Email Carol Shaw, the secretary, findhorncarol@icloud.com or David Rankin, president, d.w.h.rankin@ed.ac.uk.

JAMIE TAGGART AN APPRECIATION

In early November 2013, Jamie Taggart of the Linn Botanic Gardens in Cove, Argyll went missing on a plant-finding trip to the mountains of northern Vietnam. He had returned alone to an area where he had been two years previously, hoping to explore at a higher altitude. In spite of searches his whereabouts remained unknown until very recently when a body with his personal items nearby was found. It is believed he may have fallen, a tragic end to the life of a dedicated plantsman. Jamie took over the running of the garden from his father in 1997, having trained at Benmore Botanic Garden, Auchencruive and Glenarn, then on the botany degree course at Glasgow University. He introduced a greater generic and species diversity to the gardens, already home to many rare and unusual rhododendrons; fern cultivation was one of his interests and he developed a large scree area for southern hemisphere plants, all of which thrived in the mild climate and sheltered conditions of the garden. Before Phytophthora, the Glasgow show was much enhanced by his wonderful displays of rhododendrons. Jamie's death is an irreplaceable loss to his family and friends.

DEATHS

The Club has received intimation of the death of the following members: Mr Douglas Bird, Wakefield; Mr R Booth, Leeds; Mr David Boyd, Powburn; Mr A Bramwell, Inverness; Mr R Clowes, Kings Somborne; Mrs Anne Cooper, Newcastle under Lyme; Mrs M Craster, Alnwick; Miss Nora Elliott, Kinross; Mrs Patricia Evans, Lairg; Dr Alex Hastie, Dundee; Mr M Lamb, Bearsden; Mr Donald Lee, Welwyn Garden City; Mrs Jane Machine, Jersey; Mr Eric Robinson, Biggar; Mrs Jill Sleigh, Ecclesmachan; Miss Marigold Speir, St Andrews; Mary Sutherland, Tain; Mr W F Swift, Sheffield; Mr J Taggart, Cove.

We extend our sympathies to their families and friends

SEED EXCHANGE AND DISTRIBUTION

As you receive this Yearbook and Secretary's Pages, the 69th Seed Distribution will be nearing completion. Queries about seed requests should be addressed to Mr. Neil McNulty, neil.mcnuitysrcseedexchange@talktalk.net but please do not enquire about the whereabouts of seed until after 15th February.

Details of the 2016/17 Seed Exchange will be given in the summer issue of the Secretary's Pages.

Neil McNulty, 6 Main Road, Crookedholm, Kilmarnock KA3 6JT Tel. 01563 526 351

BEQUEST

The Scottish Rock Garden Club has received a significant bequest from the estate of David Boyd who died last year. David was a stalwart of the Club and we are extremely grateful for his bequest.

DISCUSSION WEEKEND BURSARY 2016

An annual bursary is offered to any member of the SRGC who has never been to a Discussion Weekend. This covers the cost of the Discussion Weekend. All other expenses, e.g. travel, extra nights at the hotel, etc must be met by the recipient. In 2016 the Discussion Weekend will be held in the Cardrona Hotel, Peebles 14 - 16 October.

Group Convenors as well as the Forum Administrator should canvas interest within their Group/Forum and select one individual to be nominated for the bursary. Members who are neither part of a Group nor the Forum should make their submission direct to the Secretary.

The nomination should be sent to the Club Secretary either by e-mail or by post. One member will be selected at random from all those put forward.

NOTE: Deadline for receiving all nominations is 28 February 2016

EXECUTIVE & COUNCIL CHANGES

Please see AGM minutes for details of all changes.

Thanks for all their hard work are due to following people whose term of office ended during the course of the year: Bob Moore, Ian Christie, Sam Sutherland (Ordinary Members on Council), Ann Brown (Minute Secretary) and John Owen (Chair of Convenors). Welcome to all new Office Bearers and Council members - full details appear in this publication.

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS FOR 2016 AGM

Are required annually for all Executive Office-Bearers and four Ordinary Members of Council. These should include proposers and seconders along with a short pen portrait of the nominee.

Nominations should be lodged with the Secretary no later than 30 days prior to the AGM.

Results of the Twice-Yearly Photographic Competition – AGM, 14 November 2015

Class 1 – Plant portrait in cultivation or the wild

1st Richard Green, Glasgow, *Dryas octopetala*

2nd Matt Topsfield, South Uist, *Narcissus canaliculatus*

3rd Peter Maguire, Gosforth, *Astragalus alpinus*, Val Gardena, Italy

Class 2 - Alpine plants in their habitat

1st Richard Green, *Pulsatilla* sp., Pyrenees

2nd Peter Maguire, *Neottia nidus-avis*, Valelunga, Dolomites, Italy

3rd Matt Topsfield, Scottish Mountain Summit habitat on Eaval, N. Uist (347m) with *Sedum anglicum*

Class 3 - Digitally manipulated work

1st Peter Maguire, *Alstroemeria garavetae*, Summer Show North, 2006. "Photograph altered to desaturate and slightly blur background, creating an image which enhances a single flower of the inflorescence".

Class 4 - No entries

Class 5 - No entries

Please refer to page 12 of the Show Schedules for the full definitions of classes, only a brief resumé is given above.

Thanks to all the entrants and to the judges, Maggie Young and Henry Taylor. There were no entries in Classes 4 and 5, and the Williamson Cup was not awarded this year.

This year's competitions will be held at the Kincardine Show and at the AGM.

Cathy Caudwell

The MINUTES of the AGM held at Old Scone Church Hall on Saturday 14 November 2015 appear below. Please note that the publication of these Minutes in the Secretary's Pages means that no copies will be issued at the 2015 AGM.

PLEASE RETAIN THESE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.!

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Rock Garden Club held on 14th November 2015 at Old Scone Church Hall, Scone at 1 p.m.

The President, Dr Carole Bainbridge welcomed 58 members to the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Rock Garden Club and thanked all for coming. Sadly the President reported the deaths of 27 members during the year including Michael Upward, a former Secretary of the Alpine Garden Society, Jill Sleigh, who was a Council Member of the SRGC, and Secretary to the 'Alpines 1981' Joint International Conference, David Boyd, a well-known grower and shower from Powburn, Northumberland and Jane Machin, an Edinburgh Member, latterly from Jersey.

1. Apologies had been received from Christine Boulby, Lynn and Ron Bezzant, Helen Donald, Audrey Leach, Bob Moore, Alan & Colline Souter, Sam Sutherland, Jackie Thomlinson, Pat Watson

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 15 November 2014 held in the Old Scone Church Hall.

Bette Ivey proposed acceptance, David Shaw seconded and members approved.

3. Matters Arising There were no matters arising.

4. The President's Review of the Year

The President said that times were challenging for clubs managed by volunteers. Changing lifestyles had resulted in falling membership numbers and income. However 2015 had seen the Club perform better than many clubs with the Club's finances still in good shape and membership holding up with only a slight decline over the year. Thanks were due to many who help manage the affairs for keeping the Club on the right track. She thanked Council, all the members who had worked hard to keep the Club running smoothly, and in particular, she thanked the retiring Council members, Ian Christie, Bob Moore and Sam Sutherland, who had contributed so much to Council during their three year term of office. Their experience and sound advice had been invaluable.

The Club's Minute Secretary, Ann Brown was also retiring as of this AGM; she deserved the admiration of all for making sense of Council minutes and recording the AGM accurately. The Club needs a replacement Minutes Secretary so anyone who would like to take on this role was asked to 'make yourself known'. In the summer, Bette Ivey, Honorary President, announced that she wished to stand down from her position as Chair of the Exploration Fund after many years' service as soon as there was a replacement. Another retiree was Stuart Pawley, the Seed Reception Manager, who had effectively managed the seed donations and produced the catalogue for the Seed Exchange. The President expressed her thanks to all for their contributions to the Club.

A further person had finally decided that it was time to retire. Jean Wyllie had volunteered for many years providing lunch for Council and Finance Committee meetings – her cheese scones had become legendary. On behalf of Council, the President thanked her for all her work – she would be very greatly missed.

As of early November, the current membership of the Club is 2,401 (total of paper and electronic members). Last year the total was 2,495. Over the year we therefore had experienced a continuing small decline in numbers. The option of electronic membership had resulted in some switches from paper membership to electronic membership and indeed some new members were joining through the electronic system. This seemed to be a more popular membership route for new overseas members.

The Club is registered as a Scottish Charity and as such the focus is on fostering an interest in rock and woodland plants, to spread knowledge of such plants and to encourage their cultivation. This education aspect of the Club's objectives underpins all activities but especially the main methods of communicating with both members and the general public through the Journal and the SRGC web site.

During the past year the web site and forum have remained as active and popular as ever. In addition as more people use social media, the Club's online presence includes a Facebook page and a Twitter account. She thanked the web team, Ian and Maggi Young and Fred Carrie for the enormous amount of work they did on behalf of the Club in developing and managing the Club's online activities.

The online membership system had recently been redesigned and the number of members receiving all Club material electronically had increased steadily. A number of those who previously received paper communications had switched to electronic membership. The Club now had 187 electronic members and expects this trend to continue in the future.

Looking back at the two issues of The Rock Garden produced in 2015, the Editor provided members with a feast for the eyes and an opportunity to explore a wide range of alpine information – from cultivation of Meconopsis and daffodils, reports of trips to far flung places and those not so far flung such as Ian Christie's trip to Golspie, to articles on plant groups – the mix of articles was superb and the standard of photography outstanding. The President thanked Anton Edwards for providing members with such an informative and well produced duo of Journals.

The Club continued to provide financial support to individuals through the Exploration Fund and the Diana Aitchison Fund. In 2015 the Exploration Fund provided support to six individuals covering trips to Bhutan, the Western Cape of South Africa, Sichuan and a field trip to various locations to study Pulsatillas. In recent years applications to the Diana Aitchison Fund had been disappointing; however in 2015, following an improved publicity drive, applications to the fund increased and twelve individual awards were made to enable young people to gain experience and knowledge to help them in their horticultural careers. The President thanked all those who served on those committees and especially to Bette Ivey for her work in chairing the Exploration Fund, Ron McBeath the chair of the Diana Aitchison Fund and Julia Corden, the Diana Aitchison Fund administrator.

2015 was a challenging year for those members who participated in the shows. A mild start to the season was followed by a long cold spell. This resulted in a strange mix of plants on the show benches with some plants flowering very late and others very early. However, despite the odds, the growers and showers produced some wonderful plants and all the shows provided an amazing showcase of alpine plants. This year the Stirling show at Kincardine was visited and filmed by the Beechgrove Garden team with the resulting SRGC piece being shown later in the spring. The President thanked Sam Sutherland for all his efforts to organise this show.

The Beechgrove Garden piece had promoted the Club and its shows to a wide audience encouraging others to be interested in alpine plants. All shows are open both to the membership and the general public except for the Discussion Weekend Show. However, not everyone can attend the shows in person. Several members post pictures of the shows on the web site and forum so that more distant enthusiasts can join in. She thanked particularly Sandy Leven for his reports on the web and Stan da Prato for rapidly posting pictures from the shows to the forum.

The Gardening Scotland team was now a well-experienced, co-ordinated unit pulling in expertise and resources from all over Scotland. This year the display was their best yet and was rewarded by the judges with a Gold Medal, their third gold in a row. She congratulated everyone who helped and thanked all for their hard work in promoting the Club with such a wonderful demonstration of rock garden plants.

The 2015 Discussion Weekend was held for the third and last time at Grantown-on-Spey. As in previous years the weekend was fully booked and the welcome from the staff at the Grant Arms was very warm. The programme included several speakers 'new to Scotland' as well as some well-known faces. The subjects were wide ranging from plants of the Newfoundland Barrens to breeding hardy orchids in the Netherlands. Delegates came from the length and breadth of the UK with the addition of a few overseas delegates. In supporting individuals, the SRGC again provided a bursary for a free place for a first time delegate to the weekend conference. The President thanked Carol and David Shaw and their team who organised the venue, the bookings and the show and thanked Ian Bainbridge for organising the programme and speakers.

2015 saw the distribution process for the Seed Exchange move to the South West Scotland Group and on a snowy, wet day in January several of the Edinburgh Group distribution team ventured south to help guide the new team through the process. The new venue for the distribution at Threave Gardens proved to be ideal and the new team soon settled into a routine completing the seed distribution well before the end of January. Stuart Pawley acted as Seed Reception Manager and Ian Pryde organised the seed packers. Ian has indicated he wishes to stand down so the Club is looking for a new seed packaging manager. The President thanked all who helped with the Seed Exchange and thanked all those who had helped develop the process in the past.

2015 marked Carole's last year as President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club and she thanked all the members and officials who had given her support and made the last three years such an enjoyable and special time. Carole Bainbridge said she had been honoured to serve as President and hoped that the next President would also have an enjoyable and rewarding term of office.

5. Presentation of Honours

Honorary Member – Ray Fairbairn for his Primula hybrids and 62 Kabschia Saxifrage hybrids seen in so many spring shows.

6. Presentation of Merit Medals

Bronze	Francis & Mary Higgins Jim McGregor Ian & Beryl McNaughton Robert Pickering Susan Simpson
Silver	Tim Lever
Gold Medal	Lionel Clarkson Frank & Barbara Hoyle
Gold Bar 2	Brian & Shelagh Smethurst
Gold Bar 3	Don Peace
Gold Bar 5	David & Stella Rankin
Gold Bar 8	Stan da Prato
Gold Bar 9	Carole & Ian Bainbridge Stan da Prato
Gold Bar 12	Cyril Lafong

A Gold Forrest Medal was awarded to plantsman Cyril Lafong to commemorate his having been awarded 50 Forrest Medals for his plants.

The President congratulated all the recipients.

7. Presentation of the AGS Salver, the Rutland Salver and the Golden Jubilee Salver

AGS Salver – Plantsman of the Year with the highest aggregate of First Prize Points in Section 1 – Stan da Prato, Tranent, East Lothian with 5790 points

Rutland Salver – for the highest aggregate of First Prize Points in Section 11 – Bob Worsley with 1310 points

Golden Jubilee Salver – for outstanding service to the Club – Alan Newton

Peg Crosland Award – for best article in ‘The Rock Garden’ – not yet awarded

David Lane Award – for the best photograph in ‘The Rock Garden’ – Liz Knowles for her photograph of *Oxalis adenophylla*: habitat and blooms in the Maule Valley on the way to Paso del Guanaco, on pages 68 /69 in the July Journal of 2015.

Williamson Trophy for the best entrant in Section 5 of the photographic/arts competition – not awarded as no entry.

President's Award – for outstanding service to a local group – Elspeth Mackintosh (Edinburgh Group)

8.Changes to the Constitution

The President outlined the main changes;

- The deadline for nominations to Council - no later than thirty days before the Annual General Meeting
- The President Elect to be elected the year prior to taking office & to serve for two years on Council after relinquishing office
- Working Groups to be set up as & when necessary from members of Council rather than standing committees
- Clearer text and a more logical format.

There were no questions. Anton Edwards proposed acceptance of the new constitution, Liz Mills seconded the motion and the meeting unanimously agreed.

9.Consideration & Adoption of Accounts

All members present received a copy of the statement of the Club's financial activity and balance sheet. The full accounts were available for inspection.

Richard Green stated that Finance Committee and Council had reviewed in detail the accounts.

- The restricted fund was the Diana Aitchison Fund and more money had been distributed during the year hence more had been expended.
- The unrestricted fund covered the day to day income and expenses of the Club. The income was less than in 2014 as no bequest had been received in the year.
- Most of the money had been spent on educational activities and the Journal.
- Membership was slowly declining so must find new sources of income.
- On the 30th June the Club had fixed assets of £436,121 (including the Diana Aitchison Fund).
- Cash was held in five different banks
- Creditors are those paying 3 year subscriptions.

The Treasurer said that the Club was in a fairly healthy financial position.

He showed pie charts demonstrating clearly the percentage money received and expended by the Club.

Income – 75% subscriptions, 10% investments, 8% Gift Aid, 6% donations, 1% Prizes

Expenditure – 47% Journal, 21% Administration, 3% Publications, 10% Sponsorship, 6% Web, 5% Discussion Weekend, 3% Gardening Scotland, 3% Travelling Speaker, 2% Shows

The Treasurer recommended the accounts for approval.

Julia Corden proposed acceptance and adoption of the accounts; Ann Christie seconded the motion and the meeting approved.

The accounts were signed.

10. Election of Office Bearers

In accordance with Rule 5 all Executive Office Bearers retire annually but are eligible for re-election. The following had been nominated:-

President	David Rankin
Treasurer	Richard Green
Secretary	Carol Shaw
Subscription Secretary	Christine Boulby
Editor	Anton Edwards
Publicity Manger	Sandy Leven
Web Committee Manager	Ian Young

The President proposed acceptance en bloc. Anne Christie proposed the motion; Matt Topsfield seconded and the meeting approved.

11. Election of Ordinary Members of Council

In accordance with Rule 6.1 four members shall be elected to Council annually to serve for three years as Ordinary Members. The following nominations had been received:- Gill Lee, Monica Wylie, Alan Elliott Matt Topsfield.

Jean Wylie proposed acceptance; Stan da Prato seconded and the meeting approved.

12. Notice of the Members of the Joint Rock Committee for 2016

Vice Chairman	Mr J. Mitchell
Committee	Dr C. Bainbridge (Secretary)
	Dr I. Bainbridge
	Mr I. Christie
	Mr J. Jermyn (Honorary Member)
	Dr A. C. Lafong
	Mr A. J. Leven (Honorary Member)
	Ms E. Mackintosh
	Dr D. Millward
	Dr P. Semple
	Mr J. I. Young

13. Examiner of Accounts

Mr Richard Green proposed that Mr Ewen Dyer of Martin Aitken & Co. Ltd, Glasgow be appointed. The Treasurer assured the meeting that he and the Examiner worked totally independently.

Gill Lee proposed the motion; Peggy Anderson seconded and the meeting approved.

14. New President

Carole Bainbridge, retiring President, welcomed the new President, Prof David Rankin and handed over the symbols of office – the President's badge, the Presidential Salver and Picture.

The President thanked Carole Bainbridge for her huge amount of work and organisational ability.

Bette Ivey, Hon. President presented the retiring President with a bouquet.

The President presented Stuart Pawley, formerly the Seed Reception Manager, with a small token of appreciation for his service to the Club – he had been a hard taskmaster, known for the accuracy of the seed list with its 'quirky page'.

He said he was inheriting a Club in good shape. He recalled the early days of the club but it must adapt to face the changing world and move forward without losing the old members but gaining the young. Already a group had evolved through the use of the social media with 60 on its mailing list. There were now three young members on the new Council.

New members must be welcomed and all members must get involved or the inheritance of the past will be lost. He appealed for members to join the E mailing list to make communication easier.

The President looked forward to an exciting year.

15. Date & Place of Annual General Meeting in 2016

Ian Bainbridge proposed that the Annual General Meeting 2016 should be held at the Old Scone Church Hall, Scone on 12th November 2016 at 1 pm Sue Simpson seconded and the meeting approved. *

16. Any Other Competent Business

None

The President closed the meeting thanking all for attending.

* Note: Old Scone Church Hall is no longer available and the AGM will be held in the Balfarmo Road Church Hall, Scone.

THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2015 Total funds £	2014 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	53,357	-	53,357	69,227
Activities for generating funds	3	12,574	-	12,574	15,494
Investment income	4	5,798	8,174	13,972	13,685
Total incoming resources		71,729	8,174	79,903	98,406
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs		10,874	-	10,874	12,117
Charitable activities	5				
Educational activities		47,751	15,035	62,786	56,440
Publicity expenses		1,946	-	1,946	1,138
Support costs		4,694	157	4,851	8,291
Governance costs		8,733	698	9,431	15,040
Total resources expended		73,998	15,890	89,888	93,026
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES					
		(2,269)	(7,716)	(9,985)	5,380
Other recognised gains/losses					
Realised gains/(losses) on investments		131	1,906	2,037	11,378
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments		(1,264)	(2,403)	(3,667)	16,529
Net movement in funds		(3,402)	(8,213)	(11,615)	33,287
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		287,785	277,785	565,570	532,283
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		284,383	269,572	553,955	565,570

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB

**BALANCE SHEET
AT 30 JUNE 2015**

	Notes	2015 £	2014 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	975	1,090
Investments	9	435,146	391,986
		<u>436,121</u>	<u>393,076</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	10	3,168	5,271
Debtors	11	43,347	85,713
Cash at bank and in hand		91,013	95,312
		<u>137,528</u>	<u>186,296</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(19,694)	(13,802)
		<u>117,834</u>	<u>172,494</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>553,955</u>	<u>565,570</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>553,955</u>	<u>565,570</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>553,955</u>	<u>565,570</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	14	284,383	287,785
Restricted funds		269,572	277,785
		<u>553,955</u>	<u>565,570</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			
		<u>553,955</u>	<u>565,570</u>

The financial statements were approved on behalf of the trustees by the Board of Trustees on 14 November 2015 and were signed on its behalf by:

Carole A. Bainbridge

Dr Carole Bainbridge -Trustee

Carol Shaw

Mrs Carol Shaw -Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

DISCUSSION WEEKEND BOOKING FORM

Friday 14th – Sunday 16th October 2016

The Discussion Weekend will be held at the Macdonald Cardrona Hotel, Cardrona, Peebles. This 4-star hotel has a range of facilities including an 18-hole golf course, indoor pool, health club and sauna. Accommodation can be booked for double or single occupancy. Rooms have either double or twin beds. If you are booking a double occupancy room please indicate your preference for a double or twin.

If you are sharing with someone not included in this booking please state their name, otherwise we will use our judgement in finding you a roommate.

All rooms have lift access and most have walk-in showers. If you specifically want a walk-in shower please tick the box on the form. In addition please give details of any dietary or other special requirements.

Dogs are accepted in a limited number of rooms at an extra cost of £10 per dog per night, payable when you checkout. If you intend to bring dogs into your room please indicate this on the form.

If you need extra nights we will book these for you. Please give details of dates and room type in the space provided. The extra night rate for a double occupancy room - dinner, bed and breakfast is £65 per person sharing and £100 for single occupancy. The cost of extra nights must be settled by you with the hotel on checking out.

Your name badge will be printed as you have written – (first and surname), unless you inform us otherwise.

Please send the form overleaf together with the appropriate remittance made payable to ‘**E&LR Group – The Registration Account**’ to:

The Registration Secretary, Mike Hicks, 11 Lidgate Shot , Ratho, Newbridge, Midlothian, EH28 8TY

Terms and Conditions

The booking form and full remittance must reach Mike not later than 1st August 2016.

Cancellations: Please note that no refund will be given after 15th August 2016.

PLEASE FILL IN THE BOOKING FORM OVERLEAF

DISCUSSION WEEKEND BOOKING FORM

Friday 14th – Sunday 16th October 2016

Please complete in Block Capitals

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

E-MAIL

TEL. No.

RESIDENT	PRICE Per Person	NO.	TOTAL COST
Friday Dinner – Sunday Afternoon Tea - Double Occupancy	£217		
Friday Dinner – Sunday Afternoon Tea - Single Occupancy	£274		
Saturday Morning – Sunday Afternoon - Double Occupancy	£155		
Saturday Morning – Sunday Afternoon - Single Occupancy	£190		
TOTAL COST			

DISCUSSION WEEKEND BOOKING FORM

Friday 14th – Sunday 16th October 2016

Double Occupancy Room Preference: Twin beds Double bed

Walk-in shower required: Yes No

Room where Dogs permitted at extra charge: Yes No

Dietary requirements:

Special requirements:

Name of Roommate booking separately:

Extra nights required:

NON - RESIDENT	PRICE Per Person	NO.	TOTAL COST
Friday Evening (Including Dinner)	£35		
Saturday – Morning Coffee, Lunch, Afternoon Tea	£55		
Saturday – Morning Coffee, Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Dinner	£85		
Saturday Dinner	£40		
Sunday – Morning Coffee, Lunch, Afternoon Tea	£55		
TOTAL COST			