

# The Aberdeen Rock Garden Club

Affiliated to

## The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Greetings to all members old and new – and the usual plea! Please send your email address to [lesleyglasser@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleyglasser@btinternet.com) or [mike.hopkins43@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mike.hopkins43@yahoo.co.uk) to enable us to keep in touch.

### Programme Autumn/Winter 2019/2020

Note that meetings are on the last Tuesday of the month. Evening talks - in black - begin at 7.30. Afternoon meetings - in red - are from 2 - 4 pm.

24/09/2019	Patagonia - Scenery and Plants	Richard Green, Balfour Station
29/10/2019	Recent Developments at the RBGE	Elsbeth MacIntosh, RBGE
26/11/2019	AGM and Members Night	Short talks by Carol Mariott and Nick Boss
28/01/2020	The Rock Garden	Mike Hopkins, Kemnay
25/02/2020	Woodland Plants (with Paeonies)	Billy Carruthers, Ecclesmachan
31/03/2020	Meconopsis	Jeannie Jones, Lockerbie
28/04/2020	Visit to Bill and Helen McGregor's Garden, 105 Inchgath Road, Aberdeen, 2-4 pm	
18/05/2020	SRGC Aberdeen Show	Victorian Corridor, Duthie Park Winter Gardens

### Other dates of interest

11-13/10/2019	Discussion Weekend	The Grant Arms, Granttown-on-Spey
09/11/2019	Autumn Festival & SRGC AGM	Burnside Hall (old Scone Church Hall) Scone

Our programme of Autumn/Winter talks is second to none, with well-known experts from the plant world. All though given by experts, talks are at a level that everyone can enjoy.

Evening talks, in black above, start at 7.30 pm at the Rubislaw Church Centre, Fountainhall Road.

Talks in red are afternoon sessions from 2:00-4:00 pm, also at the Rubislaw Church Centre

Everybody welcome you don't have to be a member of SRGC or ARGC to attend meetings. Bring family and friends.

Friendly advice about your gardening problems

Plant raffle (free for first time visitors), Shows, Garden visits and other events.

Entrance fee £4.00 or £15 for season ticket and newsletter.

And don't forget this year's Spring Show - Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 11 am - 3.30 pm in the Victorian Corridor, Winter Gardens, Duthie Park. Choice alpines from all over Scotland will be on display. There will be specialist stands with a tempting selection of alpines for sale.

Admission is free

## **Some background to the talks.**

### **24/09/2019, Patagonia - Scenery and Plants. Richard Green, Balfroon Station**

Richard Green is a retired chartered accountant who has been Treasurer of the Scottish Rock Garden Club since November 2014. He lives in a rural location at Balfroon Station, north of Glasgow where he has a rather wild garden, a large polytunnel, a pond and is currently building a rock garden.

Richard is a keen walker on the Scottish mountains, and is interested in seeing plants in the wild. He has botanised on many mountain ranges in the world including the Spanish Picos, the Pyrenees, Alps, Dolomites, Atlas, Rockies and Andes. He has been in Greece and the Mediterranean islands to search for spring orchids and autumn bulbs. Last autumn he toured the whole length of New Zealand, and he visited Yunnan and Sichuan earlier this summer.

The talk on Patagonia covers the plants and flowers throughout the diverse habitats in Argentina from the cacti of the dry eastern steppes through the lush rainforest in the foothills of the Andes to the plants of the higher mountains and volcanoes including the violas and other unusual alpinists.

### **29/10/2019 Recent Developments at the RBGE, Elspeth MacIntosh, RBGE**

Elspeth is Senior Horticulturist in Edinburgh Botanic Garden's Alpine Department. She is responsible for the running of the area which includes the public display area, an extensive back-up collection and propagation facilities for Rock and Alpine. Spring finds her taking bulb displays to alpine shows and in her spare time she hunts for plants in far-flung places.

### **26/11/2019 AGM and Members Night, Short talks by Carol Mariott and Nick Boss**

Carol and Nick are members of our committee.

### **28/01/2020 The Rock Garden, Mike Hopkins, Kemnay**

Mike is 79 years old and has worked as an electronics engineer in the oil industry for 50 of them. He has been associated with the Scottish Rock Garden Club since the early eighties, in particular as Convenor of the Aberdeen Group for, on and off, 25 years. His interests are everything alpine plants, both in captivity and in the wild, in particular species tulips and lewisias. A ten acre croft in rural Aberdeenshire with many rocks provides the facilities for the captive plants whilst 17 botanical tours throughout the world have satisfied the wild interest.

### **25/02/2020 Woodland Plants (with Paeonies) Billy Carruthers, Ecclesmachan**

Billy Carruthers is owner of Binny Plants based for over 20 years in the old walled garden of Binny Estate. He grows a large variety of plants including grasses, ferns, trees and shrubs, and a wide range of perennials but is best known for his obsession with Paeonias. He grows over 300 varieties. He regularly has a stand at Gardening Scotland and has exhibited at Chelsea.

He will be bringing plants for sale. If you want a particular plant get in touch with him and I'm sure he will bring it for you.

### **31/03/2020 Meconopsis Jeannie Jones, Lockerbie**

Jeannie spoke to us on primulas a year or so ago. This year she presents her new talk on Meconopsis.

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You will notice from the programme list above that the talks in 2020 are in the afternoon. This is by way of an experiment, to see whether this encourages more folk to come, particularly those who dislike coming out at night, although we are aware that it causes problems for those people working.

We look forward to hearing whether you approve

### **Sad news**

Graeme Strachan, an active member of the local committee, died suddenly earlier this year. He will be greatly missed.

### **Volunteers needed**

Sometime in September a large number of bulbs will arrive and will need to be planted in the Rock Garden at Duthie Park. We will need some volunteers for that and a spot of weeding and general tidy up. Please let Mike know if you are willing to help

**All details for other events can also be found in the SRGC website (and in the Forum) [www.srgc.net](http://www.srgc.net)**

All are welcome to enjoy the many resources provided by SRGC on the website [www.srgc.net](http://www.srgc.net)

### **Assorted Useful Information**

#### **SRGC - Contacts for the Local Group :**

Convenor: Mike Hopkins 01467 642429

Treasurer: Bill McGregor, 105 Inchgarth Road, Cults, Aberdeen AB15 9NX

Newsletter: Lesley Glasser, [lesleyglasser@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleyglasser@btinternet.com) -brief contributions welcome.