



ABERDEEN ROCK GARDEN CLUB



affiliated to the Scottish Rock Garden Club

September 2008

A warm welcome to you all to the new season of meetings which will take us on a whirlwind tour of the world's alpines with some interesting diversions along the way.

We hope that you will find something of interest. We will be pleased to see you all along with any friends, relations and neighbours, remember you don't have to be a member of the SRGC to be welcome at the evening meetings. Free raffle tickets for first time visitors. We endeavour to make the evening talks as variable as possible and, although largely delivered by well known experts and personalities from the plant world, we always stress to speakers the need to keep technical and specialist jargon to a minimum. It's very relaxing sitting watching pictures of lovely flowers and mountain scenery in sunny, exotic locations or summer gardens and the like on a winter evening when it's cold and raining and snowing outside.

Following decisions taken at last year's AGM, some changes are being implemented to ensure the survival of the Group in a climate of rising costs and these are in line with procedures common in many other SRGC Groups and other societies.

From now on there will be an annual charge of £10 per person for full local membership of the Aberdeen Rock Garden Club. This will entitle you to attend all meetings and receipt of local newsletters and be eligible for any Group activities. This fee is payable in addition to any SRGC subscription you may hold. If you wish to continue to receive mailings from the local Group, it is important to support the Group by paying this annual fee. Those not paying the local subscription will not receive any newsletters after this one. Local group activities will continue to be listed on the SRGC Website and can be freely accessed by that means. If you choose not to pay the Local Membership you will not automatically receive a Syllabus Card but if you want one you can have one by sending a stamped addressed envelope or an E-mail request to Mike Hopkins, Sunfield, Leschangie, Kemnay, Aberdeenshire, AB51 5PP, E-mail: mjh_22@tiscali.co.uk. The individual charge for attendance at meetings will become £3 per meeting, for SRGC members and any guests.

Thus, if you are attending meetings regularly you will be getting an extremely good "deal" for your local subscription and if you cannot attend meetings you will at least be helping to support your local Group, which runs the Spring Show etc . You may pay your £10 to our Treasurer, Bill McGregor, using the tear-off slip at the foot of the final page of this letter and posting the slip, with your payment to Bill at Gregellen House, Banchory Devenick, Aberdeen AB12 5XP.

You may also pay at one of the meetings; local group membership will be signified by the "season/member" stamp which will be appended to your syllabus card.

Before we tell you more about the meetings planned for the coming season, here are a couple of dates for your diary:

SRGC Show at the Discussion Weekend: 4th and 5th October Beardmore Hotel, Clydebank, Glasgow. This show takes place as part of the renowned SRGC Discussion Weekend. Full details are in the Journals or in the srgc forum : <http://www.srgc.org.uk/smf/index.php?topic=2127.0>

Now on to our **programme of meetings**, which this year will all be held in our usual venue in the Rubislaw Church Centre, on the corner of Fountainhall Road and Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen, starting promptly at 7.30pm.

The season begins on **Tuesday 30th September 2008**, with a talk from Dr **David Millward**, of East Linton. David's title is "**Spring in the Celestial Mountains**". This refers to the wonderful area of the Tien Shan in central Asia, home to many exciting plants, as might be expected of a place with this entrancing name!

The meeting in October is to be held on **WEDNESDAY 22nd October** and will feature the SRGC "Travelling Speaker", **Rob Potterton** who will speak on '**Alpines and bulbs– from mountain to market**' Rob and his wife run Potterton's Nursery, of Caistor in Lincolnshire. Formerly know as Potterton and Martins, this nursery has been supplying fine plants since the early seventies so Rob has literally grown up in this business and is well-placed to inform us on his theme. His little girls seem to be following in the family footsteps, so that is good news for the future, too!

On **Tuesday 25th November** it will be delightful to welcome, after a long absence, **Brian Hammond** from Thornton, by Laurencekirk to be our speaker. Brian's subject is '**Leaf, Bark and Berry**', which I am told will concentrate on trees ...a subject sadly neglected by many alpine gardeners.

To kickstart 2009, **Ian Young** will give the second part of his **Digital Photography Workshop** on **Tuesday 6th January 2009**. This will address more details about photo manipulation, Power Point presentations, etc.

January's regular meeting date will be **Tuesday 27th January** when more local talent will entertain us! **Mike Hopkins and Bob Maxwell**, both of Kemnay, will delight us with '**Mike and Bob's Chinese Crackers**' I think from this title you will be able to guess one of their recent holiday destinations. I have heard it said you should never go on holiday with a friend, if you are keen to *keep* that person as a friend... but Bob and Mike seem to manage to maintain their friendship, *in spite* of their trips abroad together on plant-hunting holidays..... perhaps they will tell us that it is *because* of these trips that they remain good chums!

On **Tuesday 24th February** the subject for the evening will be '**Some Eastern European Alpines**' and our speaker will be **Jim Jermyn**, from Haddington. Jim used to be the owner of Edrom Nursery and now spends most of his time (well, when not travelling and writing) organising the Gardening Scotland Show at Ingliston every year. Jim has experience of working in many nurseries around Europe and has lead many flower holidays to European alpine regions.

In **March, on Tuesday 31st** **Sandy Leven** from Dunblane invites us to accompany him on a whistle stop tour of '**British Columbia – Vancouver to Revelstoke**' Sandy's take on life, the universe and everything, is often a most amusing one, so I imagine this will be a most entertaining experience.

Tuesday 28th April will again be our special Member's Night and local Annual General Meeting. Who knows what exciting happenings your Committee has planned for this evening? Well, not I, so that will have to be a surprise to be revealed later.

Saturday 16th May, 2009 is the date of our ANNUAL SHOW, held In the Halls of Ruthrieston West Church, Broomhill Road, Aberdeen. We will be hoping for great support from you all, as ever, whether for plants entered in the show, plants for sale and all the other "stuff" that goes to make this such a pleasant day...full of fine plants and good company.

A VERY important date for your diary: SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2009

This is the date of the Early Bulb Day in DUNBLANE, where there is a colourful display of spring flowers, lots of plants for sale and super talks to entertain throughout the day. For 2009, there will be four short talks: Rod Leeds, grower, author and member of the AGS Team which won Gold and Best in Show at Chelsea 2008, will give two talks and Julia Corden and David Millward will be the other speakers.

It is a happy tradition of the local Aberdeen Group to arrange a Bus Trip to this very popular event and it is proposed that, subject to a favourable early response from you, we will again arrange such an outing.

To express your intention of supporting this delightful outing, please contact Ian Young as soon as possible: you may email him at young.aberdeen@btinternet.com or phone on 01224 318617.

Some more events in 2009:

Friday 20th February 2009 : Snowdrop Gala at Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh....various speakers, details later on www.srgc.org.uk

Sunday 1st March 2009: Snowdrop Walk at Brechin Castle £25 per person, to include lunch. Details later, as above.

Monday 11th May 2009 : Visit to Glendoick Gardens, £17.50 to include lunch and garden brochure.

Local Membership of Aberdeen Rock Garden Club, affiliated to the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

This is the form you need to fill out and return to Hon. Treasurer, Bill McGregor, Gregellen House, Banchory Devenick AB 12 5XP to subscribe to full membership of the Aberdeen Rock Garden Club.

Please find application for full membership of the Aberdeen Rock Garden Club :

I enclose payment of £..... being one year's subscription forpeople (£10per person)

For: Name (s)

Address:

Email address:

Telephone number: