

The Meconopsis Group

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Newsletter September 2009

Dear Member,

I hope members in the UK have enjoyed their BBQ summer - the plants certainly thrived in the rain here in the West of Scotland!

Saturday October 31st 2009

The next Group meeting will be held in the Conference Room at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) at 10.00am for 10.30am. The program is overleaf.

Gardening Scotland Show 29th, 30th and 31st May 2009

This was a most successful Show - most visitors stopped to admire the display of *Meconopsis* provided by Evelyn Stevens. Thanks to Geoff Hill for preparing the Stand and photographs and also to the helpers who manned the stand each day.

HRH The Princess Royal was a very special and knowledgeable visitor at our stand when she toured the Show on Friday afternoon.

Group visit to the Lake District June 2009

The visit to selected gardens of the Lake District was enjoyed by about thirty members. We must thank Pat Murphy and friends at Holehird Horticultural Society for helping to organise the visits and for their hospitality. A report prepared by Peggy Anderson and Evelyn Stevens is enclosed/ attached.

'Blue Heaven' by Bill Terry

This book by one of our valued Canadian members is now published. It tells the story of the fabled Himalayan Blue Poppy in a relaxed style, with stunning photographs. (ISBN 13: 9781894898829)

Suggestions for future speakers

Suggestions for future speakers and topics are invited. If you would like to volunteer, it need not be a full hour - short talks would be very welcome. Please contact any Committee member.

Membership Renewal 2009

If you have sent your subscription but have not received a receipt and membership card please tell me.

Membership Renewal 2010

This is a reminder only that Subscription Rates, agreed at the AGM in February 2009, will be £8 (if you are in the UK) and £10 (or equivalent in US\$ dollars or euros only (if non UK)). Renewal Forms will be sent out later.

Book for sale

"Meconopsis" by James L.S. Cobb A fine, as-new copy available for sale at cost price (£32), plus postage. Contact: plantmatters@meconopsis.org

Spring meeting Saturday March 6th 2010

The Spring meeting 2010 has been arranged for Saturday March 6th. Program details later.

Programme for the Group meeting on 31st October 2009
Conference Room Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh 10.00 – 15.30
Meeting Chairman: John Mitchell

10.00 - 10.30	Arrival - Complimentary Teas and Coffees	
10.30 - 10.40	Announcements	John Mitchell
10.40 - 11.40	“Destination Nepal: the land, plants and fieldwork at the crossroads of the Himalaya”	Dr. Mark Watson
11.40 - 12.10	“Meconopsis from NE Yunnan”	Prof. David Rankin
12.10 - 12.40	“Seed germination and viability”	Geoff Hill
12.40 - 13.30	Bring your own Picnic lunch - tea and coffee provided	
13.30 - 14.30	"Plants from around the Tsangpo Gorge area"	John Mitchell
14.30 - 15.30	“Plants for naming”	Evelyn Stevens
15.00 - 15.30	“Members’ Discussion”	Chairman: Ian Christie

Meeting Arrangements

Venue

The Conference Room of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is at 20a Inverleith Row Edinburgh EH3 5LR.

If you require directions please access the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh website, or contact me. There is also a regular bus service from Central Edinburgh if you are coming by train.

Meeting Charge There will be a nominal charge of £1 to attend this meeting, but this will include a raffle ticket. (Plants or seeds as prizes!) Additional raffle tickets can be purchased to help defray costs.

50:50 Plant Sale Please bring plants for a 50:50 plant sale (2 labels per pot, one for your name and the price, the other for the plant name). This is an important part of our day as the sale of plants will help to distribute the plants more widely among members and will boost our funds. *Meconopsis* and other plants are welcome.

Picnic lunch Please bring your own lunch to the meeting. Tea and coffee will be provided at 10.00am and at lunchtime.

Guests will be made very welcome.

Note for New Members If you are unsure of the arrangements please contact Norma McDowall.

Distribution by email

Every distribution by email results in a few "undelivered" messages for several different reasons. I check up on what I can but if you feel you have not received a mailing please get in touch. Last emailing - May.

Reports

I enclose with this newsletter

- Trip Report of the Visit to the Lake District June 2009 by Peggy Anderson and Evelyn Stevens
- Seed Exchange letter 2009

Yours sincerely

Norma McDowall (Secretary)