

The Meconopsis Group

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Newsletter December 2009

Dear Member

As another year ends I thought I would bring you up to date with the latest happenings within The Meconopsis Group. I have also included a short Report of the meeting held on 31st October 2009 at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Conference Room and details of the forthcoming meeting on March 6th 2010.

Meeting Report 31st October 2009

The meeting was opened at 10.30am by the Chairman, John Mitchell, who welcomed over thirty five members present at that time. [38 members in total attended the meeting]

Apologies

Apologies had been received from the following members:-

Ann Armstrong, Bob Armstrong, Vicky Aspin, Richard Barnes, John Bertinat, Cyril Cooper, Anne Cooper, Prof. Adam Curtis, Christian Curtis, Avril Drummond, J. Leslie Drummond, Keith Folwell, Roz Folwell, Richard Fulcher, Alison S. Goldie, Robert Gordon, W.W.Harpur, Finn Haugli, Matt Heasman, Lady Catherine Henderson, Jeanie Jones, Troels Juhl, H.C.A.McBride, Frank McGavigan, Linda McGavigan, Steve McNamara, Heather Michie, Les Newby, Richard Oliver, Brian Parker, Veera Siwek, Gote Svanholm, Margaret Thorne, David Thorne, Alan Tomlinson, Terence J.Vince, Jenny Wainwright-Klein, David Walkinshaw, Dr.Janet Watson, Toshio Yosuda and A.N. Other (posted in Newcastle)

Announcements

John made a number of announcements at the start of the meeting.

Demonstration material

- i. Some pressed specimens of cultivars to be named at the next meeting.
- ii. AGS Bulletin with Chris Grey-Wilson's article on *M. baileyi*/betonicifolia
- iii. "Blue Heaven" by Canadian member, Bill Terry. It is available on-line, through Amazon
- iv. RBGE Diploma in Plant Illustration.

Sharon Bradley, a member of the Group, is to be congratulated because has just got a distinction in RBGE Diploma in Plant Illustration course. Her subject was "Meconopsis other than the big blues". Sharon kindly brought along her portfolio and paintings.

Announcement of the next meeting - This will take place on Saturday March 6th It will also be the AGM. Chris Grey-Wilson will be a speaker giving two talks.

News since the last meeting

- i. *Meconopsis betonicifolia* has had a name change, reverting to *M. baileyi* - see AGS Bulletin June 2009 - copy on the display table.
- ii. Trip to Lake District This was very successful despite the wet weather with 28 people present. Thank you to the organisers and the welcome from Holehird and the other garden owners. We were especially grateful to Pat Murphy and Bob Pearce of Holehird and Peggy and Cameron from the Group. There were good *Meconopses* displays at Holehird. The display of the George Sherriff Group cultivar *M. 'Dalemain'* at Dalemain was outstanding

and so was Dr. Roger Nelson's garden full of *M. 'Lingholm'* which, of course, is where *M. 'Lingholm'* originated.

[A report prepared by Peggy was sent out in September.]

iii. Gardening Scotland The Meconopsis Group put on a display again – thanks especially to Geoff Hill and his helpers. The plants on the display were provided by Evelyn Stevens.

iv. JRGPC awards The JRGPC met again at Gardening Scotland Three more big blue poppies were given awards: [Evelyn gave details in 'Plants for naming']

v. RHS Trials The RHS have put in motion a trial of Perennial blue-flowered cultivars of *Meconopsis* for AGMs. [Evelyn gave details in 'Plants for naming'].

vi. James Cobb is making good progress with his web-site Meconopsis World.

vii. "Blue Heaven" by Bill Terry is available from Amazon and elsewhere online – about £14.00

Congratulations

Alan Elliott Congratulations to Alan Elliott for getting a first class degree from Glasgow University after studying for his degree in Horticulture with Plantsmanship at the Scottish Agricultural College and RBGE. His *Meconopsis* based dissertation was awarded the RBGE dissertation prize.

Sharon Bradley Congratulations too to Sharon for her diploma with distinction in Botanical Illustration. Sharon's paintings and her notebooks on the paintings were on the display table.

Janet Watson also did the same course with the same result, but her subject was poisonous plants in her garden. She has, however, an ongoing project painting the big blue poppies.

At the end of the meeting John thanked all those who had contributed. Our thanks are gratefully given for all the hard work which goes into the preparation of the presentations.

Next meeting March 6th 2010

This will be held in the Conference Room, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

Dr Chris Grey-Wilson will give two talks. Paul Egan will also be a speaker.

Details of the program and AGM will be sent out in January.

Subscriptions for 2010 - Renewal Notice enclosed/attached

Please note change of subscription rates, as agreed at the AGM held in February 2009.

£8 for U.K. members (cash or cheque)

or £10 for non UK members. We can accept cheques for £10(GBP) or cash - £10, 15 euros or \$US20.

Free access to the Seed Exchange is included for non UK members.

The image on the Membership Card is *M. 'Lingholm'*, taken in June in Dr. Roger Nelson's garden.

The following reports from the meeting held on October 31st 2009 have been included with this mailing

- '*Meconopsis* in NE Yunnan' by David Rankin
- 'Plants for naming' by Evelyn Stevens

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Good New Year.

Yours sincerely

Norma McDowall