

Plants for naming
(Evelyn Stevens)

In continuing the ongoing programme of work by The Meconopsis Group to sort out the confusion in the identities of cultivars and to approve names for those worthy, but not yet named, Evelyn presented two, both of which had been introduced with illustrations in her talk a year ago.

Evelyn reported that the Group's assessment committee wished to recommend for confirmation of naming at the next AGM:

1. A cultivar to be named after Mildred Thompson. This clone, clearly of 'Lingholm' persuasion and which sets viable seed was raised by Jim and Mildred Thompson and was brought to Evelyn's attention by Margaret and Henry Taylor. It is significantly earlier flowering than 'Lingholm' and is a strikingly beautiful blue colour, always commented on by visitors when seen amongst other cultivars. It is also very robust and readily propagated by division. Seedlings are variable and not so fine. As a result this must be treated as a clonal cultivar and the name not given to seedlings if these are raised.

2. A cultivar which is believed to be *M. grandis* ex PSW (i.e. from a Polunin, Sykes and Williams collection). It was brought to our attention by Jim Gauld of Aberdeen, who bought it from Jack Drakes many years ago and thrived in his garden ever since. It appears to be true *grandis*, except that it is sterile, so we cannot be sure of this. But it is a striking, early-flowering form with deep blue flowers. It is also vigorous and is readily propagated by division. We will have a name for it at the AGM, but this is still being discussed by the committee and Jim Gauld to whom we owe it.

To round off her brief presentation, Evelyn showed a couple of slides of the beds of the trial for AGMs of big blue poppies being undertaken by the RHS at Harlow Carr, one year on from being planted up. She finished with a photograph she had taken of a nice photograph she had been shown in George and Betty Sherriff's visitors' book of the couple standing amongst their *Meconopsis* in their garden as Ascreavie.