

# The Meconopsis Group

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## Newsletter January 2013

Dear Member

### Group Meeting and 10th Annual General Meeting

to be held on March 2nd 2013 in the Conference Room  
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh at 10.30am

The Program for the meeting and the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting  
are on a separate sheet

#### Arrangements for the Meeting

**Venue** Conference Room, Royal Botanic Garden, 20 Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5 Tel.0131 552 7171

Get directions on website [www.rbge.org.uk](http://www.rbge.org.uk)

**Minutes** Minutes of the 9th AGM are attached/enclosed.. If you wish aadditional copy please contact me.

**Meeting Charge** There will be a nominal charge of £1 to attend this meeting, but this will include a lucky numbered ticket.

**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. Both *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 me.

#### Gardening Scotland 2013 Friday May 31st, Saturday June 1st and Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Gardening Scotland is Scotland's national celebration of gardening and outdoor living. The show will take at the Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, near Edinburgh.

The Meconopsis Group will once again have a stand this year. Sharon Bradley is the new Co-ordinator.

There will be a display of lovely plant material, a showcase of new photographs incorporating newly named plants, information about membership and of course the ever important seed sales....all in a 3 x 3 metre space!

We need to have 'staff' for all three days so if you can help with this please get in touch with Sharon on 01899 221896 or email Sharon at [jimandsharnie@btopenworld.com](mailto:jimandsharnie@btopenworld.com)

#### RHS trial of big blue poppies

RHS trial at Harlow Carr will be completed this summer.

The main assessment day will be 3<sup>rd</sup> June with a final follow up visit by the committee on June 14th

There will be an Open Day at Harlow Carr on Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> which will be open to the public.

PLEASE CONFIRM DETAILS NEARER THE DATE.

- i. Workshop with a practical demonstration of growing *Meconopsis* - by Ian Christie (45 minutes)
- ii. PowerPoint presentation explaining the manner of working and the results of The Meconopsis Group's work in clarifying the identification and naming of the big blue perennial poppies over the last 10-15 years - by Evelyn Stevens (45 minutes)
- iii & iv. Two short talks by staff at Harlow Carr on *Meconopsis* in their garden (20 minutes each)

### **Questionnaire on species**

Thanks to all who contributed to the Questionnaire on *Meconopsis* species sent out with the last Newsletter. There was a very good response and the results are very illuminating. If you did not complete the questionnaire and feel you could do so now it would add useful information to the data we have already received. Please request a copy from Evelyn or me.

### **New Questionnaire on Big Blue Poppies**

Moving on from the species grown it would also be helpful to know what cultivars are being grown. As you will know, since The Meconopsis Group was founded in 1998 when many big blue poppies were not very well identified and rather indiscriminately named, quite a few cultivars have been recognised as being distinct and The Meconopsis Group have approved the names. It would also now be valuable to know how members are getting on with these named cultivars and we would be grateful if you could complete the attached/enclosed questionnaire and return it to Evelyn Stevens.

### **Autumn meeting Saturday October 26th 2013**

Further details of the program will be available in September.

### **Membership 2013 Renewal**

Thanks for your good wishes and subscriptions received recently.

### **Change of Username and Password**

Please note there is a new Username and Password for access to the Members' area of the website. The existing one will co-exist until after the meeting in March and then the new one for 2013 will take over. You are notified of your new Username and Password when your subscription is renewed....details are also on the card for 2013. Just a reminder....Membership subscriptions for 2013 should be paid by February 28<sup>th</sup> (or at the meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>).

### **Members' Contact List**

The Committee are preparing a Members' Contact List for issue mid 2013.

If you have completed a standard Renewal form for 2013 you will have been asked if you wish to be included.

OR If you have not completed a standard Renewal Form (eg you have paid with PayPal) we will need your details:- Name, Town/County or Country/Email address or telephone number.

Information when you have paid your subscription.

### **Attendance/ Apologies Slip for the meeting**

It would be helpful if you could complete and return the enclosed/attached attendance/apologies slip to me.

### **Reports**

I enclose / attach

Newsletter January 2013

Minutes of the AGM held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012

Financial Statement

Programme for Meeting and Agenda for 10<sup>th</sup> AGM

Questionnaire on Big Blue Poppies

Attendance/apologies slip for the meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013

Best wishes for 2013

Norma McDowall (Secretary)