

## The Meconopsis Group Meeting at RBGE October 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

The meeting started at 10.35 with 44 members present.

Apologies were received from:

Alice Bremner, Bob and Felicity Mitchell, Alan Jamieson, Frank Gafner, Ian and Celia Wright, Jackie Thomlinson, Helen Donald, Geoff Hill, Ian Christie, Terry Vince, George Watt, Bruce and Pam Sherriff and Norma McDowall.

The Chairman, Jim Jermyn began by saying it was wonderful to see everyone at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting of The Meconopsis Group.

He then reminded members of what to do in the case of a fire drill, the procedures for retaining cups, returning badges plus the opportunity to visit the garden during the lunch break.

He announced the sad news of the passing away of two of our members:

Dr Janet Watson, a botanical artist and regular attender of our meetings, who with Sharon Bradley had inspired us with a lecture on botanical art.

Professor David Ecclestone who won the 1970 Nobel prize for Physiology. He regularly attended the 'Melrose Clinic' - an excuse for going fishing.

Returning to the theme of celebrating 20 years of The Meconopsis Group, he indicated that the Agenda for the very first meeting was on a side table in the room for everybody to see. Next to it was a folder containing the original questionnaires which was worth perusing during the lunch break.

He continued the introduction to this special meeting with a few words describing his experiences. He was not a member at the very beginning and as a nurseryman he may have been responsible for the confusion that existed in identifying the plants when the Society was first formed. For example the nursery sold three forms of *x sheldonii* and different forms of *Crewdson* hybrid.

On the second meeting of The Group on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, the first speaker was John Lawson of Inshiriach Nursery, a significant plantsman. His nursery sold many different meconopsis including the following:

*M grandis* PSW 602 Height 60 cm which comes true from seed but which needs protection  
PSW 5423 – with purplish coloured flowers.

Jim used these examples and information on the variety of plants being sold by other nurseries to emphasise the variety of plants that were available and the task of correctly naming them that faced The Meconopsis Group in the beginning.

He emphasised that The Meconopsis Group had served an important purpose up to now in sorting and naming the hybrids. There is still more to be done. He referred to Stuart Pawley who had collected seed from a large planting of *M.* 'Jimmy Bayne'. Stuart had counted 20,000 seed in one batch and had sown some of these. What new plants could be produced from such seeds?

Jim ended by saying that he and The Group were still interested in the big blues and that species are the next priority.