

Evelyn

As many of you will know Evelyn's interest in The Big Blue Poppies was triggered by the gift of a plant from her builder which she later named *Meconopsis* 'Jimmy Bayne'. This led on to her association with Mervin Kessell and between them in 1998 they created the idea of a Meconopsis Study Group.

With this basic idea Evelyn began a trail which would lead her along the road of many "Big Blue Poppies" in both searching for them, studying and assessing their attributes. This research introduced her to many people in both Scotland and throughout the world with similar interests and information. Her tenacity and observational skills helped to build up a background to the Meconopsis especially much of the historical information that is available today. As she studied the morphology of these Poppies she noted especially the emerging leaves and the peculiarities of the capsules and seeds which are essential for identification. It became apparent that this knowledge was leading to a comprehensive library of information. Those of us who worked with Evelyn over many years were aware of how she applied her intellect to sort out what she termed the "chaos" and helped name the cultivars which today are widely grown by enthusiastic gardeners.

Her husband Lewis was a great supporter of her work ignoring her late hours and the use of the house as seeds, leaves or bits of plants came inside for special attention. Using her own fine photographs Evelyn produced her "Pictorial Guide to the Big Blue Poppies" in 2015.

Two years later The Meconopsis Group jointly with the AGS published "The Gardeners Guide to Meconopsis" and once again Evelyn was able to provide a substantial number of excellent detailed photographs to enhance an important reference book and to remind us of how invaluable her dedication to these special plants has been.

Like many of you, our garden is a constant reminder of Evelyn not just for the Big Blue Poppies but also the Snowdrops she discovered and named, and other plants that she generously shared with us and many other gardeners..