

Colinton Garden Club

Newsletter 72
November 05



Coming soon..

Monday 28th.
November

"From the Andes to Auchttermuchty: Origins and Development of the Potato" – a fascinating look at the history and cultivation of the potato

Wednesday 14th.
December

Our Christmas extravaganza!
Banish those Winter blues with an evening of fun and entertainment

As you will have noticed, we have started the last few meetings with some local photos. If you have a hobby related to gardening why not take some digital photos and let one of the committee members know?

From the pen of our Chair...

"No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease, No comfortable feel in any member - No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds, - November!"

Thomas Hood, Ode: Autumn

In my garden, the prunus and the acer are weeping blood coloured leaves which form great carmine pools. The brilliant gold of the betula has already faded to form dull brown piles of rustling paper. The ancient plums stick black witches' fingers to the sky; a reminder that tomorrow is Halloween and, despite the unusually warm weather, we cannot expect autumn to continue forever. The clocks have changed and darkness has descended; time to plant the last bulbs, prepare the garden for Winter and come inside to the lights.

This year our festival offering will be a sparkling silver extravaganza to celebrate 25 years of the Club. I do urge you to join us in Dregghorn Loan Hall on Wednesday 14 December for our Christmas Party. Our parties are renowned! Dine with fine wine by candlelight in an atmosphere of jollity and conviviality. Allow your brains to be tickled by our quizzes and sit back and be entertained by our home grown entertainment with plenty of opportunities for participatory singing and jokes. This year, the theme is magical and

we would like you to wear something silver if you can, even if it is just a wee bit of tinsel. After last year's wonderful hat creations, I have every faith that your outfits will be memorable. If you have recently joined the Club, please do come along to this event which is very friendly. We end the evening singing carols and always go out into the night with a warm feeling of comradeship ready for Christmas. This year tickets are priced at £6. It would be very helpful if you could let the Committee know in advance as it helps with catering.

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Well known faces lurk among the greenery at the Plant sale...

Club Membership

May we remind those members who have not yet paid, that the 2005/06 fees of £5 per household are due.

Please tell your friends and family about our Club - they are very welcome to come along to any of our meetings and see what we have to offer. Meetings start at 8.00 p.m. in the Dreghorn Loan Hall and people start to arrive from around 7.45, time to browse the library. Teas and coffees are served after the main speaker, at about 9.15. All in all great value for money!

Newsletter

We are always on the lookout for short articles for our newsletter, so if you have a gardening tip to pass on, or a new technique to share or even discover a plant that does particularly well in our Colinton micro-climate, why not contact Newsletter editor Alasdair Ferguson (477 0178)

Fertiliser order

As you will know from Isobel's report, we have had to suspend the fertiliser orders this Autumn but we hope to have a new supplier in place in time for the Spring.

From the pen of our Chair (continued)

We have one more lecture to look forward to in 2005. On Monday 28 November, George Mackay will be talking about the origins of the not so humble potato. George Mackay is famous as an entertaining and authoritative speaker and I do encourage you to come on that evening which promises to be a wonderful journey from the Andes to Auchtermuchty.

Our season started with a lecture on alpines by Professor David Rankin. He showed us some amazing slides of the alps in the U.S.A., China and Switzerland with beautiful vibrant flowers. A list of those he described is available to members on the website or from the Committee. His wife brought plants to the meeting as she has a specialist nursery.

The plant sale on 8 October was well attended. Although it raised less than last year, there was a profit of £183 before outgoings and it was a happy and social occasion. I would like to express thanks to all who helped and those who brought plants.

On 24 October, we had another very interesting lecture from 3 representatives of the Lothian and Edinburgh Environmental Partnership, on recycling and making compost with tips on how

to make the right mixture. Do you know your greens and browns?

We are running a workshop at the Botanics on "Plant Division" on 1 April 2006 at a cost of £9.50. If you did not register and pay at the last meeting, please do so now. Places are limited but if this is over-subscribed we will run another one.

Johanna Carrie and I can report that the Colinton School club is well attended (we have had numbers ranging from 10 to 16, from primary 6 and 7) and appears to be enjoyable. We had one session planting hyacinths in pots and in jars of water. Needless to say, carefully monitoring progress reveals some have grown satisfactory roots and some have not! We had two sessions planting scillas, chinadoxia and crocus, outside. The most ambitious group plan a Scottish saltire! As the ground was hard, this was no easy task but the group were enthusiastic. One boy told me he and his mother were going to plant bulbs now he knew about them and another mother told me her daughter "just loved the club". Last week on a gorgeous autumn day, we walked in the wood by the school, and collected a variety of seeds and coloured leaves to make pictures, discussing the

reasons these appear in autumn.

Unfortunately, as many of you will know, we were not able to proceed with our fertiliser order this Autumn as negotiations with our usual supplier stalled. After careful consideration, the Committee decided to return all cheques to members who had sent in orders. Members of the Committee are working hard to research possibilities for a Spring order and we will give you information about this as soon as possible.

If you have forgotten to renew your subscription, please contact Linda Innes, and if you have difficulty in attending meetings because of disability or other reasons and would like a lift to the Dreghorn Loan Hall, please contact a member of the Committee as we may be able to arrange a lift for you. We would really like to see you.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting, and at the Christmas party.

Best wishes to you all and Seasons greetings,

Isobel Lodge

Chairperson

Improved Access to Dreghorn Loan Hall

Dreghorn Loan Hall has now installed disabled access which includes a ramp and a chair lift. If any member is intending to make use of this facility would you please contact a Committee Member 24 hours in advance so that we can obtain the key to the chair lift mechanism.

(Committee Members' phone numbers are given in the green Membership Booklet).

If anyone is finding it difficult to attend because of transport, please ask a Committee Member and we will see what can be arranged to help.

Christopher Davies
(Secretary) 441 2152

Here's a quick reminder of planned events in 2005/06

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
Mon. 28th November 05	Meeting: "From the Andes to Auchtermuchty: Origins and Development of the Potato", George Mackay OBE
Wed. 14th December 05	Members' Christmas Party
Mon. 23rd January 06	Meeting: "The Organic Flower Garden", Sinclair Williamson, Kellie Castle (National Trust for Scotland)
Mon. 27th February 06	Meeting: "Climate Change", Peter Levy, Centre of Ecology and Hydrology
Mon. 27th March 06	Meeting: "Peonies and Associated Plants", Billy Carruthers, Binny Plants (discount of 10% on plant orders received on the night, provided total Member orders reach £60!)
Sat. 1st April 06	Workshop at Botanic Gardens: Plant Division, 9.30 – 12.30 p.m.
Mon. 24th April 06	Annual General Meeting
Saturday in May/ June 06	Open Gardens (precise date to be confirmed)
Saturday in June/ July 06	Summer outing (precise date to be confirmed)

Colinton Garden Club on the web

Just a reminder – if you have access to the internet, it really is worth checking out our website regularly. The website (www.colintongardens.org.uk) is updated often and it's useful to visit the site often. You'll find:

- Photos of recent events
- Up to date information about forthcoming events and meetings
- A copy of the most recent newsletter – just in case you mislay your paper copy – and back copies of earlier newsletters
- Details of available discounts
- Links to other useful gardening websites
- An e-mail link to enquire about services offered (e.g. implement loans, bulb sales)



All in all, an excellent source of up-to-date information on Club events and the advantages of membership.