

Colinton Garden Club

Newsletter 81

February 08



Coming soon...

Monday 25th.
February, 8 p.m.
"The Queen Mother's Garden" –
with
Simon Crutchley of
the Royal Botanic
Garden of
Edinburgh

Monday 31st.
March, 8 p.m.
"Secret Stories of
Scottish Plant
Hunters over Two
Centuries"
with
Ann Lindsey, Writer

Don't forget!!
Attached to this
newsletter is the
Spring Fertiliser
Order – this should
be returned to
Dawn Ellis by
Monday 25th.
February

From the pen of our Chair...



Dear Friends

**Welcome to 2008
and a Fruitful New
Year to you all.** May
the gentle rain which
fell on a mild
Hogmanay be the
messenger of a fertile
Spring, followed by a
warm summer full of
colour, which will
bring forth, in due
course, the fruits of
the Autumn.

However, while longing
for those languid days,
let us not overlook the
miracles that take place
as our gardens respond
to Nature's awakening
and as they reveal their
secrets in the coming
weeks.

Our Club is not even
half way through its

2007-8 season! We still
have interesting events
to come, including a
talk of "The Queen
Mother's Garden"
(February) and "Secret
Stories of Scottish
Plant Hunters" (March).
As always, we seek to
identify relevant
themes associated with
Gardens and the
Natural Environment,
presented by
entertaining experts in
their field, so that in
three quarters of an
hour or so, our curiosity
can be aroused and
our understanding of
Nature broadened.

We do not neglect the
practical aspects of
gardening, of course,
which is why the cup of
tea and chat are such
an important part of our
meetings. That is when
you can make contact
with other members
and ask them for
advice and perhaps
arrange to meet them
again later. The Club
is more than its
meetings, it is a
community. If you
would like advice,
contact a Committee
Member – at a

meeting, by phone
(listed in the
Membership Booklet)
or email us through
our website.

The well illustrated
talk in November on
"A Culinary and
Medicinal Kitchen
Garden", when Helen
Gestwicki of Napier's
Healthcare spoke to
us, was popular and
very well attended. It
was fascinating to
learn about the
properties of some
well-known garden
herbs and how they
can be used to bring
us comfort and
stimulus in an
organically
sympathetic way.

In December as
many as the Hall
could hold joined
together for our
traditional Christmas
Party. A marathon of
planned coordination
meant that the Hall
was beautifully laid
out and tables
decorated. Food and
wines were selected
and made ready with
exquisite taste.

/continued overleaf

From the pen of our Chair.... continued

What a magical sight greeted the guests when they arrived just before eight o'clock.

The quizzes provided fun and conversation, so that by 9 o'clock everyone was full of anticipation for the original pantomime "The Battle of the Bugs". This clever play, written by Isobel Lodge, in collaboration with Audrey Dobson, David Ferro, John Lodge and Ian Stewart, tells the story of the leader of the Garden Club (PC Person, played by Ian Duncan) being confronted by his members on the subject of the ravages of the Bad Bugs (headed by Christopher Davies and David Ferro) who were devastating Colinton in spite of the efforts of the Good Bugs (led by Queen Bee, Isobel Lodge). A series of dream sequences defined the extent of the threat, until the final battle when the Bad Bugs are vanquished. "PC Person" sums up:

*"If we are to be environmentally effective
Towards the Good Bugs we must be
protective:
Provide good habitats, the very best.
In the future, now let us invest!"*

For all those involved, the writers for weeks before rehearsals started, the actors, who assembled for rehearsals and learned their lines and the musicians who met to practise the songs, the costume designers, stage managers and technicians, it was a lot of work (and only one chance to get it right). Those on stage enjoyed it as much as the audience, who joined in marvellously. It was a real celebration of the spirit of the Club at Christmas tide. The carols we sang to round off the evening were thoughtful and harmonious.

Our first meeting of the New Year featured Donald Mitchell on "Soft Fruit", a look forward to those balmy summer evenings with fragrant raspberries (or strawberries) and cream. Donald treated us to a virtuoso panoramic overview of the industry with mouth-watering illustrations. For those unable to take notes, we have put a plant list with useful references on our website. You will be able to refresh your memories from there.

As the days get a little longer, we look forward to our outdoor events, the Open Gardens planned for Saturday 7th June, and the Summer Outing, planned for Saturday 5th

July. Full details will be announced shortly and will be given in our April newsletter and on our website. This year, for the Open Gardens, we would like after a number of years to visit Bonaly again. So if, kind reader, you live in Bonaly and this appeal moves you to open your garden, do please contact us.

A number of you asked whether we could arrange another Photo-workshop this year. Last year's event proved very popular. As we have to engage a specialist lecturer (who is at this moment on location in Alaska) we would like an indication of interest. See the separate article in this Newsletter.

Another event where we like to take part and which displays our Club to the wider community is the Pallet Gardens competition at Gardening Scotland from 30th May to 1st June. Interest is starting to stir amongst members, but we are still waiting for the "leader" to emerge. "Cometh the time, cometh the *person*" as the proverb says. Perhaps, as you read this, you will feel that you are being spoken to! Phone, or email, please!

In the next Club year, that is 2008/9, we are planning to have one of our meetings as a Member's Evening. Many of you have interesting stories to tell, either aspects of gardening and the natural world, travels and observations or specialities such as orchids or bonsai, and we would like to hear from you. In your own words, using your illustrations, telling us of your interest and sharing it with us for fifteen or twenty minutes. Let us know if you have something you would like to tell us. We will help you with the technology if necessary.

We do urge you to come forward with your ideas. What would you like the Club to be doing? What sort of activities, what subjects for talks, what places for outings? Our questionnaire at the September meeting produced, on the surface, only a moderate response though its effect may be to unleash a number of informal ideas. Meanwhile Pat and the Committee are working in overdrive to put together an appealing programme for 2008/9, but it's not too late for you to have input too!

Happy gardening!

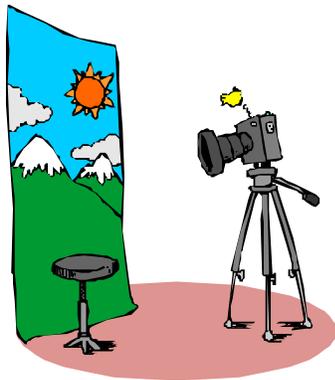
Christopher
Chairperson



The Colinton Garden Club Players wow their audience with their most ambitious pantomime yet... good overcomes evil once again in "The Battle of the Bugs!" Here the Queen Bee (Isobel Lodge) plots the downfall of the bad Bugs with Herman Honeybee (Ian Stewart), Harriet Honeybee (Christine Knight), Lily Ladybird (Ann Duncan) and Samuel Spider (John Lodge)

Calling all photographers!

Colinton Garden Club organised two highly successful workshops in Spring last year on "How to take better photographs and how to present your work effectively" (with particular reference to digital photography).



We're in the process of organising similar workshops this year and we hope to offer two Saturday morning workshops, the first in late April and the second in early May. The format will be similar to last year, but we intend to make the workshops even more practical and "hands on". The workshops will be suitable for both those who came to the workshops last year – and those who didn't. Places will be limited so if you are interested, please contact Christopher Davies by phone (441 2152) or e-mail (chair@colintongardens.org.uk)

More details when our workshop facilitator returns from Alaska!

Dates for your diary...

Monday 25th. February 08	Meeting: “The Queen Mother’s Garden” , Simon Crutchley, Garden Supervisor, Herbaceous and Shrubs, Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
Monday 31st. March 08	Meeting: “Secret Stories of Scottish Plant Hunters over Two Centuries” . Ann Lindsay (Writer)
Saturday morning, mid to late April 08	Photography workshop 1 (date to be confirmed)
Monday 28th. April 08	Annual General Meeting
Saturday morning, early to mid May 08	Photography workshop 2 (date to be confirmed)
Saturday 7th. June 08	Open Gardens and Plant Sale
Saturday 5th. July 08	Colinton Garden Club outing

CGC website

Don't forget, the garden Club website is an excellent source of information - just log on to

www.colintongardens.org.uk

You can access current and recent copies of the newsletter, and on these cold dark nights look at photographs of our wonderful summer outings, and remind yourself what we have in the Club library. And why not make early plans for your Spring gardening activities and have a look at the implements you could borrow when the weather improves!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

At the time of printing this newsletter there were still a few members who are overdue with their subscription for 2007/8 - £5 per household. This amount is to cover basic meeting and administration costs and thus is a much valued support to one of Colinton's well established societies. Apart from enjoyable meetings, you can take part in the social events, share your interest in gardens and the natural environment, enhancing Colinton's natural beauty and promoting its reputation as a great place to live.

If you discover that you have overlooked letting us have your subscription, please send it to Colin Whitehead, Membership Secretary, 21 Laverockdale Park, Edinburgh EH13 0QE, email: membership@colintongardens.org.uk If you need a membership renewal form, you can download one from the website www.colintongardens.org.uk under “contacts”. Many thanks.