

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 83

August 2008



The 2008/09 membership renewal form is attached to this newsletter...

Please complete and return to Membership Secretary Colin Whitehead

Thanks!

The first meeting of the new session is on Monday 22nd September at 8.00 pm

Details inside!

From the pen of our Chair...

Dear Friends,

This Autumn Newsletter brings you news about the Garden Club's plans for the coming year, 2008 – 2009, while the memories of the current year are still fresh.

But whatever the vagaries of the weather, our gardens have flourished this year, as our members who enjoyed the various outdoor events can confirm. If a theme has emerged over our summer meetings, it was that of nature and people living together in harmony, using joint resources and

imagination to create an environment which in itself is a work of art. Nature can amaze, but gardens can appeal to the senses in a special way.

Ann Duncan's garden on 12th May was a real example of this. It had reached a peak with tulips, rhododendron and azaleas in glorious array. About 90 of us took advantage of a bright sunny evening to admire the displays. Thank you, Ann for making a truly memorable evening possible.

Another treat was in store



for those who visited Dr Evelyn Steven's Meconopsis garden near Dunblane on 27th May. Again, the weather, though cool, was kind to us. Here we met an inspiring enthusiast and a world expert on Himalayan Poppies. We were overwhelmed by the
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Some of the Gardening Scotland winning team



A blank order form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please pass your completed form to Dawn Ellis by **Monday 22nd September 2008**

Garden Club Library

Gill Perry writes:

The club benefits from an extremely well stocked library, and we'll be adding some new items in time for the new session, so make sure to have a look at the first meeting.

Don't forget to bring back to the September meeting the books you've had out over the summer – and thank you for your support!

Newsletter delivery

Thanks again to those members who hand-deliver the newsletters.

They help us to keep your subscription rates down by saving us postage costs.

We try to keep our members database up to date but if you ever fail to receive a newsletter, please contact the Secretary, Alasdair Ferguson, on

0131 477 0178

or e-mail

secretary@colintongardens.org.uk

From the pen of our Chair... continued

sheer exuberance of bed upon bed in subtle shades of blue. By loving care and expertise Evelyn and her husband have created a microclimate where these plants prosper far from their native land.

The Open Gardens on 7th June were a splendid success, blessed with a warm sunny morning. Members could meander round 6 gardens, conveniently close together, and be fascinated by the richness and variety Colinton and our gardeners have to offer. We could admire gardens on slopes where landscaping challenges have been imaginatively overcome, well stocked and creatively planted gardens, with some dramatic and exotic species. What a richness and source of wonder! We are most grateful to Jo and Murdo McEwan, Ann and Roger Dean, Hazel and Alan Stewart, Joan and Stephen Bennets, Chris and Pamela Barnes and Margaret and Graham McDougall for so generously showing us their gardens.

Our summer outing on 5th July to Inwood and Tynninghame was another of those special occasions. This was demonstrated in abundance when we visited Inwood and saw what Lindsay and Irvine Morrison have achieved in the corner of a forest in the space of 20 years. The overall impression is that of luxuriant growth, textures and colours, and

cascades of roses down the gable of the house. Tynninghame's Gardens have had longer to mature, and here the impressive mansion, with a Terrace Garden festooned with roses, a romantic Secret Garden and the crowning Walled Garden, Mrs Gwyn's pride and joy, so amazingly stocked and tended, all combine to give a total experience. What about the weather, you may ask? The slightly threatening clouds, and the rain which visited Edinburgh that day at 1.30, held off until the moment we were leaving at 4.30. Once again the Garden Club's reputation for a good day out with good weather was sustained.

We were most pleased by the Club's well-earned success in the Pallet Garden competition at the National exhibition, Gardening Scotland, from 30th May – 1st June. Our sincere thanks are due to the team for their real hard work and efforts which won Silver Gilt with their entry "Castillian Courtyard Garden": Christine Ireland (Concept & Design), Andy Ireland (Construction) with Jeannie Laidlaw, Gill Perry and Elisabeth Davies (Plants, Layout). We also congratulate Colinton Primary School, under the guidance of Johanna Carrie and Isobel Lodge, for their magnificent effort and Silver Gilt award. It is so good to see the Club practising practical talents and displaying them in

public and so to gain recognition from the gardening community at large.

So much for the summer. Nature does not allow gardeners to rest on our laurels and it's time to look forward to the coming year. In this newsletter you will find an outline of the interesting programme of talks and events starting on Monday 22nd September. As usual they cover a range of topics related to the natural environment, some general, some more specialized. In addition, some of you may look forward to joining Susan Falconer's "Fungal Foray" on 5th October (see the separate announcement, and don't forget to register). A new introduction is the Members Night in February, when we invite members to make short presentations, illustrated if they wish, on a subject of their choice and in this way share their interests with us. The old favourites are there, too, the Christmas Party, Open Gardens and Outing – but more of those at a later date.

A "List of Events" is only the framework for our meetings. It is the members who make the Club and provide that particular feeling of having a common interest and being willing to share it with others. The buzz of conversation, like the bees in the garden, tells us that your Club is working well. With your continuing support we look forward to another successful year in 2008 – 9.

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Colin Whitehead, our Membership Secretary writes:

Another topical and varied programme of events has been organised for the forthcoming winter session. We on the committee try to make sure that membership of the Colinton Garden Club really does offer excellent value for money, and we hope you agree! The cost of annual membership remains at **£5** per household for 2008/09.

To ensure that you are fully informed about all the events and activities of the Club, please complete the attached renewal form and return it to me as soon as possible. Can you also let me know of any changes in your contact details including your e-mail address, if you have one, in the space provided on the renewal form.

My address is:

21 Laverockdale Park,
Edinburgh, EH13 0QE

...and my e-mail address is: membership@colintongardens.org.uk

We always welcome new members, so please tell your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues about our club.

And finally, a quick reminder - our regular meetings are held at

8.00 p.m.

in the Dreghorn Loan Hall,
Dreghorn Loan.

See you there!

From the pen of our Chair... continued

A subscription renewal form invites you to renew your membership for this coming year (£5 – unchanged from previous years). Please let Colin Whitehead have this as soon as possible. When you fill up the form, would you please add your current email address, so that we can update our register of members?

We also welcome new members. If you have friends or neighbours who would like to join – or whom you feel *should* join, can you encourage them to do so, please?

With the start of the new Club year, Johanna Carrie, Jonathan Davey and Alison Gilchrist retired from the Committee with our thanks for their excellent work over the past years. In their place we welcome Elspeth MacGregor, Christine Ireland and Jim Murray

who are already bringing their ideas and making their presence felt.

In your new membership booklet, you will find a full list of events, names of Committee Members and contact numbers. In addition we draw your attention to our website www.colintongardens.org.uk expertly managed by Sonia Duffy, where you can find the latest information, photographs of activities, subscription form etc.

Happy Gardening!

Christopher

Christopher Davies
Chairperson



The sun shines on Garden Club members at our Open Gardens morning in June

Fungal Foray Sunday 5th October

Susan Falconer, Senior Ranger at Pentland Hills Regional Park will lead an informal fungus foray in Bonaly Country Park on Sunday 5th. October. We will be meeting at 2pm at Bonaly upper car park, the one beyond the scout camp. Interested members are asked to bring a collecting basket/container and any identification books they may have.

The maximum group number is 20. Please contact Pat Taylor, programme convenor, if you wish to come along. Telephone number is 334 1410 or email me at patriciaataylor@hotmail.com

Plant Sale – a reminder

**On Saturday 18th. October,
10.00 - 12 noon
we will have our annual autumn
plant sale and coffee morning
in St Cuthbert's Episcopal
Church Hall, Westgarth Ave.**

Please give the sale your full support. Over the years the range of plants you have provided for our plant sales makes it a worthwhile event. So whether you are dividing up choice specimens from your herbaceous border, making cuttings or potting up self-seeders this autumn, keep the plant sale in mind. Don't leave it to the last minute. Start thinking about this now. By October we all should be able to produce some tempting contributions that others will wish to snap up and buy.

Lets make the plant sale another resounding success!

Dates for your diary...

Date	Event
Monday 22 nd September 08	Meeting: "Grow something different in a pot" Lindsay Morrison, Inwood Garden
Sunday 5 th October 08	Fungal Foray in the Pentlands Susan Falconer, Pentland Hills Ranger Service (see separate feature in newsletter)
Saturday 18 th October 08	Plant sale and coffee morning: 10.00 –12 noon St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Ave. (please note that bulbs will be for sale at this event)
Monday 27 th October 08	Meeting: "Plants of New Zealand" Steve Mcnamara, NTS Branklyn Garden, Perth
Monday 24 th November 08	Meeting: "Bees in your Garden" Gavin Ramsay, Scottish Crop Research Institute
Wednesday 17 th December 08	Members' Christmas Party
Monday 26 th January 09	Meeting: "Enjoying Orchids" Bruce Robertson, Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh
Monday 23 rd February 09	Meeting: "Members' Night" Short presentations from members
Monday 23 rd March 09	Meeting: "Year-round Vegetables – Lessons from Utopia?" Agric Hadron, The Utopia Experiment
Monday 27 th April 09	Annual General Meeting
Saturday in May/ June 09	Open Gardens Date to be advised nearer the time
Saturday in June/ July 09	Summer outing Date to be advised nearer the time

Scotland's Gardens Scheme: *gardens open for charity*

You may be aware of the "Scotland's Gardens Scheme which encourages owners to open their Gardens on a planned basis to raise money for charity. 40% of the money raised at an opening goes to a registered charity of the garden owner's choice, whilst 60%, net of the Scheme's expenses, goes to nominated beneficiaries, e.g. Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres. Over the last 5 years £1.4 million has been raised. If you feel you can contribute in this way, please contact the Director of the scheme, Paddy Scott, 42a Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3BN, 0131 226 3714, www.gardensofscotland.org or email ps@sgsgardens.co.uk For further information. you can borrow their directory, "Gardens of Scotland 2008", from our library.