

Colinton Garden Club

Newsletter 85

February 09



Coming soon...

Monday 23rd.
February, 8 p.m.

Members' Night!

Three of our members give short presentations with slides. See Dates inside for details.

Monday 23rd.
March, 8 p.m.

"Year round vegetables – Lessons from Utopia?":
Agric Hadron

Don't forget!!

Attached to this newsletter is the Spring Fertiliser Order. **Please note new bag sizes.** Order should be returned to Dawn Ellis by **Monday 23rd.**
February

From the pen of our Chair...



Dear Friends

All good wishes to all our members, families and friends for 2009.

After the warmth and conviviality of Christmas, followed by the celebrations at Hogmanay, it has not been long before January has brought us back to reality. Somewhat colder than some of our more recent winters – which feels "right and natural" for winter – and some fine bright frosty days, when you can sense the dormant gardens starting to respond to the light, if not the warmth. When we were children we always were given to understand that the harder the winter, the

better the summer, and it always seemed to be that way.

The weather forecasters are predicting an unusually fine (and hot) summer this year. The global warming experts are telling us not to be fooled by this colder winter. Roll on the lighter days of spring and let's have plenty of balmy summer evenings in our gardens! The witch hazel in our garden, with its spidery sun-like flowers, is already in bloom. Welcome, friend!

After that yearning for the return of light, it may seem like thinking backwards to talk about our Christmas Party, which took place on 17th December. It was one of those special occasions where time seemed to stand still and those gathered in the Dreghorn Loan Hall, round beautifully decorated tables, shared together an evening of

entertainment and fellowship, a gift more than ever to be valued in these turbulent times.

As has now become our tradition, the Club performed a topical play, in the traditional form of a pantomime, specially written by Isobel Lodge and her co-writers. There was a feeling of anticipation – among actors and audience alike – as the curtain rose for the première (and only performance) of "Don't Bank on It", the story of an orderly and beautiful bank (of flowers) and its threatened destruction by a flash flood. Parallels with the current global financial turmoil are entirely appropriate. The Garden Club discovered the solution through seasoned experience, trust in nature and good cooperation. Do you think we should send the DVD to Gordon Brown?

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From the pen of our Chair... continued

But to come back to the Christmas Party, it was a magical evening, enjoyed by guests, organizers and actors, and with the carols and the angelic descant arising spontaneously from skilled sopranos in the audience, we knew that the season of peace and goodwill had come.

With the New Year, the Committee met to discuss the programme for the next few months. You will see details elsewhere in this newsletter. After Bruce Robertson's excellent talk on "Enjoying Orchids" we are having a Members' Evening, on February 23rd, with three short, illustrated talks, chosen by members on subjects of their interest. I can assure you that the talks will be entertaining and know that the speakers can look forward to a warm welcome from the audience. Thank you to Euan Scroggie, Bryan Dale and Isobel Lodge for offering to speak to us.

Then we have what promises to be an interesting evening on March 23rd when Agric Hadron will speak on "Year-round Vegetables – Lessons from Utopia". The Utopia Experiment was a project designed to explore the issues of self-sufficiency and how idealism might be reconciled with reality. Our member Johanna Carrie has been involved with this, and we are grateful for her support in arranging for Agric to come to us.

Don't forget the AGM on 27th April. Some time off still, but an occasion when you can hear about our plans, ask questions and make comments. As usual, a glass of wine will round off the evening, and enable informal (and frequently very productive) exchanges.

We then have four outdoor events where your help and support are greatly appreciated.

Open Garden Evening (May): three years ago, thanks to the initiative of Alex Kerr, we held our first evening open garden. Since then we have had the pleasure of visiting Elizabeth and Ron Partington, and Ann Duncan. If any member would like to open their garden for members around the middle of May (date to be fixed) we would be pleased to hold this event again this year.

Pallet Gardens (29 – 31 May at Gardening Scotland): the pallet gardens have become a popular attraction at Scotland's annual Gardening Exhibition, and our Club has taken part from the outset. Christine Ireland (445 2266, email: dungavel@btopenworld.com) already has ideas and is recruiting a team to put them into effect. Would you like to join in the fun and be part of a winning venture? Please contact Christine.

Colinton Open Gardens (Saturday 6 June, 10 - 1200): this event, together with plant sale, teas and refreshments always seems to attract the sunshine, and provides the backdrop for a relaxed, social morning. Following the success in Bonaly last year, we are hoping that 4 to 5 gardens in the Pentland Road, Spylaw Bank Road, Gillespie Road area will be offered for opening. Please don't be shy and get in touch with us (Christopher at 441 2152 or email: chair@colintongardens.org.uk)

Summer Outing (4 or 11 July): Planning is in hand with a view to visiting St Andrews and/or Dundee or the northern part of Fife. Not too much travelling, a good place for coffee and lunch and interesting and varied gardens to visit. The exact date will depend on commitments at the gardens in question, as we want them to have time to show us round properly. Further news will follow.

All that remains, for the moment, is to thank you for your support of the Club, to wish you energy and strength as the warmer weather approaches and the garden beckons, so that we can clear away the debris of winter and look forward to a glorious spring.

Happy gardening!

Christopher
Chairperson

The Colinton Garden Club Players received their greatest acclaim to date at the Christmas party on 17th. December 2008. Here's a reminder of some of the high points:



“Doom”
(Ian Stewart)
foretells a
bleak future
for Colinton



Honeysuckle
(Patricia
Maclennan)
and
Meconopsis
(Elspeth
MacGregor)
in the mood
to charm us



Viburnum
(Isobel Lodge –
centre) and
Michaelmas
(Colin
Whitehead)
urge us to “Dig
for Victory”,
with a sceptical
Meconopsis
looking on.

Dates for your diary...

Monday 23rd. February 09	Meeting: Members' Night. Short talks presented by three of our members. The topics are: "Ramblings of a Reluctant Gardener" – Euan Scroggie, "Community Gardening" – Bryan Dale, and "Desert Survivors & Skeletons" – Isobel and John Lodge
Monday 23rd. March 09	Meeting: "Year round vegetables – Lessons from Utopia?" Agric Hadron – The Utopia Experiment
Saturday 28th. March – Sunday 29th. March 09	Caley Spring Show: Royal Botanic Gardens
Monday 27th. April 09	Annual General Meeting
Mid May – Monday	Open Garden Evening. Details to follow
Friday 29th. May to Sunday 31st. May 09	Gardening Scotland show at Ingliston. Come along and see the Colinton Garden Club Pallet Garden competition entry!
Saturday 6th. June 09	Open Gardens and Plant Sale
Saturday 4th. July or Saturday 11th. July 09	Colinton Garden Club Summer Outing

Cuttings

- Forthcoming Suntrap events - on **Saturday 7th. February** at 2.30 p.m., David Mitchell will give a talk about his career – David will be well known to Colinton Garden Club members and is a regular member of BBC Radio Scotland's Potting Shed Team. This event is open to all. And on **Saturday 7th. March** Suntrap will be having a Flower Show and Quiz
- The **Caley Spring Show** will take place at the Royal Botanic Gardens on **Saturday 28th / Sun 29th. March 11am - 5.30** The Caley Bicentenary will be commemorated in the floral clock in West Princes Gardens this summer - and look out for the logo on the mound
- Remember that the Garden Club website is an excellent source of information - just log on to www.colintongardens.org.uk. Some of the events in the spring and summer don't have exact dates yet but as soon as we have these dates we'll put them on the website
- The new session of the **School Club** starts on 29 January. The Club was very popular, last term, with a regular attendance of 15 or 16 young and excited pupils. Outdoor gardening and activities planned for Spring include work in the courtyard garden; taking outdoor cuttings; and an eco treasure hunt in the Gallolee Wood (now a nature reserve). Another session has an eco theme - we ask the children to re-use materials like old CDs (any no longer wanted by members gratefully received) and egg boxes for use in the garden, eg.bird scarers, plant pots, etc. In late January, we will make bird cakes and have a quiz about wild birds in the garden. Some members have kindly offered plants for indoor cuttings. We intend to make mini pallet gardens in compost trays and our final session before Easter will consist of making Easter trees with decorated eggs.
- If you discover that you have inadvertently let your subscription lapse, please send it to Colin Whitehead, Membership Secretary, 21 Laverockdale Park, Edinburgh EH13 0QE. If you need a membership renewal form, you can download one from the website www.colintongardens.org.uk under "contacts"