

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 87
August 2009



The 2009/10 membership renewal form is attached to this newsletter...

Please complete and return to Membership Secretary Colin Whitehead

Still just £5 per household!

From the pen of our Chair...

Dear Friends,

As other local societies adjourned for the summer – thoughtfully giving their members more free time to look after their gardens – the Garden Club emerged from its winter programme into the glorious summer. This is the time when we come into our own, when Nature blossoms forth in proliferation, fulfilling her command to grow and multiply and adding her profusion to the skills and aspirations of us gardeners to produce

the displays which delight us as we make our way through gardens, streets and suburb.

The memories of our outdoor events will accompany us as the evenings draw in, which inevitably will happen within a few weeks. The summer has been kind to us, kinder still to our plants, flowers, trees and shrubs (not to mention their bedfellows, the weeds....which, even they, also have their place in the natural order of things....)



Our outdoor season started on May 11th with the Evening Open Garden at the house of Morag and Lawrence Marshall. A goodly number of our members came to enjoy this beautiful garden

/ PTO



Members enjoy the May Open Gardens evening!

The first meeting of the new session is on

Monday 28th.
September
at
8.00 pm

All welcome!

*A blank order form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please pass your completed form to Dawn Ellis by **Monday 28th September 2009***

Garden Club Library

Gill Perry writes:

We will have some new additions to our well-stocked Garden Club Library at our first meeting of the Club year in September.

Come along and have a look, and if you have had any books over the summer, please remember to return them.

Many thanks

Newsletters

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

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

You can now opt to receive your newsletter by e-mail. Details on the subscription renewal forms.

We try to keep our records up to date but if you don't receive a newsletter, please contact the Secretary, Alasdair Ferguson, on

0131 477 0178

From the pen of our Chair... continued

(cont. from p.1)
freshly clothed in the green of the late Spring. We stood on the lawn and gazed at the setting sun whose light was reflected in the wine glass in our hand. It was a calm evening with a powerful feeling of harmony. Thank you, Morag and Lawrence.

On June 6th, it was time for the Open Gardens. The day dawned warm and bright. It was a memorable occasion in that we had four large gardens, each in close proximity with the other: Caroline and Michael Pearson, Lindsay and David MacLure, Sally and Jake Miller and Maggie and David Robinson – thank you all for your generosity and the welcome you gave to the Club. What was so remarkable was that each garden had its own personality, the views were subtly different, combining however into an inspiring panorama, on what felt like the roof of the world. Members enjoyed each others' company, either in walking round, over the plant sale (at Millers) or teas (at Pearsons). It is on such occasions that one realizes that Colinton is a real community.

Our Summer Outing this year took us, on

11th July, to Earlshall Castle in Leuchars, and St Andrews Botanic Garden. It was an outstanding event, bright sunshine as we left Edinburgh, slightly overcast when we arrived in Earlshall, which gave us the bonus of being warmly welcomed by the owners, Paul and Josine Veenhuijzen in the historic Long Gallery of the Castle. After tea or coffee and homemade cake, and Paul's entertaining introduction, with the sun breaking through the thin cloud, we wandered at leisure through the lovingly tended gardens. St Andrews, bathed in sunshine, welcomed us for lunch and then on to a guided tour of the extensive and well laid out Botanic Garden with surprisingly varied habitats and a wealth of plants. All agreed that it had been a relaxing and exceptionally pleasant day.

We had two successes at the Gardening Scotland Exhibition (29th – 31st May), when our entry for the increasingly popular Pallet Garden Competition was awarded a Gold Medal. Congratulations to the team led by Christine Ireland together with Andy Ireland, Jeannie

Laidlaw, Jim Murray, Gill Perry and Margaret Semple who so cleverly translated the themes of a Robert Burns poem and the "Homecoming" into a visual display. This success was added to by Colinton Primary School receiving a Silver Medal for their entry to which our members substantially contributed. Thanks to Johanna Carrie, Jean Haskell and Isobel Lodge. It is a great example of 'hands-on' gardening combined with education where members are using their talents and at the same time opening new horizons for the Club's activities.

You can view photos of these events, and more on our well maintained website (thanks to Sonia Duffy). Don't forget to check it out for the latest information, and thanks to our photographer-members who sent in pictures of the events.

The phrase "new horizons" prompts me to suggest that we should always be on the look out for new ideas so that we can move the Club forward and keep it interesting. In the last few years, we have introduced the Evening Open Garden, the Pallet Garden Competition, Workshops (e.g. Photography) and

/PTO

**Colin Whitehead, our
Membership Secretary
writes:**

Your committee has organised another topical and varied programme of events for the forthcoming Garden Club year!

We 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 2009/10.

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. This year we are asking you to send an SAE with your booking form, if you are not able to pick up the membership booklet at one of our meetings, or at the Plant Sale in October. Please 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. And this year, you will be able to receive your regular newsletter by e-mail only, if you would prefer. Just let us know by indicating on the form.

My address is:

21 Laverockdale Park,
Edinburgh, EH13 0QE

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

Please tell your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues about club – they will be welcome at any of our regular meetings in the Dreghorn Loan Hall, Dreghorn Loan.

See you there!

From the pen of our Chair... continued

(cont. from P.2)

Members' Evening. The point is to keep such events within our remit and resources, and we are always pleased to consider ideas from our members, not only from the Committee.

We continue to make our contribution to the communal life of Colinton. The Conservation Trust is engaged on a project to refurbish the Long Steps from Bridge Street down to the Parish Church and our team, led by Bryan Dale is lending a hand, in addition to maintaining the Triangle. Colinton Primary School in conjunction with BBC Beechgrove Garden have a project "Room to Grow", supported by Beechgrove and the Colinton Amenity Association (CAA) to which the Garden Club is contributing knowledge and help in terms of gardening expertise, help with planting, layout and project management.

With this Newsletter you are receiving details of our programme for the coming year, 2009 – 2010. Once again, we have aimed to put together an interesting and varied series of talks and to locate qualified and stimulating speakers. We hope we have succeeded and that the programme meets with your approval.

The other half is your participation in our events. Over the last year the reputation of the Club has continued to rise. Attendance at meetings has regularly exceeded 100, which makes for an enthusiastic audience, appreciated by speakers. It also guarantees a lively forum for members to meet each other, exchange news and to seek advice on issues of concern – not necessarily only to do with

their gardens! The Garden Club is part of a Colinton-wide network which plays a real part in developing a sense of community amongst us.

We remind you that the annual subscription (£5 per household) is due now. The renewal form is attached, and helps us to keep our records up-to-date. The subscription, which we have held at this rate for many years pays for the talks, Hall rental, four newsletters and basic administration and represents incredible value. Please let us have it promptly and if you would like to receive your membership booklet by post, we are asking you to enclose a stamped, addressed envelope – this will save Colin, our membership secretary, considerable work at a time when everything comes at once.

Now while the Edinburgh Festival still has a week or so to run, we wish you enjoyment of our city, full of visitors admiring its beauty and attractions, then a smooth readjustment to life as normal in September, before we meet again at the first meeting on September 28th. Put this date in your diaries: Monday, September 28th, Dreghorn Loan Hall, 8 pm – and see you there!

Happy Gardening

**Christopher Davies
Chairperson**

**October Plant Sale
Saturday 10th October,
10.00 - 12 noon**

Join us at our annual autumn plant sale and coffee morning in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Ave.

Please give the plant sale your support by providing plants for us to sell, thus making it a successful event. You may be dividing up choice specimens from your herbaceous border, making cuttings or potting up self-seeders this autumn, and please keep the plant sale in mind. Don't leave it to the last minute - start thinking about this now. We'll be delighted to receive any plants to sell from 0830 on the morning of the event at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall. Plants can also be delivered to committee members the evening before.

And of course come along to the sale itself, meet your friends, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, and go off with a new plant for your garden!

Members' hints and tips!

Here's a new feature for the newsletter, starting with the November 2009 issue.

If you have any hints or tips about gardening in Colinton (or hereabouts) e-mail the secretary and space permitting we will try to include your tip in a forthcoming newsletter.

Just e-mail your tip to:

secretary@colintongardens.org.uk

Dates for your diary...

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
Monday 28 th September 09	Meeting: "Alpine Plants of Scotland" Ian and Carole Bainbridge, Scottish Rock Garden Club
Saturday 10 th October 09 10.00 -12 noon	Plant sale and coffee morning: St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Ave. (Please note that bulbs will be for sale at this event)
Monday 26 th October 09	Meeting: "A Plant View of Climatic Warming" Professor Robert Crawford, University of St Andrews
Monday 23 rd November 09	Meeting: "The Redwood Trail, California and Oregon" Ian Douglas, Scottish Rhododendron Society
Wednesday 16 th December 09	Members' Christmas Party
Monday 25 th January 2010	Meeting: "Creating a Country Garden" Margaret Kilpatrick, Honorary Member, CGC
Monday 22 nd February 2010	Meeting: "Growing and Showing Roses" Iain Silver, National Rose Society
Monday 22 nd March 2010	Meeting: "Birds in Your Garden" Stan da Prato, Wildlife Consultant
Monday 26 th April 2010	Annual General Meeting
Monday evening in May 2010	Evening Open Garden Date and details to follow
Saturday in May/ June 2010	Open Gardens Morning Date and details to follow
Saturday in June/ July 2010	Summer outing Date and details to follow



*Last
minute
tweaks to
Colinton
Garden
Club's
winning
Pallet
Garden!*