

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 92

November 2010



Coming soon...

**Monday 22nd
November 8 pm**

"A World of
Monkey Puzzles"
Richard Ennos
University of
Edinburgh

**Wednesday 15th
December 8 pm**

Our annual
Christmas Party –
come and enjoy
an evening of fun,
entertainment and
refreshments

Membership

If you haven't
renewed your
membership,
please do so as
soon as possible
– see page 3 for
details

From the pen of our Chair...

Dear Friends

As the Autumn lingers, with the air becoming cooler, and the golden sun a little paler day by day, we marvel at the richly coloured display of trees and shrubs, a parting outburst before the leaves fall. And as we work in our gardens, putting them to bed for their winter rest, we have that feeling of fulfilment coupled with the reluctant sense of another year having passed and some months to wait before the garden fills with life again.

Yet we know, even as we prepare to take our leave of 2010, our hearts and minds are looking forward to the next season, and that though the garden

seems to sleep, it – and we – are never really at rest. Nature knows how to handle this. We humans are more impatient: we have to learn to curb our restlessness and accept each time of the year, and each circumstance, for its own particular characteristics and surprises.

The Garden Club has started the year well. We took part in Colinton's "Art in the Park" on 29th August, with a gazebo masterminded by Christine Ireland and Jim Murray, clearly visible thanks to the new banners we bought last season and staffed by the Committee and their helpers. It was good for



the Garden Club to play a prominent part in this community event.

This year we welcome more than 30 new members who have joined us. We are pleased to have them in the Club, contributing to our events and our activities.

/PTO



*Expert
advice being
offered at
our Plant
Sale in
early
October*

The Club organised a Plant Sale on 9th October.

Your committee started bright and early at 08.30 to prepare the hall and before long members appeared with a marvellous range of plants to be sold. They were all priced and set out on tables and the doors opened promptly at 10.00 to receive the rush of buyers.

Members came to buy and to chat and to have coffee and it was a very convivial and agreeable occasion.

We also offered Damson Jam, courtesy of Diana Ennos, and a large selection of Parker's spring bulbs for sale. The net proceeds of the sale amount to £205

Elspeth MacGregor

From the pen of our Chair.... continued

(cont. from p.1)

Our first meeting was on 27th September when the local personality, Billy Carruthers (Binny Plants), spoke on "Ornamental Grasses". Billy is a genuine enthusiast, with an obsession for quality. His plant list from the talk, which covered much more than grasses, can be found under "events" on our website.

We held our traditional Plant Sale & Coffee Morning on 9th October. As usual it was a successful and cordial occasion with plants of high quality and good value. It provides a

pleasant forum for members to meet and for others to drop in. Our thanks to all our helpers including Elizabeth Ferro and Ann Dean, experts we can always rely on.

On 25th October Lindsay Morrison entertained us with "Gardens from Home and Abroad". She is a remarkable speaker, known for her contagious enthusiasm and "can do" approach. In a whirl-wind tour she shared favourite gardens with us, telling us why she finds them inspiring and where to find them. Her Garden List is on our website.

Our talk on 22nd Novem-

ber, with the intriguing title "A World of Monkey Puzzles", will be given by Dr Richard Ennos of the University of Edinburgh. Such a theme enlivens the imagination, conjuring a rich scenario of trees, South America and monkeys. We look forward to an entertaining evening.

Now, what you have been waiting for – news of the Christmas Party, which will be held on Wednesday 15th December. This is always a convivial and memorable event, where we capture in a special way the spirit of Christmas. This year, the Committee decided to have a change in the entertainment and have invited Mary Johnston, storyteller and poet, to share some seasonal reminiscences with us. As regular Party Goers know, the Christmas Party is a very popular event, but numbers are limited to the capacity of the Hall – see p.3 for ticket details.

Following our success in the pallet gardens competition at Gardening Scotland, we are looking for someone to lead a small team to represent us next year (3 – 5 June), combining artistic skills in design with practical skills in execution.

/PTO

Dates for your diary...

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
Monday 22nd November 2010	Meeting: "A World of Monkey Puzzles" Richard Ennos, Reader in Biological Sciences, Edinburgh University
Wednesday 15th December 2010	Members' Christmas Party
Monday 24th January 2011	Meeting: "A Horticultural Journey" George Anderson, Beechgrove Garden
Monday 28th February 2011	Meeting: "Creating a Water Feature in your Garden" Ann Burns, Oatridge College
Monday 28th March 2011	Meeting: "Members' Evening" Three talks from our members
Monday 25th April 2011	Annual General Meeting
Monday evening in May 2011	Evening Open Garden Date and details to follow
Saturday in May / June 2011	Open Gardens Morning Date and details to follow
Saturday in June / July 2011	Summer Outing Date and details to follow

(cont. from p.2)

Surely, one of you, reading this, is saying "I'd love to try that!" So please do not hesitate, take the plunge and we will help you put a team together.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find details of our programme for the second half of the year. What are not included, are the informal outings we organize from time to time: for example last

year we went to the RBGE for breakfast, Jupiter Artland and Margaret & Neil Kilpatrick's. We are open to your ideas and suggestions as to what we might do in the coming months.

Now turning from writing this and looking at the Autumn sun glistening through the golden leaves, reminds me that gardening

is not just writing about it. It means nothing unless you get out there and get involved. So let me go – and we'll meet at the next meeting!

Meantime, Happy Gardening!

Christopher Davies
Chairperson

Membership 2010/11

If you haven't renewed your membership, please send your subscription to Colin Whitehead, 21 Laverockdale Park, Edinburgh EH13 0QE and enclose a stamped addressed envelope to receive your membership booklet. At £5 per household, this is the bargain of the century!

You can opt to receive your regular newsletter on-line rather than hand-delivered – just let Colin know – e-mail address:

membership@
colintongardens.org.uk

If you do not receive your newsletter, please contact the Communications Officer, Bob Jones. You may also send him interesting photos taken at any of our events

0131 445 2745

publicity@
colintongardens.org.uk

Club Website

Members are invited to visit our website, which contains details of all the Club's activities

Webmaster: Sonia Duffy

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Suntrap needs the kiss of gold

Members may have heard of Suntrap Garden's struggles for survival. This beautiful Garden, situated at Gogarbank, and easy to access by Colintonians, was bequeathed to charity by George Boyd Anderson in 1966 as a place of education and advice for all gardeners. Initially, the garden was managed by the National Trust for Scotland and then by Oatridge College, until Oatridge was forced to withdraw this year because of lack of funds. Part of the garden will return to NTS management in November 2010 and it is hoped that the other part will follow. Meantime, it has continued to be tended by volunteers.

The Friends of Suntrap and the other organisations perceive Suntrap as a very special place that is worth saving. As the longer term future of Suntrap is in jeopardy, it is proposed to form a charitable company to seek finance and volunteer support to maintain the Garden and its many resources for the benefit of the local communities, individuals and groups.

We are positive that the future for Suntrap can be brighter. If you can offer any ideas or support, please contact me.

Isobel Lodge, 0131 441 3934

Christmas Party 2010

Don't forget our Christmas party is on Wednesday 15th December starting at 8.00 pm (doors open at 7.45 pm)



Storytelling and Poetry

Quizzes and Carols

Refreshments

Tickets for this event (£6 each) are going fast
To reserve a place, phone Christopher Davies on 441 2152
or email chair@colintongardens.org.uk
or contact any Garden Club Committee Member