

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 93

February 2011



Coming soon...

Monday 28th
February 8 pm

“Creating a
Water Feature in
your Garden”

Ann Burns
Oatridge College

**Pot Plant Display /
Competition**

To accompany
members' talks at
the March meeting

**Spring Fertilizer
Orders**

An order form is
attached to this
newsletter – return
to Dawn Ellis by
Monday 28th
February

From the pen of our Chair...

Dear Friends

Winter came early this season, at the end of November, and held us in her grip for weeks, disrupting our well-worn rhythms. Woodhall Road became a mushy track dominated by pedestrians, lined with abandoned, half-buried cars. With luck you picked up a bus in the village, or you joined the walkers to Firrhill. Shopping with rucksack, socializing within walking distance, fixtures cancelled, days without post, yet a sense of cheerfulness and shared experience.

But the gardens suffered. The weight of snow and the intensity of the snowfalls caused the shrubs, trees and hedges to bend and frequently to crack. Wildlife in the garden went to ground, at least there were no tell-tale tracks. The heavy layer of snow threatened carparks and conservatories, and long icicles formed as the snow on the roofs slid and melted, with gutters buckling under the strain.

However, lest you feel that all this talk about snow is burdensome,



let's look on the bright side. Snow transforms our world into a magical wonderland. The familiar becomes a fairytale. The sharp angles and edges are rounded, the roar of the city is muted, the hectic rush is dampened.



*Expert opinion
being sought
from our
January
speaker
George
Anderson*

*From the pen of our Chair.... continued***New additions to the Club Library****RHS Plant Finder 2009-2010***A wealth of useful information***Gardening with Woodland Plants***by Karan Junker
A comprehensive guide to over 2000 woodland plants***Scotland for Gardeners***by Kenneth Cox
The first full colour guidebook to the gardens, garden centres and nurseries of Scotland*

And when the clouds clear and the sun shines from a blue sky we find ourselves in a wondrous landscape of glistening snow and glassy ice with the rustle of crystals gently cascading from trees and hedges. It is – or was – after all, winter.

The Garden Club has had a good start to the year. We took part in “Art in the Park” in August, Colinton’s showcase where people go to meet each other. At our first meeting in September, Billy Carruthers (Binny Plants) addressed us, his talk showing great attention to detail and quality, demonstrating why he consistently wins gold medals at Gardening Scotland.

In October, Lindsay Morrison (Inwood Garden) spoke on “Gardens at Home and Abroad”. In her indefatigable and energetic style, she made us feel empowered to go out and get things done. Richard Ennos’ (November) talk on Monkey Puzzles was full of fascinating information, linking his wider theme to specimens in Colinton, a masterpiece of presentation and communication. In January, George Anderson (of Beechgrove fame) entertainingly and endearingly illustrated his path through life, his “Horticultural Journey”, by cleverly intertwining references to plants, people and events.

Dates for your diary...

Friday 25th February 2011	Breakfast and Snowdrop Walk Meet 10 am, John Hope Gateway, Botanic Gardens (see p. 4: prior notification necessary)
Monday 28th February 2011	Meeting: “Creating a Water Feature in your Garden” Ann Burns, Oatridge College
Monday 28th March 2011	Meeting: “Members’ Evening” Monet’s Garden: Colin Whitehead Plants and Gardens of Taiwan: Penny McKee Members’ house plants: display / competition
Monday 25th April 2011	Annual General Meeting
Monday 23rd May 2011	Evening Open Garden Details to follow
Saturday 11th June 2011	Open Gardens Morning Details to follow
Provisionally Sat 16th July 2011	Summer Outing Date and details to follow

From the pen of our Chair.... continued

Our annual Christmas Party, one of our most popular events, was again another remarkable evening. We met in a beautifully decorated Hall to enjoy each others' company, and to hear Mary Johnston recite her poems, tell anecdotes and finally sing one of her songs. After sharing food and wine, or soft drinks, having fun over the quizzes, and singing some familiar carols, we all went home knowing that we were more than a step closer to the true spirit of Christmas.

So much for the past. Now it's time to look to the future.

Open Gardens: the Evening Open Garden will be on Monday May 23rd and the Open Gardens (Splyaw Bank Road area) on Saturday 11th June (details in the April Newsletter). These are very sociable occasions and I can promise

you that you are in for a treat.

Summer Outing: this will probably be on Saturday 16th July in the Borders. We are still working on the itinerary. Full details with the opportunity to reserve a place will be announced in March.

Mini-outings: last year in February we went to the Botanics for breakfast and a guided snowdrop walk. At the January meeting there was general assent to repeat this event. See the separate article on page 4. If you would like to join us, please let us know so that we can make the booking on your behalf.

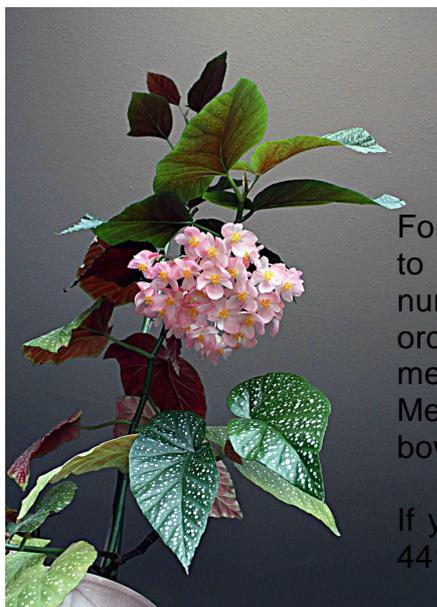
We have other ideas for mini-outings on the basis of shared transport, up to 20 persons, paying own costs. Suggestions are welcome. The advantage of going as a group is that the Club can usually organize a

guided tour and inside information. However, we need about 4 weeks to organize.

So, that feels like a lot of words and a lot of information. Now each day is a little longer and a little warmer, our attention is redirected back into the garden, to clear the debris of the past weeks and prepare for the coming of the longed-for Spring. To say hallo to my little robin-companion waiting at each turn of the spade, and shoo away the heron queuing at the pond for *le petit déjeuner à la grenouille....*

Happy Gardening

Christopher Davies



PLANT IN A BOWL / POT COMPETITION

Part of the Member's Evening on 28th March 2011

For this event, we would like as many members as possible to bring along a pot plant or a bowl of bulbs that they have nurtured. It can be anything - a fern, a bowl of tulips, an orchid etc. The pots/bowls will be placed on tables for members to admire and discuss during the evening. Members will be encouraged to vote for their favourite pot / bowl in the display and a prize will be awarded to its owner.

If you have any queries, please contact, Diana Ennos (Tel: 441 2864)

Pallet Garden and Planter Challenges at Gardening Scotland 2011



We are looking for a small team, say one leader and three assistants, to take part in the Pallet Garden Challenge (3 – 5 June 2011) on behalf of the Club.

Club teams have done well in the past and are willing to give advice to the new group.

If you feel you can take this on, please contact the Chairman as soon as possible. Further information at:

www.gardeningscotland.com

www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Royal Botanic Garden: Snowdrop Tour

Friday 25th February 2011

We shall meet at the Gateway Restaurant
(by West Entrance) at 10 am for breakfast.

Afterwards there will be guided tour
of the snowdrop areas

Numbers are limited and there may be
a small charge for the tour

To book a place, contact:

Penny McKee, Tel: 441 5827

e-mail: penny.mckee@blueyonder.co.uk



New members

Please direct anyone interested
in joining the Club to the
Membership Secretary
Colin Whitehead,
21 Laverockdale Park,
Edinburgh EH13 0QE

[membership@
colintongardens.org.uk](mailto: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

robertlesliejones@btinternet.com

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](http://www.colintongardens.org.uk)