

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 94

April 2011



**Monday 28th
March, 8 pm**

Members' Evening

Includes two talks
and
Plant in a Bowl
Competition

**Exhibits, please!
See February
newsletter**

Coming soon

**Evening Open
Garden**

**Open Gardens
and Plant Sale**

**Mini-outing to
Shepherd House
Garden**

Summer Outing

Details of all
on page 3

From the pen of our Chair...

Dear Friends

One of my predictions (see January newsletter) came to pass: the heron called in at our pond for breakfast and so we were unwilling accomplices to nature's supply chain in action. Herons are majestic birds, but might frogs be princes in disguise?



Sure enough, with the first stirrings of Spring – in spite of the cool air – the snowdrops (*Galanthus*, I should say) and crocuses appeared only a little later than usual, and the delicate filigree blossom of the witch hazel gave a lift to our spirits. Just at this point, rain interrupted my scarfing when I was almost finished, and dawn the next day revealed an unexpected, and uncalled for, carpet of snow. Such are the challenges that our climate strews in our path. However, experience assures us that without fail those gloriously warm days will appear, when it is pure pleasure to be outside in the midst of a garden. On one of those days when the whole of nature – flowers, shrubs, birds and bees – is singing together in harmony. Come on, summer!

Twenty-two members met for breakfast on Friday 25th February at the John Hope Gateway at the RBGE. Not only did we have a splendid repast, but we also had the pleasure of meeting Professor Stephen Blackmore, Regius Keeper, and listened to an enthusiastic and educative talk from our old friend, Alan Bennell, Head of External Relations. Alan's parting words were "See you next year!" Our other reason for the visit was to take a guided tour of the snowdrops, which we were shown by their expert David Binnie. Look out for these "mini-outing" – in this newsletter you will find details of a visit to Shepherd House Garden (June 20th).



Visit to RBGE

*Our guide, David
Binnie describes
the structure of
*Galanthus nivalis**

*A healthy
specimen*

Spring Bulb Orders from Parker's

I am sure you are all enjoying the spring flowers which are at last emerging in your gardens after the hard winter. How these bulbs ever survive and then flower so profusely is amazing.

Parker's never cease to astonish with their huge variety of everyday and more exotic bulb varieties and the prices are very reasonable. Treat your garden to some new types of snowdrops, daffodils, narcissi, anemones or choose some of the really glorious species of tulip. The Spring Bulbs Catalogues should arrive in June and this will be announced on the website. Please call me (0131 441 6079) and I'll put your name on my list and the catalogues will be passed around and you can place your new orders.

You can also manage your order completely online – select what you want from the wholesale catalogue at www.jparkers.co.uk and then e-mail me emacgregor@gmx.net for a form, fill it in and I'll place your order.

The bulbs arrive in September, lilies later in November, and they will be distributed to you then. You pay on delivery.

Elspeth MacGregor, Bulb Coordinator

From the pen of our Chair.... continued

On February 28th we had another enjoyable meeting, with several new members – welcome, everyone. Ann Burns of Oatridge College spoke on “Creating a Water Feature in your Garden”, an entertaining, well prepared and well illustrated talk. There was a lively feel to the meeting with members enjoying each other's company.

There is a lot going on in the next few months, including Gardening Scotland in early June. In relation to the open gardens, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Susan & Steve Plag, Rosie Simson, Catherine & David Gerrard and Gill & Paul Perry for so generously offering to open their gardens for our enjoyment. We really do appreciate this and look forward to these occasions.

This is the last newsletter before the summer. Our website will contain updates and additional information, but if in doubt, please telephone a Committee Member – or come to the March or April meetings.

May I thank you all, personally and on behalf of the Club for your support and friendship during the year which have contributed so much to making Colinton Garden Club what it is: a good place to be! Have a good summer, and finally,

Happy Gardening,

Christopher Davies

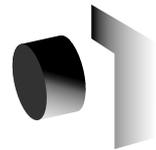
Jim Holmes

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Jim Holmes on 2nd March 2011. Jim was a loyal and longstanding member of our Club.

May he rest in peace.

Looking ahead.....

The Committee intends to organize a Plant Photography Exhibition as part of next year's Members' Evening. So, everyone, dust off your camera lens and snap away this summer.



The Club's Library of Plant Books

Loan of books from the Club's Library has decreased of late. This is a pity as there is a wide selection suiting both novice and experienced gardeners.

Please spend a few minutes browsing the counter – you may be surprised by what gems you come away with.

Dates for your diary....

Monday 25th April 2011	Annual General Meeting 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan Hall
Monday 23rd May 2011	Evening Open Garden 6.30 – 8 pm: see p.3 for details
3rd – 5th June 2011	Gardening Scotland Ingliston Showground
Saturday 11th June 2011	Members Open Gardens and Plant Sale 10 am – 12 noon; see p.3 for details
Monday 20th June 2011	Outing to Shepherd House Garden Prior registration required: see p.3 for details
Saturday 16th July 2011	Summer Outing Prior registration required: see p.3 for details

Evening Open Garden: Monday 23rd May, 6.30 – 8 pm

**Hosted by Susan and Steve Plag
Laverockdale House, 66 Dreghorn Loan, EH13 0DB**

Parking is very limited: please park on public road at top of Dreghorn Loan

Open Gardens and Plant Sale: Saturday 11th June 2011

Members have the opportunity to visit three gardens
in the Spylaw area between 10 am and 12 noon

Rosie Simson, 65 Spylaw Bank Road, EH13 0JD

Catherine & David Gerrard, 16 Spylaw Park, EH13 0LP

Gill & Paul Perry, 16 Spylaw Bank Road, EH13 0JW

The **Plant Sale** will take place at Rosie Simson's. Items for sale should if possible be delivered by 9 am or by previous arrangement with a committee member. Please label with name of plant and any particular growing conditions.

Mini-outing to Shepherd House Garden: Mon 20th June 2011

This garden of about one acre near Inveresk has been described as
'In the ten best gardens in Scotland' (Scottish Field, Nov 2009).
We will have a talk and conducted tour by Sir Charles Fraser
followed by a cup of tea and shortbread.

Limited to 20 members (sharing own transport). Cost £6. To reserve places, contact Christine Ireland 0131 445 2266, dungavel@btopenworld.com or at the next meeting. Please meet at 2.30 pm in Crookston Road, Inveresk, EH21.

Summer Outing: Saturday 16th July 2011

Craigieburn Garden and Nursery near Moffat is the main attraction of this year's full day outing: *'The hidden treasure in the hills'* www.craigieburngarden.com.

There is something for everyone – herbaceous borders, roses and eastern Himalayan plants in the Nepali Garden. There is also a large selection of plants for sale including woodland and bog-garden species.

We will have coffee or tea on arrival. Lunch will be taken in Moffat - there are several excellent restaurants / cafes and facilities for picnics. We will then visit another garden in the vicinity.

Cost of £20 includes travel, morning coffee/tea and admissions. To reserve places, on first come, first served basis, contact Christopher Davies 0131 441 2152, Davieschr@aol.com

The coach will leave Westgarth Avenue at 9 am, returning by approx. 5.30 pm. Further details obtainable at AGM, on our website or from any committee member.