

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 95

August 2011



The membership renewal form for 2011-12 is attached to this newsletter

Please complete and return to the Membership Secretary Colin Whitehead

Only £6 per household

Our first meeting of this session features a talk by Prof Mary Gibby, RBGE

**Monday
26 September
at 8 pm**

All welcome!

From the pen of our Chair...

Pure magic! One of those rare evenings under the influence of midsummer when we sat with friends in a still warm Colinton garden: the sky glowing from the setting sun, frogs croaking, bats shyly winging, and the remaining light refracted through a glass of red wine. At peace with the world and in harmony with nature.....



That's what Scotland is like. Just when you think summer is never going to come, you get a day like that and it rekindles one's faith. But what about the rain? A little bit of adverse weather need not spoil a good event.

The first test was the Evening Open Garden at Susan and Steve Plag's magnificent house. It was 23rd May, the day of the storm when trees were blown down and roads were flooded, but not in Laverockdale. Thanks to the Plag's generosity in opening their conservatory we had the best of both worlds: enjoyment of the garden and the intimacy of the memorable little party that developed. What one calls "a successful evening".

Our next event was the Open Gardens on Saturday 11th June, and here we had three splendid gardens, Rosie Simson who also hosted the Plant Sale, David and Catherine Gerrard and Gill and Paul Perry where tea and coffee were served. The rain, which started about 9.30, dampened proceedings but its impact was not noticeable on the high spirits of the 80 – 100 people who came along. Our thanks to the three gardens for participating and for making the event possible. In fact David Gerrard as exhibitor enjoyed the morning so much that he wrote a most gracious letter, thanking the Club for the privilege of taking part.



Evening Open Garden

*The Chairman
expresses the Club's
appreciation to Susan
and Steve Plag*

From the pen of our Chair... continued

The visit to Shepherd's Garden on 20th June was most memorable, taking place in bright sunshine and accompanied by a cordial reception from the owner, Sir Charles Fraser.

Our final major event was the Summer Outing which had elements of an adventure. Only one person out of 50 did not turn up, in spite of pouring rain and a dire forecast. The advice "never trust the experts" was once again proved to be (more or less) true, at least insofar that the rain stopped for the garden visits – Tom Shearer (Broughton), Dawyck and Craigieburn (Moffat) - saving its downpours for when we were on the bus in transit. In Moffat we arrived in a violent thunderstorm but an hour later the sky had cleared. The choice of gardens was excellent, each one being different: Tom Shearer with his very personal meticulous cottage garden, Dawyck with its hospitable cafe and majestic trees, and Craigieburn with its Himalayan accent and Buddhist culture. We arrived back in Edinburgh exactly on schedule feeling that we had had a full and satisfying day out.

The AGM on 25th April, reported in detail on the affairs of the Club, the growth in its membership with good attendance at its meetings. From the feedback we receive we believe that the membership is satisfied with what the Club offers but we are always on the lookout for new ideas. Please get in touch if you have any comments. Membership was ratified at £6 (per household) annually from 1st September – 31st August. Exceptional value, I'm sure you agree. Your subscription renewal form is attached. Please do not forget to update your email address if you have changed it.

You will find the programme of talks for this new season on page 4 of this newsletter. Once again we have a varied selection of topics presented by experts in their field. Talks should be not only informative but also entertaining. Our reputation has preceded us, so speakers look forward to coming, knowing that they will have a good and interested audience, making their visit worthwhile. So let's live up to expectations.

Summer Outing

Tom Shearer describes the beginnings of his immaculate garden in Broughton

In the Himalayan foothills of Craigieburn – the midges were definitely Scottish!



From the pen of our Chair... continued

Last year I was disappointed that we did not take part in the Pallet Gardens Challenge at Gardening Scotland. This demands creative vision in conceiving a theme in miniature with practical skills in turning it into reality and active teambuilding in putting it all together. I am sure we have the talent in the Club to be able to take part next year. Now is the time to start. Please contact me.

Once again we are taking part in "Art in the Park" on Sunday 4th September (11th if the weather is poor). Near our stand, the Council will be planting a new shrub bed to commemorate Centenary celebrations. We will be looking for half a dozen volunteers to help with the planting. The heavy work will be done by the Council, so if you can spare an hour or so from 9 – 11 am on the 4th please phone me – 441 2152. In any case stop by our stand for a chat, bring your friends and neighbours and encourage them to join.

Now, Gardening is not only about writing long letters, though doing so makes me feel that my routine will soon be getting back to normal. No, whether it be lawns, paths and hedges, or shrubs, borders or ponds, gardening is to do with getting involved, getting one's hands dirty, observing nature and the environment, playing a part in the search for a balanced eco-system and perhaps gaining a better understanding of life itself.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer. We look forward to seeing you again at the Garden Club on Monday 26th September at 8 pm.

Christopher Davies

Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

The Plant Sale will take place on Saturday 8th October 2011 (10 am - 12 noon) in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue.

Please support us by providing plants, thus making it a successful event. At our Summer Sale almost all the plants were sold well before the end so there is a high demand from our members, which we hope to meet. In addition this year, there will be an increased range of bulbs at highly competitive prices, including more exotic varieties not usually available through retail outlets.

We'll be delighted to receive any plants to sell from 08.30 on the morning of the event at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall. Plants can also be delivered to committee members the evening before. Please label the plants with their names and give an indication of their eventual size, where possible.

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

Members' Evening: Exhibition of Art with a 'Garden Theme'

In March of next year, the Club will host a Members' Evening with short talks and an exhibition of members' recent artistic work. The scope is broad, a single photograph to a collage, a sketch or painting, embroidery and sculpture – there are no limitations, except a plant, garden or landscape theme. Full details will appear in a later Newsletter. In the meantime, start selecting item(s) or better still go for new project.



Lost item

A gilet was left on the bus after the Summer Outing
– please contact Penny McKee

The Club Library

The library, organized by Gill Perry, has a comprehensive collection of books for you to take away and read; topics include

- Garden landscaping
- Horticultural methods
- Specific plant families
- Together with plant encyclopaedias

New items are obtained regularly.

Art in the Park Colinton

A Village Fair in the fairest of villages
 Date: 4th September, 11 am to 5 pm
 (11th September should the weather be poor).

See: www.artintheparkcolinton.com

Come along to Spylaw Park and support us, browse the 60 or more other stalls and also enjoy the various dance, choir and band performances.

Ferns and Fossils at the RBGE

A (free) programme of talks and a real life science studio on 24 and 25 Sept 2011 - for more information, contact Heather McHaffie h.mchaffie@rbge.org.uk

The Club Website

Information on all the Club's activities may be found on our website organized by Sonia Duffy.

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Dates for your diary.....

Monday 26 September 2011	Meeting: "The Restoration of the Victorian Fernery at Benmore" Professor Mary Gibby, RBGE
Saturday 8 October 2011	Plant Sale and Coffee Morning St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue, 10 am – 12 noon
Monday 24 October 2011	Meeting: "The Green Spaces of Edinburgh, with particular reference to Colinton Dell" The Edinburgh Ranger Service
Monday 28 November 2011	Meeting: " Apples & Orchards" Andrew Lear (Perthshire fruit tree expert)
Wednesday 14 December 2011	Christmas Party 7.45 for 8 pm
Monday 23 January 2012	Meeting: " Allotments: Theory and Practice" Jo and Murdo McEwan with Jenny Mollison (Scottish Allotment and Garden Society)
Monday 27 February 2012	Meeting: "Gardens of the NTS" Melissa Simpson, National Trust for Scotland
Monday 26 March 2012	Members' Evening Talks and display of artistic work
Monday 23 April 2012	Annual General Meeting 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
A Monday Evening in May	Evening Open garden Details later
A Saturday in May / June	Local Gardens Open Details later
A Saturday in June / July	Summer Outing Details later