

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 96

November 2011



Coming soon...

Monday 28th

November 8 pm

'Apples & Orchards'

An illustrated talk
by Andrew Lear

Wednesday 14th

December 8 pm

Our annual
Christmas Party –
join us for 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...

Why is it, each time when seeking inspiration for this newsletter, it is the rain which comes first to mind? In other climes, the rain can be so soothing. In the burning brightness of the Mediterranean a cooling shower can refresh and rejuvenate. In the sultry tropics the sudden deluge in the discharge of an electrical storm, followed by a sparkling stillness, is akin to rebirth. But here in Edinburgh, who among us rushes into the garden at the first sign of coming rain, to commune with the gentle life-giving force of sweet water?



There! The rain did indeed beguile me with its power. I escaped from this Autumnal mood and returned refreshed. That is what rain does for you!

But what about the newsletter and the Garden Club? The year has started well. Sunday 4th September, the day of Colinton's showcase event "Art in the Park" dawned bright and clear, with the Garden Club's gazebo in prime position. It was an excellent occasion with a constant stream of friends passing the time of day, bringing and exchanging news – the kick-off event for the year after the holiday break. A new shrub-bed was planted by the Council (with advice from the Garden Club) to commemorate Spylaw Park's centenary, inaugurated by Jason Rust and bagpipes

Our first meeting of the year was on Monday 26th September. Professor Mary Gibby, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, and an authority on cryptogamic plants (a new word for me), displayed her affection for ferns and nostalgia for a past era in her account of the restoration of the Victorian Fernery at Benmore. It was inspiring to see how vision and determination have made this jewel accessible to us once again. We held our breath while the roof was lifted into place, piece by piece, by helicopter. Whereupon the rest seemed easy. Thank you, Mary.



Our presence at Art in the Park

From the pen of our Chair... continued

The Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on 8th October went really well (in spite of the rain!). The Church Hall in Westgarth Avenue with its display of plants for sale looked cosy and welcoming and Margaret and Carol completed the domesticity by serving tea, coffee and biscuits. Our thanks to everyone: those who brought plants, jam, bulbs, apples....., those who helped with selling, teas, organisation, clearing up. In short, all those who came along.

On 24th October, Caroline Paterson, Countryside Ranger, spoke to us on "The Green Spaces of Edinburgh. In her comprehensive talk she illustrated the extent and wide scope of the work of the six Rangers. It was clear how much these green spaces, as natural havens for flora and fauna, contribute to our quality of life. As usual, the evening was very well attended, with a lively and welcoming audience.

Coming events: We have two more events before the end of the year. Andrew Lear's talk on "Apples & Orchards" on 28th November and our Christmas Party on Wednesday 14th December (see separate box). The Christmas Party has gained a reputation for being a good evening. For practical reasons we have to limit attendance to 130, so we recommend that you reserve your place quickly.

We are keen to provide opportunities for members with hands-on talents to make their mark on our club life. Your most obvious chance is our entry to the Pallet Garden competition at Gardening Scotland at the beginning of June next year. The teamwork involving artistic concept, construction and applied gardening skills can be very satisfying, and resulted indeed in a Gold Medal last time we entered. Would you like to be part of the team? Do you feel spoken to? Perhaps one of our new members? Please contact me!

If you are artistically inclined, you will want to take part in our members' exhibition on the occasion of our March meeting. Your entry can be artistic in the widest sense: painting/drawing, sculpture/carving, weaving/quilting/knitting. The criteria are imagination and creativity, which we will interpret very gracefully. So don't be modest: come along and share your work with us.

With regard to our programme, we are already thinking about next year. As always, we look forward to your ideas and wishes for subjects of talks, Garden Club Open Gardens, outings or other activities.

Finally, thank you, everyone, for such a good start to the year and to our new members who have expressed their trust in us by joining the Club. Let's enjoy a golden Autumn, the sunny days, the windy days – the rainy days – and of course our meetings together.

Happy Gardening,

Christopher Davies

Members' Evening on 26 March 2012: Display of crafts

Following from the success of the display of pot plants this year, we would like to invite members to offer for display paintings, fabric craft, photos, sculpture, etc. related to plants and gardening.

In order to organise the display, would members let us know before the end of February if they wish to be involved and which craft they would like to exhibit.

Please contact Chris Tonge: 662 4508;
christonge@yahoo.co.uk



*Dealing with the early rush at the
Plant Sale and Coffee Morning*

Christmas Party 2011

Don't forget our Christmas Party is on Wednesday 14th December starting at 8.00 pm (doors open at 7.45 pm)

Entertainment

Quizzes & Carols

Refreshments



Tickets are £6 each - to reserve places, contact Christopher Davies on 441 2152 or email chair@colintongardens.org.uk or contact a Garden Club Committee Member

Dates for your diary.....

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 & 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

Pallet Garden and Planter Challenges at Gardening Scotland 2012

We are still looking for a team to take on this activity. Advice is available from a past team leader. If you feel that your talents lie in this direction, contact the Chairman. Further information at:

www.gardeningscotland.com

Membership 2011/12

If you haven't renewed your membership, please send your subscription to Colin Whitehead, 21 Laverockdale Pk, Edinburgh EH13 0QE and enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your membership booklet. Undoubtedly great value at £6 per household

You can opt to receive your newsletter via the website rather than hand-delivered. Just let Colin know at

membership@colintongardens.org.uk

If you do not receive your newsletter, please contact the Communications Officer, Bob Jones

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Club Website

For details of all the Club's activities

Webmaster: Sonia Duffy

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