

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 99

August 2012



The membership renewal form for 2012-13 is attached to this newsletter

Please complete and return to the Membership Secretary Colin Whitehead

Still only £6 per household

Our first meeting of this session features a talk by John MacLennan Blackhall Horticultural Society

**Monday
24 September
at 8 pm**

All welcome!

From the pen of our new Chairperson

Hello - a big welcome to all members both old and new.

My name is Penny McKee and I should like to say to all of our Garden Club's members how pleased and honoured I am to be taking over as Chair. I succeed Christopher Davies who has just stepped down after 10 very successful years with the Club: I should like to thank him and his very supportive wife Elisabeth for all the many contributions they have made to our Club.



Christine Ireland has also stepped down from the committee, and will also be greatly missed. We welcome two new committee members, Susan Plag and Billy Wheelan, and I look forward to working with all the committee and members and having fun over the next three years.

Our Club exists to promote the gardening interests of members around Colinton – we are fortunate to have plenty of gardening space in our green and pleasant suburb but even if you no longer have a garden, just a window box or a few indoor plant pots, there should be plenty to interest everyone.

Our programme for the monthly talks throughout the winter is listed here, as are all the committee members. We want to see you involved and welcome suggestions both for future talks but also other activities and outings, so do please contact any committee member. In particular, we ask members to offer to open their gardens next summer so volunteers are most welcome - do not be shy - it is not a competition, more an opportunity for members to exchange ideas. We are very grateful to Friends of Suntrap, Maureen and Jim Heardman, Jaqui and Ian Penman and the Davies' for opening their varied and lovely gardens this summer.



Members being guided through Easter Meikle Fardle after a fascinating morning at The Scottish Plant Hunters Garden in Pitlochry

- *The Annual Outing*



From the pen of our Chair... continued

I am sure you will agree the club is very good value for a household subscription of £6. If you know of newcomers to the area or keen gardening neighbours who are not yet members do encourage them to come along to our meetings and hopefully join.

This newsletter is promoted through our website (www.colintongardens.org.uk), where with the help of Robert Jones, communication officer and webmaster Sonia Duffy we regularly post photos and comments, so keep looking! Paper copies are available for those who request this of course.

So what of this summer? - the odd weather seems to have had quite an impact - the dry Spring period then cold wet and wind (and more wet and more wet) has certainly decimated my and I gather other peoples' apple crop, but gooseberries have been tasty and plentiful, and the pigeons have enjoyed our blackcurrants. The lawns are verdant and lush, needing frequent cutting, but what a lot of slugs and snails and mildew (dahlias all gone, alas). Nonetheless, the club has had two successful (and dry) outings – one to the Japanese Garden at Lauriston Castle, and the annual coach outing to The Plant Hunters Garden at Pitlochry and the wonderful summery garden at Easter Meilke Fardle.

I look forward to a busy autumn season, starting with Art in the Park (see calendar), our first talk on bulbs and then the October plant sale.

Best wishes

Penny McKee

Images of summer from members' gardens



A few erudite reflections on the weather

"Weather means more when you have a garden. There's nothing like listening to a shower and thinking how it is soaking in and around your lettuce and green beans"

Henry van Dyke, poet

"We used to think we only had bad weather in Scotland, now it's a valuable resource." *Fergus Ewing endorsing Energy Training East at Dundee College*

"I've been saving my love for a rainy day
And its really coming down today" *Jonas Brothers' lyric*



A message from the retiring Chairman

Dear Friends,

After ten years on the Committee (of which six as Chairperson), it was time at the AGM to hand over to Penny. Let me say what a privilege it has been to be your representative and how much I have enjoyed guiding the Club's affairs over this period. Your support has made Colinton Garden Club an integral part of the quality of life in our community. More than anything, I treasure the warmth of meetings and the friendship and trust extended to Elisabeth and myself. Thank you all so much. The Club is vibrant and in good hands. We can look forward to a good 2012-13. See you in September. *Christopher*



Members' favourite recipes

These two recipes are the first of what we hope will be a regular seasonal feature for CGC members to show how they use their crops! Please send items to the editor Bob Jones (publicity@colintongardens.co.uk).

'Summer Snow' from Penny McKee

Quick and easy, this light fruity cream can be made with almost any gently smoothed soft fresh fruit such as raspberries and strawberries, or lightly boiled, pulped and cooled fruits such as blackberries, gooseberries or tasty cooking apples. For less cholesterol, try whipped egg whites instead of the yoghurt.

Ingredients

1 carton full cream Greek yoghurt

1 carton whipping cream

Approx. 1 carton's worth of *your home grown* pulped fruit to taste

Caster sugar or perhaps honey to taste

Vanilla / cinnamon to taste, if wished

Method

Add whipped cream (or egg whites) to the yoghurt

Stir in fruit - try making a marbled look

Sweeten to taste

Spoon into sundae dishes or wine glasses and chill

Decorate just before serving with extra fruit / shaved chocolate / mint leaves

Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

The Plant Sale will take place on Saturday 6th October 2012 in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, from 10 am to 12 noon.

At our Summer Sale members provided a wide variety of plants – please do this again thereby ensuring a successful event. A range of bulbs at highly competitive prices will also be available 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!

'Sage Mice' from Elisabeth Davies

If you have a sage plant in your garden, don't just dry its leaves and use them in your stuffing at Christmas. Sage is a Mediterranean plant and it mixes very well with garlic, tomatoes or olive oil. It is well established in the Italian kitchen.

'Sage Mice' are a perfect nibble with a cold drink. Children will love them too, because the leaves, dipped in a thick batter and then fried in oil until crisp and golden coloured, do not just taste delicious, but they really look like little mice. Serve hot or cold.

Garden Club Committee (e-mail contact)

Penny McKee	Chairperson (chair@colintongardens.org.uk)
Diana Ennos	Secretary (secretary@.....)
Christine Tonge	Treasurer (treasurer@.....)
Colin Whitehead	Membership Secretary (membership@...)
Susan Plag	Programme Convenor (events@.....)
Robert Jones	Communication Officer (publicity@.....)
Elsbeth MacGregor	Purchasing Officer / Bulb Co-ordinator (bulbs@.....)
Jim Murray	Hall Officer
Gill Perry	Implements Officer / Librarian (implements@..... library@.....)
William Whelan	

Art in the Park Colinton

A vibrant village fair organized by Colinton Village Events Group on 2nd September from 11 am to 5 pm (9th September if weather is poor)

See: www.artintheparkcolinton.com

The Club will have a stall among the 80 or so others. So come along to Spylaw Park to support us and also enjoy the various dance, choir and band performances

The Club Website

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

webmaster@colintongardens.org.uk

Dates for your diary.....

Saturday 2 September 2012	"Art in the Park" in Spylaw Park, 11am – 5 pm (Rescheduled to 9 th September if weather is poor)
Monday 24 September 2012	Meeting: "Bulbs for Spring Colour" John MacLennan, Blackhall Horticultural Society
Saturday 6 October 2012	Plant Sale and Coffee Morning St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue, 10 am – 12 noon
Monday 22 October 2012	Meeting: "Botanical Travels in Sechuan" Willie Campbell, Rhododendron Society
Monday 26 November 2012	Meeting: "RBGE's Secret Garden – Larachmhor" Alan Bennell, RBGE
Wednesday 12 December 2012	Christmas Party 7.45 for 8 pm
Monday 28 January 2013	Meeting: "Our Garden at Shepherd House" Lady Ann Fraser
Monday 25 February 2013	Meeting: "Scotland's Native Trees" Richard Ennos, Edinburgh University
Monday 25 March 2013	Meeting: "Scottish Rock Gardens" Liz Mills, Scottish Rock Garden Society
Monday 22 April 2013	Annual General Meeting / Display of members' Spring bulbs / flowers 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

— Reminders – membership renewal is due / fertilizer order is attached —