

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

**Newsletter
100**

November 2012



Coming soon...

**Monday 26th
November 8 pm**

'RBGE's

Secret Garden
- Larachmhor'

An illustrated talk
by Alan Bennell

**Wednesday 12th
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

From the pen of our Chair...

Autumn is suddenly here, and I am scurrying around, sweeping up endless leaves, planting out wallflowers, cutting back just about everything, treating lawns and so on and so forth. Oh! - and of course, planting bulbs from the plant sale, as I hope many of you are doing also, ready for the show at the AGM.



Our recent plant sale went well - thank you to everyone who took part. Not only were there firm favourites to buy, but it's a good way to learn about and maybe try new plants at minimal expense, and meet friends over coffee. There were also quite a few volunteers there to advise, look up reference books on the spot - sometimes even help identify donations!

We have had two talks this autumn - firstly John MacLennan enthusiastically taking us through beautifully varied and colourful spring bulbs and then Willie Campbell telling us about his visit to remote and high Sechuan Province in China - an area of great beauty and plant diversity - pity the ubiquitous yaks eat so many of these wild plants! Our next speaker is Alan Bennell from the Botanic, who always puts on a stimulating performance (page 3 for details).

Our new committee members are 'gelling' and getting down to work, organising the next year or two's programme for the Club. Please give us any suggestions you may have.

Our Christmas Party on 12th December will include the usual famous and unique mini-panto: do come along for an evening festive supper with quizzes, singing and after supper entertainment. Tickets are only £8 - see page 3. Of course there will be a vaguely horticultural theme, but not at all serious!



*The
Autumn
Plant Sale
pleasantly
lit by the
morning
sun*

Pen of our Chair... continued

We are glad to appoint our last chairman, Christopher Davies, an Honorary Member in recognition of his long and successful leadership of the Club.

Another honorary member, Lady Stewart, has written to resign as she has moved away and no longer feels capable of gardening. She has sent her best wishes for the future of the Club, along with a generous cheque, so I have written thanking her and sending our best wishes.

We recently had some surgery performed on some Lime Trees – traces of droppings were found in a hollow at least twenty feet up the main trunk - perhaps they were bat droppings our arboriculturist suggested? Laboratory analysis came back with the answer - most likely slug droppings. I recently caught a slug appearing from the sink plughole in a second floor bathroom. Yuk! Is there anywhere these creatures can't go?

Penny

'Green Tomato Chutney' from Susan Plag

Don't ripen your tomatoes in a drawer – go for this well-tried recipe

2.25kg green tomatoes – peeled and chopped

450g onions – peeled and finely chopped

2 tablespoons salt

250g raisins

250g sultanas

good grinding of black pepper

piece of root ginger – finely grated

half teaspoon powdered cloves

pinch chilli flakes

tablespoon yellow mustard seeds

500g demerara sugar

600ml malt vinegar

Place the tomatoes and onions in a pan, sprinkle with salt and leave for an hour or so

Add remaining ingredients, bring to boil and then simmer stirring continuously until sugar dissolves and then stir occasionally until mixture thickens

Pour into sterilised jars and seal

Makes around 3kg

TON-UP



This is the 100th Newsletter of the Club. Our archives contain one of the earliest (three-page) newsletters dated April 1986. Production methods have of course moved on: hand-written copy / typed pages evolving into e-mail attachments / Microsoft Word template with colour images.

Some members no doubt recall the 1986 Summer programme: an evening visit to Pinegrove Garden Centre, a morning viewing of Mrs Spawforth's garden in Merchiston Castle School, and a full day outing to Professor Oswald's garden at Innerleithen followed by visits to Stobo Water and Dawyck.

One article concerned garden implements available for loan from the Club, including an exhortation to always include a circuit breaker when using power tools – an issue your committee is currently addressing. Editor

A message from Christopher Davis

Chris has indicated that he takes great pleasure on becoming an Honorary Member of our Club.



Hypericum in flower: late Summer at RBGE

Into Autumn

The day becomes more solemn and serene
 When noon is past - there is a harmony
 In autumn, and a lustre in its sky,
 Which through the summer is not heard or seen,
 As if it could not be, as if it had not been!

Hymn to Intellectual Beauty
 Percy Bysshe Shelley

**Advance notice:
 Display of Spring bulbs**

Members are to be invited to bring Spring bulbs and flowers in containers, vases, etc, for a display to accompany the Annual General Meeting in late April

More details later

Christmas Party 2012

Don't forget our Christmas Party is on Wednesday 12th December starting at 8.00 pm (doors open at 7.45 pm)

Entertainment

Quizzes & Carols

Refreshments



Tickets are £8 each - to reserve places, contact Elspeth MacGregor, tel: 0131 441 6079 e-mail: bulbs@colintongardens.org.uk

Dates for your diary.....

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 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
A Monday evening in May	Evening Open garden Details later
A Saturday morning in May / June	Local Open Gardens Details later
A Saturday in June / July	Summer Outing Details later

Membership 2012-13

£6 per household
 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

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

0131 445 2745

publicity@colintongardens.org.uk

Keep Colinton beautiful: more CGC members volunteer

Three lady members had a jolly evening with council officials, agreeing to start soon on maintaining the front garden of Colinton Library. Did you know that boys from Merchiston Castle School also help with weeding of the driveways there? Other CGC members already contribute to the upkeep of the 'triangle' and 'steps'. Well done everyone!!

Club Website

www.colintongardens.org.uk
 For details of all Club activities
 Webmaster: Sonia Duffy