

# Colinton Garden Club

[www.colintongardens.org.uk](http://www.colintongardens.org.uk)

**Newsletter 101  
February 2013**



**Coming soon...**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>  
February 2013  
"Scotland's  
Native Trees"**

Richard Ennos  
Edinburgh  
University

**Monday  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013  
Display of  
member's Spring  
bulbs and flowers**  
See p3

**Spring Fertilizer  
Orders**

An order form is  
attached to this  
newsletter – please  
return to Elspeth  
MacGregor by  
**Monday  
25<sup>th</sup> February**

*From the pen of our Chair...*

Dear Reader

Firstly may I wish you a Happy New Year with every good wish for 2013. May you and your gardening flourish!

What is there to report from our Club?

In November we enjoyed a highly entertaining talk by Alan Bennell of the Royal Botanical Garden of Edinburgh on the secret garden of Arachmore, or basically how professional botanists, whenever they can leave their desks, love resorting to the depths of the beautiful Scottish Highlands to a dream of a forgotten garden.

Then of course 12.12.12 was the date for the annual Christmas supper party and pantomime: a capacity crowd in very good humour wining and dining, pouring over the quizzes and then sitting back to enjoy a hour of 'Colinton Royale' - another clever pantomime penned by exChair Isobel Lodge, supported by John Lodge and musical director Audrey Dobson. Needless to say the scenery, costumes, singing and acting by our happy troupe of volunteers were exceptional and the plot of course involved Colinton Garden Club emerging 'royale-y' honoured and triumphant, with James 'Bond' being outwitted by yes!, you guessed - The CGC....

What for the coming term? - more interesting lectures, a Spring outing, and I hope you are preparing bowls of bulbs, thinking of cut flower displays, etc for the April AGM.



**007**

*Penny  
Royal and Her  
Majesty's Secret  
Service in trysting  
mood at the  
Christmas  
Panto*

*Pen of our Chair... continued*

Last year was very very wet and bad for so many plants: the long term forecast for this year is as yet uncertain, so it is difficult to know how to plan, garden wise. Certainly last year was also challenging for pollinating insects – please give a thought to encouraging / sowing flowering plants that nurture bees and butterflies this coming year.



More Panto: The Bad Garden Birds Mugwort and Black-eyed Susan hatching a plot

Also on a general note, there's fear that Ash 'die-back' may come our way, (let's hope not). Also consider how to reduce the amount of food wasted - surely the European Union has lost touch with reality if perfectly good but kinked carrots or blobby potatoes really can't be used.

It's been so mild that I have been gardening in January - nice to have time to survey the dormant garden and its form, making it neat and composted ready for Spring. Back to work!.....

*Penny*

**The Garden in Winter**

Safe beneath the snowdrifts lie  
 Rainbow buds of by-and-by;  
 In the long, sweet days of spring  
 Music of bluebells shall ring,  
 And its faintly golden cup  
 Many a primrose will hold up.

Though the winds are keen and chill  
 Roses' hearts are beating still,  
 And the garden tranquilly  
 Dreams of happy hours to be  
 In the summer days of blue  
 All its dreamings will come true.

*Extract: Lucy Maud Montgomery,  
 Canadian author best known for  
 'Anne of Green Gables'*

**'Seed Swap'**

Please bring unwanted *in date* seed packets, including free samples from magazines, to the evening meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February, and see what others might have brought to interest you!



Our first meeting of 2013  
 Sir Charles and Lady Fraser gave a most enjoyable talk on their garden at Shepherd House in Inveresk

**Monty Don's French Gardens**

This 3-part BBC2 series begins on  
 1<sup>st</sup> February at 9 pm  
 Gardens of Power and Passion (i-Player?)  
 The Gourmet Garden  
 The Artistic Garden

**A Seasonal Recipe: Leek and Bacon Flan from Chris Tonge**

If using a ceramic flan dish, place it on a metal baking sheet to improve heat conduction

**Ingredients: serves 4**

- 215 g (7½ oz) shortcrust pastry, defrosted if frozen
- 40 g (1½ oz) margarine or butter
- 500 g (1 lb) leeks, sliced
- 3 large rashers lean bacon, rind removed and cut into 1 cm (½ inch) strips
- 1½ teaspoons plain flour
- 1½ teaspoons sweet paprika
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 100 ml (3½ fl oz) milk
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 eggs, beaten



**Method**

1. Heat the oven to 200°C (400°F) Gas 6.
2. Roll out the pastry on a floured surface and use to line a 20 cm / 8 inch flan tin. Prick the base with a fork. Place a large circle of greaseproof paper or foil in the case, weigh it down with baking beans and bake blind in the oven for 10 min. Remove the baking beans and greaseproof paper then return to the oven for 10 - 15 min until crisp and lightly coloured.
3. Meanwhile, prepare the filling: melt the margarine in a saucepan, add the leeks, cover and cook gently for about 10 min until soft.
4. Gently fry the bacon in a frying-pan in its own fat for about 10 min until coloured. Set aside.
5. When the leeks have softened, sprinkle in the flour and sweet paprika and cook for 1 - 2 min, stirring. Gradually blend in the lemon juice and milk and bring to the boil, stirring. Add salt and pepper to taste (remembering that the bacon will be salty), then remove from the heat and stir in the eggs.
6. When the flan case is cooked, lower the oven temperature to 180°C (350°F) Gas 4. Spread the bacon pieces over the base of the prepared case, then pour the leek mixture over the top. Return to the oven and bake for 20 - 25 min. Serve warm.

**Dates for your diary.....**

<b>Monday 25 February 2013</b>	<b>Meeting: "Scotland's Native Trees"</b> Richard Ennos (Edinburgh University)
<b>Monday 25 March 2013</b>	<b>Meeting: "Scottish Rock Gardens"</b> Liz Mills (Scottish Rock Garden Society)
<b>Monday 22 April 2013</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting / Display of member's Spring bulbs and flowers</b> 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
<b>A Monday evening in May</b>	<b>Evening Open garden</b> Details later
<b>A Saturday morning in May / June</b>	<b>Local Open Gardens / Plant Sale</b> Volunteers needed: see page 4
<b>Saturday 20 July 2013</b>	<b>Summer Outing</b> Details on page 4

**Advance notice:  
Display of Spring bulbs**

Members are 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

**Pallet Garden Competition**

Mindful of its past success, the Club would dearly like to present at Gardening Scotland 2013. Please contact Billy Wheelan 0131 538 4965

**2013 Caley Photography Competition**

For details see [www.rchs.co.uk/events](http://www.rchs.co.uk/events)

**AV / IT skills**

Would you be willing to join the Committee to help with AV / IT matters? Please contact a committee member

## Outdoor Season Schedule 2013

<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<p><b>Snowdrop Outing at House of The Binns</b></p> <p>We shall meet at New Hopetoun Garden Centre for own coffee at 10 am, then proceed to House of the Binns for 11am</p> <p>Numbers are limited: Admission cost £3</p> <p>If interested give name and telephone number (also number of spare seats if able to volunteer as car driver) a.s.a.p. please to:</p> <p>Susan Plag Tel: 0131 441 7936, e-mail: <a href="mailto:smplag@gmail.com">smplag@gmail.com</a></p>
<b>Wednesday 12th June</b>	<p><b>Mini Outing: Hidden Gardens of the Royal Mile</b></p> <p>An evening guided walking tour of the Hidden Gardens of the Royal Mile Meeting at John Knox House at 7 pm Numbers limited to 20. Price to be confirmed</p>
<p><b>A Saturday morning in June</b></p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Important</p>	<p><b>Open Gardens and Plant Sale</b></p> <p>We are looking for three gardens for a Saturday morning viewing As in the past, this is a horticultural and social occasion, and in no way competitive. Can you oblige?</p> <p>Contact Penny McKee Tel: 441 5827 e-mail: <a href="mailto:chair@colintongardens.org.uk">chair@colintongardens.org.uk</a></p>
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<p><b>Summer Outing</b></p> <p>The Borders is the destination for this year's whole day outing by coach</p> <p>Our first stop is Carolside Gardens at Earlston including morning coffee On to Melrose for lunch with options to visit Harmony / Priorwood Gardens Followed by Monteviot House Gardens near Jedburgh in the afternoon</p> <p>Estimated cost of £20 includes travel, morning coffee / tea and admissions. The coach will leave Westgarth Avenue at 9 am prompt Return by approx. 5.30 pm</p> <p>Further details to follow</p>

### **New members**

Please direct anyone interested in joining the Club to the Membership Secretary  
Colin Whitehead,  
21 Laverockdale Park,  
Edinburgh EH13 0QE

[membership@colintongardens.org.uk](mailto:membership@colintongardens.org.uk)

### **Newsletter delivery**

If you do not receive your newsletter, please contact Bob Jones, Communications Officer  
(You are also invited to send him photos of your garden / plants for the website gallery)

**0131 445 2745**

[publicity@colintongardens.org.uk](mailto:publicity@colintongardens.org.uk)

### **Club Website**

[www.colintongardens.org.uk](http://www.colintongardens.org.uk)

For details of all

Club activities

Webmaster: Sonia Duffy