

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 102

April 2013



Coming soon...

Monday 22nd
April, 8 pm

**Annual
General
Meeting**

Dreghorn Loan
Hall

**Summer
Outing to
Gardens in
The Borders**

See page 5 to
reserve places

**Order your
Spring bulbs**

See page 3

From the pen of our Chair...

Dear Members,

How lovely – it's almost Spring. Here's to a sunny growing season with just enough rain - preferably at night, so we can enjoy our gardens to the full with barbecues galore, scented flowers and huge tender veg. Keep hoping....



Our year so far – firstly there was the fascinating Fraser duo from Shepherd House taking us through the calendar year of their beautiful garden, illustrated by photos and some of Lady Fraser's exquisite botanical paintings, whilst Sir Charles entertained us with all sorts of anecdotes. Do visit their garden on an open day - it's a labour of love *and* there's also Inveresk Lodge Garden (NTS) just across the road so you can make a whole day of it in Musselburgh

Secondly Dr Richard Ennos returned to give another absorbing talk – this time on Scotland's Native Trees. Genetic studies show us where and when they got here (sea, wind and birds). He described the many uses we humans have had for them, and diseases they succumb to. I discovered the ash is related to the olive and the horse chestnut is a cheeky new tree on the block, probably brought from Turkey! I wonder which will be selected to be Scotland's National Tree? - I backed the Scots pine when I voted on line on the Woodland Trust Holyrood petition.

Thirty or so members ventured forth on a frosty February morning, meeting at New Hopetoun Nursery for a coffee and browse, and then going on to House of the Binns where Tam and Mrs Dalyell greeted us. A NTS guide showed us round the beautiful grounds with its splendid snowdrop display, pointed out signs of badger activity, and even historical features like the ruins of General Dalyell's 'secret' smoking room up on the hill. The views of West Lothian were magnificent from the Tower.



*Starting the
Snowdrop Tour at
The Binns. Members
quickly attune to the
cladistics (p.4) of
the Galanthus
genus*

Pen of our Chair... continued

We have a talk on Scottish rock gardens and the AGM to come - then summer activities! Your committee has worked hard to plan several outings this summer so I do hope you'll be able to join us. Our annual summer evening wine reception will be at Dr Neil's Garden in Duddingston - originally an apothecary garden, it has a charming and peaceful wooded setting on the loch side and should have a good showing of rhododendrons. We hope the gardener will be able to show groups around. There is a comfortable indoor reception area *should* the weather be inclement, and Susan Plag is happy to help people arrange lifts.



*Final destination - the Binns Tower
Elsbeth practicing semaphore - or is it the hand jive?*

We have no vegetable garden, just a few pots of herbs, but this year I am going to have a go at growing two varieties of potatoes in bins - I just love the flavour of really fresh new potatoes. I also hope that our Bramley apple tree will have more luck fruiting this year - the late cold snap last April put paid to that. I have really missed not having the usual apple chutney and stewed apples in the freezer, even if I can't say I missed peeling them!

Penny

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The programme on Mon 22nd April 2013 will be

1. **Refreshments**
2. **Members' Display** of spring and early summer bowls of bulbs, cut flowers and the like. Contact Billy Wheelan on 0131 538 4965 if you have any queries. Also bring along your spare seedlings / seed packets
3. **AGM** The minutes of the last AGM will be posted on the Club website and a few copies will be available on the night. The financial statement will be available to all at the meeting.

Looking Ahead... Autumn Plant Sale

We intend to have a 'Harvest Time' theme at this year's sale on Sat 5th October

Why not arrange your Summer gardening / culinary schedule so that we can offer

A wide selection of indoor and outdoor plants

Fresh fruit and vegetables

Savoury and fruit preserves

Savings to Members

New Hopetoun Garden Centre, near Newton Village, is offering a 10% discount on gardening items on production of a membership card.

'Zero Waste Scotland'

Volunteers under this project offer a **free** home visit service, where they will come and inspect your compost bin and give one-to-one advice on how to improve it / get it composting at a top-notch rate.

Contact: www.zerowastescotland.org.uk

Telephone 0808 100 2040

Zero Waste Scotland is also looking for volunteers to assist with its work – full training is provided and the times of involvement are flexible

Scottish Gardeners' Forum Spring Newsletter

Now available online at
www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Christopher Davies would appreciate articles for the SGF Summer Newsletter: deadline 1st May

Club Website

www.colintongardens.org.uk

For details of all Club activities

Webmaster: Sonia Duffy

Members' Recipes

Macadamia Lime & Coconut Cake from Susan Plag

200g macadamia nuts
 40g self-raising flour
 pinch of salt
 6 eggs, separated
 165g sugar
 1 lime, zest only, finely grated
 50g desiccated coconut



Preheat oven to 180°C

Grease a 9 inch loose bottom cake tin.

Place the nuts, flour and salt in a food processor and process until the nuts are ground

Beat egg yolks and sugar in a large bowl until the mixture is pale and creamy. Fold in the zest and coconut followed by the ground nut mixture

In a clean bowl whisk the egg whites until stiff peaks form. Using a large metal spoon, fold lightly through the nut mixture

Spread mixture into tin and bake for 40 minutes until golden

Icing – combine 100g icing sugar with enough lime juice and zest to make a runny icing – add lime according to taste

Remove cake from oven and leave in tin for 10 minutes before turning out onto a plate. Drizzle with icing while warm

**Gardening Scotland 2013
 Pallet Garden Competition**

Good news! We now have an enthusiastic team of three led by Billy Wheelan. However, we really need one or even two more helpers - please contact Billy on 0131 538 4965

Spring Bulb Orders

I am sure you are all enjoying the spring flowers that are at last emerging in your gardens after the hard winter. How these bulbs ever survive and then flower so profusely is amazing, especially after so many false starts this year.

The Parker Spring Bulbs Catalogues should arrive in June and members will have the opportunity to have a look and place orders. Parker's never cease to astonish with their huge variety of everyday and more exotic bulb varieties and the prices are very reasonable. Treat your garden to some new types of snowdrops, daffodils, narcissi, anemones or choose some of the really glorious species of tulip and fill in the spaces that need new or different spring flowers.

Once the arrival of the catalogues has been announced on our website, you can place your order online – select what you want from the wholesale catalogue at www.jparkers.co.uk and then e-mail me:

bulbs@colintongardens.org.uk for a Garden Club form. Fill it in and return it to me and I'll send off your order together with those of other members. This way we get the best discounts.

The bulbs arrive in September, lilies later in November, and I will notify you when your order is ready for collection.

Elsbeth MacGregor
 Bulb Coordinator

Dates for your diary.....

Monday 22 April 2013	Annual General Meeting and Members' Exhibition of Spring bulb / cut flowers 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Wednesday 8 May 2013	Evening Open garden Page 5 for details
31 May – 2 June 2013	Gardening Scotland 2013 Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh
Saturday 15 June 2013	Local Open Gardens / Plant Sale Page 5 for details
Saturday 20 July 2013	Summer Outing Page 5 for details
Saturday 5 October 2013	Autumn Plant Sale Page 2 for details

Newsletter delivery

If you do not receive your newsletter contact Bob Jones, Communications Officer **0131 445 2745**
publicity@colintongardens.org.uk

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

Cladistics Unclad

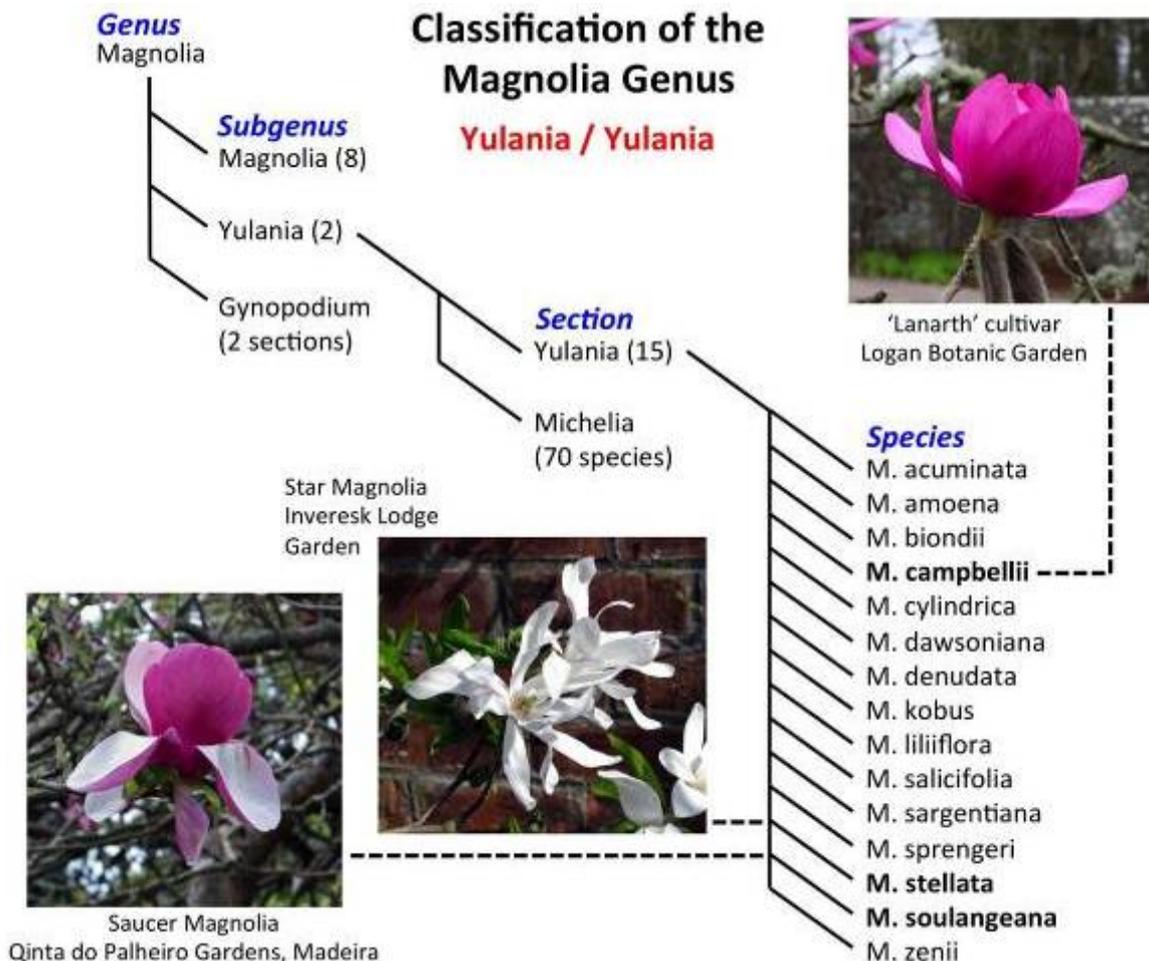
In the mid-1700s, the Swedish biologist Carl Linnaeus developed a system of classifying the animal and plant (and also mineral) kingdoms. Each kingdom was divided into classes, and then into orders, families, genera (sing. genus), and species. The groupings were based on shared physical characteristics, for example, the presence of 1, 2 or 3 stamens in the flower. He also perfected a binomial system of naming plants, first developed by the French botanist Gaspard Bauhin. Each plant is known by its genus name followed by its species name (both in Latin), for example, *Ranunculus repens* and *R. glacialis* (Creeping and Glacial Buttercups respectively). Linnaeus' rigorous work has had an enormous impact on society, while at the same generating much heated argument (and many a learned manuscript) on whether to allot a particular plant to this or that family.

However, the explosion of DNA technology in the last quarter of the 20th Century means that we are now more certain of the relationships between plants. A different way of classifying plants also emerged concomitantly: **cladistics**, relying on fusion of anatomical, biochemical and molecular biological traits. A clade is a group of items that have one or more shared unique characteristics that come from the group's last common ancestor and are not present in more distant ancestors. The typical array shown below allows ready appreciation of species lists.

Alnwick Castle Cherry Orchard

Alnwick Castle Garden is home to 350 Tai Haku cherry trees, the only place in the UK to see this tree in such large numbers. It is known as 'the great white cherry' because of its large white blossom. Each April and May, the cherry orchard becomes a beautiful cloud of white, with the petals falling like snow. The trees are underplanted with 600,000 pink 'Mistress' tulips with azalea borders. The garden holds an annual cherry blossom festival from 8th to 27th April and is open from 10 am to 4 pm. More information can be obtained by telephone, 01665 511350, or www.alnwickgarden.com.

Part of the *Magnolia* genus, the Magnolia–Yulania–Yulania progression, is shown below. *Magnolia* is an ancient genus with fossil records from 20 million years ago showing plants very similar to many current species. The flower is made up of tepals (not separate sepals and petals), which is a primitive characteristic. I took the three photographs recently in Springtime. See www.bgci.org/ourwork/magnolia_gardens for a list of UK magnolia collections. Bob Jones



Outdoor Season Schedule 2013

**Wednesday 8th
May
6.30 pm**

Evening Open Garden: Dr Neil's Garden in Duddingston

This secluded garden lies next to Duddingston Kirk and overlooks Duddingston Loch. Our visit includes Thomson's Tower built by the Edinburgh Curling Society in 1825

History of the garden at: www.drneilsgarden.co.uk

No charge to Club members: refreshments will be provided

If you intend to come, give your name and tel. number a.s.a.p. to Susan Plag Tel: 0131 441 7936, e-mail: smplag@gmail.com
Also provide number of spare seats if able to volunteer as car driver

CAR PARKING: Please use car park located beside Duddingston Kirk Hall (accessed from Duddingston Road West) and follow path behind the manse to garden entrance OR park in Duddingston Village

**Saturday
15th June
10 am – 12
noon**

Open Gardens and Plant Sale

We are delighted to have four gardens to view in the Spylaw area (EH13), all within walking distance of each other

- A. 42 Pentland Avenue Caroline & Michael Pearson: **PLANT SALE**
- B. 40 Spylaw Bank Rd Isobel & John Lodge
- C. 4 Spylaw Avenue Catriona Burns
- D. 6b Spylaw Park Elspeth & Ian MacGregor: **TEA & COFFEE**

Please label plants for sale with name and any particular growing conditions; deliver to the Pearsons' house by 9 am if possible.
Alternatively make a prior arrangement with a committee member

For queries contact Penny McKee Tel: 441 5827
e-mail: chair@colintongardens.org.uk

**Saturday
20th July**

Summer Outing

A whole day outing by coach in The Borders

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

Cost of £20 includes travel, morning coffee / tea and admissions

Numbers are limited. To reserve places, please contact
Elspeth MacGregor: Tel 0131 441 6079, e-mail bulbs@colintongardens.org.uk
From 27th March to 15th April, contact Susan Plag Tel: 0131 441 7936
You can also sign up at a meeting

The coach will leave Westgarth Avenue at 9 am PROMPT

Return by approx. 5.30 pm