

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 104
November 2013



Coming soon...

Monday 25th
November 8 pm

Dreghorn Loan Hall

*'Japanese
Gardens'*

Kristina Taylor

Garden Historian
and Writer

Monday 9th
December 8 pm

Our annual
Christmas Party -
good food, quizzes
and by popular
request a Panto
from the Club's
thespians and
singers

Membership

If you haven't renewed
your membership yet,
please do so as soon
as possible: contact the
Membership Secretary
- details on page 4

From the pen of our Chair...

Dear Friends

What a wonderful summer it has been with beautiful roses and herbaceous borders and bumper crops of potatoes, plums, apples and salad greens. Even the BBQ has been put to good use! Truly a Scottish Summer at its best.



However, for Art in the Park on 1st September we had the only chilly and windy day for a long time, but our doughty committee members braved the elements and promoted the Club, welcoming old and recruiting new members. We were kept busy retrieving our photo display panels, which kept blowing away - so the decision has been made - indoor use for them only in future!

Our winter season of evening talks has commenced, and your new committee is very keen to involve all members and generate many sharing experiences. So if you have ideas for events or speakers (possibly even yourself?) any committee member would be keen to hear from you. Our website has a lot of information and photographs too - frequently updated.

The October plant sale was fun and raised over £300 before expenses - our very informed helpers advised members on the best way to replant many a new variety of indoor and outdoor pottings and bulbs. Many thanks go to everyone who donated and helped. As usual the tea-room was also a popular place to meet friends, and there was an extra buzz in the air as Harvest Festival decorations were being prepared in the adjoining rooms with gorgeous displays of autumnal flowers and produce.



*Smiles
abound at
our recent
Plant Sale
& Coffee
Morning*

*Pictures from
Penny McKee*



Pen of our Chair... continued

In late September, I was honoured to be invited to the City Chambers to see our past chairman Christopher Davies receive his British Empire Medal from the Lord-Lieutenant of Edinburgh. It was a very happy occasion where I am proud to say his huge contribution to Colinton Garden Club was mentioned in his citation, and where of course Christopher made strong mention of the team effort within the Club and the constant support of his wife Elisabeth.

An arrangement for Harvest Festival



After years of waiting I am in the process of acquiring a half size council allotment - this will be a challenging venture as I have not had a vegetable patch for many years. However the timing could not be better because I am soon to move house into an apartment with only communal gardens, beautiful as they are, in a modern style of planting. Don't say it - the CGC chair with no Edinburgh garden of her own, barring a few pots of herbs on a tiny piece of decking! We do however also garden at our croft cottage in Ardnamurchan, where our intermittent visits preclude much intensive effort and the main problem is invasion by bracken and bramble - worth it though for the views over the Sound of Mull, and the croaking of families of ravens overhead. We are leaving a Colinton garden that has been here since at least 1770, with a medieval settlement next door currently being investigated by archeologists. So it is fascinating to ponder on what has been grown over many a century in this old village of Colinton, where the well must have been, and where the ridges on the lawn are probably the remnants of vegetable plots tended during WW2, and so on and so forth.

Finally, we have some really interesting speakers lined up and, YES!, another Christmas Party-cum-Pantomime - so I look forward to sharing these events with you in the months to come.

Penny

Holiday Cacti

For useful information on the so-called 'Holiday Cacti' see <http://cactus.biology.dal.ca/paulS/christmas/christmas.html>



A flower of the true Christmas Cactus *Schlumbergera x buckleyi*

Species devolved

The modification of individual plant species has fascinated mankind for a long time. However, we tend to use the terms *hybrid*, *variety* and *cultivar* rather slackly, and the use of Greek and Latin often muddies the waters. A Canadian website [1] deals succinctly with these issues: go to Gardening 101 / 'Understanding botanical terms'. The RHS article [2] is a deeper exposition – e.g. on cultivar-groups.

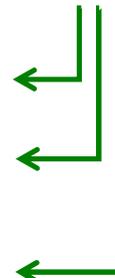
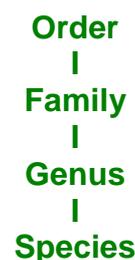
From the first article:

A hybrid is a plant produced by impregnating the pistil of one species with the pollen of another

A variety is an individual or group in the species that can be fertile and breed from seed, but is a natural variation of the species

A cultivar is a man-made plant variety produced by selective breeding. Cultivars are usually reproduced by cloning through cuttings and root division

[1] www.localgardener.net/pages.php?lang=en&page=articles
 [2] <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/rhsplantfinder/plantnaming/index.asp>



Tigers in the garden – not just one-day wonders

Which word can precede Beetle, Fish, Moth and Snake? It's 'Tiger' of course. And then there is Tiger Lily. In *Through the Looking-Glass*, a Tiger-lily is the first of the talking flowers Alice meets in the garden [1]. Amongst more senior Club members, fans of 'Rupert Bear' will fondly remember his mischievous Chinese friend of that name. Botanically, Tiger Lily is the common name for *Lilium lancifolium* or *trigrinum* - *tigris* being Latin for tiger. Crossing with Asiatic lilies produces white, yellow and red hybrids, all with spotted, curved petals and projecting stamens, that are highly favoured for floral displays. The Tiger Daylily, *Hemerocallis fulva*, is quite different however, belonging to a family that includes aloes and grasstrees, and as its name implies has (orange) flowers that last for one day only.



Another plant whose blooms last but a single day is the Tiger Flower (Peacock Flower, *Tigridia pavonia*), a native of Mexico and a favourite of photographers (viewed here against a black background). This year I planted ten mixed bulbs purchased from Pentland Plants (Taylors, £1.99) in a raised bed. The flowers started to open around 9 am, were fully reflexed by noon (top photo) and closing up come 5 pm. Whilst the latest blooms in mid-September did not open fully, they were still pleasing to the eye (middle photo). Tiger Flowers are good value for money as 3 or 4 flowers emerge successively on each stem. The BBC gardening website gives optimum growing conditions: full sun in well drained, moist, light soil; skill level is stated as 'experienced', but do not be put off. As for suppliers, *Tigridia* should be available from Walkers Bulbs, www.bulbs.co.uk, from January to March. You could also check the Online Store at www.broadleigh-bulbs-spring.co.uk



Returning to our 'Tiger-animals', they may be more tiger-like in respect of stripes versus spots. An example is the beautiful, but bizarrely named 'tiger-legged waxy monkey tree frog' (bottom picture, *Mongabay* website with permission).

Bob Jones

[1] http://aliceinwonderland.wikia.com/wiki/The_Flowers

Christmas Party 2013

A reminder that our Christmas Party and Pantomime is on Monday 9th December at 8 pm – doors open at 7.45 pm
 Tickets are £8 each – to reserve places contact Chris Tonge Tel: 662 4508, e-mail: christonge@yahoo.co.uk

Quizzes & Carols

Entertainment

Refreshments



Heading for the coast?

Occasionally, heading for the East Lothian coast when the weather around Edinburgh is dull pays dividends. Why not visit Redhouse Garden Centre on the way. The centre is located within walled grounds beside Redhouse Castle and has been recently restored by Jay Shepherd and Linda Playfair. Linda's family offer discounts on the fertilizer products that Billy Wheelan arranges for Club members (offer not available at the garden centre). For *What to do in November* (etc) in the garden, see www.redhousegardencentre.co.uk
 Directions: one mile east of Longniddry Train Station along the B1377 – EH32 0PH for your 'sat nav'.
 The centre is open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm

Dates for your diary.....

Monday 25 November 2013	'Japanese Gardens' Kristina Taylor, Garden Historian and Writer 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 9 December 2013	Christmas Party – Note date 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper hall
Monday 27 January 2014	'Caring for your trees' Mike Charkow, Tree Surgeon, Arbor Vitae, Edinburgh 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 24 February 2014	'A hobby that got out of hand' Stella Rankin, Kevock Garden Plants, Lasswade - also plant stall 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 24 March 2014	'Victorian Gardens - from Loudon to Jekyll and Lutens' Dr Philip Lusby, RBGE 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 28 April 2014	Annual General Meeting 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall

Seed Swap
Please keep your surplus **in-date** seeds and bring them to the meeting on 27th January. They will be displayed on a table at the back of the hall. Please take away those you can use free of charge.

Outing to Cambo in Fife
Via a small coach (1 hour) on Thursday 27th February depart 9 am - return 4 pm
Guided tour of snowdrops tearoom serving soup, rolls etc - lunch at own cost
Gift shop and snowdrops available to buy
Cost approx £20
Contact Susan Plag
tel: 0131 441 7936
e-mail: smplag@gmail.com

Members' Seasonal Recipes

'Apple Chutneys Assorted' from Penny McKee

This recipe is a good way of using damaged and small apples: other fruit can be added, for example plums or apricots with less onion

4lbs apples
2lbs onions
1/2 lb (brown) sugar
1/2 lb sultanas / dates / raisins
salt and pepper
1 pint (malt) vinegar
optional chopped walnuts / almonds etc
optional stronger spices for a spicier flavour,
for example curry powder, chilli, anise, cardamon, cloves

Core and chop apples - no need to peel, just remove any damaged bits
Add to chopped onion and other ingredients. Simmer for 2 hours, stirring frequently. Put into heated jars and cover tightly.



why not take the tee out of composting?

consider writing a short article (with photo optional) for a future club newsletter - as light-hearted or serious as the fancy takes you - on your favourite plant types, your successes and failures in the garden, or your holiday visit to gardens locally and abroad
contact or send copy to the editor, who is a sympathetic proofreader. So make a start

**just a teedle ee dum
a teedle ee doo tee day**



Nerine bowdenii at dusk in the Editor's garden

Membership Matters
Direct anyone interested in joining the Club to the Membership Secretary
Colin Whitehead
21 Laverockdale Park
Edinburgh EH13 0QE
membership@colintongardens.org.uk

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

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