

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 107
August 2014



Coming soon...

Monday 22nd
September
8 pm

Dreghorn Loan Hall

*'The Lost
Gardens of
Penicuik'*

Roger Kelly

Penicuik Community
Development Trust

A membership
renewal form is
attached –
please complete and
return to the
Membership
Secretary
Jo Todd
|
Only **£6** per
household

Last page for your
Fertilizer Order
Form

Hello to all our readers!

I am sporting a suntan - at least from the neck up and from the wrists down to my fingers - are you? What a sunny time we have been having - the main problem seems to be keeping the garden adequately watered.

I am glad to report some recent garden club activities:

In May our Club enjoyed a lovely evening in Ann Duncan's fantastic garden for our annual evening wine reception - thankfully many of her beautiful and unusual tulips and azaleas were still on show and we turned out in large numbers to view and chat. Thank you Ann for your kind invitation!

The Saturday open gardens morning in June was again blessed with fair weather. Three gardens in the Bonaly area were opened to us, with the plant sale also being held in Ann and Roger Deans' most attractively planted garden and refreshments served in Susan and Steve Plags' magnificent grounds. The third venue at Bonaly Tower was kindly organised by Anna Bostock - what a historic and romantic estate that is and what a privilege to be invited in by the residents. Heaven knows how many times I have walked past the entrance



*Photos of Members' Open Gardens from Penny McKee - anticlockwise from top left:
Walkers – Welcomers – Visitors – Warriors – "We'd like the box back"*

Pen of our Chair... continued

since moving to Colinton in 1974 – so a first time for me to explore what was behind that old stone wall.

Our Summer Outing in mid-July to three very different gardens in the Borders and all in Scotland's Garden Scheme was also highly enjoyable. Come and see some photos at our September meeting.

We did not enter a pallet garden to Gardening Scotland this year, but I expect many of you went and two members volunteered as helpers, enjoying many benefits such as free entry and lunch, not to mention a monetary contribution to our Club. I hope more advance notice will encourage more members to offer their services next year.

Apart from watering the struggling seedlings on our new allotment we have encountered an extensive attack of Webber moth attacking shrubs at home – how destructive and ugly the webs and caterpillars were. A modern insecticide put an end to the attack and the leaves are regenerating, but I felt uneasy using the broad spectrum spray, wondering what other insects were harmed. (try Google search: webber moth huddersfield; Editor).

Talking of insects, the programme for next winter's talks is now finalised, including one from the Bumble Bee Trust. We have a very varied and interesting programme lined up for you so I am sure you will be queuing up to rejoin in September at 'Art in the Park' on 31st August or at our first evening meeting on Monday 22nd September.

Finally, please start splitting plants and repotting ready for our Autumn Plant Sale, and don't forget we plan to have garden produce on sale too!

Penny

Committee Matters

From Autumn 2014, the Club Committee comprises

Penny McKee	Chairperson
Diana Ennos	Secretary
Christine Tonge	Treasurer
Jo Todd	Membership Secretary
Susan Plag	Programme Convenor
Robert Jones	Communications Officer
Margo Gilchrist	Librarian / School Liaison Officer
Peter Kilgour	IT and Equipment Officer
Bryan Dale	Hall Officer
William Wheelan	Fertiliser and Bulb Purchasing Officer

Non-committee members with specific roles are

Christopher Davies	Printing of Club newsletters etc
Sonia Duffy	Webmaster
Carol Lumsden	Catering
Margaret McDougall	Catering
Mitchell Mclean	Reporting Accountant
Jim Murray	Compiling of Club operating manual
Gill Perry	Loan of Club gardening implements*

In his role as Membership Secretary, Colin Whitehead would have been the first face you met on arriving at Monday meetings and other club functions. We sincerely thank Colin for all the time and effort he has put in over the past 7 years. Joyce Sawers has also stepped down from the Committee and we appreciate her willing help and input.

* Contact Gill: Tel: 0131 441 3074; gperry7@gmail.com

Autumn Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

The Plant Sale will take place on Saturday 11th October 2013 in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, from 10 am to 12 noon.

In addition to plants of all varieties, we should be grateful for offerings of fruit and vegetables. 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 items for sale at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall from 8.30 on the morning of the event. Items can also be delivered to committee members the evening before. Please label plants (and unusual fruits and vegetables) with their names and give an indication of the eventual size of plants where possible.

Members' Recipes

Beetroot Chutney from Diana Ennos

- 3lb Beetroot
- 1 large onion
- 1 large cooking apple
- 12 oz sugar
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 pint malt vinegar



METHOD

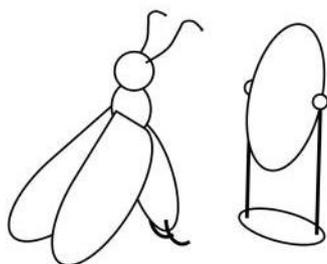
- 1 Boil whole beetroot until tender, then peel off skin and dice into small cubes
- 2 Peel onion and apple and dice
- 3 Put beetroot, onion and apple in a large pan with sugar, ginger, salt and vinegar
- 4 Bring to boil and simmer until thick and soft
- 5 Pour very hot chutney into warmed jam jars and seal jars immediately with caps. Label jars when cool

Differing amounts of onion, apple and seasonings can be used according to your taste; you may also like to try adding other spices, such as mustard seeds, chilli powder, or cumin. Enjoy eating your chutney with cheese and meats etc - yum, yum.

No coddling, just cod 'em

The codling moth is a major pest of apple and pear trees throughout much of the world and so it is not surprising that many different eradication methods have been tried.

The female attractant molecule (pheromone) placed in a trap may be used to lure the males away from the fruit. The authors of one journal article wrote: *In field cage tests, the synthetic sex pheromone was as attractive as the natural one, but neither was as attractive as ten virgin females per trap.* Well, that's nature for you! The counts in these traps can be used to time the application of insecticide.



"I think it's time for that new *Luresure Wing Spray*"

Another approach is to spray the trees with very fine kaolin-clay, leaving surfaces unfit for the laying of eggs. Rain and wind will clean the fruit by harvest-time.

Biological control has only recently emerged. A virus specific for the larva of the codling moth is applied at the start of egg-hatching. The larvae consume the virus particles, which infest the lining of the gut and multiply - feeding stops and the larvae die. Editor

Becoming a competent composter

On a recent 'Beechgrove Garden', Jim McColl said: "This is what I often do with modern composts", and then proceeded to sieve a commercial compost and use the crude material in place of pottery chips in the base of a plant pot – point made!

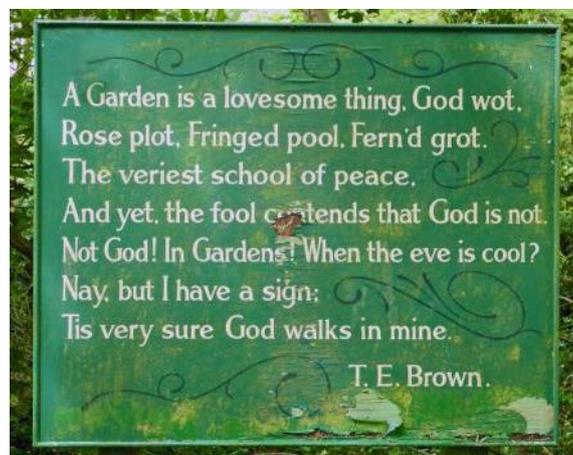
An excellent article from the RHS magazine 'The Garden' (January 2009) explains how different composts are constructed and their particular uses. The PDF has recently been removed from the RHS website.

Thanks go to Jim Murray for pointing out a 2014 RHS article on preparing good compost. Searching 'compost RHS masterclass' in Google gives the PDF as the top hit – it is also linked from the Club website.

A North Yorkshire Eden

My wife and I spent an enjoyable short break in Scarborough in early July. A Yorkshire tourist brochure mentioned a secret garden in nearby Cloughton. On the third pass in the car, we realized that *Isaiah 26:2* on a barred gate was not part of a house address. On entering the garden, a dilapidated wooden board yielded the short poem 'My Garden' by T.E. Brown (1830 – 1897), known as the 'Manx national poet'.

On leaving the garden, the reverse side of the gate read *Ezekiel 28:13*. My school Bible of 50 years vintage furnished: *Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God;* Editor



End of first line may be rendered *God! What?!*

Dates for your diary.....

Monday 22 September 2014	'The Lost Gardens of Penicuik' Roger Kelly – Penicuik Community Development Trust 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Saturday 11 October 2014	Autumn Plant Sale & Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue
Monday 27 October 2014	'The Plight of the Bumblebee' Anthony McCluskey – Bumblebee Conservation Trust 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 24 November 2014	'Scotland's Best Gardens and Nurseries' Ken Cox – Glendoick Gardens 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 8 December 2014	Christmas Party 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 26 January 2015	'The Living Collection of the Royal Botanic Garden' David Knott – Curator, RBGE 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 23 February 2015	'Ferns' Yvonne Golding – British Pteridological Society 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 23 March 2015	'Growing and showing vegetables' George Harrison – Fellow of National Vegetable Soc. 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 27 April 2015	Annual General Meeting 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
A Monday evening in May	Evening Open Garden Details later
A Saturday in May / June	Local Open Gardens Details later
A Saturday in June / July	Summer Outing Details later

New Members

Please direct anyone interested
in joining the Club to the
Membership Secretary, Jo Todd
9 Dreghorn Loan
Edinburgh EH13 0DF

membership@colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter Delivery

Not received your newsletter? Contact
Bob Jones, Communications Officer
0131 445 2745

publicity@colintongardens.org.uk

Club Website

www.colintongardens.org.uk

For details of all Club activities
Webmaster: Sonia Duffy

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Photo Gallery

Send interesting photos
of plants, views and wildlife in
your garden, conservatory, etc to
publicity@colintongardens.org.uk
Original jpeg files of 1 - 3 MB,
not web-condensed, please

Colinton Village's Art in the Park

This annual event will take place in
Splyaw Park on **Sunday 31st
August** (Sunday 7th September if
postponed due to bad weather)
between 11am and 5 pm.

There will be dance and music



performances and a whole variety of
stalls to browse in a pleasant
setting. **As in previous years, the
Club will have a stall.** Do come
along and support this event.



Cardiocrinum giganteum – Botanicus / June
June

Bulb and Fertilizer Orders

It is still possible to order your
Spring bulbs from Parker's –
deadline 16th August.

Order forms are on the Club
website. The Parker's Wholesale
Catalogue Autumn 2014 is available
from Billy Wheelan: Tel: 0131 538
4965, or on the Parker's website:
www.dutchbulbs.co.uk

The range of fertilizer products
available from Garden Solutions has
been increased this year – see
Order Form with this newsletter