

# Colinton Garden Club

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

Newsletter 109  
February 2015



**Change of talk**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
February 8 pm**

**Dreghorn Loan Hall**

**'Growing  
and Showing  
Vegetables'**

George Harrison

Fellow of the National  
Vegetable Society

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**AGM  
& display  
of members'  
arts and crafts  
projects (page 3)**

**Fertilizer Orders**

Order form with  
this newsletter -  
please return to  
Billy Wheelan by

**Monday  
23<sup>rd</sup> February**

## *From the pen of our Chair...*

Dear fellow members,

I should like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and much fun and success following your gardening interests in 2015.

It's a rather quiet time of year when it comes to active gardening, but I am sure some of the more hardy amongst you have been out tidying, digging and cutting back. Many more will be planning for the year ahead. Indeed, our committee has also been busy organising various events and outings, so do look out for details. We have more monthly Monday evening talks, all different and promising to be of wide interest, and the next outing will be our spring 'snowdrop' in March. Of course there's more to come in the summer!

What of this winter's activities thus far? There was a bumper audience at Kenneth Cox's November talk on The Gardens of Scotland, and the December party and panto night was fully subscribed - light hearted fun with a (sort of!) gardening theme. Thanks to everybody who contributed to the success of the evening.

You might remember I wrote to Santa asking for a cold frame, but I have to share a sad secret with you - no cold frame appeared on Christmas Day!! A new iphone, yes, even a new nail file in my stocking - lucky me(!), but it seems I have not been sufficiently well behaved to deserve a cold frame. Boo hoo!



*Photos of  
the Club's  
Christmas  
Pantomime  
(and over  
page)*

*Pen of our Chair... continued*

Apparently I need to promise to do more of the weeding in the forthcoming year – OK, it's a deal - watch this space in case a cold frame arrives on 14<sup>th</sup> February, with a red rose attached, of course! On matters of wider interest did you know that the Scots Pine tree at Loch of the Lowes, where 'Lady' the osprey has nested for many years, has been voted Scotland's official tree? Also, Edinburgh has been selected to be the best city to live in by 2050 under the Edinburgh Living Landscape partnership. The Scottish Wildlife Trust, City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, GREENSURGE and The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh plan to work together to create nature-rich places across the city by means of window boxes, converting grassland into wildflower meadows, planting more street trees and even innovative measures such as green roofs and walls. We gardeners can surely contribute to this effort for both people and wildlife.

Have you been to see the Scottish Centenary Wood planted by the Woodland Trust at Dreghorn on the windy slopes of the Pentland Hills? It is walking distance from Colinton. The wood is intended to commemorate World War I and the many who died and suffered - it will be lovely to see the saplings grow as the wood matures – let's hope it will encourage more tree planting and help towards a greener, more peaceful future.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in our coming season. Best wishes

*Penny*



### On the banks of the silvery Tay

**Dundee Botanic Garden** offers easy walking through various geographical regions (Australasia, North and South America) with emphasis on trees and shrubs. In addition, the Tropical and Temperate Glasshouses showcase a wealth of unusual plants (Purple Glory Flower on right). There is an excellent meal choice at the Café. The garden, situated two miles west of city centre (DD2 1QH), is open every day of the year.

[www.dundeebotanicgarden.co.uk](http://www.dundeebotanicgarden.co.uk)



### A new projector screen in Dreghorn Loan Hall

Early arrivers at Monday meetings could not fail to notice the hernia waiting to happen – the erection of the floor-standing projector screen. Well, we now have a bright new screen that descends from the ceiling of the stage under remote control. Thanks go to Neil Rutherford and helpers from The Lit for installing the screen. The Club has come to an agreement with The Lit over contribution to the cost of the screen. Happy viewing!

### Our New Website

Like Begonella in our Christmas Panto, the Club website has had a makeover, and on behalf of the Club the Committee thanks Sonia Duffy for all the hard work she has put into this project.

While searching for witty material to include here, I came upon this gem. *Post:* What is a blog? *Reply:* It is a website designed for an individual to write about his / her daily experiences, to illicit thoughts, ... How true of late!

We don't do blogs, but continue to invite articles from members for our Website / Newsletters. They will always alliterate appropriate action.

Please send your photos of '**Spring in your garden**' to Bob Jones (p4) for placing on the Website Gallery. Editor

### Edible Gardening at RBGE



*Chard Bright Lights in the polytunnel*

The Botanics is running several Edible Gardening Events in February. These are free of charge and open to all age groups.

See: [www.rbge.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.rbge.org.uk/whats-on)

### Nutmeg – confection, deception and perfection

Asking one of my school pals, "What is nutmeg?", would have brought the reply, "It's what Mum grates onto rice pudding". Nowadays the answer would probably be, "A cheeky move in football where the ball is slipped through an opponent's legs, even better the goalkeeper's legs".

Nutmeg is of course a widely used spice. It is the seed kernel from *Myristica fragrans*, an evergreen tree originally grown in the Banda Islands, a clutch of tiny islands west of New Guinea in the Pacific Ocean. Control of the lucrative nutmeg trade was one cause of the Second Anglo-Dutch War (1665 - 67). Indeed it became such a highly valued culinary item in The West that wooden copies could be found in the market place.

Unscrupulous Connecticut traders were said to have employed cheap labour to whittle wooden nutmegs – hence the terms Nutmeg State and Nutmegger. The latter is still argued about today – were these guys guilty of chicanery or just showing Yankee inventiveness? Further deception has involved adulterating genuine powdered nutmeg with either *Myristica malabarica* (weak taste) or *M. argentea* (pungent, wintergreen-like taste). The related spice mace comes from the spidery layer (arillus) separating the nutmeg kernel from the fruit pulp (photo kindly provided by [www.seasonwithspice.com](http://www.seasonwithspice.com)).



Nutmeg trees are now widely grown throughout the Far East and Caribbean. The fruit pulp can be made into delicious jam, jelly and syrup. The Borough Market, Southwark appears to be the only UK outlet for these products, which were perfected by Sybil La Grenade in Grenada in the 1950s. See the website [www.delagrenade.com](http://www.delagrenade.com) for an interesting read. Editor

**Members'**  
**Arts & Crafts**  
**Exhibition**  
**at our AGM**  
**on 27<sup>th</sup> April**

This year the focus is on  
**Pot Plants**  
**Flower Arrangement**  
**Photography**

Exhibits should have a horticultural theme. Of course, you will be well on with your latest project(s) by now!

<b>Outdoor Season Schedule 2015</b>	
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Snowdrop Outing to Dawyck and Kailzie</b> £25 to include lunch at Kailzie. Departs Westgarth Avenue at 9am Contact Chris Tonge: 0131 662 4508, e-mail: <a href="mailto:treasurer@colintongardens.org.uk">treasurer@colintongardens.org.uk</a>
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Evening Open Garden</b> Redhall Walled Garden: a lovely garden beside the Water of Leith 97 Lanark Road, Edinburgh EH14 2LZ. 6.30 - 8pm Redhall have kindly agreed to host our evening garden this year <b>Plants for sale</b>
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Open Gardens &amp; Plant Sale</b> We already have a garden for viewing in Harelaw Road <b>and are looking for two other gardens around this area</b> A horticultural and social occasion, and in no way competitive Please think about cuttings etc for the plant sale Contact Susan Plag: Tel: 0131 441 7936, e-mail: <a href="mailto:events@colintongardens.org.uk">events@colintongardens.org.uk</a>
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Summer Outing</b> Date is provisional: full details to be announced later

**Could you oblige?**

### Members' Recipes: Panettone Bread Pudding from Susan Plag

A great way to use an Italian fruit panettone left over from Christmas

One panettone (500g) cut into thick slices and buttered  
500ml double cream  
500ml milk  
vanilla pod – seeds scraped out  
zest of a small orange  
4 eggs  
4 egg yolks  
180g caster sugar



Butter a large serving dish (~13 x 9 inches)  
Lay the buttered panettone slices, overlapping in a single layer  
Put the milk, cream, orange zest and vanilla seeds in a saucepan and bring to boil  
Whisk eggs and egg yolks with sugar until pale  
Pour the hot milk and cream mixture onto the eggs and mix well.  
Strain over the panettone; let it rest for a few hours to absorb flavours  
Put the dish into a roasting tin and half fill the tin with hot water  
Bake for 40 - 45 minutes at 160°C  
Dust with icing sugar and serve with cream

### Membership Matters

Membership – new and renewal,  
please contact Membership  
Secretary,  
Jo Todd  
9 Dreghorn Loan  
Edinburgh EH13 0DF  
[membership@colintongardens.org.uk](mailto:membership@colintongardens.org.uk)

### Club Website

[www.colintongardens.org.uk](http://www.colintongardens.org.uk)  
for details of all Club activities  
Webmaster: Sonia Duffy

### Newsletter

Delivery difficulties, article copy  
and photos for Website Gallery:  
contact Bob Jones,  
**0131 445 2745**  
[publicity@colintongardens.org.uk](mailto:publicity@colintongardens.org.uk)