

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 110
April 2015



Coming soon...

27th April 2015

AGM
and
Exhibition
of members'
arts & crafts
projects

See page 3

11th May 2015

**Evening Open
Garden**

Redhall
Walled Garden in
Lanark Road

Ordering
your bulbs for
next Spring

See page 2
for details

From the pen of our Chair...

Dear friends,

Spring is sprung! Are you ready for the next growing season, shears sharpened, lawnmower at the ready, seeds chosen and plots dug over? Even if you just have a window box or some pots, it is so rewarding to see the surge of new growth. I like wandering around Colinton, taking a peak at other gardens as they bloom, or seeing our wonderful trees come into leaf.



Your Club has much in store for you this summer, firstly the AGM where your creativity can also shine – do please bring a contribution to the craft exhibition – anything vaguely botanical in photo, flower arranging or pot plants.

Then we have the summer evening reception at Redhall Walled Garden – lots to see there and also a place of restoration and rehabilitation for some.

Don't forget Gardening Scotland at the end of May either of course. See page 3 for an appeal by The Caley for help from gardening club members.

Then we have the annual Saturday morning open gardens in June – three very different gardens in Redford Loan / Harelaw Road, teas and coffees to share with others, and a plant sale.

Also a mini-outing to The Lost Gardens of Penicuik – the subject of our first talk of the last winter season – do go to see the efforts to restore this historical site.



*Walking
among the
snowdrops
on our recent
mini-outing
to Kailzie
Gardens*

Pen of our Chair... continued

Recently, I went to a talk for Friends of the Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh on growing your own vegetables. It was organized by students who had plots to tend as part of their horticultural course. You have probably seen these neat long plots just behind the awesome beech hedge, all accessible to the public. In fact the students said they found they spent a lot of time talking to and answering questions from passing visitors. Why this change? – of making the plots so visible and public? Surely The Botanics is a place for decorative plants? But no, there is a deeper message here - plants are essential for our food and thus survival. Without the skill of horticulturists, where would we be on this increasingly crowded planet?

Penny



The Editor visited RBGE recently and was also impressed by students' work on the vegetable plots, including this eye-catching scarecrow

**Springtime at The Botanics**

Fritillaria raddeana under cover in the Alpine area; native to northern Iran and Kashmir

A new look to your Spring bulbs

I do hope that members who ordered spring flowering bulbs last year are enjoying their colourful display. Those who didn't have no need to be downhearted as the Parker's extensive Spring Bulb catalogues should arrive in June. Here we are thinking about next year's display when this year's is still here being enjoyed.

So, how to proceed? Firstly browse the Parker's website or the catalogues once they have arrived. I shall bring the catalogues and order forms to the Summer Outing in July. The bulbs usually arrive in September in time for Autumn planting. Buyers will be notified once the bulbs have arrived so that they can be collected and paid for. No payment is needed until your entire order has been collected. See the Club website for details or contact Billy Wheelan, 0131 538 4965.

Thanks from Garden Solutions

The owners of Garden Solutions, from whom we order compost, fertilizer, mulches, etc, are most grateful to Club members who recently placed orders with them. The orders were delivered promptly and right to your house or allotment. This Spring's orders totalled just over £1750, showing that this is a beneficial way to purchase these items. Billy Wheelan

**The Spring Newsletter
of the Scottish Gardeners' Forum**
is now available online

Read about gardening matters
from across Scotland

www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk/newsletter.html

Local wildflower meadows

Midlothian Council has been pursuing a '**grassland wildflower meadows**' initiative over the last few years. There are 26 nominated areas ranging from Danderhall to Gore Glen to Dalkeith (web address below). Alan Krumholds, Countryside Ranger in charge of the Roslin Glen site, provided me with an insight into the intricacies of sustaining a wildflower meadow in the long term, from plant selection, sequential sowing of adjacent meadow areas, to rotational cutting with an Austrian hand scythe. He recommends Scotia Seeds in Brechin, Angus for seed packs and meadow mixtures – also if you are thinking about a small meadow in your garden.

The photo was taken in Roslin Glen two years ago - June is likely to be the best month. After parking at the (free) Car Park near the Chapel, walk down into the Glen, cross the North Esk and on towards the old carpet factory where the meadows are. Editor



Roslin Glen Country Park: A Marmalade Hoverfly and Common Carder Bumblebee hanging in there!

www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/113/parks_and_other_open_spaces/1290/grassland_wildflower_meadows

Agin' nicely

Traditional sloe gin is not to everyone's taste - why not reserve some of your summer gooseberries for a more subtly flavoured tippie. A typical recipe is

- 500 g berries, washed and topped and tailed
- 100 / 175 / 350 g white sugar for ripe dessert / less ripe dessert / green berries
- 1000 ml gin, medium quality preferably with not too intense a juniper flavour

Place pricked gooseberries, sugar and gin in a Kilner jar. Seal securely and gently shake to dissolve some of the sugar. Keep in a dark cool place and shake every day for a week and then once a week for 3 months. Taste and add more sugar if needed. Leave for a few more months and then sieve through a colander. For a crystal clear liquor, filter through a double layer of good quality kitchen roll. Bottle the gooseberry gin and label with vintage.

You can freeze the gooseberry residue for serving with ice cream at a later date.

Stop press: Professor Ian Stewart will open his garden on 26 April, 2.30 - 5 pm. 'Heathersett', 571 Lanark Road W. Plant sale in aid of Marie Curie.

Notice of Annual General Meeting & Members' Arts & Crafts Exhibition 27th April 2015, Dreghorn Loan Hall

Minutes of the last AGM are available on our website; some copies will be available at the meeting, with a balance sheet from the Treasurer

The Exhibition will feature
Pot Plants
Flower Arrangement
Photography

Exhibits should have a horticultural theme. Contact Margot Gilchrist (0131 441 7339) if you have specific needs related to your exhibit(s)

Refreshments including wine will be served

Club volunteers for Gardening Scotland 2015

The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society has requested help with stewarding and liaison duties at Gardening Scotland 2015 (29 – 31 May). Incentives include travel expenses, free entry to Show, special parking and snack meals. For an application form, contact Billy Wheelan, 031 538 4965 or David Sinclair (Caley): davidsinclair@btinternet.com.

Outdoor Season Schedule 2015	
Monday 11th May	<p>Evening Open Garden</p> <p>Redhall Walled Garden have kindly agreed to host our evening garden this year. The Garden offers training in horticulture, conservation, maintenance and other skills to people with mental health problems</p> <p>97 Lanark Road, Edinburgh EH14 2LZ 350 yds from traffic lights at Inglis Green Road Some parking within garden, otherwise use Lanark Road 6.30 – 8 pm</p> <p>Plants for sale</p>
Monday 15th June	<p>Mini-outing to the Lost Gardens of Penicuik</p> <p>Situated within Penicuik House Estate on Carlops Road (A766) 1.5 mile west of Penicuik Town Centre. Meet there at 6.45 pm We can arrange car sharing – contact Susan Plag, 0131 441 7936</p>
Saturday 20th June	<p>Open Gardens & Plant Sale</p> <p>We have been kindly invited to view 3 gardens from 10 am to 12 noon</p> <p>90 Redford Loan, Christine and Andy Ireland. Also Plant Sale 4 Harelaw Road, Kathleen and George Tait. Tea and Coffee 11 Harelaw Road, Jean and George Haskell</p> <p>Deliver plants for sale to the Irelands' house by 9 am if possible - otherwise make a prior arrangement with a committee member Please label plants with name and particular growing conditions</p>
Saturday 25th July	<p>Summer Outing to East Lothian</p> <p>This year the coach will deliver us to Gifford for visits to Broadwoodside followed by Gifford Bank, where we will have morning coffee. Our next stop is Dirleton Castle - bring your picnic lunch. In the afternoon, we will visit Bowerhouse Walled Garden just outside Dunbar</p> <p>Tickets (£30) available from Susan Plag, 0131 441 7936 Meet at 9 am PROMPT outside St Cuthbert's Church in Westgarth Ave - returning to Edinburgh around 5 pm</p>

Newsletter

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

Membership

New and renewal, please contact Membership Secretary
Jo Todd,
membership@colintongardens.org.uk

Club Website

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