

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

www.colintongardens.org.uk



No 111
August 2015

First meeting of
the new session

Monday 28th
September
8 pm

Dreghorn Loan Hall

'Herb or Weed?'

Hamish Martin

The Secret Herb
Garden, Edinburgh

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

A Fertilizer
Order Form is
also attached

Dear Fellow Members

What a day it has been!

I have just returned from a most wonderful garden club outing to East Lothian, and I am full of admiration for the devoted and skilled gardeners we have around us: three equally beautifully tended but also equally diverse private gardens, and the full summer splendour of the herbaceous borders and Victorian flower beds of Dirleton Castle. Fifty-four appreciative members having a jolly time! We have all had a good grumble about the cold wet summer – late vegetables and roses for example, but how green and lush the East Lothian countryside looked. How lucky we are to have all this on our doorstep. Do see our website for photos.

Our members open gardens event in June was also a great success – very many thanks to the owners for inviting us to their much loved havens, to the members who donated plants to the sale and to the helpers. Again do see our website - it is amazing how gardens take on the cultivated character of their owners but can also be a place for wildlife to flourish.



*Photos of
our recent
Summer Outing
to gardens in
East Lothian*

Pen of our Chair... continued

Our evening visit to the Lost Gardens of Penicuik was very well attended - almost as many people as midges! The remnants of this huge and once grand Victorian Garden are a reminder of wealthier times long past, also of the huge army of gardeners that would have been required to maintain it. One has to admire the efforts of modern-day 'Penicuikians' in producing local food and restoring some of the former glory.

At the end of August I am to demit office, and our club will be in the hands of the existing very good committee with the addition of Susan McMaster, and Elspeth MacGregor replacing me as chair – welcome Susan and welcome back Elspeth! I am sure our Club will be in capable hands with Elspeth returning to the committee as she is most experienced and enthusiastic. I look forward to continuing my membership, and also look back on my three years as programme officer and then three years as chair with great satisfaction and pleasure. The club is thriving, reflecting the great interest and enjoyment gardening brings to us all – long may it continue! There is *no* Art in the Park this year, so the next event is the first evening talk on 28th September (The Secret Herb Garden). So I hope to see you there - do bring any friends or neighbours you think might like to join the Club.

Penny

Committee Matters

From Autumn 2015, the composition of the Club's Committee will be

Elspeth MacGregor	Chairperson
Diana Ennos	Secretary
Chris Tonge	Treasurer
Jo Todd	Membership Secretary
Susan Plag	Programme Convenor (Outings Subcom.)
Bob Jones	Communications Officer (Newsletter Ed.)
Margo Gilchrist	Librarian / School Liaison Officer
Peter Kilgour	IT Officer
Bryan Dale	Hall Officer
Billy Wheelan	Fertiliser and Bulb Purchasing Officer (Outings Subcommittee)
Susan McMaster	(Outings Subcommittee)

In addition, non-committee members with specific roles are

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

Penny McKee is standing down as Chairperson - at its last meeting, the Committee thanked Penny for all the time and effort she had put in over the past 6 years. The Committee would also like to thank Mitchell Maclean for his recent service as Reporting Accountant.

Autumn Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

This event will take place on Saturday 3rd October 2015 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 found in 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.

And of course come along to the sale itself, meet your friends, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, and go off with new plants, bulbs and health-giving garden produce!

Humanoids and aroids – an uneasy alliance



Over early Summer, the flowering of a Titan Arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*) at The Botanics stimulated much interest, both ocular and olfactory (rotting flesh). The Botanics also has two specimens of *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius*, known as Elephant Foot Yam. Its corm, which can weigh up to 25 kg, is widely used as a vegetable in the Tropics. Other members of the Arum Family (Aroids) are better suited to an average-sized greenhouse or living room, for example, *Alocasia reginula* 'Black Velvet' with its beautiful silver-white veined leaves. The 'Little Queen' (reginula) needs careful tending: see <http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/916/#b>. It can be persuaded to flower; the photo on the right was taken recently by the Editor in the Lowland Tropics House of The Botanics. A related species, *Alocasia denudata* was used as a (irritant) constituent of blowpipe-arrow poisons by native hunters in the Malay Peninsula and Borneo. Monkeys, wild boar and deer were the unlucky prey.

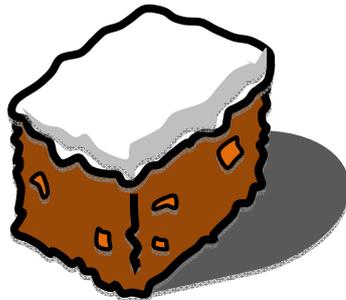
Members' Recipes: Delicious Carrot Cake from Diana Ennos

For cake

220g SR flour and 1tsp baking powder
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground ginger
150g sugar, white or brown
150g butter or margarine
100g dried mixed fruit and/or walnuts/pecans
3 eggs
zest of 1 orange
250g of raw grated carrots

For icing

50g butter
200g cream cheese
150g icing sugar
2tsp orange juice



Method for cake

Heat oven to 180°C / fan 160°C or gas mark 4
Grease a 18 cm diameter cake tin and line with baking parchment
Cream butter and sugar together
Mix in beaten eggs
Mix in dried fruit or nuts, grated carrot and orange zest
Mix SR flour, baking powder and spices together and then gently stir into cake mix
Spoon cake mix into the lined tin and place in preheated oven for 45 to 50 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean when pressed into the cooked cake
Let the cake cool before icing

Method for icing

Cream butter and icing sugar together
Mix in orange juice and cream cheese
Spread icing evenly over cooled cake

Apropos your Spring bulb order (p4)

'Growing Garden Bulbs', by Richard Wilford is a concise but comprehensive book that includes alliums, fritillaries and nerines. See: <http://shop.kew.org/kewbooksonline/horticulture>. Also available at The Botanics shop for £7.

Members' photos in the website gallery

For several years, we have included photos of members' gardens in our website gallery. While we have received many excellent images, the list of contributors has been rather short. So, in the hope of expanding our catchment area, we are changing the emphasis to '**photos taken in gardens both home and away**'. Visits to botanic gardens, parks and stately homes would all come under this category, as would your treks into the wilds. We are looking for interesting / unusual plants and views photographed recently.

Please send 1 - 3 good quality photos to publicity@colintongardens.co.uk. JPG files and relevant information (e.g. plant name / location / points of interest) are required.
Bob Jones & Sonia Duffy

Dates for your diary.....

Monday 28 September 2015	'Herb or Weed?' Hamish Martin, The Secret Herb Garden - also plants for sale 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Saturday 3 October 2015	Autumn Plant Sale & Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue
Monday 26 October 2015	'Dawyck Botanic Gardens' Thomas Gifford, Garden Supervisor at Dawyck 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 23 November 2015	'Northern Italy and the Dolomites - a gardener's paradise' Jim Jermyn, horticultural expert, show manager of Gardening Scotland and former owner of Edrom Nurseries 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 14 December 2015	Christmas Party 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 25 January 2016	Members evening - 3 talks by Club members 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 22 February 2016	'Composting – old and new' Fiona Playfair, Garden Solutions, East Lothian 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 14 March 2016	'A year in the nursery' Gavin McNaughton, Macplants, Pencaitland - also plants for sale 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 25 April 2016	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

Loan of garden equipment

The club has a range of implements to facilitate the more strenuous tasks in your garden
Contact Gill Perry
Tel: 031 441 3074
implements@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



Dactylorhiza orchids in Shepherd House Garden, Inveresk (late June)

Spring Bulb Orders

The Parker's bulb catalogue has arrived and as usual is full of wonderful things. There are a host of new varieties of bulbs and corms, and many perennials too.

You can access the **catalogue** online at www.dutchbulbs.co.uk. If you would prefer a hard copy of the catalogue, then either phone me or e-mail me and I will arrange to get one to you.

The **Club order form** is on our website. Please return to me so that I can include it with the Club order to obtain the wholesale benefit. You can e-mail your order to me, or post it, or drop it through my letterbox – or just phone me.

The deadline for orders is 23rd August, for delivery in September / October. Remember to add 30% to your total to cover VAT and carriage. No money is required until you have received your entire order.

Billy Wheelan: 27 Thomson Road, Currie, EH14 5HT; Tel: 538 4965; bulbs@colintongardens.org.uk