

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

www.colintongardens.org.uk

NEWSLETTER



No 112

November 2015

Coming soon...

Monday 23rd
November 8 pm

Dreghorn Loan Hall

*'Northern Italy
& The Dolomites
– a gardener's
paradise'*

Jim Jermyn

Horticultural expert

Monday 14th
December 8 pm

**Our
Christmas
Party**

Entertainment,
good food, quizzes
and some popular
carols

See page 4

Dear CGC Members

This is my first Newsletter as your new Chairperson and my first task is to grow my feet in order to fill the shoes of our previous Chair, Penny McKee, who has left a tremendous legacy. She will be a hard act to follow. Thank you Penny for all your hard work over the past few years and I will do my best to continue the traditions and maintain the ethos of the Colinton Garden Club. As far as I am concerned, it is a most friendly and welcoming club with highly knowledgeable and informed members who own some of the most attractive and well planned gardens in Edinburgh, and it is a great honour for me to take over as Chairperson. I look forward to working with our excellent committee to continue to further the interests of the Club.



It has been an interesting summer with rather strange weather patterns, but my garden has certainly done very well and everything has flourished. I picked my last roses in mid-October and have started cutting back and putting everything to bed for the winter.

The main botanical event of the summer was, of course, the flowering of the Titan Arum at the Botanics. We dutifully queued with and were entertained by three delightful Italian couples and their six children and a passing Professor of Botany as we inched our way into the glasshouse. By the time we got to the truly stupendously enormous plant, we were all well informed by the Prof and ...



Autumn Plant Sale & Coffee Morning



... were able to gaze in amazement at what was before us. I understand that we'll get our next chance to see another specimen in about 2040 if any of us are still around.

We had a very successful Plant Sale in October and sold a large number of plants donated by members and a big selection of Parker's Bulbs. We made a surplus of over £400 (plus a little more when Bulb Sales are finalised), helping towards the Club's expenses during the year. The Sale has become a real social event and members can enjoy coffee and home-made cakes and sit and chat to their friends.

Five of us went to Glasgow on 17th October to attend the Scottish Gardeners' Forum AGM at the Glasgow Botanic Garden. I had never been before and I was greatly impressed by the number of clubs affiliated (96) and the amount of work the Forum does to promote gardening throughout Scotland by networking, giving talks and encouraging members to share their activities. You can see their Newsletter on their website: <http://www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk/newsletter.html>; it is edited by our own Christopher Davies and you will find it full of interesting information – did you know that a new hosta has been named 'Andy Murray' and was launched at the Chelsea Flower Show last year? You can see it at Cromlix House Hotel, near Dunblane. After the AGM and lunch, we were given a tour of the glasshouses and saw the amazing collections of orchids (below right) and begonias and of course the Kibble Palace Glasshouse, which must be one of the most attractive 19th century wrought-iron framed glasshouses ever designed.

Now we are looking forward to Christmas and our Annual Party on 14th December, so make sure you reserve your ticket, as they go very fast!

Elspeth

Why not join the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)?

The RHS has four major show gardens - all in England, BUT did you know there are more than 20 'partner gardens' in Scotland (such as Threave, Cambo, Monteviot, and Crathes and Floors Castles) where RHS membership gives you free entry on allotted days? And of course there are many other such partner gardens in the rest of Great Britain (see www.rhs.org.uk).

I discovered all this when I visited wonderful RHS Harlow Carr at Harrogate one sunny day this summer. Having recently also visited impressive Wisley with my Wimbledon granddaughters, I signed up on the spot and soon my first 'The Garden' magazine landed on the door mat. It is full of practical gardening articles, beautiful photos, features on gardens and plants, and details of gardening courses - not to mention useful advertisements and RHS-approved plant sale and equipment offers (see rhsplants.co.uk).

I'll certainly be carrying my RHS card around with me from now on, not to mention looking forward to some armchair gardening!

Penny McKee

SGF Annual Meeting in Glasgow



A Cirrhopetalum orchid / Watching koi in the Kibble



This Month at The Botanic

Lithops lesliei is a member of a genus of succulent plants from southern Africa. The characteristic half-buried leaf-pair can be cream, grey or brown in colour, allowing it to blend with surrounding stony ground thereby hoodwinking grazing animals. The upper faces of the leaf-pair have some translucency, allowing light to reach the chloroplasts underneath.

Lithops flowers are either yellow or white and may be large enough to obscure the leaf-pair. For successful cultivation indoors, several hours of bright sunlight in the morning and partial shade in the afternoon are required. Correct watering throughout the year is also critical: see <http://www.lithops.info/> Editor

Members' Recipes: Rhubarb crumble variations from Elspeth MacGregor

Preheat the oven to 190°C / 170°C for fan oven

Topping

50gr plain flour
50gr jumbo rolled oats
50gr light brown sugar
50gr butter
25gr browned and roughly chopped hazelnuts or almonds

Rub ingredients into a fine crumbly mixture / or process in a food processor

Fruit

Use 700gr fruit: rhubarb, strawberries, pears, blackberries or apricots as desired or a mixture of two / three fruits, eg rhubarb + strawberries, pears + blackberries
2 - 3 tablespoons caster sugar

Mix the fruit with the caster sugar and place in 1.3 litre ovenproof dish

Spoon the crumble mixture evenly over the fruit and bake for 25 to 30 minutes

Serve warm with Greek yoghurt or cream

Serves 4

Members' photos in the website gallery

Our new website gallery theme, '**Photos of Gardens at Home and Away**', has been set in motion with some pictures I took of Sefton Park Gardens in Liverpool. The 200-acre gardens contain a Community Orchard and another beautifully preserved Victorian glasshouse. Editor



Compost & Fertiliser Orders

The staff of Garden Solutions thank those members who recently ordered items. They are grateful for our continued support, which this Autumn amounted to orders totaling £820. They look forward to hearing from us again in the Spring. Billy Wheelan

Dates for your diary.....

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	['Fertilizers'] Fiona Playfair, Garden Solutions 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 14 March 2016	'A year in the nursery' Gavin McNaughton, Macplants, Pencaitland 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

As Elspeth has said, our gardens have certainly been productive this Summer. Lillas Wiley sent me these photos of part of her potato crop and an impressive Agapanthus that lives outdoors all year in Greenbank

**Newsletter Delivery**

Not received your newsletter?

Contact Bob Jones

Communications Officer

0131 445 2745

publicity@colintongardens.org.uk

Club Website

For details of all Club activities and contact addresses

Webmaster: Sonia Duffy

www.colintongardens.org.uk

New Members

Please direct interested persons to

Jo Todd, Membership Secretary

9 Dreghorn Loan

Edinburgh EH13 0DF

membership@colintongardens.org.uk

Reserving tickets for the Christmas Party

If you did not obtain tickets at the last Monday meeting, contact Chris Tonge

0131 662 4508

treasurer@colintongardens.org.uk

Doors open at 7.45 pm
£8-worth of rollicking good fun!

Loan of garden implements to Club members

Gill Perry is in charge of these loans

0131 441 3074

16 Spylaw Bank Road

EH13 0JW

implements@

colintongardens.org.uk

Please bear in mind that the lawn scarifiers are heavy items

