

# COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

www.colintongardens.org.uk

## NEWSLETTER



**No 114  
April 2016**

**Coming soon...**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>  
April 8 pm**

**Dreghorn Loan Hall**

**Annual General  
Meeting**

**with an  
exhibition of  
members' work**

**See page 3**

**Saturday  
18<sup>th</sup> June**

**Plant Sale at our  
Open Gardens  
Morning**

**All plant  
types are  
welcome –  
details on  
page 4**

Dear Members

I think the best things about the very slow arrival of Spring are hearing birdsong all day in the garden, and at last enjoying lighter mornings and evenings after what felt like an awfully long and relentless winter. We have even had a few really sunny days with blue skies and warmer temperatures, although a lot of cold weather as well. The bulbs are all burgeoning at the moment and seeing the swathes of colourful crocuses and daffodils in the Meadows and other public areas has been really heartening.



Recently three of your Committee were invited by Penny and Ian McKee to the Scottish Parliament to have lunch and to have a look at the Parliament Garden. You may not even be aware that there is a garden, and it is very small, but it is well worth a look if you are ever in the building. You go downstairs into the Garden Lobby, which is a light and airy space where TV interviews are often held, so it may be familiar to you.

If you look out of the window, you see the garden nestling within the wings of the building. We were lucky enough to be allowed outside to see that it is designed in two large triangles of box hedges, based on a traditional Scottish knot garden. It contains box hedges, and apple and pear trees in 'espalier' style. These trees were planted as a reminder that the garden is located on the site of the old Queensberry House orchard. There is also a small herb garden that grows lavender, marjoram, rosemary, thyme and sage, which are regularly used by the chefs in many of their dishes. Climbing plants grow along the rear wall of the garden and there is the splendid backdrop of Arthur's Seat.

The garden has been used recently for displays of sculptures by George Wyllie and James Munro, and a beautiful 'pink-footed goose egg' by an Icelandic artist, Sigurdur Gudmundsson, has been retained for the permanent collection. It was a very interesting visit, especially as the garden is not normally open to the public.



Now that April is upon us, we look forward to seeing everybody at our AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> April. I hope that you are creating a masterpiece to display at the meeting? It is always interesting and very enjoyable to see what our members bring along and to realise what talent there exists within our membership.

*Elspeth*



*Photos of our recent Snowdrop Tour at The Botanics.  
Right: Galanthus 'Galatea' with its attractive inner marking*



## Origins of the Tulip



*Tulipa orthopoda: a rare species in the wild.  
Photographed in the alpine greenhouse of  
The Botanics in early February by Bob Jones*

Many of us will be admiring our tulips, perhaps some varieties were bought at the Club's Autumn Plant Sale in 2015. The emergence of the tulip in Western European horticulture in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century is well documented, starting with the Flemish herbalist Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq. But what of its earlier origins? We must go back to the Turko-Persian Seljuks, whose Islamic empire lasted from 1016 to 1194 and included the First and Second Crusades. It appears that the Seljuk Turks brought the tulip from the central-Asian steppes into Anatolia (roughly the eastern part of modern Turkey) during the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. Indeed, the poet, scientist and astronomer Omar Khayyam mentions tulips in his many quatrains:

*Copy the tulip, that flames with the new year.  
Take like the tulip the cup in your hand, and  
drink your wine in gladness to a tulip-tinted girl.....\**

The tulip then spread westwards to the Mediterranean area with extensive cultivation and breeding occurring during the early Ottoman period. Today we can see that these species tulips often have a more delicate appearance than many of their blockbuster Dutch cousins. Editor

\* There has been much debate on how one should view the scholar's writings on alcohol usage.



**Arts, Blooms & Crafts:  
an exhibition of members'  
work to accompany our  
AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> April**

Xmas is but a memory;  
since then you've  
Yearned for Spring,  
and of course  
Zealously applied  
brush to paper  
eye to viewfinder  
hands to flowers  
needle to cloth

So why not bring along your work, simple or complex, and display it to fellow Club members. The success of this evening depends on attracting a host of varied exhibits. Our catchphrase 'Arts, Blooms & Crafts' means there are no limits to the medium type (or the number and size of exhibits). However, if you intend to bring a Canalettoesque mural, then please contact Margot Gilchrist who is in charge of displaying items: tel: 0131 441 7339, [library@colintongardens.org.uk](mailto:library@colintongardens.org.uk)

Prizes will be awarded and refreshments served

**A welcome return of Art in the Park**

Art in the Park 2016 will take place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September (with 11<sup>th</sup> as alternative date should weather be poor). Lorraine O'Shea of the Colinton Village Events (CVE) Group writes: CVE group is run by volunteers, on a not-for-profit basis and right now we need your help. Whether there is a specific task you might assist with, or join our Committee, we would love to hear from any locals who want to contribute their time or skills.

We have an immediate need for a graphic designer and a Web enthusiast. We meet once per month, but if you want to help as a more casual helper that's fine too. Please contact me through [colintonvillage@gmail.com](mailto:colintonvillage@gmail.com)

From a Committee Member:

I highly recommend the following website [www.shootgardening.co.uk](http://www.shootgardening.co.uk) which can provide you with a wealth of gardening information and advice.

**Miscellaneous**

**Gardening Scotland 2016**

The organizers are looking for volunteers to assist during the weekend of the show (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June). Please complete the volunteer form previously circulated or contact Billy Wheelan by our AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> April: 0131 538 4965; [bulbs@colintongardens.org.uk](mailto:bulbs@colintongardens.org.uk)

*And hey, the Club is still looking for helpers for a pallet garden exhibit at the show!*

**Garden Solutions**

Fiona Playfair thanks the 65 Club Members who recently placed orders with Garden Solutions for compost, fertilizer, etc. The value of the orders was around £2,800, which far exceeded any previous order. Obviously members were paying attention to Fiona's talk on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.  
Billy Wheelan

**Request from student of Garden & Space Design**

I am a fourth year student at Scotland's Rural College (formerly Scottish Agricultural College) currently working on my dissertation: *Behavioural changes through the last seventy years towards green spaces* (e.g. gardens, parks). I'm hoping to get help from your Club, as I believe your members are my focus group. I'm looking for members over 60 to fill in a 3 minute survey. Kind regards, Timea Csakvari. Please use the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CZ3D58B>

**Request from a Local Florist**

I am a florist working in Edinburgh producing floral displays for weddings and other events. Nowadays, many brides wish for a more natural garden look for their big day, and are turning to British garden flowers (as opposed to commercially produced flowers from Holland and Colombia). I write to ask if any of your members with a serious interest in flower growing would consider supplying me with flowers.  
Best regards, John Vernon. [johncvernon@yahoo.com](mailto:johncvernon@yahoo.com)

**Member's Recipes****Toffee Banana Loaf from Susan Plag**

75g soft butter  
 25g caster sugar  
 1 egg  
 Nestle or Carnation  
 Caramel (397 g tin)  
 225g plain flour  
 2 tsp baking powder  
 50g chocolate chips  
 3 mashed bananas



Beat butter and sugar until pale and fluffy  
 Add egg, then caramel. Mix flour and baking powder together and gradually fold in  
 Fold in bananas and  $\frac{2}{3}$  of chocolate chips  
 Pour into greased or lined loaf tin. Sprinkle remaining chocolate on top  
 Bake for one hour at 180°C  
*One for the sweet-toothed!*

<p><b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Evening Open Garden</b></p> <p>This will be held at Malleny Garden, Balerno, EH7 4AF: <b>6.30 to 8 pm</b>        Follow the brown National Trust signs from Lanark Road into Balerno        Parking is limited; please park on road and walk to the garden        Cost £3. Sign up at AGM or pay at the garden</p>
<p><b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Open Gardens Morning and Plant Sale</b></p> <p>We have been kindly invited to view 3 gardens from 10 am to 12 noon        16 Spylaw Bank Road – Gill and Paul Perry (tea &amp; coffee)        65B Spylaw Bank Road – Wendy Gray (plant stall)        42 Pentland Avenue – Caroline and Michael Pearson</p> <p>Please deliver plants to Wendy Gray's house by 9 am if possible        Otherwise make a prior arrangement with a committee member        Label each plant with name and any particular growing conditions</p>
<p><b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b></p> <p>Coach is now full        For cancellations        please contact        Chris Tonge        on 662 4508</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summer Outing to Fife</b></p> <p>This year we will visit three gardens in Fife        Logie House near Dunfermline will be the first stop for coffee (some produce on sale here - strawberries, etc)        Next stop will be Falkland Palace gardens – remember to bring your NTS card if you have one. Bring your picnic lunch – there are also tearooms in Falkland        In the afternoon we will visit the garden at Grassmount House near Kirkaldy</p> <p><b>Meet at 9 am PROMPT</b> outside St Cuthbert's Church in Westgarth Avenue – returning to Edinburgh around 5 pm</p>

**Newsletter Delivery**

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

[publicity@colintongardens.org.uk](mailto:publicity@colintongardens.org.uk)

**Club Website**

For details of all Club activities  
 and contact addresses  
 Webmaster: Sonia Duffy

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

**Membership enquiries** – contact Jo Todd, Membership Secretary

[membership@colintongardens.org.uk](mailto:membership@colintongardens.org.uk)