

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

www.colintongardens.org.uk

NEWSLETTER



No 115
August 2016

Coming soon...

Monday 26th
September 8 pm

Dreghorn Loan Hall

Kyrgyzstan:
in search of
wild tulips

Frazer Henderson
Edinburgh & Lothians
Rock Garden Group

A membership
renewal form
is attached –
please complete
and return to the
Membership
Secretary
Jo Todd
|
Only £8 per
household

Fertilizer Order
Form with this
newsletter

Dear Members

On 9th July your Chairperson went to the Botanic Summer Party. We had a wonderful time on a warm, sunny and, contrary to the forecast, rain free day. It was the first visit to Edinburgh of the Gardeners' Question Time team and the Botanics put on a splendid show. You could meet the GQT team face-to-face in their legendary Potting Shed Sessions and attend half hour workshops with them in the Demonstration Garden, visit the Victorian Glasshouses, attend lectures in the Lecture Theatre and get a taste of the range of educational programmes on offer. There were lots of activities for children to do as well.



And of course there was BBC Radio 4's GQT marquee with not one but two programme recordings. I attended the afternoon session and it was extremely interesting to see how the programme was organised. We were all asked to fill in question forms while we were assembling and these were collected about twenty minutes before recording. The organisers sorted out the questions and selected ten with a pretty wide range for the programme. The names of the selected few were read out and we (mine was included) were seated in the front row directly in front of the panel. Peter Gibbs, the compere, had us all practising our welcome cheers, and even a version of the Icelandic football team's Viking Clap to welcome the panel. He said it actually originated in Motherwell – can anyone verify this extraordinary claim?

The panel all duly filed in to rapturous applause and took their seats behind their microphones. There was Jim McColl, Matthew Wilson, Anne Swithinbank and Matthew Biggs. They had no idea what questions they were going to be asked and I was asked to lead off the session with my problem: I had once foolishly bought two sacks of horse manure from an itinerant sales lady who called by in a blue van and now the grass is sprouting up to a height of about 70 cm and I can't get rid of it. A lady from Shetland wanted to know if a magnolia would survive up there. Another asked what the panel's favourite garden smells



The Botanics, 8.30 am, and a relaxed planning session is under way; Jim McColl of 'Beechgrove' is seated in the middle



On location at the Chinese Hillside: Martyn Dickson explains to Peter Gibbs the strong link between The Botanics and China

were. And so it went on for about 45 minutes with questions being answered with great humour, expertise and charm. We were all delighted.

On a much sadder note, many of you will have learned of the sudden and very untimely death of Isobel Lodge, who passed away on the night of Monday 25th April this year. Isobel did an immense amount for our Club and for gardens and gardening in Colinton. She served on the Committee as Secretary for six years and then took over the Chair and served for another six years. She contributed an enormous amount to making our CGC – Colinton Garden Club – what it is today. Her pantomimes for the Christmas Party were legendary. She is sorely missed and our sincere condolences go to her husband John and her daughter Sara.

As I write now, we have not had much of a summer, so let's hope that things have improved by the time you read this Newsletter.

Elspeth

PS: Your Newsletter Editor was also at the Botanic on the day, snapping away as usual. Initially recruited as a lowly steward, he was promoted to chaperone for the very witty Peter Gibbs. From the chair later in the afternoon session: "Well, just how many itinerant horse manure vendors are there around Edinburgh?"

Committee Matters

From Autumn 2016, the Club Committee comprises

Elspeth MacGregor	Chairperson
Susan McMaster	Secretary
Christine Tonge	Treasurer
Joe Todd	Membership Secretary
Susan Plag	Programme Convenor
Robert Jones	Comms Officer / Newsletter Editor
Margo Gilchrist	Librarian / School Liaison Officer
Peter Kilgour	IT and Equipment Officer
Bryan Dale	Hall Officer
William Wheelan	Fertiliser and Bulb Purchasing Officer
Fiona Bushby	

Non-committee members with specific roles are

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

We sincerely thank Diana Ennos for all the time and effort she has put in as Secretary over the past 6 years. Mitchell Mclean's stint as Reporting Accountant is much appreciated by the Club.

* Contact Gill: Tel: 0131 441 3074; implements@colintongardens.org.uk

Bulbs for Spring 2017

Here we are waiting for summer to arrive – well, at least the new Spring Bulb Catalogue from Parker's is here!

You can either process your order on-line at www.dutchbulbs.co.uk or contact me and I will put you on a list to peruse a catalogue. I have also attached a Club order form, which you should return to me for addition to other orders to obtain the wholesale benefits offered.

The deadline for orders is 21st August. If you need any assistance or information please contact me:

Billy Wheelan
bulbs@colintongardens.org.uk
 27 Thomson Rd, Currie, EH14 5HT,
 Tel: 0131 538 4965

Remember - you pay on receipt of items.

Art in the Park

A tremendous local event on Sunday 4th September from 11 am - 5 pm (a week later if weather is poor) with stalls (CGC will be there) and entertainment galore, including some friendly alpacas.

Location: Spylaw Park in Colinton Village.

Members' photos in the website gallery

We continue to invite your 'photos taken in gardens at home and abroad' for our website gallery. We are looking for interesting / unusual plants and views photographed recently. Please send good quality JPG files to publicity@colintongardens.co.uk, and include relevant information (e.g. plant name / location / points of interest).

The Charms of Crathes Castle Gardens

Using Banchory as a centre, we recently visited several gardens in north-east Scotland, including those at Crathes Castle. In 1926, Sir James and Lady Sybil Burnett began developing an ornamental garden at Crathes. Lady Sybil's forte was the design of colour-themed borders (White, Blue, Pink, etc) and this tradition continues to today, with inspired positioning of many taller plants such as *Cardiocrinum* lilies and giant lupins. Sculpted yew tree hedges, dating from the early 1700's, form a dark green backdrop to the masses of blooms. In the adjoining conservatory, we were treated to a variety of exquisite specimens (right). For an informative video on Late Summer Borders at Crathes, see: <http://www.nts.org.uk/Multimedia/View/Late-Summer-Borders-at-Crathes/>

The grounds also contain many fine trees. A rarity is *Acer fabri*, a small evergreen maple from subtropical China with reddish samaras (helicopters, keys, spinning jennies, whirlygigs or wingnuts to you and me). Editor



A Brazilian Edelweiss (Sinningia leuchotricha) with its covering of soft silvery hairs on the leaves

Members' Recipes

Rhubarb Cake from Diana Ennos

For cake

250g sugar
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
250g plain flour
2 beaten eggs
250ml soured cream
365g chopped rhubarb

For topping

100g sugar
50g butter
4 heaped tablespoons of plain flour
pinch of cinnamon

Grease and line a cake tin (23x23 cm)

Mix sugar, bicarb and flour together, stir in beaten eggs and sour cream, fold in chopped rhubarb. Spread mixture evenly into the lined tin

Rub together butter, sugar and flour to make a crumbly topping. Sprinkle over top of cake mix. Then sprinkle cinnamon over topping

Bake for 45 min at oven temperature of 180°C, and enjoy!

And ruminating on rhubarb....

Word origin: barbarian tribes (*barbarus*, Latin) from beyond the Volga River (*Rha*) are known to have traded rhubarb root with their Roman neighbours.

Customer resonance: in a recent advertisement, a whisky tasting note announces: the mouthfeel of *Ardbeg Dark Cove* is almost tart, with a surge of raisins, ginger and pepper spice and waves of smouldering charcoal, wood polish and creosote notes, leading to cured smoked ham and squid ink noodles. Not quite so fulsome is the spiel for a particular fragrance diffuser: *Rhubarb Rhubarb!* is a bittersweet fragrance reminiscent of the dewy wake-up of a Yorkshire morning, with notes of juniper berry and muddled rosemary.

Canny gardeners: so why allude to confused lasses from Yorkshire? Well, large sheds for commercial forcing of rhubarb were first constructed in the county in 1877. Local wool waste (shoddy), which slowly releases nitrogen, was a valuable fertilizer. The forcing process itself was developed in the Chelsea Physic Garden some 60 years earlier.

Edinburgh scene: Prestonfield, the first estate in Scotland to propagate rhubarb, now boasts a classy *Rhubarb Restaurant*.

Mindless repetition: in British dramatic productions "rhubarb, rhubarb" may be murmured by extras to simulate crowd noise. In America they utter "walla, walla", in Germany "rhabarber, rhabarber", and in Japan "gaya, gaya".

M...M...Mnemonics: Apart from a dice game, craps is a student aide-memoire for laxative agents: cascara, rhubarb, aloe, phenolphthalein, senna (*Senna ayertonina*, of course).

Frightful finale: 5kg of rhubarb leaf will see you off the planet: <http://helios.hampshire.edu/~nlNS/mompdfs/oxalicacid.pdf>
- clearly lots to chew on there! Editor

Programme of events for 2016-17

Monday 26 September	Kyrgyzstan: in search of wild tulips by Frazer Henderson, Edin. & Lothians Rock Garden Group. 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Saturday 8 October	Plant Sale & Coffee Morning at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue. 10 am – 12 noon
Monday 24 October	A history of tree disease by Richard Ennos, University of Edinburgh 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 28 November	A world of gardens by Graeme Mitchell, Brightwater Holidays 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 12 December	Christmas Party 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 23 January	Member's Evening – three illustrated talks 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 27 February	Wild, wet and woodland gardening by David Rankin, Kevock Plants 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall. Also a plant stall
Monday 27 March	Saughton – the restoration of an historic park by Peter McDougall Project Development Officer. 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 24 April	Annual General Meeting at 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

Autumn Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

The date and location of this event are shown above. We hope to offer a wide range of plants, fruit and vegetables for sale. A range of bulbs at highly competitive prices will also be available including more exotic varieties not usually available through 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 with their names and their eventual size where possible.

And 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!

Autumn Orders for Compost etc

As the months slip by, it is time to think of what we need to get our gardens through the winter. To help, I have provided an order form for compost, mulches, etc, which should be returned to me by **Monday 26th September** (first meeting of new session) together with your cheque, payable to **Colinton Garden Club**. Please note that the bag price on the order form is the discount price.

Billy Wheelan, 27 Thomson Rd,
Currie, EH15 5HT

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

Membership enquiries

Contact Jo Todd,
Membership Secretary

membership@colintongardens.org.uk