

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

www.colintongardens.org.uk



No 117
February 2017

Coming soon...

Monday 27th
February 8 pm

Dreghorn Loan Hall

Wild, wet
and woodland
gardening

David Rankin

Kevock Plants

Plant sale also

Members'
Arts & Crafts
Evening
See page 3
for details

Fertilizer Orders

Order form comes
with this newsletter

- please return to
Billy Wheelan by

Monday

27th February

Dear Club Members

A very happy New Year and best wishes for a good gardening year. I have to say that the winter this year has been extraordinary. We seem to have avoided all the awful weather that was predicted, and I have memories of stunning sunsets, beautiful skies and some very fine, sunny days. We are so lucky here in Edinburgh in that we can nip down the coast to Yellowcraigs or North Berwick or our own Portobello, and enjoy winter walks on the beaches in glorious sunshine.



We had a very enjoyable November meeting when Julia Corden of Brightwater Travel whisked us round the world to look at some wonderful scenery and plants. I must say I love sitting comfortably in the Dreghorn Loan Hall (well, reasonably comfortably) watching all these marvellous slides. And wondering how on earth the photographer got to these inaccessible pinnacles.

The Christmas Party was another great success, I think, and we had about 120 cheerful members packed into the Loan Hall. We had a slight clash of interests with the Brownies this year, as they were holding their Christmas Fair and we were unable to get in to the Hall until 6.30. Your committee and other helpers all sprang into action and the tables were set up and decorated in a trice, the food was prepared and laid out, the drinks dispensed by your friendly bar staff and the guests all seated and looked after with smooth efficiency. The Quiz was much pondered over, the Buffet was plentiful and delicious, and then came the eagerly awaited Entertainment, which thrilled the audience to the core and received thunderous applause. Christine and Andy Ireland put together a splendid set, and many thanks to those of you who lent your Christmas trees...



From our seasonal production 'O Christmas Tree': Donald Trump (Ian McKee) rants about an invasion of his golf course maples by Giant Sticky White mistletoe

... to add to the sparkle. Gardeners' Question Time was on the stage for the SECOND time in its long history and the panel used all its intellectual prowess to solve the problems presented to them. Donald Trump, who was worried about the effect mistletoe was having on the expensive trees he had imported for his golf courses, made a special guest appearance looking very much the part - congratulations to Ian McKee - and he was enthusiastically booed by the audience. Susan Plag was able to sleep again at night once her mystery tree had been correctly identified. The Choir sang beautifully, Audrey Dobson saved the day by coming back to play for us, the Christmas Elf pulled the curtains with gusto and duly observed the regulations with his Elfin Safety jacket! Lorraine, our Mistress of Ceremonies held it all together perfectly. And you, the Audience, sang the carols with great enthusiasm making the party a very enjoyable start to the Christmas festivities. Many thanks to everybody who participated in the success of the evening.

We look forward to another year of interesting talks and outings, and please do make suggestions if you know anywhere the Club might like to visit, or if you have come across any interesting speakers who might like to come and talk to us. We do appreciate your involvement.

The Committee looks forward to seeing you all throughout our 2017 programme of talks and events.

Elspeth

A memorial to Isobel Lodge in Spylaw Park



In December, husband John, daughter Sara and granddaughter Rosie helped Council staff plant a tree in Spylaw Park in memory of Isobel, a former Chairperson of the Club and originator of many enjoyable Christmas Pantos. The tree is *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (Katsura), a large specimen noted for its autumnal colour and distinctive caramel scent.

John wishes to bring members' attention to the Isobel Lodge Award for New Scottish Writing. Isobel was an imaginative writer and powerful story-teller, and a much loved member of the Scottish Arts Club. The annual prize of £500 will go to an unpublished writer who enters the Scottish Arts Club Short Story Competition. Further details of the award may be found at www.scottishartsclub.co.uk/#awards

Ordering your Spring compost and similar items

A form for ordering your Spring goods is attached to this newsletter and may also be downloaded from our website. Please complete and return to Billy Wheelan by 27th February 2017 or give to him at the Club meeting on that evening. New members are advised that this service involves purchasing the goods from Longniddry-based Garden Solutions, who will deliver the order to your house or wherever you wish it delivered. As we order in bulk, we get a discount from the normal retail price. A similar exercise will be conducted in September for Autumn / Winter requirements. Full details of each item may be found at www.gardensolutions.info. Orders are normally delivered about 2 weeks later. Billy Wheelan

A word to the wise on weeds

Awake! arise! the athlete's arm
Loses its strength by too much rest;
The fallow land, the untilled farm
Produces only weeds at best.

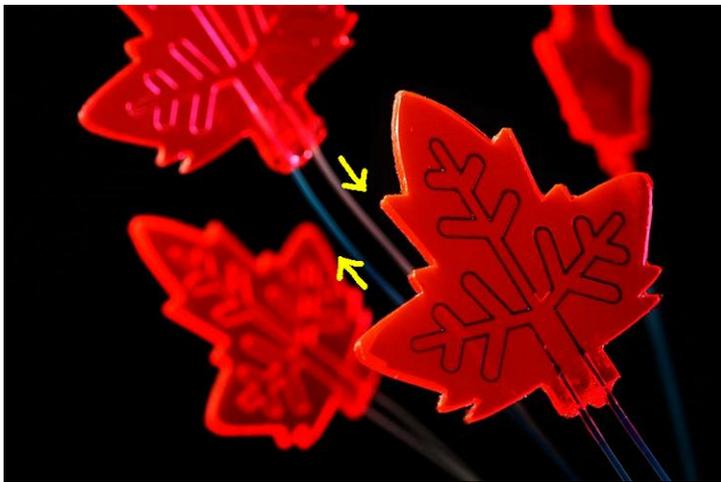
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Plant and your spouse plants with
you; weed and you weed alone.

Author unknown

Nature did it first

When sunlight lands on a plant leaf, chlorophyll and carotenoids present in antenna molecules located in cell membranes capture the light energy to initiate photosynthesis. Scientists at Eindhoven University of Technology have simulated this process in a mini leaf reactor, which can be used to make a range of substances including drugs. The critical molecules in the 'leaf' are luminescent solar concentrators (LSCs), which efficiently direct their collected light energy to liquid flowing in narrow channels in the silicone matrix. It is suggested that the system could be useful when we (well, some of us) travel to Mars and beyond (extracted from Science Daily, 21 December 2016; photo by Bart van Overbeeke - modified).



Members' Arts and Crafts Evening to accompany our AGM in April

You are invited to bring along your recent art and craft work for display and judging

This year's theme is 'Springtime'
in the form of
**embroidery, quilting, tapestry,
paintings, photography, bowls of bulbs,
flower arrangements and the like**

While a gardening / horticultural emphasis is a must, there are no limitations to the type and number of items you may present

For further details and advice on displaying large or unusual items, please contact Margo Gilchrist:
0131 441 7339 library@colintongardens.org.uk

I wonder if the Daffodil
Shrinks from the touch of frost,
And when her veins grow stiff and still
She dreams that life is lost?
Ah, if she does, how sweet a thing
Her resurrection day in spring!

*From 'Daffodil and Crocus' by Emma C. Dowd
in Country Life in America, April 1902*

Orkney's treasures

Many of you will have watched the recent BBC1 series investigating the likelihood that Orkney was the starting point for construction of the Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age stone circles present throughout the British Isles. Orkney is also fascinating in terms of the 500 or so native flowers growing there. Best known of these is the Scottish Primrose, *Primula scotica*, which is restricted to Caithness, Orkney and North Sutherland. It has a more bluish-purple colouration than other primulas and blooms twice a year in May and July.



*Photo taken in the Edinburgh Botanic
in July 2016 by Bob Jones*



Seen growing in a pinewood south of Harperrig Reservoir - Scarlet Sickener, *Russula emetica*, a mushroom not fit for a dog or its owner, while red squirrels, slugs and snails appear to get by

Dates for your diary.....

Monday 27 February 2017	'Wet, windy and woodland gardening' David Rankin, Kevock Plants, Lasswade Sale of plants also 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan Hall
Monday 27 March 2017	'Saughton – the restoration of an historic park' Peter McDougall, Project Development Officer 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan Hall
Monday 24 April 2017	Annual General Meeting With refreshments and an exhibition of members' work - see page 3 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan Hall

Outdoor Summer Schedule 2017

Monday 15 May	Evening Garden Event A visit to the beautiful private garden at Oakwood in Roslin Glen (EH25 9PZ). 6.30 – 8 pm. Numbers limited - we intend to organise car-sharing Please put your name down at the February meeting
Saturday 24 June	Open Gardens & Plant Sale We are kindly invited to visit three gardens within easy walking distance 1 Dreghorn Loan - Alan and Heather Smith 3 Dreghorn Loan – Tom and Susan Murray 19 Dreghorn Loan – Bryan and Mary Dale Teas and plant stall - please think about cuttings and plants Contact Susan Plag: 0131 441 7936; events@colintongardens.org.uk
Saturday 15 or 29 July, to be confirmed	Summer Outing A whole day outing by coach to three gardens in the Borders: Newhall in Carlops, Abbotsford House in Melrose and Mertoun Estate in St Boswells. Bring a picnic lunch. Please put your name down at the February meeting

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