

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

www.colintongardens.org.uk



No 119
August 2017

Coming soon...

Monday 25th
September 8 pm

Dreghorn Loan Hall

Tiphereth
– a talk on
their work

Sandy Walton

Renewal of
membership:
please complete
attached form
and return to
Membership

Secretary

Jo Todd

I

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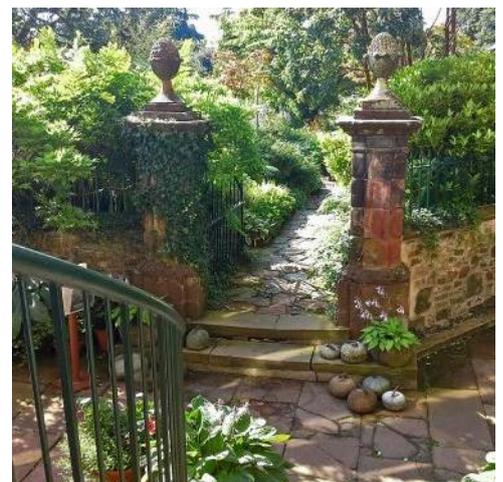
Dear Members

As I write this August Newsletter it is raining. Not just raining, but tipping it down as if there was no tomorrow. 'Ah well', we say, 'Good for the garden'. But what about us? I often have visitors from the Continent who collapse in delight when they get here, only too happy to escape the 30°-plus temperatures they have been enduring for the past six weeks. But once the rain starts bucketing down even they begin to ask if it's always like this. Answer: 'Yes'. Scotland is not renowned for its summers, I'm afraid. On the other hand, we do sometimes have long spells of wonderful sunshine when being on the west coast is like spending time in the Bahamas with an emerald green sea and a Titian blue sky, bright green fields and spotless white sheep grazing peacefully. Then we actually wonder why we ever need to go abroad.



I went down to Mellerstain House for the first time on a lovely sunny day in July with a German friend who is a landscape architect, We were both amazed by the perfection of the classical house built by Robert Adam and his son William in the 18th century and the formal Italianate garden with its stone balustrades descending in two lovely curved terraces to a massive sweeping stretch of lawn that also descends in three enormous grass terraces to a beautifully landscaped ornamental lake. There are two long beech hedges on either side of the terraces to lead the eye down to the lake. We chatted to the one and only gardener (below left) who showed us the two enormous round rose beds on the lower terrace directly in front of the house. All the roses in the outer border had been neatly nipped off by the deer. It was a perfect and all encompassing dead-heading job. He was not at all pleased.

Another visit was to Kirkcudbright, where the hydrangeas are bright blue, and to Broughton House owned by EA Hornel, one of the 'Glasgow Boys'. He and his sister designed the exceptionally beautiful garden, which you enter through an imposing gateway (below right). It was quite delightful with little 'rooms' containing small fishponds, or small lawns with herbaceous borders all connected by narrow pathways winding under the many trees, past a revolving



summer house, down to his favourite sheltered bench looking down to boats moored in the estuary.

And nearer home, we have enjoyed some lovely days too. Our Open Gardens were singularly successful and members enjoyed our Evening Open Garden at Oakwood in Roslin, courtesy of Fiona Jones, who let us visit in mid-May. It was amazing to see a garden virtually created out of a ravine with its little Japanese-style bridges over the stream and its lovely acers and magnificent ancient trees. And it didn't rain, despite the black clouds. We also had a very successful Open Gardens Saturday in June, and for this many thanks go to Allan and Heather Smith, Tom and Susan Murray, and Bryan and Mary Dale, all in Dreghorn Loan. It is always a lot of work to prepare one's garden – although club members are not over demanding at all – and we do greatly appreciate everybody's efforts. The gardens were immaculate and I think everybody enjoyed the lawns, the flowers, the vegetables – and of course the model railway at the Murrays' house. Thank you all for being such agreeable hosts.

So maybe summer hasn't been so bad after all, and there is still time for a blazing August. I remain ever optimistic.

Elsbeth

Orchids are easy-peasy!

This may be true for many of the newer Phalaenopsis hybrids, but more exotic orchid types often require particular know-how for successful growing. Why not join an experienced and friendly group of orchid enthusiasts in the Edinburgh Branch of the Scottish Orchid Society. Activities include illustrated talks, potting-on sessions, plant raffles and opportunities for photography. For 2017-18, we meet in a new venue in Loanhead at 7 pm on the last Wednesday of the month. Contact Editor or Liz Norman lizzien5@hotmail.co.uk for more details.



Laelia purpurata exhibited at the Glasgow Orchid Fair in 2017

Garden Club Committee

From Autumn 2017, the Club Committee comprises

Elsbeth MacGregor	Chairperson
Susan McMaster	Secretary
Brian Dale	Treasurer
Jo Todd	Membership Secretary
Susan Plag	Programme Convenor
Robert Jones	Communications / Newsletter Editor
Margo Gilchrist	Hall Officer / Librarian / School Liaison
Peter Kilgour	IT Officer
Elizabeth Windle	Fertiliser & Bulb Purchasing Officer
Chris Tonge	
Billy Wheelan	

Non-committee members with specific roles are

Christopher Davies	Printing of Club materials
Sonia Duffy	Webmaster
Hilary Kerr	Reporting Accountant
Carol Lumsden	Catering
Margaret McDougall	Catering
Jim Murray	Compiling of Club operating manual
Jan Osinski	Assistant Hall Officer
(see below)	Loan of Club gardening implements

We sincerely thank Brian Dale (hall), Chris Tonge (secretary), Billy Wheelan (bulbs) Gill and Paul Perry (implements) and Fiona Bushby for all the time and effort they have put into Club activities. Chris Aitken's stint as Reporting Accountant is very much appreciated.

We are still looking for someone to house the Club's implements - contact Elsbeth chair@colintongardens.org.uk

New Website for Scottish Gardeners' Forum

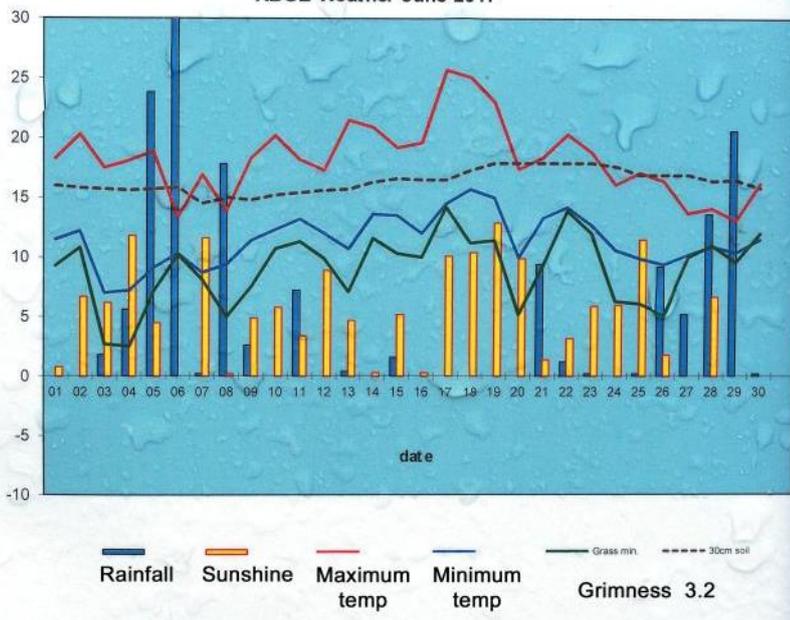
One of the roles of the SGF is to promote links between all the various gardening clubs in Scotland. The Chairperson is Dr Shiona Mackie from Currie and the Newsletter Editor is our own Christopher Davies. The new website, which is still under development, may be found at www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Scotland's Garden Scheme at Crail

The gardeners of Crail put on a great show a few weeks ago. Eight (so called small) gardens were on display, some on the same level as the Marketgate, others dropping steeply to the wall above the beach. The message was loud and clear: OK, we have blustery winds and sea-salt, but let's just suck it and see. The outcome is waving Echioms, striking Fuchsias and plant-strewn stone walls. One garden received shade from a Giant White Cherry, *Prunus* 'Tai-haku'. Noted for a profusion of large pure-white blooms in the Spring, leaf form is equally rewarding (right). Having become extinct in Japan, it was re-established from a lone tree found in a Sussex garden in 1926. The Crail specimen is about 40 years old and aging well. Editor



RBGE Weather June 2017



Following from page 1, many of us proceed to waggle dance while weather-watching. If bees could read, they would see from the rain-spattered information panel within the weather station in the Botanic that June of this year was very wet. There were with two periods of heavy rains totalling 181 mm (7.1"). But more intriguing is the use of the term 'grimness' with a value of 3.2 for June. On enquiring I was told that the grimness value, $G = \text{relative precipitation} / \text{relative sunshine}$. Not *ughs* or *yucks* surely! On second thoughts it probably has no units, and no upper limit!

And what about a doister or two? For curious weather terms, see www.weatheronline.co.uk/reports/wxfacts/British-Weather-Terms.htm Editor

Make for a makeover

Dalkeith Country Park has recently had an extensive face-lift. Within the renovated stables-courtyard is a beautiful Siberian silver birch, which one feels should remain ever young like JM Barrie's Peter Pan. The adventure playground has been moved to a spot high above a bend in the South Esk – a fusion of alpine retreat and 'Psycho' house as the sun moves behind the clouds.



Betula platyphylla

Programme of events for 2017-18

Monday 25 September	Tiphereth: A talk on the their work by Sandy Walton
Saturday 7 October	Autumn Plant Sale and Coffee Morning in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, 10 am – 12 noon. See below.
Monday 23 October	Glendoick – Garden Plants for Scotland by Kenneth Cox
Monday 27 November	Growing Fruit and Vegetables at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh by Ben Dell, RBGE
Monday 11 December	Christmas Party 7.45 for 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 22 January	The Botanics Cottage – History in the remaking by Gerry Gallagher, RBGE
Monday 26 February	Propagation by Clare Reaney, Dundee Botanic Garden
Monday 26 March	Members' Evening 3 short presentations - details later
Monday 23 April	Annual General Meeting and Display of Members' Work
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

Monday meetings take place at 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall. Disabled access is available.

Autumn Plant Sale & 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!

Bulb Catalogue and Fertiliser Orders

Members are advised that the new bulb catalogue is available and can be viewed online at www.dutchbulbs.co.uk. The paper copy of the catalogue was circulated on the Summer Outing coach. Order forms for bulbs and fertiliser will be attached to the paper copy of the newsletter or can be printed off. Orders for bulbs must be in no later than Friday 18th August and orders for fertilisers etc. must be in no later than **Monday 25th September**. Thanks, Liz Windle.

Members' photos in the website gallery

The current theme is '**Photos taken in gardens at home and abroad**'. We are happy to accept photos taken with your 'multi-megapixel mobile wonder'. Send *good quality* JPG files (with relevant plant information) to publicity@colintongardens.co.uk

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