

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

www.colintongardens.org.uk



No 123
August 2018

Coming soon...
Monday 24th
September 8 pm
Dreghorn Loan Hall

Tulips

Stan da Prato
Editor of
Caley's Caledonian
Gardener

Our new
website will
soon be on
line

Please complete
the attached
membership form
and return to the
Membership
Secretary
Jo Todd

Only £8 per
household

Fertilizer Order

Dear Members

I think all of us are completely amazed at the wonderful weather we have been enjoying this year. I can't remember such a long spell of sunshine and warmth since I came back to live in Scotland in 2002.

The garden is flourishing as never before. My roses are proliferating in glorious colours and need daily dead-heading. They don't last long because of the heat, but keep producing more and more buds. It is a total delight.



Chelsea has been and gone – and also enjoyed nonstop sunshine. One of the exhibition gardens in particular caught my attention. It was sponsored by the Lemon Tree Trust and was inspired by the resilience, determination and ingenuity of refugees living in Domiz camp in Northern Iraq. It was designed with the input of the refugees and highlighted the unexpected beauty hidden in the camp. Their little gardens were designed as spaces to help to organise the chaos inherent in forced migration, while also providing a sense of normality, wellbeing, peace and civility to broken lives.

In the camps, rose bushes are planted in dusty soil between makeshift tent dwellings; gutter pipes are used as containers for plants and flowers; breezeblocks and bricks create little border areas alongside concrete walls which are hanging with tin cans and even old shoes filled with little plants – true 'vertical planting' as we know it. The refugees are able to grow the lemons, pomegranates and figs familiar to them at home. Water is carefully collected in channels and pools and reused. There are craftsmen in the camp, and refugee carpenters, designers and horticulturists build small gardens and even engineer little Islamic fountains out of concrete to create calm and meditative spaces in a camp populated by 26,000.



A lone Gazania bloom emerges from the parched earth of the Domiz Refugee Camp. Photo: Dirk-Jan Visser, with permission



And a few more blooms in a tub in the Editor's garden – courtesy of some rich compost and judicious watering

The Chelsea garden, designed by Tom Massey after a visit to Domiz, used the same limited set of raw materials available to the refugees, but added the necessary 'Chelsea gloss' of polished concrete and laser-cut steel. Colourful and textural planting softened the hard materials resulting in a Silver Gilt award.

While the Chelsea garden is a world away from the harsh conditions in the camps in the Middle East, the Lemon Tree Trust's CEO explained that the Trust wanted to show that refugees are desperate to create a bit of home among the hardship, that they want to move on and that their gardens bring joy and restore dignity to their lives.

We in Colinton have much to be thankful for with our immaculate lawns and well-stocked flowerbeds, but I think that both we and the refugees in Domiz camp in Iraq get equal pleasure from our gardens.

Elsbeth

Committee Matters

From Autumn 2018, the Club Committee comprises

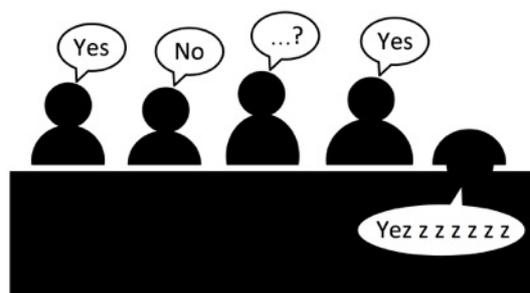
Elsbeth MacGregor	Chairperson
Susan McMaster	Secretary
Bryan Dale	Treasurer
Jo Todd	Membership Secretary
Susan Plag	Programme Convenor
Robert Jones	Newsletter & Publicity Officer
Margo Gilchrist	Library, Hall & Liaison Officer
Peter Kilgour	IT & Equipment Officer
Liz Windle	Fertiliser & Bulb Purchasing Officer
Anne Siller	Implements Officer*

Non-committee members with specific roles are

Alasdair Ferguson	Webmaster
Hilary Kerr	Independent Examiner
Carol Lumsden	Catering
Margaret McDougall	Catering
Jim Murray	Club operating manual

We sincerely thank Chris Tonge for all the time and effort she has put in as Treasurer over the past 6 years. We also thank Billy Wheelan for his sterling work as Fertiliser and Bulb Purchasing Officer.

* 0131 441 9583; annesiller@gmail.com



CGC Christmas Party – a noble tradition

It may seem inappropriate to mention a Christmas Party in the middle of a hot and dry summer, but we need your help. The Committee feels that a full-blown Panto is now beyond our capabilities. The more recent revue-style productions co-ordinated by Elsbeth MacGregor have gone down well - **would you be prepared to take over this role?** We can guarantee a willing and enthusiastic support team. Please contact Elsbeth.



One of our members has suggested that the Club should offer seed catalogues together with Parker's Bulbs literature. Accordingly we will put DT Brown's Seed and Plant Catalogues on display on the book table at future meetings. There will also be a Seed Swap Box for members to exchange seeds.

General Data Protection Regulation and our Club

The GDPR or General Data Protection Regulation is Europe's new framework for data protection laws – it replaces the previous 1995 data protection directive, upon which current UK law is based.

In this regard, Colinton Garden Club keeps a list of members' names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses: **we only use your personal information for club administration purposes and for communicating with you about your membership.** Only the Chairperson, Membership Secretary and Treasurer have access to your details and we will never share or sell your data without your prior permission.

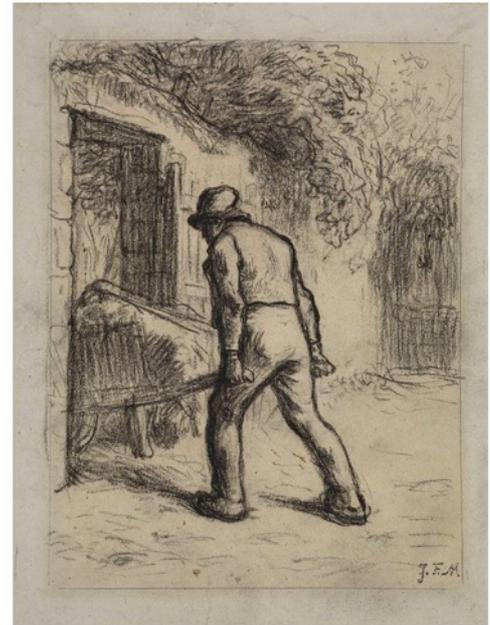
Art in the Park 2018

Now operating on a two-year cycle, Art in the Park will take place on **Sunday 2nd September**, with a reserve date in case of bad weather of 9th September. The Club will have a stand to display its recent activities and to attract new members. See you there!

The not-so-humble wheelbarrow

You may have asked yourself who first invented the wheelbarrow. The Chinese perhaps - records of a *small one-wheeled hand-propelled vehicle* are to be found in first centuries BC and AD writings of the Han Dynasty. The wheelbarrow was unknown in Europe before 1200 AD. Pushing on, the National Gallery of Scotland holds a fine etching on paper of 'Man with a wheelbarrow' by Millet. A crayon study for this work was put up for sale in 2017 (right). The photo below shows a 110-year old wooden wheelbarrow made by the Buch Manufacturing Co. of Pennsylvania recently offered for sale at \$995 – a snip for your snippings.

Of course the use of wooden varieties as a vehicle for flower displays goes back many years. At this point I have to come clean - at the last meeting of the Committee it was decided to retire the Club's wheelbarrow logo in favour of a more forward looking item. Views were mixed, with mutterings of 'naff', 'just needs re-vamping' and 'value of tradition', but in the end the Chair had the final say. Editor



Retiring gracefully

Bulbs for Spring 2019

Its time to think about ordering your spring bulbs again. The Parker's catalogue has arrived and there are lots of fabulous new varieties to buy.

You can access the catalogue online under www.dutchbulbs.co.uk. This will give you the wholesale prices (please don't use the small catalogues that sometimes come attached to newspapers, magazines, etc as these have different prices and codes).

For those of you who don't have access to the internet I now have ten copies of the catalogue. If anyone would like one please call me on 07884112740 and arrange a time to collect one or for me to drop off one to you.

The Club order form is attached and this should be returned to me so that I can put in a bulk order for the Club at wholesale prices.

You may download the order form into a Word document, fill in your order and email it back to me OR print and send it by post or put it through my letterbox. Also please **KEEP A COPY** of your order as I do not have access to a photocopier, and check you have entered all your details on the form. **THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERS TO REACH ME IS 24th AUGUST.** Please don't forget to add 30% to your grand total to cover VAT, carriage, etc. You pay when you collect your order from me.

Liz Windle: bulbs@colintongardens.org.uk 51/11 Spylaw Bank Rd, EH13 0JE.

Programme of events for 2018-19

Monday 24 September	'Tulips' by Stan da Prato, Editor of the Caley's Caledonian Gardener 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Saturday 6 October	Plant Sale & Coffee Morning at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue. 10 am – 12 noon
Monday 22 October	'The Woodland Trust in Scotland' by Benedict Bate, Woodland Trust 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 26 November	Members' Evening - 3 short presentations by members. Details later 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 10 December	Christmas Party 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 28 January	'Travels in Chile' by George Anderson, Beechgrove Garden 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 25 February	'Woodland Gardening' by Ken Cox, Glendoick Copies Ken's latest book will be available to purchase 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall.
Monday 25 March	'Iris' by Brian Young, Holmes Farm Plants, Irvine 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall Also a plant stall
Monday 22 April To be confirmed	Annual General Meeting & Display of Members' Work 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 name and their eventual size where possible.

So think about your cuttings, pottings-on and mature plantings. Home-grown fruit and vegetables are also welcome. Most importantly, come along to the sale and meet your friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

Autumn Orders for Compost

After the dry summer, your gardens may need some extra help. I have provided an order form for compost, mulches, etc, which should be returned to me by **Monday 24th 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. Liz Windle:

bulbs@colintongardens.org.uk
51/11 Spylaw Bank Rd, EH13 0JE

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: Alasdair Ferguson

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