

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

www.colintongardens.org



No 127
August 2019

Coming soon...
Monday 23rd
September 8 pm
Dreghorn Loan Hall

George Forest:
A Scottish
Plant Hunter in
China
Leonie Paterson
RBGE

Please complete
the attached 2019/20
membership form
and return to
Membership
Secretary
Jo Todd

£8 per household

Fertilizer Order
Form with this
newsletter

Dear Members

I hope you are all enjoying our Scottish 'Summer'. At the time of writing it has rained solidly for five days and my garden is like the Amazon jungle.

On April 29th we had our 40th AGM together with a hugely successful Ruby Anniversary of the founding of the Club. It was attended by over 100 members who were welcomed into the hall by the Stephen Porteous and Ian Boyter Jazzband playing just our sort of music and setting the tone for the rest of the evening.

The hall was set up with tables decked with colourful red napkins and members were asked to wear something red, and have a photo of themselves as they were forty years ago. Everybody made the effort and the hall was ablaze with colour. Bob Jones had placards showing photographs and programmes and excerpts from the pantomimes of the Club 'in the old days' on the Club stands, and Jim Brass had unearthed all the previous committee members and placed the lists on boards.

We held our AGM along the usual lines with the Chair's Report of the past year's activities followed by the Financial Report. We had to bid farewell to three Committee members – our indefatigable Communications Officer, Bob Jones, our IT expert Peter Kilgour, and Margot Gilchrist who, with her partner Jan Osinski, has organised so many of our events.

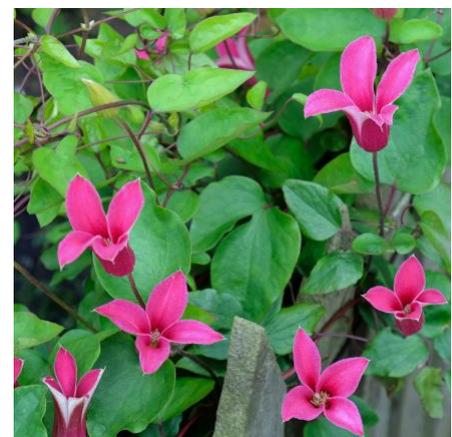
We welcomed Murdo McEwan, Kate MacSween, Elizabeth Emblem and Ken Whitson who volunteered to join the Committee.

After the official part of the proceedings, the band started up again and members were able to enjoy a glass of bubbly and a piece of the anniversary cake while looking at Bob's placards and our usual Exhibition of members' work. This year, members excelled themselves, and I think it was one of the best shows we have had. It was just a pity that there were only three prizes because each item was different and

(...continued overleaf)



Summer Outing – in the main glasshouse at Portmore - See website for many more photos



Clematis Texensis 'Princess Diana' spotted at Blackdykes Garden

(... continued from previous page) demonstrated the varied talent of our members. Congratulations and thanks to all Exhibitors. One of the nicest elements of the evening was that we had a number of founder members of the club present, including Jim Brass, Margaret Kilpatrick, Ann Duncan, Janet Munro, Sandy Alexander and Jenni Connaughton. Jenni was in fact the first Chair of the Club in 1978 and she had the honour of ceremoniously cutting the cake and telling us a little about how the Club actually started.

Our Honorary Members were all present, including Christopher Davies who was allowed out of hospital for the occasion, and we welcomed Christine Ireland into the group.

We had a very successful Open Gardens this year when Barbara Murray, Colin and Barbara McGregor and Susan and Stephen Plag allowed us in to have a look round their colourful and attractive gardens. Heavy rain was forecast but the CGC seems to have a special hotline to the heavens as we had a very enjoyable dry morning with our usual Plant Sale and the heavens opened at a few minutes after twelve as we were clearing up.

Our Summer Outing to Portmore Gardens and Blackdykes in East Lothian was equally fortunate and both gardens were quite stunning and relatively new. It is amazing what can be accomplished in fifteen years.

Our season has now come to an end and we now look forward to the next 40 years of Colinton Garden Club. But, dear members, please do bear in mind that this successful and enjoyable Club does not run itself and I will be asking for more help from Members in September.

Elspeth

Jeni Connaughton was Colinton Garden Club's first Chair, and forty years later she received her framed Honorary Membership from current Chair Elspeth MacGregor. Here a delighted Jeni is pictured among the blooms of Elspeth's garden.



GET READY FOR SUMMER!

Feed your soil the nutrients it needs with our locally produced compost delivered direct to your door.

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5 bags	£27.50	£25
10 bags	£50	£45
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1.6m ³ loose	£125	£120
2.2m ³ loose	£160	£150

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**COLINTON
COMMUNITY
COMPOST**

A social enterprise
supporting adults
with learning
disabilities, autism
and other support
needs.

Tiphereth, our local compost supplier, will offer members a special price (see above) if they quote Colinton Gardening when they order.

Contacting CGC committee members via proxy e-mail

- General enquiries - info@colintongardens.org.uk
- Committee Chair: Elspeth MacGregor - chair@colintongardens.org.uk
- Secretary: Susan McMaster - secretary@colintongardens.org.uk
- Treasurer: Bryan Dale - treasurer@colintongardens.org.uk
- Membership Secretary: Jo Todd - membership@colintongardens.org.uk
- Programme Convenor: Susan Plag - events@colintongardens.org.uk
- Library & Liaison Officer: Murdo McEwan - library@colintongardens.org.uk
- Fertiliser/Bulb Orders: Liz Windle - bulbs@colintongardens.org.uk
- Implement Loans: Anne Siller - implements@colintongardens.org.uk
- Publicity - publicity@colintongardens.org.uk
- Hall Officer: Ken Whitson - hall@colintongardens.org.uk
- IT & Equipment Officer: Ken Whitson - it-officer@colintongardens.org.uk
- Outings: Kate Macsween - outings@colintongardens.org.uk
- Other committee members: Elizabeth Emblem, Barbara Murray

Volunteer request

We have been asked by St Columba's Hospice in Trinity if any members might be interested in joining their volunteer flower team: fresh blooms are much enjoyed by patients and visitors. If you are interested, please contact Claire or Maggie on **0131 551 7711** or **volunteer@stcolumbas hospice.org.uk**

A rare sighting...



Bob Jones, our star photographer, usually appears behind the camera but Susan Plag captured him at Portmore Gardens on the summer outing. Although he is stepping down from the committee, Bob will continue to provide us with fantastic photos which we'll feature regularly on the CGC website

Fertiliser Offer

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Autumn 2019 Fertiliser Order form from Garden Solutions – this has proved popular with Garden Club members. Please complete the order form and return to Liz Windle (details on form) by **23rd September 2019**.

As well as offering CGC members a discount on fertiliser orders, Garden Solutions now offer a **mulch spreading service**: details of what is on offer are provided below. The full prices of the mulch including spreading are as follows, Small (11 bags) £115; Medium (21 bags) £192; Large (31 bags) £257. The regular price of a bag of mulch with the CGC 20% discount is £6.36 – this is delivered in bags with no spreading.

Garden Solutions
Specialist Compost, Mulch & Soil Conditioner Suppliers

Autumn Mulching Offer
For private gardens attached to residential property only.

Finding the time, and energy to mulch your garden at this time of year can be hard.

So why not let us do the hard work for you. On delivery our team will spread our Special Winter Mulch, which is an ideal end of season top up to help strengthen roots and maintain soil temperature providing some frost protection.

Small Garden	50m ² to 80m ² with approx 1/2 borders
11	Bags of Special Winter Mulch with spreading of mulch included <small>Additional mulch will cost £7.25/bag</small>
Medium Garden	80m ² to 120m ² with approx 1/2 borders
21	Bags of Special Winter Mulch with spreading of mulch included <small>Additional mulch will cost £7.00/bag</small>
Large Garden	120m ² to 180m ² with approx 1/2 borders
31	Bags of Special Winter Mulch with spreading of mulch included <small>Additional mulch will cost £6.75/bag</small>

Please Note: No additional discounts apply with this offer. Our team will NOT pre-weed before applying the mulch. Spreads will not be carried out before the 1st October. Additional bags at a reduced price can be bought on the day if needed.

Colinton Garden Club website: www.colintongardens.org.uk

Our website provides you with not only up-to-date information on what is happening in the Club, but a range of galleries of local events and outings – the most recent being the Summer Outing and the Open Gardens and Plant Sale. So, if you want to remember good times and remind yourself of the wonderful plants and gardens we were lucky enough to see, have a look at the website and follow the various links. Up-to-date information about club events and activities, and outings or offers arranged at short notice, can be found on the website, which is constantly updated.

We are always keen to feature garden and plant photographs from members – please send your images (minimum of 1 megabyte in size please) to webmaster@colintongardens.org.uk

Bulb Ordering 2019



As we have noticed that members' orders for purchasing spring bulbs through the Bulb Purchasing Officer have greatly reduced over the past few years, we have decided to discontinue this individual service from Parker's due to lack of interest. However, plenty of bulbs will be ordered in time for the October Plant Sale this Autumn and members are encouraged to come along and buy bulbs there. There will be a wide variety, some new for this year and many favourites from past orders and they will still be at discounted prices. If you would like us to order anything specific to be included in the Sale, please contact Liz Windle. Your Spring Gardens will continue to flourish.

Liz Windle

Programme of events for 2019-20

Monday 23 September 2019	'George Forrest – A Scottish Plant Hunter in China' – Leonie Paterson, Archivist, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Saturday 19 October 2019	Plant Sale & Coffee Morning at St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue. 10 am – 12 noon
Monday 28 October 2019	'A Talk on Branklyn Garden' by Jim Jermyn, Head Gardener and Property Manager, NTS Branklyn Garden, Perth 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 25 November 2019	'Around The Garden in 350 Years' – Simon Milne, MBE, Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 9 December 2019	Christmas Party 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 27 January 2020	Members' Evening - 3 short presentations by members. Details later 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 24 February 2020	Talk and Plant Stall – Sue Gray, Damhead Nursery 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall.
Monday 23 March 2020	'The National Collection of <i>Narcissus</i> Backhouse cvs. A unique insight – Caroline Thomson, Backhouse Rossie Estate 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 27 April 2020	Annual General Meeting 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
A Monday evening in May	Evening Open Garden Details to follow
A Saturday in May / June	Local Open Gardens Details to follow
A Saturday in June / July	Summer Outing Details to follow

Autumn Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

The Plant Sale and Coffee Morning will be on **Saturday 19th October 2019** (date to be confirmed asap). 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 Scottish Episcopal Church Hall from 9.15 am 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.

Cuttings, pottings-on and mature plantings all welcome. Home-grown fruit and vegetables are also welcome. Most importantly,

Publicity Officer

Your Committee is looking for a Publicity Officer to coordinate the Club's Newsletter team, and to be responsible for producing printed materials throughout our year. This includes the Membership Booklet, posters for Club Meetings, tickets for Club events and the Christmas Party programme. Templates are available for all these items, and the actual printing is done by St Cuthbert's Church. If you are interested, please contact Elspeth MacGregor, chair@colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter deliveries If there is a problem with receiving your newsletter, please contact Diana Ennos on **0131 441 2864**