



# COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

**Newsletter  
No 130  
April 2020**



### *Dear members*

I should be enjoying the sunshine in Seville right now, but as I write Covid-19 has caused last orders to have been called at the pubs and the school gates have closed for the foreseeable future.



Our cities now look like ghost towns with deserted streets,

empty restaurants, closed art galleries and theatres and even empty train stations and airports. Everything seems slightly surreal. Had anyone forecast this even two weeks ago, we would all have roared with laughter at such a ridiculous idea. But now we are being told to 'stay inside and stay safe'. We also have to observe 'social distancing' – a concept that nobody had even heard of a week ago.

Where have all the people gone? In Italy and Spain they are holding evening concerts and playing music and singing operatic arias to each other from their balconies. In Northern Europe we seem to be hoarding toilet rolls and tinned tomatoes and brawling in supermarket queues. Our world has very suddenly been turned upside down and we don't quite know what is ahead. The economic outlook is frightening and life will probably never be the same again.

However, winter is now officially over, as we passed the vernal equinox on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March when daylight wins over darkness. Nature knows nothing about the Corona Virus which is having such an effect on our lives. The birds are singing and preparing to nest. Spring flowers are coming up in our gardens and spreading over the city's parks which are now bright with crocus and daffodils. Soon the cherry blossom will bloom again in the Meadows. Nature carries on, and a beaming Monty Don is back on television to inspire us.

There are also many positive aspects of this lockdown. Uplifting and heartwarming emails are coming through from neighbours offering to help with shopping and driving, and communities are coming together in order to look after each other. We in Colinton are so lucky to be out of town and most of us have gardens in which we can busy ourselves. At the moment the sun is shining and the very wet and very dreary winter we have suffered has gone. With all this time on our hands, our gardens will flourish and bloom as never before.

As you know, the Club has had to cancel all our summer events this year and we hope to meet again at the end of September, when we will hold our postponed AGM. We are looking for a new Secretary for the Committee, and a Hall Officer and I would welcome volunteers to contact me.

In the meantime, your Committee hopes that you all stay well and keep safe, and enjoy a summer of good gardening.

*Elspeth*

**Pentland Plants**

Pentland Plants near Loanhead have introduced a new 'Call and Collect' drive-through service, now that the Garden Centre is temporarily closed. You can call 0131 440 0895 to place an order, park in the Pentland Plants car park, and staff will place items into the boot. Those who can't make it along to Pentland Plants in the coming weeks can use the delivery service - half price deliveries are being offered for a limited time only (£10 is the new charge for Edinburgh South). To access their website, just Google "Pentland Plants Garden Centre".

**Wordsearch April 2020**

Susan McMaster has once again created a Wordsearch puzzle. This time the ten plants to be found are herbs. Look for the plants hidden in the grid. These can be horizontal or vertical, can read forwards or backwards or diagonally! Good luck!

H	R	P	Y	Y	R	A	M	E	S	O	R
D	S	A	H	K	V	X	N	W	Q	L	E
T	U	R	M	E	R	I	C	L	F	A	G
Z	H	S	B	O	K	D	H	T	U	U	N
A	C	L	R	F	E	B	A	S	I	L	I
V	L	E	N	I	L	W	M	N	K	A	G
T	H	Y	M	E	X	S	O	P	L	V	Y
H	A	B	U	L	J	F	M	O	I	E	C
P	E	P	P	E	R	M	I	N	T	N	G
I	E	N	G	C	T	H	L	T	M	D	F
A	R	A	K	V	P	P	E	G	R	E	I
T	S	W	F	U	B	W	I	D	H	R	O

The solution will be published on the CGC website on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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This issue of the newsletter is being distributed to members by e-mail and we won't produce so many printed copies. In the current extraordinary circumstances those members who deliver the newsletter to members by hand are, of course, unable to do so.

Copies of newsletters going back to August 2005 are available to view on the CGC website ([www.colintongardens.org.uk](http://www.colintongardens.org.uk)) – the link is at the foot of the home page under "Latest Newsletter – View Archives".

We also have many photographs available for you to view on the CGC website, both Club Photos (link [here](#)) and Members' Photos (link [here](#)). As ever click on each photograph to enlarge. Enjoy this very pleasant way of passing some time (when not gardening). And finally, we are confident that the following short video will gladden your heart in these difficult times: [Virtual Verdi](#)