



COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter
No 136
August 2021

**Next Members'
meeting: Monday 27th
September 8.00 pm**

**2021/22 Membership
form and Autumn
fertiliser order with
this newsletter**

**Summer Days in
members' gardens....**



Many more photos at
[www.colintongardens.org.uk/
galleries](http://www.colintongardens.org.uk/galleries)

CGC on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
ColintonGardenClub](https://www.facebook.com/ColintonGardenClub)

Dear Members,

"Ne'er cast a clout till May be oot" was never a truer saying than this year, when May was so cold that we all put our thermals back on again after gleefully discarding them during a wonderfully warm and sunny April. What a freezing wet month - it was perfectly dreadful. However, the gardens did thrive and didn't seem to mind too much.



Due to the cold, the cherry trees flowered much longer than usual and gladdened our hearts with their lovely pink blossom. The tulips thrived in our gardens and then the rhododendrons burst out in glorious colours all over Edinburgh, despite the weather, and were quite spectacular.

It's interesting looking back over the changes in gardening over the past few years. Previously we delighted in immaculate gardens with plants standing to attention and cropped green lawns. Now we are more concerned with preserving our wildlife and taking care to plant flowers that attract bees such as lavender and salvia. Wild flower meadows abound in public parks and Botanic Gardens – who can forget the wonderful displays of cornflowers and buttercups in our own Botanics over the past few years. We can't all create wildflower meadows as we don't have the space, but even if you leave a few islands or strips of uncut areas on your lawn, this allows dandelions, buttercups, daisies and clover to grow with the grass and attract small insects. Some of us have successfully dug small ponds and apparently wildlife, such as dragonflies, damselflies and frogs are quickly attracted.



As a result, our gardens have become much 'messier' and to my mind, much more attractive. This year, despite the chilly start, my garden is bursting with all sorts of things – some that I certainly never planted – tall foxgloves, campanula, daisies – and ones I did plant, like my wonderful meconopsis. The roses are blooming like never before and look wonderful. /cont.

When will things get back to normal? Susan McMaster writes...

'I am delighted that so many members joined our Zoom meetings last season, but everyone on the committee is keen to resume Club meetings in person as soon as possible. With ever-changing Government regulations, it is difficult to correctly predict when that will be. I keep in touch with the Church administrator of Dreghorn Loan Hall as to requirements. As I write this, social distancing of one metre is still required, deep-cleaning before and after meetings must be undertaken and a limit on numbers – only 20 in Dreghorn Loan Hall – remain. So, until further notice, Zoom meetings will continue and all of the speakers whom I've signed up for September to March are happy to present via Zoom, although they would much prefer to speak to a hall full of people rather than a screenful of postage-stamp-sized heads! But it is a game of 'wait and see'. We will inform all members as and when the situation changes - we hope sooner rather than later. Similarly, while I have pencilled in October 2nd for a plant stall and coffee-morning at St Cuthbert's Church Hall in Westgarth Avenue, I'm told that Diocese and Vestry requirements limit numbers, so it may not be possible. But we hope to hold a plant stall of some shape and form on 2 October, so gardeners, please start to prepare cuttings and plants for sale.'

/cont. from page 1...

Our Colinton Garden Club has also changed considerably since I became Chair six years ago. We have a new website, based on a more updated system. We have a splendid new logo, and we are introducing electronic subscription payment for this coming year – but cheques are still welcome. And we are now on Facebook, which is a giant leap into the unknown for us. We celebrated our Ruby Anniversary with a great party, and the tree we planted at the bottom of the steps is doing very well. We have weathered the storm of the pandemic by introducing Zoom meetings and talks and we are ready to continue keeping our Club not only afloat, but successful and growing, as our increased membership proves. This is all thanks to our Committee, who have all put in a lot of hours to contribute to the Club's success. We have an excellent team who work hard and always come up with new ideas and new concepts to further the interests of the Club. And, while on this topic, can I remind you that we still need a couple of new committee members to come on board, and an Outings Officer to plan future club expeditions.

After six years, I leave you in the excellent hands of my successor, Penny McKee, who will take over the role of Chair, and we welcome Helen Moyes as the new Club Membership Secretary and Shona Harrower as the new Club Secretary. We say goodbye and a huge thank you to Jo Todd, former Membership Secretary, and to Committee Members Elizabeth Emblem and Barbara Murray for all their hard work.

I wish you all continued good gardening and a good start to our new Club season. The pandemic is still causing problems, but Club activities will continue nevertheless with a programme of interesting talks over the winter and outings are already planned for next summer. Wait and see

Elspeth

Communal purchasing of seeds

Murdo McEwan writes: "In the last Newsletter I wrote a short piece about the Committee looking into the feasibility of the Club purchasing seeds on a communal basis in much the same way as is done for compost supplies. Three possible suppliers had been identified as possible sources. They all require "minimum sized orders" before any discount can be offered. As it turned out very few members were interested in taking part in such a scheme ~ and well below any "minimum sized order", so it has been decided not to proceed with this initiative. I did ascertain that **Kings Seeds** offer substantial discounts to participating allotments under their allotments scheme, so members who have an allotment could look into this. I also ascertained that **Premier Seeds** (which is much smaller than **Kings Seeds** or **DT Browns**) seem to be very reasonably priced, and may be worth looking into: [Premier Seeds Direct – Grow The Best](#)



Andy Ireland. We were very sorry to hear of the death of CGC member Andy Ireland. His widow, Christine, writes: 'Andy was brought up in Linlithgow; he served an apprenticeship as a coach builder, joined the army at Dregghorn barracks, with the Royal Scots and served in Korea. After leaving the army, he went to the Edinburgh art college where we met. We have been married for 63 years. We have three children, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. We both trained as art teachers, and Andy's career was mainly in Firrhill High school. During his teaching career he taught skiing after school, built two Mirror sailing dinghies and canoes, and ran a puppet club with the then headmaster Mr McKay.

'He suffered a stroke forty years ago and had to give up teaching. Recovering well, he went on to have a very active retirement. He was not a gardener but liked to visit gardens with me up and down the country, always hopeful of some nice tea and cake at the end! His skills were a great asset when for several years we built together and with others, the pallet gardens for the club for Gardening Scotland being successful with several gold medals! He also assisted me in constructing pieces for the stage at the club's Christmas party.'

Cheesy Courgette Fritters – from Anne Siller

At this time of year, you only need to blink to find that the tender little courgette hiding under the leaves in your veg patch, has turned marrow-sized! Fret not ... this super-quick, super-easy recipe is an ideal way to use up any excess giants!



Ingredients

For each large courgette, use approx..

- 2 eggs
- 50 gms grated hard cheese
- 100 gms plain flour
- ½ tsp salt
- Vegetable oil for frying
- Add additional favourite seasonings as desired (eg: herbs, pepper, garlic, chilli, mustard, sweetcorn)

Method

- Wash courgettes, chop off ends, but do not peel
- Grate roughly
- Squeeze grated courgette into kitchen towel to remove excess moisture
- Stir beaten eggs and grated cheese into the grated courgette
- Gently mix in the flour and seasoning(s) to form a batter (soft but not sloppy)
- Drop dollops (golf ball size) of the batter into a generous amount of sizzling hot oil and shallow fry fritters on both sides until golden brown



Serve warm with a sweet chilli dip or with crème fraiche and fresh chives as a starter, side dish, or snack. Can also be served cold - great with chutney at a picnic! If you freeze them, it's best to re-fry or oven-heat from frozen. One big courgette makes 10 – 12 fritters. Warning! It's tempting to eat them straight from the frying pan!



New Friends of Campbell Park Group Planning Centenary Celebrations

Long term visions and exciting future possibilities are what the new 'Friends Of' group are all about. They are imagining what Campbell Park could look like 100 years after being gifted to the local community by the Campbell brothers of Woodhall farm in 1936. They hope to build on their shared success of establishing a young orchard of 30 fruit trees, together with help from Edinburgh and Lothians Green Space Trust, the Woodfield Avenue Residents Association, the Colinton Co-op, Campbell Park Residents, and the City of Edinburgh Council amongst others.

The fledgling group have recently received a huge boost from Edinburgh Leisure who have agreed to support them by providing access to the beautiful Campbell Park Pavilion building. The group's first community gala event will take place on Monday 15 November 2021, when The Orchard Project will be running a free tree pruning workshop, free of charge, naturally.

Membership of the group is free and coordinated through a Whatsapp group. A Facebook page will be more manageable as the group expands in size, so a social media coordinator volunteer is currently being sought. For more info about the group, contact secretary@colintongardens.org.uk

IMPORTANT! FERTILISER ORDER AUTUMN 2021: EARLIER DEADLINE: FRIDAY SEPT 3rd 2021

Liz Windle, our Compost and Fertiliser Officer writes: 'Dear Members, it's time to start thinking about your compost and fertiliser needs for your Autumn gardening. Garden Solutions have requested that our order reaches them by the first week in September this year which is much earlier than previous years.

Please note the instructions for BACS transfer payment on the order form which is being sent out with this newsletter and is also available on the Colinton Garden Club website.'

Colinton Garden Club Membership Renewal 2021-22

- The Annual Subscription is £8.00 per household, year to 31st August 2022
- Please pay subscription by cheque or BACS transfer by 5th September 2021

For BACS payment CGC details are: **Sort Code 80-11-10, Account Number 00777238** In 'reference' section, fill in without spaces: MEM followed by your Surname and two initials. (Please note for BACS payments there is usually only space for a maximum of 18 characters in reference, hence omit spacing; MEM is used so that I can identify that it is for membership renewal)

- EXAMPLE for Mr. & Mrs. J. Smith renewing membership, they should enter: MEMSMITHJ

If paying by cheque please make payable to COLINTON GARDEN CLUB, and return with completed membership form to: Mrs. H Moyes, Membership Secretary, 17 Bonaly Drive, Edinburgh, EH13 OEJ

Stop Press! The Club now has a portable Zettle payment card reader, so eventually when we can resume face to face meetings such as plant sales etc, we can hopefully offer cashless transactions, if preferred.

Jon Gibson, Treasurer treasurer@colintongardens.org.uk

Notes from the committee:

Planters on Bridge Road Volunteers are sought to water the lovely planters on Bridge Road in the village – they have been looking a little sad; if you live locally and can help please contact Shona, CGC Club Secretary, by e-mailing secretary@colintongardens.org.uk

Plant Sale We really hope there will be a Plant Sale on Sat 2nd October - do please pot up plants, cuttings and seedlings in preparation. Please keep an eye open for further information from Susan....

Help with the website If any member is an expert on Wordpress, or experienced in using Facebook for clubs, we'd love to call on you for some advice from time to time. Please e-mail

webmaster@colintongardens.org.uk

Contact us To contact a committee member, visit

www.colintongardens.org.uk/contact-us-2/

New CGC Chair

Penny McKee takes over from Elspeth as Chair from Sept 2021. Six years ago, Elspeth took over from Penny! Penny commented 'I am delighted and honoured to be elected as Chair again- I can see the Club has flourished under Elspeth's watchful eye, adapting quickly to pandemic requirements. With our talented committee, and Covid hopefully receding, I hope to steer our Club back to its full and enjoyable function as soon as possible.'



Bob Jones has been visiting members' gardens in Colinton over the summer. Here are just a few of his photos. To view many more, go to colintongardens.org.uk/cgc_gallery/members/