



COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No 138
February 2022

**Next Members'
meeting: Monday
28th February at
8.00 pm (by Zoom)**

**Spring is on the
doorstep...!**



**Spring Fertiliser
Order form
attached**

**Please completed
return form by
Sunday 20th February**

Dear Members

Hooray- it's 2022! May I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

We are all hoping that the worst of this crippling covid epidemic will soon be behind us- for the Colinton Garden Club that will mean face to face meetings, outings, events, and enjoying company again. In the meantime, thank goodness for Zoom meetings, and of course our clever and hard-working committee and other members who keep the show on the road. Our Christmas party was cancelled, so we held outdoor carol singing with mulled wine and mince pies on offer. Jolly fun for the stalwarts who turned up, as the morning sun disappeared, grey clouds gathered and snow fell in plenty just as the first carol rose from under the gazebo (whose roof was sagging worryingly with the weight of sudden snow). It was certainly an unusually team building, memorable and atmospheric experience! Very many thanks to everyone involved- were we glad to have hot mulled wine...



Soon we gardeners will be turning our minds to planning our gardening for Spring - the shortest day is already well behind us. In the meantime, there are winter jobs such as tidying, cleaning and mending tools- our January talk on greenhouse management is very timely too.

Do tune in to our February talk too. This is the meeting when three of our members will be giving short presentations - always a very popular event.

Cop-26 may have come and gone, but the need for everyone to be 'greener' stays with us. In the last newsletter I mentioned /PTO

2021 was a year like no other (well, a bit like 2020) but the CGC committee decided to forge ahead with a COVID rule-compliant Christmas gathering. Although the weather was against us, the photos show that we had a fun time! More photos on the website



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composting, (which I am sure many of us do) and avoiding peat.

Plastics are now acknowledged as a huge environmental concern- how can we minimize use of plastics in the garden? Suggestions include avoiding plastic plant and seed pots- try making your own with rolled up (degradable) newspaper or cardboard tubes. Use wooden labels, mulch instead of covering prepared ground with plastic sheets. Reuse plastic bags and sacks. Use cardboard boxes instead. Share seeds plants and tools. Use our CGC equipment. Improve. The list goes on – 'Reduce, reuse, recycle'.

If you walk in the wonderful Pentland Hills that provide such a beautiful backdrop to Colinton, you'll see areas of newly replanted trees, but often the saplings have plastic tubes protecting them. Now the Woodland Trust are experimenting with slowly decomposable tubes that won't leave such harmful plastic litter behind.

Here's to some relaxing and rejuvenating Spring Gardening for you all!

With very best wishes

Penny McKee

Scottish Gardener's Forum

Jon Gibson writes 'CGC is affiliated to the Scottish Gardeners' Forum. The SGF website is well worth a visit if you have not looked at it before, and has issues of their past newsletters. Keep an eye on the website for possible features on what your own Club is up to! Visit

www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

National Vegetable Society (NVS)

Murdo writes... 'Following on from the Zoom talk on Greenhouse management (24 January) by Jim Williams of the NVS, the committee is in the process of applying for 'Society membership' of the NVS. Once this is up and running our members should be able to enjoy the benefits of the NVS. See [National Vegetable Society | National Vegetable Society \(nvsuk.org.uk\)](http://NationalVegetableSociety.com) . You'll need a password to access parts of the NVS website. Please email me and I will pass this on to you: library@colintongardens.org.uk

Spring Outing – Thursday 7th April 2022

We are delighted to confirm details of a Club Outing in April! We plan to see the daffodil and spring flower displays in the grounds of Cringletie House Hotel near Peebles, on Thursday 7th April. There will be a tour of the grounds followed by a cream tea in the conservatory, all at a cost of £7.50 per head (payable on the day). We will meet at Cringletie House itself, and the tour will start at 2pm. It will be a 'self drive' event; If you don't have access to a car, or don't want to drive, we will try to arrange car sharing with other members.

All members are welcome, but it would be much appreciated if you could register your interest to Ian Forder at hall@colintongardens.org.uk so that we have a rough indication of the number of people to expect. This will be our first outing for more than two years and should be great fun! We will be contacting members by email nearer the time, but now is the time to 'save the date'!



Vacancy on committee for CGC Speaker Convenor (previously called Programme Officer)

The role of the Speaker Convenor is to suggest and arrange speakers for five members' meetings a year, including a Members' Evening in which two or three members present, also including a speaker from a Garden Centre who will provide a plant stall. Scottish Gardeners' Forum holds a list of speakers. The current post holder (Susan) will happily talk through the role – contact programme@colintongardens.org.uk

CGC Garden Implements Scheme

Members wishing to borrow one of CGC's implements should e-mail implements@colintongardens.org.uk to obtain the telephone number for bookings. No charge is made for any of the implements, but they are to be used only in members' own gardens, and the loan is subject to the Garden Club's Terms and Conditions.

Electrical Items available (Each item must be used with a circuit breaker) – 1..Large Lawn Scarifier with moss collector and plug-in lead (Wolf-Garten) 2. Small Lawn Scarifier (Qualcast) with moss collector 3. Leaf Blower / Vac / Mulcher (Ryobi) with collection bag 4. Extension Cable

Non-electrical items - 1. Tree Pruning Saw with long 3-piece extension handle 2. Tree Pruning Lopper with telescopic handle. Ratchet action and hooked blade 3. Tree Pruning Lopper with (stiff) telescopic handle and straight edge blade 4. Turfing Iron 5. Lawn Aerator – 3 hollow tines with springs 6. Lawn Aerator – 4 hollow tines 7. Lawn Aerator – manual rotary spike 8. Small (hand held) seed / fertiliser spreader 9. 3 x 6ft Folding Tables (suitable for garden parties etc)

Some of the items shown below All items available detailed with photos on the website (search for **implements**)



New free woodchip scheme for CGC members

Shona Harrower, Club Secretary writes:

'We are delighted to report a new goodwill service being trialled with local tree surgeon Robbie Cooke of www.24hrtrees.co.uk. We would particularly like to hear from:

1. gardeners who would like to be informed when free woodchips become available for collection &
2. gardeners who are willing and able to receive a tipper truck load of chipped tree waste with very little warning other than a phone call on the day. If they're unable to accept them at the time, we will call the next person on the list. To take part you will need to own an area of accessible ground with no overhead restrictions and be willing to store the woodchips until club members and friends have cleared them.

It should be possible to identify which deliveries are good for mulch and which are better for path coverings. If you are interested in finding out more, please email secretary@colintongardens.org.uk (or shona.harrower@gmail.com).



Photo: More than 1000L of free woodchips with estimated value of around £100. This is approximately half of the first delivery. A few months left in bags while exposed to the elements should allow mycorrhizae to break it down to a rich ericaceous mulch (due to the high fir tree and leaf content).

Dates for the diary 2022

Our regular Monday evening meetings continue, and we will keep members informed about whether these will be “in person” at the Dreghorn Loan Hall, or on Zoom. For evening meetings, members will receive an e-mail a few days before the meeting which will contain the link to the meeting. You click on this link a few minutes before the meeting starts in order to join in. Full instructions in the email. We also have other events to announce...

Monday 28th February: This will be a members' evening (always very popular) and the speakers will be Elspeth MacGregor ('A Visit to a German Vineyard'), Bob Jones ('Of Spiders, Dragons and Faeries') and Steve Campbell ('Silviculture in a Northumbrian Forest')

Monday 28th March: Our speaker is Billy Carruthers from Binnie Plants, and his subject will be 'Peonies'

Thursday 7th April: Spring Outing (see separate feature in this newsletter)

Monday 25th April: This meeting will include the AGM, and we promise lots of fun!

Saturday 18th June: Open Gardens morning (details to follow)

Wednesday 29th June: Summer Outing We will be visiting gardens in the Borders (details to follow)

Wordsearch – Trees

Find the following trees and fill in the grid on the left. Names can overlap and be found forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. Answers in the April 2022 newsletter. Thanks Susan!

Ash	Maple
Beech	Oak
Birch	Poplar
Chestnut	Rowan
Elder	Sycamore
Hawthorn	Walnut
Hazel	Willow
Hornbeam	Yew

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



The rewards of the garden in January.... more of Bob's photos on the website