



COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter
No 142
February 2023

Coming next...

Members' meeting:
Mon. 27th February
8.00 – 9.30 pm
Dreghorn Loan Hall

Our annual Members' Evening when three CGC members give illustrated talks on topics of interest. More on page 4

It's all happening at Campbell Park! More on page 4



Spring Fertiliser
Order form
attached

Please return completed form by

Friday 24th. February

Dear Friends

Very Happy New Year and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023 to all our members! May gardening long continue to delight you. Well, we are past the Winter Solstice and Spring can't be that far away, even if it is minus 2 degrees C at the moment!

Let's hope not too many plants got caught out by that really severe cold snap in December.

It was during that freezing weather that we held our Christmas Party - many brave souls turned out to what was the first real party for three years, though I am sorry the weather did deter one or two supporters. As you can see from the photos on page 3, the evening went with a swing and our poets and entertainers, Richard Medrington and Elspeth Murray, accompanied by our very own accordionist, Jan Osinski, and the CGC Choir put on a grand show.

Our inhouse catering team and all those who helped with the planning and decorating and setting up all deserve a big thank you. This year the party will be on Monday December 11th - with no price rise.

Some thought the quiz was fun- some said too difficult- was it? Two tables did brilliantly, resulting in a draw and tie breaker question on how many varieties of mistletoe are there? (thank you librarian and bar tender Murdo for the question). Such suspense and excitement...

We're keeping the surplus wine (yes! there was some) for the May evening garden reception on Wednesday May 17th.

There's been a lot of publicity about how the climate change crisis that we all face can be lessened if only we ate less meat and dairy products. All very true but did you know about 30% of food in UK is also wasted? That can't be helping the environment either.

/pto



Christmas cacti

Bob has sent in some photos of his Christmas cacti (Schlumbergera) – wonderful winter flowering house plants that thrive on relatively little attention.



There are many more garden and flower photos on the CGC website – go to www.colintongardens.org.uk/cgc_gallery/members/. Please send photos of favourite winter plants to webmaster@colintongardens.org.uk and we will feature them!

/cont. from page 1...

....My Grandmother, Gertrude, often quipped 'waste not, want not', and was a clever and economical cook, and of course grew most of her own vegetables and fruit, and kept compost heaps. And no insecticides! We need these skills more than ever now - I've heard on the radio someone advocating tasty dishes using cauliflower leaves and stems, and even I have discovered that large beetroot leaves chopped and steamed, make a delicious dish. And how about soup?- a wonderful way to use leftovers. It would be interesting if members could share their own recipes for us to print. Freezers have taken over from bottling, and fridges preserve food for longer- how much more convenient.

The theme for our Spring art and craft show is 'Spring'- the more exhibits the better. We all need cheering up, so we thought this an appropriate theme to spur you on, whatever the medium you chose.

You will also read of our new group membership of 'The Caley'- on our doorstep, with many interesting talks and shows, and discounts available. We hope it will be useful.

The committee and I are looking forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events.

Penny McKee

Scottish Gardeners Forum AGM

Penny McKee (chair CGC) went to Nairn in November 2022 as your club's representative. It was fun meeting fellow garden enthusiasts from around Scotland. What a mixture of sizes of clubs and emphases! Interestingly members from around Nairn seemed to be able to grow just as many types of plants - they didn't consider being alongside the cold and windy Moray Firth a problem at all!

The AGM was run by a handful of committed organisers - like us they found COVID a difficult time, and are now needing more committee members. The SGF run some vital functions for us such as maintaining a list of speakers, group insurance, a magazine -not to mention the valuable role in getting gardeners to meet each other. We also heard three interesting speakers - one on how people's eating habits and food preferences changed during COVID, Jim Jermaine on his beloved Branklyn and the tremendously enthusiastic gardener of Gordon Castle walled garden at Fochabers. We visited the next day - I have never seen so many varieties of apples!

Kathryn Potts the Chair of SGF will soon be telling us about the past and future role of SGF- we have also had the honour of being invited to host the next AGM on Saturday October 28th and I hope many CGC members will be there.



Jim Jermaine talking about Branklyn Gardens



Castle Gordon, espaliered crab apples

Royal Caledonian Society

The CGC is now a group member of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society (RCHS) or 'Caley' for short. By using your CGC membership card you have admission to all Caley events. Talks are usually held at Royal Botanical Gardens of Edinburgh, and sometimes at Saughton Rose Garden. There is also a teaching garden and the Caley have offices at Saughton too. You will be emailed with a password (for CGC members only) to access the members pages on the website www.thecaley.org.uk. The committee hold a few cards which are available to CGC members to borrow should they wish to purchase from listed nursery gardens offering discounts, or enjoy the Bistro Cafe at Saughton at a discount. We hope this will be an interesting and useful add-on to being a CGC member!

Our Christmas Party on Monday 12th December 2022 was a huge success. Particular thanks are due to all our many helpers and to our guest entertainers – Elspeth Murray and Richard Medrington, and of course to our accordionist Jan Osinski. Enjoy these photos of members entering into the Christmas spirit!



Planned CGC events (note: more dates for your diary on page 4)

A Snowdrop outing will take place on Thursday 2nd March 2023 This will be a self-drive visit, and we will meet at Dawyck Botanic Garden at 2pm for Tea/Coffee and enjoy a short presentation by one of the gardeners. You will then be free to visit the gardens at your own pace. Please book your place with Events Manager Avril by e-mailing events@colintongardens.org.uk

This year's AGM will be on Monday 24th April 2023 The Craft Challenge will be 'Spring into action'. This is an early reminder to get your thinking caps on for this year's challenge!

Our Open Gardens event will be on the morning of Saturday 17th June 2023 We would appreciate some members volunteering to host a garden visit. The preference is generally in the Redford area.

Advance date for your diary : The evening garden visit and reception will be held on **Wednesday 17th May 2023** in the Spylaw area of Colinton.

Dates for the diary 2023

Our Monday evening meetings at Dreghorn Hall continue, all start at 8 pm sharp. Below are details of the meetings and events planned up until summer 2023 - others will be added as details become confirmed.

Monday 27th February: This meeting will be our Members' Evening when members give short talks:

- Shona Harrower will talk about recent developments at Campbell Park
- Jon Gibson's topic will be 'the Garden of Glenarn – a West of Scotland gem'
- Kathryn Pitt will speak about 'the Scottish gardeners Forum – past and future'

Thursday 2nd March: snowdrop outing (see separate feature page 3)

Monday 27th March: Our speaker will be Andrew Cathcart, and the topic will be 'Planting Summer Containers' (part slides, part demo – the container will be raffled)

Monday 27th April: This meeting will include the AGM and will include a demonstration of members' art and creativity. We promise lots of fun!

Wednesday 17th May: Evening garden visit and reception (details to follow)

Saturday 17th June: Open Gardens morning (details to follow)

Further information about all the above events and activities will be sent to members in due course.

Colinton's Campbell Park

Shona Harrower writes:

'Many thanks to all of the members of Colinton Garden Club, including Alasdair Davidson and June Scott, who braved the first winter snow on 8 December to help the Friends of Campbell Park create a new woodland trail in Campbell Park. In the photo (top left) Ally Price can be seen in the foreground, planting one of 100 new native trees.

There were also six volunteers from NatWest Bank and two minibus loads of teenagers from Braidburn School! Council Parks officers prepared the ground prior to the event by marking out a 125-meter trail with bark edging strips and laying weed matting over the grass.

I spotted the attractive timber edging during a foraging workshop in Almondell Country Park and saved it from becoming sawdust.

Local business, "24-hour Trees" donated 2 truck loads of woodchips to top off the meandering path and Diana Ennos donated 15 sturdy hawthorn sapplings to plug holes in the Park's western boundary. A timelapse video of this collaborative community creation can be watched at:

youtu.be/xXE_c-kxzUY

Photos (left) taken by Lorraine O'Shea

