



COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter
No 144
August 2023



**Happy days at the CGC
Open Gardens morning!**

**Many new and exciting
CGC events are coming
– see page 4 for details
and dates!!**

**Attached to this
newsletter are your
2023/24 CGC membership
form and Autumn 2023
fertiliser and compost
order form. See page 2 for
full details!**



Dear Members

I do hope you are all having an enjoyable summer - isn't it delightful to see the trees in full leaf, and our gardens so colourful and productive? Today it's poured, and our garden parasol blew over, but only after I sported sunspecs playing tennis this morning. Such unpredictable weather... but no drought here, fortunately.

Your garden club has been busy - after a well-attended garden reception at Michael and Caroline Pearson's beautiful

garden in May, we held our annual members open garden event in June. Not only did we enjoy Christine Ireland's most artistic, steep garden (with a wonderful backdrop of the Dreghorn woods), but also Mary and Jonathan Davey's beautiful and meticulously planted garden in Thorburn Road - not an inch of the garden was wasted! It was also the venue for the popular teas and coffees, the back south facing patio being an attractive sunny setting.

Jo Todd and her team have been maintaining the garden at the Colinton Library that the CGC planted, for 9 years now. This was the third garden, which thanks to the cooperative librarians, was also the venue for the plant sale. Two poster stands are currently on display within the library depicting the progress of the much-improved garden since the CGC was invited to take it over. Do drop in and take a look - there is also quite a big gardening section where the CGC have contributed books. Very many thanks are due to everyone who made the morning so successful - our hosts, the committee and volunteers, and members who contributed plants for the sale.

/pto



Campbell Park Plaque



Shona Harrower writes: 'Ever since Colinton Garden Club was involved in symbolically planting The QEII Jubilee Tree on 2nd June 2022, the Committee had struggled to find a cost-effective plaque to mark the occasion. The 'official' QEII merchandise cost considerably more than the Clubs' £150 budget allocation, and the plaques on offer didn't seem very substantial. But Tiphereth Potters agreed that the CGC's donation of £150 will be enough to cover the cost of all 31 plaques, not just the one for the Jubilee Tree! The ceramic plaques will be branded with the Friends of Campbell Park and indicate the tree location, tree type, and the name of each person or group to adopt each tree. Edinburgh Council's blacksmith has been asked to create 31 metal backing plates fixed to metal poles, which can be buried deep enough in the orchard to secure the name plates in place.

A wonderful collaborative community effort and an excellent result!

In July we sallied forth to Fife, for the annual coach outing - Falkland Palace gardens, complete with orchard where we picnic – ed (umbrellas needed), and a beautiful herbaceous border. Then off to the wilds of deepest coastal Fife to Glassmount, a privately owned old garden, full of overgrown roses and wild trees and shrubs, hidden little seats, hens, wood piles, a visiting cyclist's tree house bedroom, greenhouses - and surrounded by bird song. How relaxing: a trip into yesteryear....

Now your new committee is busy planning next season's schedule - a new season of talks which we hope you find interesting and varied, the October plant sale (yes please, do start potting out and dividing your clumps) and a Christmas party - this year at the Colinton Bowling Club. Membership is due for renewal in September and remains at £8 per household. Please look out for the membership renewal forms, and also compost/fertilizer order forms with this newsletter.

We are always open to suggestions and offers of help, ideas for outings and talks, venue for evening reception etc. This is your club and is only as good as the members make it! We have a busy Winter programme for you to enjoy and we are looking forward to seeing you.

Best wishes for the rest of the summer,

Penny

Autumn 2023 Fertiliser and Compost Orders

Margo Gilchrist, Purchasing Officer writes

'Dear Members - a form is attached for the Autumn fertiliser and compost orders. This form will also be sent out by email to all our members. Further information on these products is available on Garden Solutions' website (www.gardensolutions.info). Please print out and then fill in the form and send to me by 1st September 2023. Pay by BACS or enclose a cheque with your order made payable to Colinton Garden Club. Please keep a copy of your order.

'Garden Solutions wish to remind you that bags will be delivered to front gardens or at the back against the house wall only. This will enable the team to deliver all the Club's orders within one day. Please indicate your preference on the order form.'

Membership 2023/24 Colinton Garden Club: it's time to act!

Shona Harrower, CGC Memberships writes:

'Membership Renewal fees for 2023-24 are due now, ideally to be paid before our new season starts on 1st September. The Annual Subscription is still just £8 per household which surely must make us the best value club in Colinton?

We encourage all members to pay by online banking and wherever possible to setup a recurring STANDING ORDER which automatically pays Colinton Garden Club £8 on 1st September every year. This seems like a 'win-win' by reducing admin for both the Club and its members. Members have control of their bank standing orders which can only be changed or cancelled by them. Full details can be found online in the 2023-24 MEMBERSHIP FORM at <https://colintongardens.org.uk/membership/>

Your committee 2023/24

Joining the CGC committee for 2023/24 are Mary Davey and Cliff Dalley.

We have said farewell to Liz Windle who has stepped down from the committee, many thanks for all her hard work and good humour over the years.

Here are the committee at the first meeting in late July 2023 – missing are Shona Harrower and Ken Whitson who could not make the meeting.



Left to right, back row... Cliff (Programming for 2024), Penny (Chair), Jon (Treasurer), Jan (Hall Officer), Murdo (Librarian), Helen (Secretary), Margo (Compost and Bulbs), Avril (Events) and Mary (Publicity).




Not in the photo are our stalwarts Shona (Membership) and Ken (Depute Chair and IT Officer). Always room for more committee members!

A wonderful summer outing!

On Wednesday 19th July 2023, 54 CGC members embarked on a day trip to the gardens (and scones) of Fife! We had enormous fun as you will see from the photos below (photos are in chronological order top left to bottom right). We started with refreshments at Loch Leven's Larder, visited the gardens at Falkland Palace and our last visit was to the atmospheric garden at Glassmount House which is south-west of Kirkcaldy, up in the hills. Glassmount House gardens are open to the public from 1st April to 30th September. Many thanks to the members who contributed photos to the newsletter!



MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS 2023/24

Monday 25 th September 2023 at 8.00 pm	Dr Stan da Prato Naturalist & Gardener: 'Crimes behind the compost heap: the shocking truth about life and death- in your garden
Saturday 7 th October 2023 at 10 – till 12 noon	PLANT SALE AND COFFEE MORNING at Episcopal Church Hall at Westgarth Avenue
Monday 23 rd October 2023 at 8.00 pm	Stuart MacKenzie, President of FEDEGA *: 'Where Plotters Meet...' *Federation of Edinburgh & District Allotments & Gardens Association
Saturday 28 th October 2023 at 10.am (till 4.00 pm)	Scottish Gardeners Forum AGM, chaired by Kathryn Pitts. Speakers TBA. Booking essential through SGF website. £15 fee payable to SGF including lunch. See feature below
Monday 27 th November 2023 at 8.00 pm	Thomas Gifford, Supervisor at Dawyck Garden: 'A Year at Dawyck Botanical Garden'
Monday 11 th December 2023 at 8.00 pm   	CGC XMAS PARTY! With buffet, quiz, carols and entertainment at COLINTON BOWLING CLUB, REDFORD ROAD
Monday 22 nd January 2024 at 8.00 pm	Ewan Paterson from the Juniper Green Merryhatton Plant shop: 'Types and Care of House Plants'
Monday 26 th February 2024 at 8.00 pm	Members' evening! Speakers will include three speakers including Ian McKee and Liz Windle
Monday 25 th March 2024 at 8.00 pm	Stephen McGregor, Technical Officer Dept of Parks: 'Edinburgh's Green Spaces and Parks – they're your spaces!'
Monday 22 nd April 2024 at 8.00 pm	AGM & Craft Show: members are invited to submit entries. Details to follow
	ALL EVENTS ARE IN DREGHORN LOAN HALL UNLESS STATED (more information will be sent to members in advance of each meeting)

News snippets

- Colinton Village Enterprise (CVE) are looking for donations to their 'Surplus Garden Produce' stall at their 'Wellbeing Afternoon' of 'Fun in the Park' on **Saturday 12th August between 2 and 5pm**. Gardeners are asked to bring along their spare cabbage, courgettes, carrots, ideally tied in bundles, or wrapped in newspaper to be shared out to the community. Any monies made will be for the benefit of CVE.
- Currie Horticultural Society will be holding their annual show at Balerno High School on **Saturday 26th August 2023 between 1.30 to 4.30 pm**. Admission is £2 (cash only) – children free. Colinton visitors will be very welcome – more details at www.currieshow.weebly.com
- FEDEGA in association with the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society will hold their annual show over two days on **Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd September** at Saughton Park. The Show will be in the forecourt of the park, and the vegetable classes in a large marquee. The park has good access, with nearby bus and tram stops, and parking for vehicles. There are toilets and it is hoped that the excellent Bistro will re-open by then. More details at <https://www.fedaga.org.uk/>
- Please note our CGC Autumn Plant Sale and Coffee Morning will take place on **Saturday 7th October – please start thinking of plant donations now!**

Scottish Gardeners Forum (SGF) AGM

Penny McKee (Chair CGC) writes:

'I went to the SGF AGM in Nairn last November 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 didn't consider being alongside the cold and windy Moray Firth a problem in what they could grow 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, arranging group insurance, and producing 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 Garden, and the tremendously enthusiastic gardener of Gordon Castle walled garden at Fochabers. We visited there the next day and I have never seen so many varieties of apples!

Last February Kathryn Potts the Chair of SGF told us about the past and future role of SGF. We now have the honour of being invited to host the next AGM on **Saturday October 28th 2023**, so I hope many CGC members will be there (see above). The cost will be £15 per person (payable directly to SGF) which includes lunch, tea or coffee etc. www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

The programme features Calum Clunie from Beechgrove Garden, Liz Stewart from Scotland's Gardens Scheme, our own Shona Harrower and Billy Carruthers of Binny Plants. The day will begin at 10 am with registration and ends at 4 pm; any help with setting up and tidying away will be much appreciated. Do come and mingle with other gardeners from around Scotland.