



From the Editor

If you have been down to the Rock Garden lately you can't have missed our most recent, surprise visitor – Oor Wullie from Dundee's mass participation art event. He may be gone by the time you read this but he certainly has attracted the visitors who have been flocking to the garden to take photographs of themselves standing next to him (occasionally on him!). I am sure for many this will be their first visit to the garden and hopefully some will have taken the time to wander further. Our recent tree trail project, described below, has also encouraged many visitors to look anew in the garden, perhaps to areas beyond the picnic tables and pools. As you will see from this 'saga' and the rest of this newsletter the Friends are always busy at something so we hope there are articles here of interest to you.

Anne Hesketh

Tree Trail Leaflet - the saga

During one of the many 'assessments' made of our work at the Garden it was suggested that a Tree Trail would be a 'good idea'. After some thought we put together a 'children's tree trail' and asked children from the Barnhill Out of School Care Group to test it out for us during one of their holiday visits. Following a few changes it was used again some months later – however this was not entirely successful as one young lad seemed to think it was a race!

After being pushed again to produce an adult tree trail we set to work. Ten trees were chosen at the west end of the garden and we asked one of our members, Kathleen Stewart, to photograph them for us while we concentrated on the text. After quite a serious amount of editing, including what appeared to be almost a re-write by the Council's Forestry Department, we were ready to go print!

The leaflet has a map and gives brief further information on each tree such as the Latin name, special features and distribution world wide. Aided by the Forestry Department we applied for and were given a substantial grant from the Forestry Commission which covered all the design and printing costs and enabled us to obtain a large number of beautiful leaflets.

Since then labels have been attached to the relevant trees to assist would be seekers of knowledge of whom there appear to be many. As an unexpected spin off a granny and toddler have recently been seen trying to just find the trees with a number and learning numbers as well as looking at the tree!

Michael still reports that he has to top up the supply of leaflets every Monday so we are pleased with the interest shown.

Mary Saunders



From the Chairman

Not surprisingly as I approach the end of my time as Chairman of the Friends I have mixed feelings but feel it is time for me to step down and pass the baton to someone younger and fitter! It has been a privilege to lead the team for the past few years and I wish the new chairman the very best. I have seen the Friends and the Garden go from strength to strength since 1997 and am sure with a strong committee and the backing of the Friends and the Council's Environment Department (not to mention our very special Gardener, Michael Laird) this will continue.

As usual during the past 6 months we have been involved with Broughty Ferry in Bloom's entry in the Coastal town division of Beautiful Scotland and our entry into It's Your Neighbourhood. The Green Flag assessment was carried out and our Garden Team continued with their work – in particular the renovation of yet another bed in the Garden. Funded by the Forestry Commission we produced a Garden Tree Trail leaflet which has proved very popular. Reports on our summer outings appear later in the newsletter and again we are indebted to Ann Taylor for putting together an interesting and varied winter programme of talks which will be taking place in St James' Church Hall.

Mary Saunders, 'Retiring' Chairman

From the Gardener

Hello Friends! Once the again the Garden has performed well, giving a wonderful show of colour this year. We have managed to keep on top of the weeding despite the weather. The Garden has been very busy with visitors, our temporary workmate 'Dreamland Oor Wullie' proving to be really popular. All the borders have performed well and I can't wait to get stuck into the Autumn jobs. We have removed one large conifer earlier in the season to let in more light and show off water feature one. This is the time of year that we should be thinking about hedge cutting so we aim to start that job in the next few weeks. We have been re stocking and replanting areas in the garden where necessary with hardy osteospermums which have done well. Keeping up with the edging has been a real task this year as the growth has been tremendous.

Thank you for your continued support.

Michael Laird

From the Gardening Team

The Garden Team, mainly those Friends who come down on Monday mornings, have completed the Winter 2015/6 Project, where an existing island bed was renovated and re-planted. A few original plants were kept and approximately 300 new plants were purchased by the Friends. Labelling of this bed is in progress. New labels have also been added in the Geddes area to the raised beds and borders. This is a work in progress!



The summer display of Meconopsis and Primulas near the patio, was especially good - probably helped by the miserable Scottish summer. Most of these plants were grown from seed by the Friends. Propagation of various plants by a number of different methods for the garden continues in the Nursery Area. Next winter's proposed project is to renovate the area around the Geddes Glasshouse including the raised alpine bed.

Approximately every two months on a Monday morning, a meeting is held with Michael and a Council Representative to discuss work and improvements to be carried out jointly by the Friends and the Council. Both the Council and the Friends benefit from this relationship.

John Grocott

Note from the editor: On the St Andrews outing the Meconopsis and Candelabra/Tall Primulas were very much admired. Many didn't realise we had our own lovely display above. Try and catch them next year.

Michael's gardening tip

Autumn is 'now or never' time to plant spring bulbs. Daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, crocus and other spring bulbs will be in garden centres/nurseries soon. **Shop early** for the best selection. Then dream up a new colour scheme or enhance the old. Make sure that they are firm to touch and not mouldy before you buy.



SUMMER OUTINGS 2016

May: David Welch Winter Gardens in Duthie Park, Aberdeen

Thankfully there was no need for umbrellas on our first outing of 2016 to Aberdeen's Duthie Park - a site gifted to the city in 1880 by Miss Elizabeth Duthie and opened as a park in 1883. However the sun did not shine and there was a cold wind, but after a warming cup of coffee, I think most of our party



spent their time in the David Welch Winter Gardens. This is a fantastic glass house complex. One of the first areas visited was the Tropical House in which there is one of Britain's largest Cacti and Succulent collections.

Aberdeen is going to look spectacular this summer judging by the huge colourful hanging baskets we walked beneath, and the pots of geraniums and other flowers which will be used to bedeck the city's streets. A stop in Stonehaven on the way home at the Belvedere Hotel for a meal brought an enjoyable day to an end.

Daphne Barbieri

June: St Andrews Botanic Gardens

This garden has a wide variety of planting with woodland walks, rhododendrons, herbaceous borders and a large scree bed and rockery with a stream cascading down to a large pond. It has an interesting medicinal herb collection with labels describing how the plants were used to treat various ailments; also scented herbs to be used in pomanders and to disguise pungent odours in medieval times. In addition there is an extensive greenhouse area, but the highlight of the trip was the butterfly house with exotic and colourful butterflies fluttering about, chasing each other and feeding on flora nectar and fruits placed there for them. We had to tread carefully in case they landed on the path or on us. A mirror was provided at the exit to ensure we didn't depart with butterflies attached to our clothing! We finished the day with a cream tea at St Michaels.



Marge Auras

July: Dunninald Castle and Gardens, Nr Montrose

A large party of 49 arrived under threatening skies, some to see the Castle and Gardens and others, like myself, just the garden. This has been much developed since my previous visit and as we walked up the drive to the house the sun came out for the rest of our stay.

The present Castle is the 3rd house of that name on the land. It was designed in the Gothic Revival style and was completed in 1824. Ornamental pillars from an earlier time stand at the top of the Beech Avenue.



Dunninald is situated just south of the Montrose Basin and near to the North Sea. It has to withstand winds which over time have blown down trees, many of which are pollarded now. For protection from the winds a walled garden was built at the end of the Beech Avenue. It is partly of old stone and newer Victorian brick. Fires were lit in it in days gone by to keep the frosts off the early apple blossom of the espaliered trees growing beside it. The garden has beautiful herbaceous borders, rose and vegetable beds and a greenhouse, access to which is forbidden for reasons of health and safety. The perennials, like delphinium and agapanthus, grew tall and were interplanted with different varieties, like globe artichoke. At one corner was an old well and the enclosed warmth and shelter in the garden was very pleasant. The old aviary in the grounds is now a hen house for the Bantams.

The visit ended with a good High Tea for all at the Park Hotel, Montrose.

Andrea Subedi



Stop Press!

Autumn Clean up:

Saturday 8th October from 10.00 am to 1pm with a coffee break. Once again stay as long or as short a time as suits you. All help very much appreciated.

For those of you with access to Facebook we now have our own page and would welcome any comments you may have.



This does not mean we have given up on our website which at the time of writing is being brought up-to-date.



Need to contact us

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Away trip 2017: Advanced notice

The Friends are proposing to run a Trip to The Gardens of Aberdeenshire from 5th – 8th June 2017 if enough people wish to go. We shall be staying at the 4 Star Aberdeen Ardoe House Hotel and the plan is to visit two gardens most days.

Gardens include those at Leith Hall House and a private garden at Mansfield. This will be organised by Brightwater and we will be accompanied by a Brightwater representative. Forms and further information should be available at the AGM.

Kate Grocott



New Blood

We are desperately seeking some new blood to enhance the committee which will be in place after the forthcoming AGM. If you have a bit of computer know-how, are undaunted by application and requisite forms, we need you. Better still if you are in a slightly younger age bracket than many of us. Mary, our retiring chairman, was a whizz on the computer and ever undaunted by paperwork. Sadly we are not all like Mary.

The Monday morning work party also needs some new recruits. It is a two hour time period with a friendly stop for coffee at 11.00. There are lots of lighter jobs like potting-on and pricking-off etc. It is not all hard labour and digging! In the summer there is a Thursday morning watering group also from 10-12.00. There are a variety of other tasks on offer ranging from labelling, keeping records of planting to newsletter distribution twice a year.

If you feel you could help in any small way, please contact any committee member.

Kate Grocott

Winter Meetings

September 28th 2016 AGM followed by a film by Daphne Barbieri of Friends' activities during 2015/16

October 26th 2016 Sheila Brinkley: 'Scottish Wildflowers'

November 23rd 2016 James Hutton Institute, Invergowrie (Topic yet to be provided. Look out for details in the November posters around the Ferry.)

February 22nd 2017 Andrew Clegg: 'Burns, the Song Catcher'

March 22nd 2017 Craig Muir: 'Old Broughty Ferry'

Note all meetings now held at St James' Parish Church hall, Fort Street, Broughty Ferry, Wednesdays at 7.30pm.