



Newsletter - Spring 2011

"And when your back stops aching, and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden."



I can identify with the aching back bit, but assure you that partners are always available at the Rock Garden on Monday mornings - you need never weed alone!



It's hard to believe that a quarter of the year has already gone, and the consequences of the nightmare November storm continue to become apparent - dead plants, sick looking grass and crunchy grit on all pavements and roads. On the other hand, the buds on the lilacs and hydrangeas are positively bursting at the seams, and Nature will, as usual, catch up on the seasons.

It's your Rock Garden - make full use of it and take parts in the events arranged for you.

Garden Watch



We take a dim view of whoever stole the newly planted dwarf conifers from the scree bed, and ask all Friends to be observant when in the Rock Garden. Please report anything dodgy to Michael or any member of the Committee, who will contact the Police if deemed necessary. Just think - this means we could have a (possible) thousand eyes on the lookout.....



Editor



"Add a little brandy to your watering can and your lawn will come up half cut!"



Trip to Northumberland and Durham - 20-23 June

If you are still considering going on this trip, please contact Jenni Duncan at Brightwater Holidays to see if there are any places available before sending off an Application Form. She will have to contact the hotel to see if there are any rooms - we have used up the rooms set aside for us. (There are still places on our coach.)

Tel: 01334 657155

E-mail: jenni@brightwaterholidays.com



Need to contact us? - call

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Barnhill Rock Garden 07985 878515

Website: www.barnhillrockgarden.org.uk

From the Chairman's Diary



September: our AGM was very well attended and members enjoyed Daphne Barbieri's film of our activities during the previous 12 months. We also presented Michael and Norma with their wedding gift from the Friends. John Grocott and I attended the Britain in Bloom Awards Ceremony in Birmingham to collect an Outstanding Achievement Award for the Friends' work in the Rock Garden.

October saw a good turnout of Friends carry out the Autumn Clean-up, supported this year by children from Eastern Primary who came along to assist with bulb planting. Jim Millan and Isobel Turner were in Stirling to collect our Level 4 'Thriving' Award under Beautiful Scotland's Revised Neighbourhood Awards Scheme, and Alan Graham, Head Gardener at Craigtoun Park entertained us with his stories and knowledge of many differing plants.

In November, we were delighted to welcome back Mark Caunt with his beautiful photographs - this time from the rainforest of Costa Rica. In February, Dr Brian Williamson enlightened us about the never-ending work of scientists and growers to improve the quality of soft fruits, pine trees and orchids and in March, John Alexander told us of his trip of a lifetime to South Georgia.

I look forward to seeing many of our Friends at the Spring Clean-up, on the summer trips and at the Gala in the Garden.

Mary Saunders

Work Party Report

Scree Bed: Part 3 - This winter project included removing unwanted plants and shrubs, digging out great mats of vinca and ivy, cutting down a tree, and arranging with Parks staff to remove the lower limbs from a large conifer. Soil contaminated with weeds and weed seed was removed. Fresh growing medium will now be mixed and placed in the area of the Scree Bed. Plants are being ordered for the scree and the areas round about and it is hoped that these will all be planted up to and including the Spring tidy up on 23 April. Seasonal maintenance has been done to the raised bed, the Himalayan Border and other areas around the Geddes glasshouse.



The Nursery Area: Following the completion of re-skinning the polytunnel, the Friends have provided materials and hard paving, made new doors and benches, and laid gravel. The unit will be revamped and we hope that Friends, with Parks co-operation, can build additional cold frames to improve the plant propagation.



We would like to start a regular Thursday afternoon practical work sessions - with coffee break - from approximately 1.30 to 3.30 pm. All members are invited to come along and do as much or as little as they wish - there are all sorts of jobs to do.

John Grocott



"Work is the grand cure of all the maladies that ever test mankind." (So now you know - get cracking!)

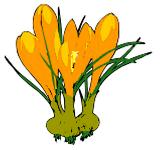
Evergreen Nursery

The Evergreen Nursery at Murroes Farm, near Kellas, has confirmed it is still happy to offer Friends of the Barnhill Rock Garden a 10% discount when spending over £10 at the Nursery. They will accept a current membership card as proof of membership. (DISCOUNT DOES NOT APPLY TO COMPOST, GIFT VOUCHERS OR DELIVERIES)



Garden Update:

Hello again. Despite the harsh winter, there's always been an interesting tree or plant to admire in the garden. In Autumn, hundreds of bulbs were planted to increase the Spring colour - see if you can spot them! Winter maintenance continued on every border. The Geddes glasshouse and interpretation boards were cleaned and serviced. Both ponds were completely drained and cleaned out and will be filled shortly; also new and existing rocks were uncovered.



The Nursery has seen plenty of activity, with the polytunnel being totally refitted. It is now ready for hundreds of seeds to be sown and cuttings to be taken, ensuring our borders remain well stocked.

I look forward to 2011 and thank you for your continued support. Many events for all ages are to be held in the Rock Garden this year - please come along and support them.

Michael Laird

Preview of our 2011 Summer Outings: (all departing from layby opposite Broughty Library)

Thursday 12 May: Rossie House, Forgandenny, Perthshire. Departing at 1 pm to the home of Judy and David Nichol situated just outside Forgandenny. The garden is wonderful at all times of year but we can expect to see bluebells, trilliums, meconopsis, rhododendrons and much more. Paths take you down by the stream, over bridges and eventually into the walled garden. Castlemilk and Herdwick sheep graze the paddocks. Tea and biscuits will round off our visit and we expect to be back by 5.30 pm.



Wednesday 8 June: Cortachy Castle Gardens, by Kirriemuir. Departing at 1 pm to Cortachy Castle, acquired by the Ogilvy family in 1625 and now owned by Lord and Lady Airlie who will welcome us on arrival. Unfortunately the Castle will not be open but the garden has much to offer, including Walled and Ladies Borders, a Jardinière and Pond. After our visit we will travel to the Strathmore Arms in Glamis for high tea. We expect to return by about 6.30 pm.

Wednesday 20 July: Castle Fraser, Aberdeenshire. Departing at 9 am to Castle Fraser, which boasts a colourful history and is well worth a tour. The gardens are laid out in a Capability Brown style and also have a lovely walled garden. We stop at the Clatterin' Brig for coffee and from there travel direct to the Castle. If you wish to make use of the 30-seater tearoom at Castle Fraser at lunchtime (at your own expense) we will be arranging two 'sittings'. On the way home, we will stop off at the Bervie Chipper and should be back in Broughty Ferry around 7 pm.

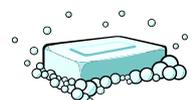
The application form is enclosed giving costs and menu choices where applicable. Please contact Ann Smith if you have any queries.

West Lynn Garden, New Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand

Following a visit to Broughty Ferry and the Barnhill Rock Garden by a member of the West Lynn Garden Society Inc, who own and run the above garden, we have now become members of each other's groups, which means that if you should be visiting Auckland you can visit this garden and its butterfly house at 73 Parker Avenue and will not be charged an entry fee! Copies of their newsletters and further information will be displayed at the Geddes glasshouse. Website: www.westlynnngarden.org.nz



At the first sign of greenfly, start flinging soapy water on your roses.





- PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Spring programme 2011

All events are held in the Rock Garden unless otherwise stated.

Saturday 23 April 10 am - 2 pm	<u>Spring Clean-up</u> Refreshments provided - offers of sandwiches appreciated. Any doubts, phone 477761 on the day. Please let us know if you hope to be there - it helps with the catering. Every hour of work is a help.
Saturday 9 July 12 noon - 4 pm	<u>Gala in the Garden</u> Music, displays and activities for all ages. Don't miss it!
Trips	
Wednesday 12 May Depart 1 pm	<u>Half day trip to Rossie House</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
Wednesday 8 June Depart 1 pm	<u>Half day trip to Cortachy Castle</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
Wednesday 20 July Depart 9 am	<u>Day trip to Castle Fraser</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
Other events in the Rock Garden	
Sunday 19 June Sunday 31 July Sunday 14 August	<u>Sunday Band Concerts</u> - all 2 - 3 pm Brass Band Steamer Lane Forfar Instrumental Band
Children's Events	
Wednesday 6 April) Wednesday 27 July) Wednesday 3 August)	<u>Countryside Rangers</u> - all 2 pm - suitable for the whole family
Thursday 21 July) Thursday 28 July) Thursday 4 August)	<u>Storyteller</u> - all 10.30 am

Sort out hanging baskets - line with moss, then compost, then plant. Use ice cubes once a week on 'high' baskets to avoid drowning when watering above your head!



Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden is a registered Scottish Charity no SCO28973.