



Newsletter - Spring 2012

"The story of mankind started in a garden and ended in revelations."
(Oscar Wilde)

We can hardly claim to have been concerned with the story of mankind, but all the revelations of the Spring and Summer activities can be found in this newsletter, and we hope to see you at some or all of them.

According to my 'posh' dictionary the vernal equinox (this year on 20 March) 'is the time when the sun crosses the equator, and day and night are equal'. The illustration of the celestial sphere, with which it is connected, is enough to make you dizzy! It may give you something to consider after a hard day's gardening. (NB - the dictionary also says "Gardener: one who gardens" (not much new information there!). With the European Summer having begun on 25 March, and Earth Day (anyone know what that is about?) due on 22 April, all systems seem to be 'go' for the coming season!

Have a great time, whatever you may be doing.

Editor



History of links area - now Barnhill Rock Garden

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| Pre 1800s | Owned by Marquis of Montrose - archery on links. |
| Up to 1838 | Wildlife area 'within the Dunelands of the Barony of Barnhill' (Dalhousie Estate). |
| 1838 | Dundee-Arbroath Railway constructed. |
| 1895 | Esplanade constructed. |
| 1896/7 | Golf course and ladies' golf club proposed - adviser Tom Morris. Earl of Dalhousie leased the ground for 14 years @£5 per annum. Clubhouse built, and opened on Sat 8 May 1897 (Provost Henry M Grady) |
| 1902 | That ground purchased from Earl of Dalhousie (for £500) by the Town Council of Broughty Ferry. |
| 1913 | Broughty Ferry amalgamated with Dundee. |



Need to contact us? - call

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From the Chairman's Diary



The turnout for our AGM in September was amazing and once again Daphne Barbieri's film of our year's activities was excellent. Poor weather reduced the numbers at our Autumn Clean-up but those who braved the elements worked very hard and as usual enjoyed the soup and sandwich lunch provided.

Last November, John Grocott and I attended the Beautiful Scotland Annual Seminar & It's Your Neighbourhood Awards Presentation in Stirling to accept an Outstanding Achievement award from George Anderson for the Friends' work in the Rock Garden. George, a 'Beautiful Scotland' judge is a presenter on BBC's Beechgrove Garden.

Our winter programme has been first class with presentations from Julia Cordon, Ian Christie and Michael Almond. Our final meeting - Members' Night - will see some of our own people telling us about some of the interesting places they have visited.

I hope to see as many Friends as possible on our various outings and at the Rock Garden. We still have a few double and twin-bedded rooms available for the 4-day trip to Dumfries and Galloway - don't leave it too late if you are still considering joining us on this trip, which takes in some really great gardens.

Mary Saunders

Work Party Report

Since last Autumn, the Monday garden team has been working away in the extended nursery area. New cold frames and a 95 piece metal shed (a Tesco Special!) have been erected and will be a great help with our plant propagation efforts.

New plantings include several trees, and a bed containing meconopsis and primulas which can be planted up at the Spring Clean on 14 April. We look forward to an interesting Spring and Summer and continued valuable co-operation with Michael and other Council staff members.

To make good use of our extended nursery area, the Thursday afternoon working party stalwarts are meeting regularly again - 1.30-3.30 (with tea break). All are welcome.

John Grocott



A Zen saying: "Sitting quiet, doing nothing, Spring comes and the grass grows by itself. Has it really been worth all the effort?"



Garden Update:

This mild weather has allowed us to get on with all our winter jobs and we mulched two thirds of the garden using our own compost to add fresh nutrients to the soil. The entire garden has been pruned to ensure everything is neat and tidy - this included removing large shrubs to create a vista of the River Tay and to Fife beyond when standing on the new bridge. Two borders have been ripped out and are now ready to be replanted - the compost area has also been made ready for the year ahead. The Geddes Glasshouse and the surrounding area has been spring cleaned for the coming visitor season and we are currently getting on with sowing seeds!. I can report that **your** garden is ready for 2012 and I thank you for your continued support.



Michael Laird

Helpful Hint: Some things you ought to know about tea.



- 1 Tea leaves make a perfect mulch for camellias.
- 2 A used, squeezed out teabag makes an ideal nursery for a single seed; put 1 seed in the teabag and put several bags into a small pot of compost - perfect drainage, easy to plant out and no root damage.
- 3 Dry used tea and coffee bags. Open them up and sprinkle the contents on the lawn or garden for an instant fertiliser.

Preview of our 2012 Summer Outings: (all departing from layby opposite Broughty Library)



Wednesday 23rd May: The Linns, Sheriffmuir, Dunblane. We are trying out a new format this year - departing at 10.30 am and travelling to Bridge of Allan for an early lunch at the Old Bridge Inn. After lunch we are going to The Linns, the home of Evelyn and Lewis Stevens but due to its location we can only take 29 Friends so booking early is recommended. The Linns is home to the National Collection of Meconopsis and we can also see peonies and hostas. Mrs Stevens has offered us tea and shortbread and we expect to return to Broughty Ferry by about 5.30 pm

Wednesday 13th June: House of Pitmuies, By Forfar. Departing at 1 pm we are returning to Pitmuies, the home of Margaret Ogilvie, last visited in 2001. One of the finest private gardens in Scotland, it has something for everyone, including flower beds, walks and buildings. We return home by Arbroath and The Bell Rock for a Senior Citizens' 3-Course Special! (Should be back in the Ferry by 7pm)

Wednesday 18th July: 9 Braid Farm Road, Edinburgh & Binny Plants. This is a full-day trip departing at 9am with a "comfort stop" at Kinross before travelling to 9 Braid Farm Road, home of Mr & Mrs R Paul. According to Kenneth Cox the "garden is a master class in hard landscaping" and "anyone with a small garden should rush along here for inspiration." We shall drop into the Gyle Shopping Centre where you can shop, eat and use the facilities, before going to Binny Plants to see their wide selection of plants on sale, gardens and a nursery area. Our last port of call is The Red House Hotel at Coupar Angus for High Tea. (Home approx. 7.30 pm)

The application form is enclosed giving costs and menu choices where applicable. Tips for the coach driver only have been included. Please contact Ann Smith if you have any queries.

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If you don't plant something, you won't have to prune it.



You may get a pleasant surprise when a few glads and dahlias spring up from corms that you planted last year and forgot to lift. Gardening is full of little miracles like this. Plants can survive over winter without protection, whereas your garage seems to have the kiss of death when it comes to storing anything. Maybe it's just nature's way of showing that it can manage just fine without you!



(The Accidental Gardener's Almanac)



- PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Spring programme 2012

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

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| Saturday 14 April 10 am - 2 pm | <u>Spring Clean-up</u> The more help the merrier! Refreshments as usual, offers of sandwiches etc, <u>please let any Committee member know beforehand.</u> Telephone 477761 for further information or any doubts about the weather. |
| Trips | |
| Wednesday 23 May Depart 10.30 am Return approx 5.30 pm | <u>The Linns, Sheriffmuir, Dunblane</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form |
| Wednesday 13 June Depart 1 pm Return approx 7 pm | <u>House of Pitmuies, by Forfar</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form |
| 25-28 June | <u>Gardens of Dumfries & Galloway</u> See Chairman's Diary |
| Wednesday 18 July Depart 9 am Return approx 7.30 pm | <u>Edinburgh & Binny Plants</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form |
| Other events in the Rock Garden | |
| Sunday 1 July Sunday 29 July Sunday 12 August | <u>Sunday Band Concerts</u> - all 2 - 3 pm Woodlands Dance Orchestra Tayport Instrumental Band Steamer Lane |
| Children's Events | |
| Wednesday 4 April) Wednesday 4 July) Wednesday 25 July) Wednesday 1 August) | <u>Countryside Rangers</u> - all 1-3 pm - suitable for the whole family Signs of Spring Minibeasts Magic Minibeasts Magic Ugly Bug Ball |
| Thursday 5 July) Thursday 19 July) Thursday 2 August) | <u>Storyteller</u> - all 11-11.30 am |