



Newsletter - Spring 2013

"It's so important not to be intimidated by the great garden achievers. To my mind a garden is a happier place if you can keep competitiveness outside the garden gate."

Richard Briers

Richard Briers was a happily confirmed gardener, and most of the snippets in this newsletter are taken from his enjoyable book 'A Little Light Weeding'. Here is one of his gems: "I enjoy the losing battle with Nature in my own amateur way!", and looking out at my own rather neglected looking garden, with its untidy borders, patches of grubby snow, drooping early Spring blooms, and pots and containers all over the place thanks to the very strong winds - the battle with Nature seems to be a losing one at the moment.



But it is newsletter time, and the Spring/Summer calendar is there for you to read and hopefully take part in. As you will see below, our Ian Baxby has been taking part in just about everything!. More power to his elbow.

The weather just has to improve eventually, and I hope all your summer plans come up to your expectations, and please do have time to have a walk round the Rock Garden - it never closes.

Editor

Ian Baxby - Ian has been selected to represent Tayside in the forthcoming Special Olympics to be held in Bath in August, playing 5-a-side football. He is also competing in the Special Olympics powerlifting competition in July being held in Northumberland. He has now competed in football, athletics, swimming & powerlifting in the Special Olympics, the latter in the World Games, and is currently Scottish Masters Champion. He attained an individual gold as well as a team gold medal when he last competed with the football team. Many congratulations to him.



If December passes without snow, we indignantly demand to know what has become of our good, old-fashioned winters, and talk as if we had been cheated out of something we had bought and paid for; and when it does snow, our language is a disgrace to a Christian nation.



Jerome K Jerome



Need to contact us? - call

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From the Chairman's Diary



We had a full hall for our General Meeting in September and enjoyed Daphne Barbieri's superb film of our year's activities. Our Autumn clean-up was blessed with sunshine, blue skies and a good turnout of Friends including some new faces this year - always a pleasure. Our catering team did not let us down and we were able to enjoy our elevenses and picnic lunch on the patio.

I was accompanied by Ann Taylor and Michael Laird (our driver for the day) to the Beautiful Scotland Annual Seminar & "It's Your Neighbourhood" Awards Presentation in Stirling in November where we accepted an Outstanding Achievement Award and a Certificate of Distinction for the Friends' work in the Rock Garden.

Our winter programmes are now being arranged by Ann Taylor, with a variety of speakers and subjects, and good attendances even when the weather was not very pleasant.

I am looking forward to our summer outings and hope to meet many of you on the bus or at the Garden - particularly at our Gala Day on 6 July.

We still have a few places available for the 4-day trip to Argyll at the end of June - don't leave it too late if you are considering joining us on this trip which takes in some very interesting gardens.

Mary Saunders

Work Party Report

The Monday Team has met regularly and has created a new raised bed for growing 'stock plants' and made a covered rack for storing pots. A grit bin has been obtained for storing compost and alpine seed has been sown.

A suggestion to renovate and replant an existing bed is being discussed.

We are trying to establish a Thursday Team to help with the running and maintenance of the plant nursery area, which requires regular checking, watering etc. The help of members is really needed for this and if you can spare time on a Thursday (actual time by arrangement), please contact me (779581) or any Committee member.



John Grocott

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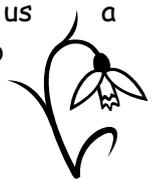


Drinking in the garden is delightful of course. Avoid lunchtime sessions as these develop into all day and night sessions when friends refuse, or are unable, to move. Pimms is an excellent drink for the garden but dangerously deceptive and can lead to Falling Down in the Garden. Always take the precaution of staying on soft grass. Avoid hard surfaces, patios etc and above all never stand too near water.

Garden Update:

Hello again. Snowdrop Wood was stunning in early Spring and now the narcissus are giving us a blast of yellow! Winter jobs have been completed and many borders have been mulched to improve soil content. The entire garden has been pruned to encourage growth, and all paths were freshened up with new bark chippings.

The Geddes glasshouse and surrounding areas have been spring cleaned and everything is ready for the coming season. Thank you for your continued support!



Michael Laird

One Firm Faith (Caroline Wells)

*I don't believe the half I hear, nor the quarter of what I see!
But I have one faith, sublime and true, that nothing can shake or slay:
Each spring I firmly believe anew all the seed catalogues say!*

**Summer Outings 2013: (all departing from layby opposite Broughty Library)**

Wednesday 22nd May: Balcarres, Colinsburgh, Fife. Departing at 1 pm. This is a trip to possibly one of the best gardens in Scotland, last visited in June 2010. Home to the Lindsay family/earls of Crawford almost continuously since the sixteenth century, our hostess this time will be Lady Balniel (daughter-in-law of Lady Crawford who took us on a tour of the garden last time.) We are again being offered refreshments during our visit and anticipate returning to Broughty Ferry about 6.00 - 6.30 pm.

Thursday 13th June: Logie House, Crossford, Fife. Departing at 1 pm. This trip has a comfort stop at Kinross before travelling to the home of John & Sarah Hunt who have recently joined the Fife Garden Trail as part of the Scottish Gardens' Scheme. A long straight path links the original walled garden to the fruit and vegetable area. We stop at the Lundin Links Hotel for a High Tea arriving back in the Ferry 7.00 - 7.30 pm.

Wednesday, 24th July: New Lanark World Heritage Site. All-day trip departing at 9 am. We are allowing about 4 hours at the Site to spend as you wish, e.g. at the cotton-mill village, the old village shop and Scotland's largest roof garden. For more info visit their website at www.newlanark.org. Snack lunches can be obtained at New Lanark in their Mill Pantry coffee shop (not included in the overall cost) and we stop for High Tea at Baxters on the way home. We anticipate arriving back in the Ferry 7.00 - 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 Mary Saunders, Heather Dailly or Anne Chalmers if you have any queries.

The Gardener's Prayer

O Lord, grant that in some way it may rain very day, say from about midnight until 3 o'clock in the morning, but, you see, it must be gentle and warm so that it can soak in; grant that at the same time it would not rain on campion, alyssum, helianthemum, lavender and the others which you in your infinite wisdom know are drought-loving plants - and grant that the sun may shine the whole day long, but not everywhere (not, for instance, on spiraea, or on gentian, plantain lily, and rhododendron), and not too much; that there may be plenty of dew and little wind, enough worms, no plant-lice and snails, no mildew, and that once a week thin liquid manure and guano may fall from heaven. Amen.



Karel Capek, The Gardener's Year, 1929

A Spring plant, first described as a 'white bulbous violet' gradually became known as the snowdrop. The French and German names from which it gradually evolved translate as snowflake, February flower, naked maiden-snow-violet, the white bell, the bell of the snow, and the snow piercer (take your pick...).





- PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Spring programme 2013

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

Saturday 13 April 10 am - 2 pm	<u>Spring Clean-up</u> Usual arrangements - ALL help appreciated! Please notify any Committee member if you hope to be there. Numbers required for soup and sandwiches! Telephone 477761 for further information.
Trips	
Wednesday 22 May Depart 1 pm Return approx 6-6.30 pm	<u>Balcarres, Colinsburgh, Fife</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
Thursday 13 June Depart 1 pm Return approx 7-7.30 pm	<u>Logie House, Crossford, Fife</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
Friday 28 June - Monday 1 July	<u>4 day trip to Argyll</u> See Chairman's Diary
Wednesday 24 July Depart 9 am Return approx 7-7.30 pm	<u>New Lanark World Heritage Site</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
Other events in the Rock Garden	
Saturday 6 July 12 noon - 4 pm	<u>Gala in the Garden</u> Don't miss it!
Sunday 16 June Sunday 28 July Sunday 11 August	<u>Sunday Band Concerts</u> - all 2 - 3 pm Tayport Instrumental Band Forfar Instrumental Band Woodlands Dance Orchestra
Children's Events	
Wednesday 3 April) Wednesday 31 July) Wednesday 7 August)	<u>Countryside Rangers</u> - all 1-3 pm - suitable for the whole family Sounds of Spring Bird Brains Ugly Bug Ball
Thursday 4 July) Thursday 18 July) Thursday 8 August)	<u>Storyteller</u> - all 11-11.30 am - in the glasshouse, followed by activities