



Friends of the  
BARNHILL ROCK GARDEN

## Newsletter - Spring 2015

"The Spring has sprung, the grass is ris,  
I wonder where the birdies is?  
The birdies they is on the wing.  
But that's absurd -  
I thought the wing was on the bird!"



The wing was certainly on the large heron that recently flew over my house as I opened the curtains. For one alarming moment, I thought it was heading for my window! But it is springtime in the Rock Garden and March is living up to its reputation for changing the temperature and the weather without warning - so it's waterproofs and wellies one day, fleeces and woolly hats the next - and who know what is to follow?

There's plenty going on in the Garden this Spring and Summer: the Clean-up, the Gala Day, always the Monday morning work party, and of course you will be welcome at any, or all, of these. I hope to see you.

This is my last newsletter as Editor, but my interest and involvement in the Rock Garden will go on as usual - I can't do without it!

Isobel Turner

Editor



**Instant gardening is about how you live and how you might make a garden that suits you. If your children want to practise their jungle fighting skills, the traditional neat lawn and herbaceous beds aren't going to be that important!**

### Garden Update:

Hello again. Mild weather ensured all winter jobs were completed. Two large conifers were removed and new plantings introduced to improve each area. The entire garden has been pruned and many borders mulched to improve soil content.

Snowdrop Wood looked spectacular and has featured in the year's Snowdrop Festival. The Geddes glasshouse and notice boards were spring cleaned and everything is ready for the coming season. Thank you for your continued support!



Michael Laird



### Need to contact us? - call

Anne Chalmers	739719	Tom Neilson	774737	John & Kate Grocott	779581
Anne Hesketh	739982	Ann Taylor	737573		
Heather Dailly	778061	Isobel Turner	477761	Barnhill Rock Garden	07985 878515
Mary Saunders	477019	Margery Auras	07707 315908		

[msaunders411@btinternet.com](mailto:msaunders411@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.barnhillrockgarden.org.uk](http://www.barnhillrockgarden.org.uk)

### From the Chairman's Diary



As we have come to expect, our Annual General Meeting in September was well-attended and Daphne Barbieri's film of our year's activities was the highlight of the evening. The Autumn clean-up went well on a rather dull morning. At the end of October John Grocott and I attended the Beautiful Scotland Annual Seminar & 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Awards Presentation in Stirling, where once again the Friends were recipients of an Outstanding Achievement Award and a Certificate of Distinction for their work in the Rock Garden. Michael Laird had the responsibility for getting us there and back safely, driving the community mini-bus taking the Dundee attendees to the event.

Our first winter programme of illustrated talks in the St Aidan's Centre arranged for us by Ann Taylor were all well attended, and I hope as many of our members as possible will take part in our summer outings, and enjoy the Council's programme of band concerts at the Garden. This year we are celebrating the Garden's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a very special Gala in the Garden on Saturday, 11 July (make sure you to put this date in your diary) and are currently having regular meetings with the Council's events officer to make sure it will be a day to remember.



Sadly, since our last newsletter we have lost a number of our long-term members including one of our longest serving committee members, Jim Millan, who will be greatly missed. Without his efforts we would not have been able to secure the Geddes Glasshouse, which has proved its worth many times - particularly as an Information Centre.

I look forward to seeing as many "Friends" as possible during the coming months - in the Garden and on our various outings.

**Mary Saunders**

### Garden Happenings from the Monday Team

Additional winter flowering heathers have been planted outside the Geddes Glasshouse as they seem to thrive there. The gaps in the old primula border have been filled in to provide more colour and a longer season of interest and heathers, plants and bulbs provided by the Council have been distributed throughout the Garden, along with a replacement 'Handkerchief Tree'! Who knows, in 10-12 years we can all blow our noses again when it flowers!



We are looking forward to renovating another bed in consultation with Michael, with the Friends purchasing the plants and the Monday team, along with Michael, carrying out the work.

We need special plants for our stall at Gala in the Garden on 11 July, so please give some thought to plant propagation - the Monday team can assist by dividing up clumps, potting cuttings or growing on seedlings. Pots and compost are available.

**John Grocott**

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**Pots look better packed with plants. Trailing plants that grow over the side and break up lines are especially good. (But a clematis montana and a Russian vine in the same container will strangle each other!!)**



Even the best gardeners sometimes lose things when they transplant them.  
That's gardening: take no prisoners, give no quarter!



**Summer Outings 2015:** (all departing from the layby opposite Broughty Library)



**Wednesday, 13 May:** Our first visit this year will be to see The Kelpies, the world's largest equine sculptures - two 330 metre high stainless steel monuments at The Helix, near Falkirk. Chosen by Scottish Canals at the inception of the project, The Kelpies' name reflected the mythological transforming beasts possessing the strength and endurance of 100 horses, and Andy Scott's vision for The Kelpies follows the lineage of the heavy horse of industry and economy, pulling the wagons and ploughs, barges and coal ships that shaped the structural layout of the area. The best way to experience The Kelpies is on The Kelpies Experience Tour - a 45-minute guided walking tour that takes you through the vision of Andy Scott, the story of the real life working horses of the area, the local history and the history of the canals. The pinnacle of the tour is that you get to experience a Kelpie from the inside, and see their breath-taking engineering and design (Cost: Adult £4.95; Concessions £3.95). Departing Broughty Ferry at 9.30 am we will stop at Dobbies, Kinross for a comfort break and coffee (Please note Dobbie's coffee vouchers are not accepted here). After visiting and viewing The Kelpies we will go to The Westfield cafe at Falkirk Football Club, where a light lunch may be purchased before departing at approx. 3 pm.

**Wednesday 24 June:** Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is our next port of call, at the request of a number of Friends. We will be leaving Broughty Ferry at 11 am, and the Botanic Garden for the return journey at 3.30 pm. We have not made any special arrangements for this visit, leaving Friends free to make their own choices. There are 3 places to obtain refreshments at the Garden - The Gateway Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea daily; The Terrace Cafe serves delicious hot and cold food daily (self-service) and The East Gate Coffee Bar (Inverleith Row) serves a wide selection of beverages and light snacks. Entrance to the Garden is Free but there is a charge if you wish to visit the Glasshouse - Adult £5 and Concession £4.

**Wednesday 22 July.** House of Dun, near Montrose. Departing at 1.30pm our final visit takes us to this National Trust House and Garden followed by High Tea (£13.75) at The Park Hotel, Montrose. A beautiful Georgian house, The House of Dun is just 3 miles from Montrose, set amongst splendid Victorian gardens and woodlands. It now hosts the NTS Hutchison and Stirling collections, some of the finest paintings and furniture in the Trust's ownership. Entrance to the House is free for Trust Members; non-Trust members: £7.50.



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**The Law - When you move house, the plants in the soil belong to the new owner, unless you agree otherwise. But the plants in containers belong to you.**  
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**AND FINALLY - Where am I?  
(clue - not the south of France!!)**





- PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Spring programme 2015

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

Saturday 11 April 10 am - 1 pm	<u>Spring Clean-up</u> Shake off your winter lethargy and join us at the Rock Garden! Coffee at 11.30 am, good company from 10 am - 1 pm. ALL help appreciated! Any questions, telephone 477761.
Saturday 11 July 12 noon - 4 pm	<u>Gala in the Garden</u>
<b>Outings</b>	
Wednesday 13 May Depart 9.30 am	<u>The Kelpies, Falkirk</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
Wednesday 24 June Depart 11 am	<u>Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
Wednesday 22 July Depart 1.30 pm	<u>House of Dun, near Montrose</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
<b>Other events in the Rock Garden</b>	
Sunday 14 June Sunday 26 July Sunday 9 August	<u>Sunday Band Concerts</u> - all 2 - 3 pm Tayport Instrumental Band City of Discovery Brass Band Tullis Russell Band
<b>Children's Activities</b>	
Wednesday 8 April Thursday 2 July Thursday 16 July Wednesday 29 July Thursday 6 August Wednesday 12 August Tuesday 20 October	Signs of Spring - Countryside Rangers - 1-3 pm Storytellers followed by activities - 11-11.30 am Storytellers followed by activities - 11-11.30 am Mini beasts - Countryside Rangers - 1-3 pm Storytellers followed by activities - 11-11.30 am Teddy Bear Picnic - Countryside Rangers - 1-3 pm Haggis Hunters - Countryside Rangers - 1-3 pm