



Friends of the
BARNHILL ROCK GARDEN

Newsletter - Autumn 2009

"What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered."

R W Emerson

How comforting it is, then, to have such a very virtuous garden (mine, not the BRG). All these Spring and Summer downpours have produced a super-abundance of weeds and greenery in every direction. But, as you will read, nothing stopped our Summer programme. There are reports on the outings, and activities in the Garden, two of the highlights being the trip to the 'Gardens of the North' and the superb Gala in the Garden.



You will find details of the Autumn/Winter programme on page 4, and you and your friends will be welcome at all the events. A good start would be the AGM on 9 September and the incredibly fun-filled clean-up (oh yes it is) on 3 October.



And here's the last word on weeds:

"What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet."

G M Hopkins

The 12 Months (George Ellis)

Snowy, Flowy, Blowy,
Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy,

Showery, Flowery, Bowery
Breezy, Sneezy, Freezy!



Need to contact us? - call

Mary Saunders 477019 msaunders411@btinternet.com

We are indebted to one of our newer members, Peter Lawrie, for helping us set up our own website. It is still in the development stage but is alive and kicking at www.barnhillrockgarden.org.uk and we would welcome your comments and/or suggestions.

From the Chairman's Diary

Our annual Spring clean-up went well with a grand turnout from the Friends, helped along with the usual soup and sandwiches. It was good to see some of our new trees in the woodland in flower for the first time. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

The new scree bed was completed in time for the Gala in the Garden and this was attended by well over 1,000 people, our plant stall helping to raise funds for even more plants for the garden. We were also pleased to supply light refreshments for those taking part in the Broughty Ferry in Bloom Secret Garden trail - though if it continues to bring in more people, we'll need a larger glasshouse!



The Garden gained its Green Flag for the third year running and the first of the children's activities supported by Friends was blessed with lovely weather and a fine turnout of young children. At the beginning of August, the Committee was delighted to welcome some of our new members to the Garden and Glasshouse. We hope to continue this in the future.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual General Meeting, the Autumn clean-up and our winter meetings listed on page 4.

Mary Saunders

A word from the Gardener:

I have been delighted with all aspects of the garden this year! The mixture of sunshine and showers has ensured lush green vegetation and lots of visitors. We held a wide variety of events for all ages and all were a success, especially the Gala in the Garden, which saw the largest crowds ever!



The new scree/alpine border has been completed and it looks fantastic! We hope to continue this project and totally transform the other half this coming year. In the months ahead, the team and I will be working on the usual maintenance jobs. This will include the mulching and trimming of borders, lawn and path care and bulb planting, ensuring the Garden is ready for 2010.

I would like you to join me in congratulating our Garden helpers, Iain Hunter and Ian Baxby, in winning a bronze and four 5th place ribbons respectively at this year's Special Olympics.



Once again, thank you for your continued support, which is vital for the future success of the garden!

Michael Laird

Summer outings

Acres of Keillor - In company with Jim Millan and John Grocott (who knew all the names of the rock plants!), I was impressed with the combination of semi-wild and cultivated plants, particularly the colourful primulas. This garden is obviously loved by its owners, who have spent many years creating it virtually from scratch. The day was pleasantly rounded off with a visit to Gloagburn Farm, by Perth.

Hamish Porter

Kirkside of Lochty - The Mackies' delightful garden was developed from land bought from a neighbouring farm - 2 acres in all. After the removal of tons of old paving stones, and annual mulching with mushroom compost (Irene's secret ingredient!), the garden now has a formal area with hostas, ferns and peonies, a cottage garden full of plants with vibrant colours, and a grassy meadow with even more filled borders - all bearing witness to Irene's artistic eye. Brechin Castle provided welcome coffee, scones and cakes, and an opportunity to buy, of course, plants.

Margaret McDonald

Blair Castle and Gardens - In this beautiful setting, the walled garden of Hercules was stunning, with fruit, vegetables, 2 duck houses on promontories in a water feature, colourful herbaceous borders and a curling shed! The Castle, Diana's Grove and St Bride's Church were all there to be visited if desired, and lunch was available at the Castle restaurant. A heavy rainstorm with thunder and lightning kindly waited until we were in the bus on the way home. Our morning coffee at the Pitlochry Theatre, on the way to Blair Atholl, reminded us of a previous visit to the Explorers' Garden which might be worth a return visit.

Helen Fleming



Gardens of the Far North - June 2009 -

The following poem from Pauline of Brightwater Holidays says it all -

A Tour with The Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden

A soggy Broughty Ferry was the setting when we met
Smiling faces weren't worried, 'Sure our gardens need the wet!';
As we headed north cross-country, the A9 soon we'd join,
Moorland, mountains, blooming heather, and how the sun shone!

Our first visit, after coffee, was the splendid Cawdor Castle,
The lunch queue looked ginormous but it wasn't any hassle.
We wandered through the gardens amazed by all the colours,
If it wasnae for Pauline, our guide, we'd have stayed for hours.

But she promised tea and shortbread, a theme to be repeated,
We think she must have worried, lest our energy be depleted.
So we headed to Culloden House, its walled garden for to spy,
A project early in its life - pure delight before our eyes.

On Sunday Far North called us to Dunrobin and Castle of Mey,
The weather was kind to us again and we saw red kites on the way.
Westward next day to Inverewe, the landscape spoke to us proudly,
Murray mania set in that night, with many shouting quite loudly.

Now all good things must come to an end, Abriachan a fitting finale,
A quick rest at Eden Court, in the sun we were happy to dally.
It is difficult then to meet such folks, in parting our hearts we must harden
But Willie and I will happily recall The Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden.



- PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Autumn/Winter programme
2009/2010

Unless otherwise stated, these meetings will be held in the Age Concern Hall, Brook Street, Broughty Ferry (100 yards west of St Vincent Street, on the north side), at 7.30 pm, and refreshments will be provided.

<u>2009</u>	
4-6 September	<u>Dundee Flower & Food Festival</u> Camperdown Country Park. Details will be in local Press.
Wednesday 9 September	<u>Annual General Meeting</u> - Following the meeting Michael Laird will give his annual garden report and Daphne Barbieri will show her film of the past year's events.
Saturday 3 October 10 am - 2 pm	<u>Autumn Clean-up</u> - In the Rock Garden <u>any time</u> between 10 am and 2 pm. Soup and sandwiches, tea and coffee provided - <u>no limit</u> to the number of helpers, but please telephone 477761 if you intend to come; if the weather is doubtful on the day, call the same number before 9.30 am. Any help with catering would be much appreciated.
TALKS	
Wednesday 14 October	'Les Girls - Rose & Lily, but especially Iris!' - Alan Graham, head gardener, Craigton Country Park.
Wednesday 11 November	'Travels in China' - Murray Airth, world traveller, mountaineer and enthusiastic gardener.
<u>2010</u>	
Wednesday 10 February	'Peru, Mexico and a bit of Cuba' - Elizabeth Fairgrieve
Wednesday 10 March	'From the Cape to the Falls' - Mark Caunt, world travelled photographer

Advice, like plants from other people's gardens, should be accepted with caution.....?

Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden is a registered Scottish Charity no SC028973.

