



Newsletter - Spring 2010

"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 Spring seems to have sprung at long last, judging by the colourful bursts of crocus in many gardens, including the BRG. Also, some time between 4 and 5 am, a solitary bird sings its heart out in my front garden - not quite a dawn chorus, rather a dawn solo. But it's splendid.



By the way, when did **you** last pay a visit to the Rock Garden? If you can't remember, then it's been too long. Check out this summer's events on the 'Dates to Note' page, and remember the regular Monday morning sessions - you will be welcome at all of them.

Lastly, don't forget this gardeners' rule that applies to youth and age: when young sow wild oats, but when old grow sage!



Have a great summer.

Editor

Evergreen Nursery



The Evergreen Nursery at Murroes Farm, near Kellas, is offering 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)

Snowdrop Appeal

Now is the time to be planting 'snowdrops in the green', and we would welcome any quantity of bulbs to extend the planting in 'Snowdrop Wood'. Better still, come to the garden any Monday morning and do a bit of planting!



Need to contact us? - call

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|----------------|--------|--|--------|---------------|--------|
| Heather Dailly | 778061 | John & Kate Grocott | 779581 | Anne Hesketh | 739982 |
| Jim Millan | 779304 | Tom Neilson | 774737 | Ann Smith | 737385 |
| Mary Saunders | 477019 | msaunders411@btinternet.com | | Isobel Turner | 477761 |

Barnhill Rock Garden 07985 878515

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From the Chairman's Diary



In September, the Committee were once again delighted to see a grand turnout for our Annual General Meeting, where we were able to view the previous 12 months, thanks to Daphne Barbieri's film of the Friends' activities.

October saw us doing our bit to help Michael give the Garden a 'tidy-up'. We had a record turnout of helpers and were able to enjoy our soup and sandwiches on the patio in warm sunshine. On 14 October, as Alan Graham was unwell, Daphne Barbieri came to our rescue and presented two of her films featuring the Hidden Gems of Broughty Ferry.

Towards the end of October, Jim Millan and John Grocott were in Motherwell to collect our second Outstanding Achievement Award under Beautiful Scotland's Neighbourhood Awards Scheme, and on the last day of the month we were delighted to help some of the 1st Monifieth Cub Scouts gain their Naturalist badges.



In November we were entertained by Murray Airth, who took us visually to China, and in February by Elizabeth Fairgrieve who showed pictures of her travels in South America. Our last illustrated talk for the 2009/10 winter season was by Mark Caunt showing us his amazing photographs from the Cape to the Falls.

Mary Saunders

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Trip to the Lake District: 21-24 June 2010



There are still some places available for this trip - please contact Mary Saunders if you would like to receive full details or an application form. Friends of 'Friends' would be very welcome to join us! This is a great opportunity to visit a number of amazing properties in a beautiful setting.

Garden Team Report

Phase II of the Scree Bed Renovation has been in operation since early last Autumn. Useful plants have been lifted and hopefully will be replanted in the renovated area; old soil has been removed and fresh compost is being mixed and placed. The compost is a mix of sterilised soil, sharp sand/grit and well rotted leaf mould/Discovery Compost. A large area of rock, previously covered, has been exposed, adding to the general improvement. The Friends will be purchasing new plants and bulbs for this area in the near future.



John Grocott

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Sage, rosemary and lavender are all feminine plants that are said to flourish where 'the missus is the master'. Better check your gardens, fellas!

A word or two from the Gardener:

Hello again. Despite the cold weather, all maintenance jobs were completed for the season ahead, and in the autumn, we planted hundreds of spring bulbs to increase colour. Every border was then put into shape by sorting out and dividing any overgrown plants, and we embarked on a project to ensure all rocks were uncovered to emphasise the Garden's unique feature. So when you next visit, watch out for more rocks!



Work on the Alpine and Scree border continues and I think it looks fantastic. The borders were mulched to improve soil nutrients using our very own compost. All trees and shrubs were pruned where necessary and the Nursery made ready for seed sowing and plant propagation.

Several events are planned for the year ahead, so come along and support them. Dates will be displayed on the Notice Boards, in the local Press and at the back of this Newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support - I look forward to a successful 2010.

Michael Laird

Preview of our 2010 Summer Outings: (all departing from layby opposite Broughty Library)

Wednesday 26 May: Edinburgh Botanic Gardens and the Landform artwork at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. Departing at 9 am to Edinburgh, spending the morning at the Botanic Gardens and particularly the new John Hope Gateway building. The design and construction embodies the ethos of the Garden with innovative sustainable technology, natural light and a new restaurant. In the afternoon we visit the "Landform" artwork at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and on our way home we stop at Baxters for High Tea.



Thursday 17 June: Balcarres, Colinsburgh. Departing at 1 pm to Colinsburgh to visit the garden of the Earl and Countess of Crawford and Balcarres. This garden is one of the best in Scotland and offers perennial borders around the house and views down the Forth estuary with the Bass Rock on the horizon. We stop at the Loch Leven Larder on the way home where friends have the option of afternoon tea at their own expense.

Wednesday 14 July: Newtonmill House, Edzell. Departing at 1 pm, we travel through the Angus countryside to the home of Stephen and Rose Rickman. Their walled garden comprises herbaceous borders, rose and peony beds, vegetable beds, a doocot and 25 acres of woodland. On our return we stop off at the Glen Esk Hotel in Edzell for High Tea.



ARIES is the Spring sign (March 21 - April 20). The Aries gardener plans massive projects all over the place and before long has started half a dozen jobs and left them all to be finished by the wife and kids.

Aries is accident-prone - apt to step on a rake and get the handle right between the eyes. A crash helmet is advisable.





- PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Spring programme 2010

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

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| Saturday 3 April 10 am - 12 noon | <u>Coffee Morning - St Aidan's Halls</u> Bric-a-brac, books, plants, raffle, tombola, cake & candy, also tray bakes for the coffee/tea. All contributions will be appreciated and can be handed into the Semple Hall of St Aidan's between 6 and 8 pm on Friday 2 April. |
| Saturday 24 April 10 am - 2 pm | <u>Spring Clean-up</u> Happy healthy volunteers required at any time between 10 am and 2 pm. Tea, coffee, soup and sandwiches provided, and contributions for these always welcome. PLEASE telephone 477761 if you intend to come, also if there is any doubt on the day regarding the weather. We had <u>31 people</u> at the last clean-up - can we beat that this time? |
| Wednesday 26 May Depart 9 am | <u>Day trip to Edinburgh</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form. |
| Thursday 17 June Depart 1 pm | <u>Half day trip to Colinsburgh</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form. |
| Wednesday 14 July Depart 1 pm | <u>Half day trip to Edzell</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form. |
| Other events in the Rock Garden | |
| 4 July 25 July 15 August | <u>Sunday Band Concerts</u> - All concerts 2 - 3 pm |
| Children's Events | |
| Thursday 29 July 10.30 - 11 am | <u>Storyteller</u> |
| Tuesday 3 August 10.30 - 11 am | <u>Storyteller</u> |
| Horticultural Demonstrations (by Michael Laird) ALL AT THE BARNHILL ROCK GARDEN | |
| Wednesday 14 April 2 - 3 pm | <u>Rock gardening for beginners</u> |
| Wednesday 16 June 2 - 3 pm | <u>Seasonal work in the garden</u> (I tried to persuade Michael to do this demo in MY garden, but no go Ed) |