



## Newsletter - Autumn 2010

"There are fairies at the bottom of my garden

It's not so very very far away.

You pass the gardener's shed and you just keep straight ahead ....."



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And that's exactly what a VERY large dog-fox did recently in my garden, sidling past the shed, across the veranda, down the steps on to the grass to have a good sniff around. Hardly a fairy and not at all fragrant, but I haven't seen a rabbit since then .... The Rock Garden also has visits from foxes, which keep the rabbit population down, and last year a deer looked in, probably en route from Tentsmuir to Buddon. There is always something interesting to see and somewhere to sit and look at the view; so please make full use of this very special place.



The summer outings were successfully completed (with only one mega downpour!) and we hope you will take part in the Autumn/Winter programme - details on page 4.

Reports from the Chairman and the ongoing garden work are overleaf and help of any kind from Friends is always appreciated. Just tell us what you can do and we will try to make use of 'it'

Editor

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### Membership subscription and new cards

At our Annual General Meeting, we shall be asking our members to agree to an increase in our annual membership subscription from £7 to £8 per household - to help us keep up with inflation. The new membership cards will be issued toward the end of September onwards as we cannot print them until after the AGM, and our Membership Secretary is taking a well-earned holiday!

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"Gardening is an even more relentless and unending battle than the politics of Westminster"  
(The Times, 1990)



### Need to contact us? - call

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**From the Chairman's Diary** - Our Spring clean-up went well with a grand turnout from the Friends, boosted this year by Cub Scouts and their leaders from Monifieth, and refreshments supplied by generous Friends. Our Coffee Morning in April raised the total sum of £781 after all expenses.

Planting was boosted by generous donations from Friends in memory of loved ones, and our plant stall at the Duntrune Demonstration Garden's Gala in July helped to raise funds to help us continue our work. Next day, we supplied light refreshments for those taking part in the Broughty Ferry in Bloom Secret Garden trail, raising more funds via donations and plant sales.

Groups visiting the garden this year included the Angus Branch of the Scottish Rock Garden and the West of Scotland Horticultural Society, and some of our own new members accepted an invitation to meet the committee and take part in a 'tour' of the Garden.

The Garden gained its Green Flag for the fourth year running and maintained its 4 star rating by 'Visit Scotland', for which Michael Laird is to be congratulated. A short programme of children's activities, supported by the Friends, began on 29 July with Storytelling in the Garden.

Thank you to all who have helped us in any way during the past six months. It is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our AGM, the Autumn clean-up and our winter meetings listed on page 4.

**Mary Saunders**

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**Garden Team Report** - We were pleased to complete the renovation of the second phase of the Scree Bed in the Spring, using plants from 3 specialist nurseries. We intend to add more plants and suitable bulbs to the scree areas. Current work is to put a new skin on the polytunnel, and at the same time we are tidying the whole nursery area so that we can use the space more effectively for growing on plants. Our winter project will be to renovate the final part of the Scree Bed, which includes a challenging section beneath an established conifer. A start has already been made to remove the existing unsuitable plants.



**John Grocott**

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**A word or two from the Gardener:** - Hello again. The garden has coped remarkably well, despite the extreme weather, with an abundance of colour throughout! Over the past months, the team and I have been busy ensuring the garden was in tip-top condition for the events and inspections. Numbers of visitors, especially from overseas, continue to increase. However, I am looking forward to getting stuck in to all the usual Autumn/Winter maintenance jobs, so there's plenty to get on with to ensure the garden is ready for 2011. I hope to see you all at the clean-up day on 2 October - it's a great chance to get involved and meet fellow Friends - and the food is good! Once again, thank you for your continued support, which is vital for our future success!



**Michael Laird**

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"In Nature, there are neither rewards nor punishments - there are consequences."  
(R G Ingersoll)



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### **Notes on our Summer Outings**

**26 May: Edinburgh Botanic Gardens and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.** We reached the Botanic Gardens after a comfortable and speedy bus journey. Few of us had previously seen the imposing entrance and it made an impressive start to an excellent day. The guide, John, told us he had seen the Chinese Garden being developed over the years from a stretch of raw earth, and took us through a plantation of giant trees to the Rock Garden and the striking new greenhouse endowed with every engineering advantage. Next door was the gracious Palm



House - the two a compelling example of caring for the old while fashioning the new. Did you know that the Botanic Garden's collection contains 700 of the 1,000 species of rhododendron? In the Gallery of Modern Art we saw the graceful Landform artwork and had a quick exploration of the Gallery's paintings and sculpture. Finally, after calling in at Baxters at the foot of the Lomonds, the last part of the journey gave us the best view in Scotland, with the Straths of Earn and the great Firth all the way to 'Abertay'. A great day.

**George Grant**

**17 June: Balcarres, Colinsburgh - home of the Earl & Countess of Crawford and Balcarres.**

Balcarres is an attractive home with superb herbaceous borders on all sides and adorned with a lovely selection of clematis. There were large poppies of different colours and many other later flowering plants. Other interesting features were a very old sundial, a fountain and a parterre garden. An old quarry was being developed into a colourful area suitable for damp loving plants. It was altogether one of our best outings to a beautiful garden kept by very welcoming people.

**Jean Symington**

**14 July: Newtonmill House, Edzell - home of Stephen and Rose Rickman.** Umbrellas were the order of the day for our visit to the gardens at Newtonmill House. The enclosed garden was sub-divided by hedges into various 'rooms' with a central herbaceous avenue. In addition to the flowers and shrubs, there were very productive fruit and vegetable growing areas, including 27 varieties of potatoes! Sadly, the weather did not encourage much exploration of the wider ground, so we left earlier than planned. The Glen Esk Hotel was surprised by our early arrival but rallied to provide some warmth and refreshments so we could 'dry off' prior to a substantial High Tea. Mist and rain accompanied our journey back to Broughty Ferry where, surprisingly, it had dried up!

**Elizabeth Fairgrieve**

"It is utterly forbidden to be half-hearted about gardening - you have got to love your garden, whether you like it or not."

R J Yeatman



**Visit to the Lake District 2010**

**21 June** - we travelled south to Stobo, near Peebles, for our visit to **Dawyck Botanic Garden**, where we enjoyed seeing this world famous arboretum. After lunch, we continued to the Crooklands Hotel, south of Kendal - our 'home' for 3 nights - the first of many delicious meals, with delightful company and the odd glass of wine!

**Day 2 - Holker Hall**, with its late 18<sup>th</sup> century gardens, the Great Holker Lime and the National Collection of Styracaceae. The next stop was **Brantwood**, the home of the late John Ruskin, with a great view of Coniston Water, and lastly the wonderful gardens of **Holehird**, on slopes above the eastern shore of Lake Windermere. The Lakeland Horticultural Society is responsible for the gardens upkeep, and friendly volunteers met us on arrival.

**Day 3 - Muncaster Castle**. These gardens are internationally famous for their azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons. Muncaster is also home to the World Owl Trust, with a collection of over 200 birds. Our second visit was to **Sizergh Castle and Garden**, still inhabited by the family by whom it was built in the Middle Ages. Main features include a pond, a lake, an important fern collection and a superb limestone rock garden.

**Day 4 - Monteviot House Gardens**, on the River Teviot, were our last port of call, after a very full and worthwhile 4 days with our friends, tour guide, Pauline Corrigan, and coach driver, Willie Rennie, who made sure we all got home in one piece.

**Mary Saunders**



- PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Autumn/Winter programme  
2010/2011

**2010**

Friday-Sunday  
3-5 September

Dundee Flower & Food Festival  
Camperdown Country Park. Details in local Press.

Wednesday  
8 September

Annual General Meeting  
In New Kirk St Aidan's Hall  
See separate sheet

Saturday  
2 October  
10 am - 2 pm

Autumn Clean-up - As usual, any time between 10 am and 2 pm.  
Refreshments provided and no limit to the number of helpers. If in doubt about anything, telephone 477761 before 9.30 am on the day.  
If you intend to come, PLEASE let us know so that we can have enough food!! Help with catering (ie sandwiches etc) appreciated.

**TALKS**

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.

**2010**

Wednesday  
27 October

'A lifetime of Gardening'  
Alan Graham, head gardener, Craigton Country Park

Wednesday  
24 November

'Costa Rica - a Glimpse through the Rainforest'  
Mark Caunt, traveller and photographer

**2011**

Wednesday  
23 February

'My trip of a lifetime to S Georgia'  
John Alexander, BEM. An adventurous life

Wednesday  
23 March

'My life as a Plant Doctor'  
Dr Brian Williamson - Scottish Plant Research



*Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden is a registered Scottish Charity no SCO28973.*