



## Newsletter - Autumn 2012



"The rain it raineth on the Just, And also on the Unjust fella,  
But chiefly on the Just, because the Unjust steals the Just's umbrella."

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Flash floods in Aberdeen, Comrie and even Broughty Ferry; hurricanes in America, some local trees shedding leaves already and threatening to change colour - and we aren't sure if Summer has actually come and gone.

The Rock Garden, however, with the Green Flag flying, has managed to look splendid, with visitor numbers going up or down depending on the weather. The Visitors' Book in the Glasshouse has some very favourable comments, including those from former Broughty residents, now overseas, but with memories of the area. Have a look.

I have just read in the paper (so it must be true ...) that we will require sun cream in September (Hooray!), which will hopefully encourage many healthy, bronzed Friends to come to the AGM on 26 September and the Autumn Clean-up on 6 October! (see page 4)



Editor

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### Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Iain Hunter, who did so well this year in the 'Riding for the Disabled' National Championships in Gloucestershire. Riders took their horses through their paces - circles, hoops, turns and halts - and Iain came 4<sup>th</sup> in his class. Well done, Iain, we're proud of you!

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### Work Party Report

We were particularly pleased to receive a gift of plants from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh and they will complement the Scree beds.

Coastal Wildflower Meadow - The Friends and the Countryside Rangers have prepared an area adjacent to the west end of the Rock Garden and the Shiell Street Conservation Area (a designated Local Nature Reserve). A seed mixture will shortly be sown there and our aim is to create an attractive addition to this part of the Esplanade.



There are 2 time slots each week when willing members can help the work in the Garden:

Mondays: 10 am - 12 noon

Thursdays: 1.30 - 3 pm

This includes plant propagation, and we would welcome help from those interested.

John Grocott



### Need to contact us? - call

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*Old English Lavender is a delight when grown in well drained soil - but is it really English? No - it was brought here by the Romans to scent their bath water! (but where did the Romans get it???)*



### From the Chairman's Diary -



Once again we have had a busy Spring and Summer, planting under bright blue skies and in one of the heaviest downpours of the year so far, and also supporting Broughty Ferry in Bloom. We had a great turn-out for our Annual Spring Clean and welcomed back the Monifieth 1<sup>st</sup> Cub Scouts and their leaders who undertook a litter-pick for us and helped to plant snowdrops.

Our summer outings programme was very successful (see below) and I would like to record our thanks to Ann Smith for arranging our Day and Half-Day trips for more years than I can remember. Sadly Ann is leaving us to be nearer her family and will be much missed.

It was great to see so many children taking part in our activities programme and we are again indebted to the local Librarians and Countryside Rangers for helping. Children from the Barnhill After School Group have also visited us on at least two occasions.



Providing refreshments for Broughty Ferry in Bloom's Secret Garden Trail saw the Geddes Glasshouse being used as originally intended - to encourage discussion. We were also able to enlist at least 2 new members one of whom immediately joined our Garden Team!

**Mary Saunders**



*Where are you likely to see a Big Boy in your garden? In grobags or vegetable plots - it's a tomato!*

### Helpful Hints for Winter

- 1 If you have to transplant out of season when the ground is too cold, pour hot water into the hole to heat it sufficiently - it won't harm the roots.
- 2 Oddly enough, you can protect outdoor plants from impending frost by spraying them with cold water in the evening. As it evaporates, the water generates sufficient heat to prevent frost damage.
- 3 Emergency treatment for frozen plants in a greenhouse calls for a gentle thaw of the plants by pouring on cold water in the dark; they'll die if watered in the light.

**Garden Update:** - Hello again. Plant growth was exceptional this Spring, and trying to keep everything under control certainly kept us busy. The rain ensured that the Garden was lush and colourful, and 2 borders under renovation have been replanted, and look great!



Six new trees (Betulas) and all the plants raised from seeds have added new interest. A busy Autumn lies ahead, as every border has to be cut back in preparation for the coming season. Thank you for your continued support in another successful year.

**Michael Laird**

*'Evergreen plants that flower in winter are great comforters of the soul' (e.g., daphne, mahonia, Christmas box)*

*(The Winter Garden)*



*Make a slug conservatory. Keep the empty halves of squeezed oranges and put them face down where seedlings have been introduced to the garden. The slugs will collect underneath for childishly easy removal next day!*



### Notes on our Summer Outings



**23 May: The Linns, Sheriffmuir.** After lunch at the Old Bridge Inn, we visited the home of Evelyn Stevens and her husband. We had lovely weather and viewed different forms of Meconopsis and a wide variety of other plants.

**13 June: House of Pitmuies.** Unfortunately it rained all the time. Margaret Ogilvie however made us feel very welcome and we were amazed at the high quality of the lawns. Although too early to see the delphiniums in flower, we were able to appreciate many other delights in her garden. We completed our half-day trip with a Senior Citizens' 3-course special at the Bell Rock in Arbroath.

**25-28 June: Dumfries & Galloway.** For our 4-day away trip this year, we were well catered for at our hotel on the outskirts of Dumfries and taken care of by our knowledgeable tour guide, Janet, and coach driver, Jimmie - a master of his craft. En route we visited Drumlanrig Castle where we were shown around by 2 very entertaining guides. Our first full day took us to the Logan Botanic Garden, which has suffered somewhat from the change in recent weather patterns. The afternoon was spent wandering around the grounds and gardens of the ruined Castle Kennedy. Next day we were shown around Glenwham Garden by the owner, Tessa, who took great pride in showing us her *Cardiocrinum* in full flower. Unfortunately the mist meant we were unable to enjoy the normal views from the garden's high points. The afternoon was spent at Threave where the gardens have been created over many years by the National Trust's School of Practical Gardening. Our final visit was to Portrack House and its Garden of Cosmic Speculation - an amazing experience which included the heaviest downpour of the whole trip! I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did.

**Mary Saunders**

**19 July: 9 Braid Farm Road, Edinburgh & Binny Plants.** The forecasters promised rain for the day and rain it did with a vengeance! We were greeted by Mr & Mrs Paul and shown round their compact garden, densely and imaginatively planted with considerable colour and with a host of good ideas for those with small gardens. The several 'sit-oot-eries' would have been tempting had the sun shone. Ceramic tile decorations brightened paths and house walls, and the tour even included the bins and compost heaps!



After a hurried lunch, we proceeded to Binny Plants where, in a drizzle, we were left to explore the different areas and see the extensive and tempting range of plants for sale. Finally we headed for the Red House Hotel at Coupar Angus for high tea.

**Elizabeth Fairgrieve**

*If your tomatoes are green, put them in a kitchen drawer with a banana - it will encourage the tomatoes to ripen. (Please try it and report!)*





- PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Autumn/Winter programme  
2012/2013

**2012**

Wednesday  
26 September

Annual General Meeting (including Daphne Barbieri's DVD showing the Friends' activities during 2011/12)  
Age Concern Hall - 7.30 pm  
See separate sheet

Saturday  
6 October  
10 am - 2 pm

Autumn Clean-up - Usual arrangements - all helpers welcome, full or part-time! Soup and sandwiches provided - donations of the latter appreciated (please let Isobel know, 477761). If you intend to come, please telephone any Committee member, as this helps the catering. Any questions about anything, phone 477761 before 9.30 am on the day.

**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.

**2012**

Wednesday  
24 October

'Trip Around Nepal'  
Alison Gordon

Wednesday  
28 November

'A Journey Around Jute'  
Sandra Thompson

**2013**

Wednesday  
27 February

'A Month in Hawaii Botanic Gardens'  
Claire Reeney

Wednesday  
27 March

'Gardens in North Wales and Cumbria'  
Jim McCoombe



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