



"By this time the less devoted gardeners have hung up their tools and retired indoors to continue gardening by the fire."
(Margery Fish)



Our first newsletter refers to the very first AGM, which was held in St Aidan's Halls in September 1997, and which states:

No of members: 113 No of hours worked so far: 230 No of workers: 25 (!!)

Our 17th AGM will be held in the new St Aidan's Centre on 24 September 2014, and our current membership is 485. So we've come quite a way - and are back where we started - if you see what I mean. I hope St Aidan approves.



The number of 'workers' on a Monday (between 10am & 12noon) is usually about 10, and with the approach of Autumn, and the clearing up involved, additional help would be more than welcome. If you can spare an hour or two, please come and join us.

Of course we are hoping for a large turnout for the Clean-up on 11 October, 10 am - 1 pm with a coffee break about 11. The Rock Garden is always worth a visit!

Editor

One of Michael's stalwart helpers in the Rock Garden is Iain Hunter, who recently received an Endeavour Award from Dundee Rotary Club, whose President said: "Each of those given an award has shown outstanding service to their community, in many cases despite their own personal difficulties." Iain has been supporting Brae Riding for the Disabled for more than 10 years, and we are proud to add our congratulations to him.



And talking of Awards, Monifieth & District Rotary Club recently presented our Michael with an award for "Outstanding Contribution to Community Life". So a hearty round of applause please!

ADVANCE WARNING!

The FOBRG are proposing to run a trip to the Private Gardens of Yorkshire in June 2015 if enough people wish to go. This will be organised by Brightwater and will last for 4 days, with 3 nights away.



Need to contact us? - call

Ann Taylor	737573	Heather Dailly	778061	John & Kate Grocott	779581
Anne Hesketh	739982	Isobel Turner	477761	Tom Neilson	774737
Mary Saunders	477019	msaunders411@btinternet.com		Margery Auras	07707315908
Barnhill Rock Garden 07985 878515			Website: www.barnhillrockgarden.org.uk		

From the Chairman's Diary -

This year the much improved summer weather has given us some lovely "real" summer days to enjoy to the extent that all 3 outings were accompanied by warm sunshine and no rain. On the other hand when we helped Broughty Ferry in Bloom with their planting operations it invariably rained but we've come to expect that now!



Numbers were down a little for our Annual Spring Clean but we were very pleased that the 1st Monifieth Cub Scouts and their leaders were able to carry out a litter-pick for us and they also planted snowdrops-in-the-green in the Snowdrop Wood and Sunflower seeds in the railway border. Funds from the Helen Fleming Legacy were used to provide another 2 picnic tables for upper end of the Garden.

We had a busy afternoon providing refreshments for the Broughty Ferry in Bloom Secret Garden Trail at the end of the Broughty Ferry Gala Week and also provided refreshments for the Beautiful Scotland judges when they came to judge the entry in the Coastal category. Our summer outings programme was well supported and appeared to be enjoyed by all those taking part as were the various children's activities provided by the local Librarians and Countryside Rangers. We were delighted to welcome the return of children from the Barnhill Out of School group for activities in the Garden and at the end of July to learn that the Garden had once again retained its Green Flag status.



Sadly Jim Millan, an original member of the committee, has not been at the Garden for some time due to health problems which have resulted in him spending a lot of time in hospital.

Finally, you will see from the AGM Notice that we are moving to the St Aidan's Centre for our winter meetings following the Age Concern Hall having been put up for sale.

Mary Saunders

Notes from the Garden

- We continue to look after the scree, the snowdrop wood and the primula/meconopsis borders.
- In the nursery, we are growing on a large number of primulas, brought on from seed, as well as a variety of plants which can be used in the garden or sold on the plant table.
- At the Geddes Glasshouse, some additional plants have been added to the areas around the glasshouse and the raised bed. These were purchased from Rumbling Bridge Nursery.
- The Coastal Wild Flower Meadow (the strip of ground adjacent to the Garden and the Nature Reserve) will receive its annual cut in early September - after the Flower Show. We have arranged with the Countryside Rangers to rake off the cut down grass and plants. This operation is our contribution to the management of this area.



John Grocott

Garden Update: - The garden has once again given a fantastic display and saw thousands of people visit. In the early season a mixture of sunshine and showers ensured we were kept very busy trying to control plant and weed growth.



I was delighted to see that the wisteria flowered for the first time and also that the cardiocrinum giganteum (giant lily) flowered after many years waiting. We managed to plant out all the seeds we propagated to fill up gaps throughout the borders. I am now starting to think about bulb planting and Autumn jobs for the year ahead. Thank you for your continued support!

Michael Laird

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- *If a gardener gardens a gardener's garden, does the gardener who gardens the gardener's garden, garden the gardener's garden the way he wants it gardened?*



Notes on our Summer Outings



21 May: Rosewells, Pitscottie, Fife - Birgitta MacDonald welcomed us to this small cottage on a sunny afternoon and we were surprised to find the huge garden behind it! The garden, once a field, was full of shrubs and plants - rhododendrons, primulas and peonies. Photographs were on display, showing how the garden had developed over the years, and we spent a delightful hour there. Cupar Garden Centre was our refreshment stop.

25 June: Gilston House, Largoward, Fife - we eventually (!) found Gilston House at the end of a long driveway to be welcomed by 2 playful dogs - and Catherine and Edward Baxter. We were free to wander around the garden which is part of a large country estate and full of plants giving a lot of ground cover. A clematis draped over an archway, and many delphiniums, added to the colour. The Baxters' swings proved irresistible to one of two 'Friends', who renewed their childhood before sampling the delicious homemade cakes, tea and coffee, served in the garden. We also enjoyed some stunning views of the surrounding countryside on a dry but not sunny afternoon.

23 July: Crieff Visitor Centre & Drummond Castle. Broughty Ferry - dull; Crieff - bright warm sunshine! After lunch and a walkabout at the Visitor Centre, we spent a brilliant summer's afternoon at the Castle. From the castle walls there is a very impressive panoramic view of the gardens which were first laid out in 1630 by John Drummond, 2nd Earl of Perth. They contain box hedges with flowers within and 2 large copper beech trees planted by Queen Victoria during a visit in 1842. There was also a large fruit and vegetable garden beyond the formal part. We travelled back to Broughty Ferry via Gleneagles and by the time we reached home the weather was again dull and overcast

Anne Chalmers

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*Plant your early greens in an old sofa so that you can be sure they'll come up in the spring.
(Old Chinese Gardening Joke)*

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



- PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Autumn/Winter programme
2014/2015

PLEASE NOTE: All talks and meetings will be held in the ST AIDAN's Centre, Brook Street (east of St Vincent Street on the south side) at 7.30 pm. Admission at 7.15 pm.

2014

Wednesday
September 24 Annual General Meeting
7.30 pm - See separate sheet

Saturday
October 11 Autumn Clean-up at Rock Garden - Please note change of time - coffee
10 am - 1 pm break, no lunch! All help appreciated - any questions, tel 477761.

TALKS

2014

Wednesday **'A Botanical Tour Guide'**
October 22 Julia Corden

Wednesday **'Cardiocrinum Collection'**
November 26 Philip Bolt

2015

Wednesday **'A selection of Daphne's films'**
February 25 Daphne Barbieri

Wednesday **'Games Night'**
March 25 Social evening for Friends

Regeneration of a colliery creek

While on holiday in Australia earlier this year and visiting our 2 Australian members, Bob and Lesley Clinch, our own Ann Taylor had a "busman's holiday" helping a Bush Care Group weeding in Allen Park, Austinmer, NSW. Instead of attacking Sweet Cicely in the Barnhill Rock Garden she was concentrating on Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*).



Coal was once mined here and was moved from the mine shafts via a railway. Remains of sandstone piers of a bridge across the creek can still be seen. The creek itself carves a deep gully at times.

The present Group co-ordinator and her husband started working on the site in 1975, the birdlife (70 different species have been documented over the last 30 years) being the greatest motivating factor as well as a precaution against bushfires. In the mid 80's another local couple joined them and later when Wollongong Council introduced a Bush care Programme they formed a Bushcare Group. Since 2003 they have expanded to six permanent members and another four on occasions. The site is steep with a few gorges and is a real sanctuary for the wildlife. There is now a diverse rainforest community of trees, plants, birds and animals creating a place for quiet contemplation of Nature's majesty