



## Newsletter - Spring 2014

"April's the busy month, the month that grows  
Faster than hand can follow at its task;  
No time to relish and no time to bask.  
(Though when indeed is that the gardener's lot  
However large, however small his plot?"

(from "The Garden")

March has also been a 'busy' month, with several devastating storms causing trouble and distress throughout the land. There have been, however, mornings when it has been clear how fortunate are those living here on the north bank of the Tay, facing towards the river mouth, with a grandstand view of the sunrise - first a thin band of light on the horizon, gradually followed by an assortment of glowing colours until the golden circle emerges from the other side of the world - and the sky goes back to normal!



The Rock Garden of course is perfectly placed to witness this, so if you are awake on such an early morning - the spectacle is free! On the other hand, you could just come down on a Monday or Thursday morning (10 am - 12 noon) and help to keep the garden beautiful.  
See you there!

Editor

### Gardening Newsletters - interested?

The Friends are members of a number of organisations who promote and encourage good gardening practice, eg The Scottish Gardeners' Forum, Plantlife Scotland. Newsletters from these organisations are regularly left on display in the Geddes Glasshouse. All offer their newsletters in electronic format to encourage wider dissemination to our membership. In addition one offers a monthly e-bulletin with features such as 'plant of the month' and a list of that month's workshops throughout Scotland. All photos in the e-newsletters are in colour. Please e-mail Anne Hesketh at [eabhesketh@btinternet.com](mailto:eabhesketh@btinternet.com) if you would like to start receiving the e-versions of these newsletters and the monthly Plantlife Scotland e-bulletin.



*All gardeners know better than other gardeners!*



### Need to contact us? - call

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### From the Chairman's Diary



Our Annual General Meeting in September was well-attended and as usual Daphne Barbieri's film of our year's activities was the highlight of the evening. At the beginning of October our Autumn clean-up was blessed with sunshine, and a good turnout of Friends was able to enjoy elevenses and a soup and sandwich lunch on the patio thanks to our catering team. At the end of October I was accompanied by Ann Taylor and Michael Laird to the Beautiful Scotland Annual Seminar & 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Awards Presentation in Stirling where, as in 2012, we were recipients of an Outstanding Achievement Award and a Certificate of Distinction for the Friends' work in the Rock Garden. We had a very successful winter programme of illustrated talks at the Age Concern Hall arranged for us by Ann Taylor. I am looking forward to our summer outings and band concerts at the Garden and hope to meet many of you on the bus or at the Garden. Due to a steady drop in numbers we have for the time being called a halt to our away trips. We will re-consider the position next year. I am delighted that we have welcomed a number of new members during the past few months but sadly have had to say "goodbye" to a number of older members.

Helen Fleming Legacy: The picnic tables we provided from Helen's legacy last year have proved very popular so we have obtained another two for the upper end of the Garden and the Council has provided cement bases for them. The legacy has also enabled us to provide plants for the large front border which Michael and the Garden team cleaned out at the end of last year. Some of the 'old' plants and bulbs are still proving a little difficult to remove but we shall not give in!



Mary Saunders



*Tip from a well-known Dutch flower grower - never thank someone for a plant as if it's an inanimate object - you'll hurt its feelings and it won't do well for you.*

### From the Garden Team

It is pleasing to report that the friends have completed the clearing out and replanting of the Island Bed between the Esplanade and the scree. This work was funded by Helen Fleming's bequest and needed over 200 plants to complete it. Some plants are still on order and these will be dealt with in due course.

The committee has agreed to improve in Spring the planting areas at the Geddes Glasshouse and the patio. This will add colour and interest to the bulbs and corms planted last Autumn.



Helpers will be warmly welcomed at both the Monday and Thursday work sessions which are from 10 am to 12 noon, with coffee at 11! The Thursday session deals mainly with the propagating/tidying up jobs in the nursery area, especially important in the Spring and Summer period when a check has to be kept on watering.

John Grocott



#### Propagating Guide

Spring - take softwood cuttings of *cotinus*, *fuchsia*, *hydrangea*, *delphinium* and *lupin*

Early Summer - take softwood cuttings of *cistus*, *chaenomeles*, *euonymus*

(*evergreen*), *hebe*, *hydrangea*, *hypericum*, *spiraea* and *weigela*; take leaf cuttings of *foliage begonias*, *peperomias*, *saintpaulia*, *sansevieria*, *streptocarpus* and *tolmiea*.

**Garden Update:**

Hello again. Mild weather ensured all our winter jobs are now completed. The storms at Christmas did damage some trees and disappointingly brought down a large eucalyptus tree. The entire garden was pruned to get rid of any dead and unwanted branches. We continued our programme of mulching to improve soil content and several borders have received new plants. Spring means a display of bulbs and sowing of seed, so that your garden will be ready for the coming season. Thank you for your continued support!



**Michael Laird**

**Summer Outings 2014: (all departing from the layby opposite Broughty Library)**

**Wednesday, 21st May:** Departing 1.30 pm our first visit this year is to Rosewells, Pitscottie in Fife to visit a garden designed by Birgitta and Gordon MacDonald which has many varieties of cornus, magnolias, trilliums, meconopsis, agapanthus and acers.

Hopefully it will be full of rhododendrons, auriculas, primulas, fritillaries, erythroniums and peonies which are usually at their best during May and June. Following our visit we shall drop into the Cupar Garden Centre for tea/coffee and scones.

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June:** Again departing at 1.30 pm we return to Fife to visit the garden of Edward and Catherine Baxter at Gilston House, by Largoward, Leven. Gilston is part of the Eastneuk Estates and this garden is a work in progress having been inherited 6 years ago when it had not been worked on for 20 years. Catherine Baxter, together with help from friend Ali Petrie and gardener Chrissie Pate has been reworking the border beyond the terrace. Also underway is a new woodland area leading to the pond and boathouse, recently cleared and planted with masses of hostas, hellebores, astilbes and meconopsis. Tea and cakes will be provided at the garden.

**Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July:** Our final visit is to Crieff where we shall visit the Crieff Visitor Centre and, after lunch, Drummond Castle Gardens. We shall depart from Broughty Ferry at 11.00 am. Lunch will be available at the Crieff Visitor Centre (cost not included) and hopefully there will be time to take in some of the other attractions here. The last time we visited Drummond Castle Gardens it was raining heavily - we are hoping for sunshine this year so we can enjoy a walk around the fine formal gardens which include tranquil, reflective, colourful and immaculate topiary, first laid out in the 17th century.

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 The application form is enclosed giving costings. Tips for the coach driver only have been included. Please contact Mary Saunders or Heather Dailly if you have any queries.

*'There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,  
 There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick,  
 But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,  
 For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth everyone.'*

*R Kipling*





- PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Spring programme 2014

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

Saturday 19 April 10 am - 2 pm	<u>Spring Clean-up</u> Usual arrangements - ALL help appreciated, including sandwiches for lunch! <b>Please</b> notify any Committee member if you hope to be there - numbers required for catering. Telephone 477761 for further information.
<b>Outings</b>	
Wednesday 21 May Depart 1.30 pm	<u>Rosewells, Pitscottie &amp; Cupar Garden Centre, Fife</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
Wednesday 25 June Depart 1.30 pm	<u>Gilston House, by Largoward, Leven</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
Wednesday 23 July Depart 11 am	<u>Crieff Visitor Centre &amp; Drummond Castle Gardens</u> Full details on page 3 and booking form
<b>Other events in the Rock Garden</b>	
Sunday 15 June Sunday 27 July Sunday 10 August	<u>Sunday Band Concerts</u> - all 2 - 3 pm Tayport Instrumental Band City of Discovery Brass Band Forfar Instrumental Brass Band
<b>Children's Activities</b>	
Wednesday 9 April Thursday 3 July Thursday 17 July Wednesday 30 July Thursday 7 August Wednesday 13 August Wednesday 15 October	Signs of Spring - Countryside Rangers - 1 - 3 pm Storytelling with Librarian - 11 - 11.30 am Storytelling with Librarian - 11 - 11.30 am Nature Detectives - Countryside Rangers - 1 - 3 pm Storytelling with Librarian - 11-11.30 am Nature Detectives - Countryside Rangers - 1 - 3 pm Haggis Hunters - Countryside Rangers - 1 - 3 pm

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