



Friends of the
BARNHILL ROCK GARDEN

Autumn Newsletter 2020

From the Editor

I ended the last editorial with '...a disruptive summer for the Friends!' Written in February, I was referring to the buckie replacement and had no idea of how disruptive the summer was going to be.

We managed to squeeze in a few warnings as hints about possible restrictions started to escalate. However the printed newsletter arrived just after lockdown was implemented. We felt it was inappropriate at the time to ask deliverers to enter flats, open gates and get it circulated.

Instead we later took the decision to have a short Autumn newsletter, supplemented by the Spring one which you will not have seen. We hope it brings you up to date on the current situation for the Garden and the Friends.

Whether or not the AGM is able to go ahead remains to be seen, but we hope you will continue to support us by renewing your subscription.

Anne Hesketh

The Garden under lockdown

How has the Garden fared during lockdown? Before you read what the Chairman and the Gardener have to say, here are a few thoughts from a number of Friends/visitors.

"The Garden still looks good despite the lack of attention and the long grass."

"The bees and insects have loved lockdown"

"One morning I removed about a dozen beer bottles all standing on a rock."

"The beautiful island bed that had just been planted up, now looks like a wildflower garden"

"Even during lockdown we felt relaxed and at peace here."

From the Chairman

Early on in lockdown, the Friends' Monday Team were instructed by the Council to stop their garden maintenance and so for a good part of the spring/summer, we have done nothing in the garden. Recently, however, we have had a 'Risk Assessment' approved and so the team have re-started on Monday mornings and areas of the garden are beginning to look cared for again.

As reported in your late arriving Spring newsletter, one of our projects last winter was the renovation and re-planting of an island bed near to the

scree border. Plants had been ordered and delivered just before lockdown started. Fortunately, Michael was able to plant all the plants himself and water them in, before he was sent home for a long period of sick leave. It is currently a challenge for the Monday team to find and clear round these plants, as wild flowers and weeds have taken over the entire bed.

Before lockdown, various Primula seed, which we got from Cluny, had been sown. We were able to prick these off and have been nurturing them at home.

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We hope to get them in the garden later.

It was a big disappointment to have to call off the Friends' North Wales Trip, but we have been assured by Glenton that our deposits are safe and we could re-schedule the trip for a similar time in 2021. You will have seen from the other newsletter that we had planned the usual three Summer Outings for the Friends, which had to be cancelled. We are hoping to run them next year, if life returns to normal. As for the AGM and winter meetings, the committee is currently assessing the situation with regard to viability under Covid and hall restrictions.

John Grocott

From the Gardener

Michael's Annus Horribilis

As it had been a productive autumn/winter season with all winter jobs completed, I was looking forward to another busy year in the garden. Dates for Children's events were quickly being booked up and there was great anticipation for the new Buckie project. Things were going well. *Then the Coronavirus...*

As I suffer from asthma, I went home on the 23rd March and only restarted 1st of June. I couldn't wait to get back. I started working at borders 1 and 4, as well as the entrance border. *Then my sore back...*

I was off ill from the 29th June and subsequently had to have an operation on my back. I am missing running the rock garden on a daily basis and working to achieve its goals, projects and awards. I miss the customers, the lads, the Friends and Council staff. I just want to get back to health and get the garden restored and the new buckies in place. It's all very frustrating! What a year; I can't wait for 2021 to start.

Michael Laird

Update on the buckie

With lockdown in late March, we have not seen the construction of the new 'Buckie' move forward as anticipated. At present the new building (Portacabin) is made and we are still awaiting the first stage of the proceedings i.e. the cutting off of all electricity to the area. This is required so that the patio and pergola can be dismantled. We can't wait to see it started!

Ann Taylor

Giants in the nursery

Even during lockdown, plants grew and flowered. This is a photo of three flowering *Cardiocrinum giganteum* 'yunnanense', which bloomed in the nursery. Unfortunately we were unable to get them planted out in the Garden due to the restrictions, but have other plants growing-on for future years. We are expecting to get plenty of seeds from these plants in the autumn.

John Grocott



Need to contact us?

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**Friends of the
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Proposed Winter meetings

All these meetings are likely to be affected by Covid restrictions, hall requirements, speaker concerns. Please check nearer the time with a member of the committee if you are not on our email list.

September 30th 2020 :

AGM with reports from Michael Laird and John Grocott.

October 28th 2020 : Sally Lorimer: 'Over The Garden Wall'
CANCELLED

November 25th 2020 : Bob Black: 'Taymara', Tay River Trips.
CURRENTLY ON HOLD

February 24th 2021 :

Alison Elliot (Manager) : Murton Trust For Education.

March 24th 2021 : Charlie Webster: History of Broughty Ferry and Surrounding Areas.

All meetings currently to be held at **Broughty Ferry Baptist Church, 86 St Vincent Street, Broughty Ferry, at 7.30pm** (see above).