





## From the Chairman

At last the grip of winter is loosening and although it seems to have been long, cold, stormy and wet, I think it has been fairly mild and an early spring is beginning to happen as I write this.

The Rock Garden has been entered again on the Visit Scotland sponsored Snowdrop Trail and these heralds of spring are flowering once again in our garden. The 'Monday Team' has been busy carrying out improvements to several of 'our' areas, and are about to help Michael replant an island bed near to the scree.

The Committee, at their monthly meetings, has been arranging the 3 summer outings which should be pleasant and interesting. I look forward to seeing you on the coach.

**John Grocott**

## From the Gardener

The mild January has allowed the team and me to achieve all our programme of jobs. Back in the Autumn, we continued to plant hundreds of spring flowering bulbs to increase colour throughout. We assessed all the trees and shrubs and then carried out our annual pruning to ensure access for the public and plant maintenance. Again we continued our mulching schedule in Sections 2 and 3 to add nutrients to the soil.



The Geddes Glasshouse was once again serviced and cleaned, along with all signs, noticeboards and tree trail signs ready for our visitors. We are about to start refreshing all paths with new bark chippings. We have also been working on this year's chosen border for revamp. This included ripping out old plants, uncovering lost rock and removing huge tree roots. The Friends have installed new metal edging and will help with the replanting when

all the plants arrive. I have really enjoyed designing and getting stuck into border 4. Great fun!

There are still many jobs to be done but I can assure you that the Garden will be ready for all its visitors. As always a very big thank you for your continued support!

**Michael Laird**

## From the Gardening Team

I am delighted to report that the Monday gardening team, usually 8 or 9 hardy souls, continue to turn up at 10 a.m. come rain or shine. They have been kept busy carrying out garden improvements, which included the purchase and installing of new metal edging for an existing 'island bed'. This bed needs a total of 185 new plants, which will be paid for by the Friends. We have also been renewing the timber edging around the planting areas at the Geddes Glasshouse. It's a relief when the 11 o'clock train to London signals a coffee break!



In the nursery area, we are growing on plants for the garden and the plant table. This involves sowing seed, making cuttings of various types, and inserting them in pots and cold frames. When seeds have germinated and cuttings rooted, seedlings need to be pricked off and cuttings potted on into individual pots.

Spring must be round the corner as our Himalayan Lily seed, collected in the garden in Autumn 2018, has germinated and, hopefully, we will have flowering plants in 4 or 5 years' time. The Committee has decided to plant a Purple Leaved Acer in memory of Mary Saunders. Michael has prepared just the spot for the shrub in a reasonably sheltered position. This should develop into a shapely and long lived specimen shrub. I look forward to seeing members on Saturday 25th April at the Spring Clean Up.

**John Grocott**

## Michael's gardening tips

**Protect fruit blossoms from late frosts by using fleece.**

**Now is the time to tie in climbing and rambling roses on to frames etc.**

**Start to gradually increase water given to houseplants at the start of the growing season.**



# SUMMER OUTINGS 2020

See also 'Stop Press' Page 4

We had intended to include a visit to the Beechgrove Garden this year. Sadly we received a letter informing us that the garden is no longer open to the public. We hope, however, you might enjoy the selection below.

## Tuesday 23rd June 2020 Saughton Park, Edinburgh

Our first visit this year is to the newly redesigned and refurbished Saughton Park in Edinburgh – another hidden jewel according to Edinburgh Outdoors! We shall leave opposite Broughty Ferry Library at 10.00 am and hope to arrive by 11.30 am. After a coffee/tea break at the café, we will get a short talk from one of the Friends of Saughton Park, before wandering at will until 4.00 pm. when we shall depart for Dundee. Snacks and meals will be available at the new Bistro Café, which opens in time for Easter.



© Anne Burgess

## Wednesday 22nd July 2020 Braco Castle Gardens, Perthshire

Leaving opposite Broughty Ferry library at 12.00 noon, we will first visit Crieff Garden Centre where there will be time for a snack, or a short browse. From there we travel to the garden at Braco Castle. It is described as a 19th Century landscaped garden with a plethora of wonderful and interesting shrubs, bulbs and plants; an old garden for all seasons which has been tastefully expanded over the last 27 years, by Mr and Mrs M van Ballegooijen. The partly walled garden is approached on a rhododendron and tree-lined path featuring an ornamental pond. Spectacular spring bulbs and ornamental trees are all enhanced by the fantastic views of the Ochils. From the snowdrops through to the vibrant colours of autumn, this garden is a gem. The garden also contains a very interesting collection of azaleas. We anticipate leaving Braco for home around 4.00 pm.



© Jodi Simpson



© Crathes Castle

## Thursday 20th August, 2020 Crathes Castle

We leave Broughty Ferry en route for Crathes at 10.00 am. It is one of the National Trust of Scotland's most attractive properties. Situated in Royal Deeside, the journey should only take a little over an hour and, hopefully, we will arrive in time to purchase coffee (and maybe a cake). The group can then split up to visit the delightful gardens or beautifully preserved castle or, if exercise is needed, the adventure play area!

It is worth noting that the garden is a 'R.H.S. Partner Garden' and has many interesting plants and good practice on show. There should be plenty of time to see the castle and gardens and enjoy some refreshment before we board the coach at 4.00 pm for the return home. Remember to bring your NT card if you are a member of the National Trust.

© Amanda Slater





## Keeping up standards

Once again, the Friends received an Outstanding level for our 18/19 entry in It's Your Neighbourhood Award (part of Keep Scotland Beautiful) and a Distinction for consistent growth and performance over the years. In October, Eleanor Mackie (Monday group) and Ann Taylor went to Stirling to pick up the award. The picture shows them enjoying the event along with Sally McConville from Dundee City Council.

The Distinction was awarded to only 15 participants throughout Scotland in 2014/15, but is now given to many more community groups. However, we are pleased that we have continued to receive those levels of merit over the years, as it involves not only Gardening Achievements, but also Community Participation and Environmental Responsibility. A lot of hard work from the Friends.

**Anne Hesketh**



## Stop Press!

- *Despite possible virus disruption to the planned outings, you can book with confidence knowing that a) you will be notified if the outing is cancelled b) you can cancel due to ill health c) the cheques are not cashed until the day after the outing.*
- *The plant sales table at the Geddes has been up and running since March. It's always worth a look for a bargain, or something interesting!*

## Need to contact us?

**Chairman:** John Grocott: 779581

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**Secretary:** Anne Hesketh: 739982

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**Friends of the  
Barnhill Rock Garden**

## February colour

As John has said, it seems to have been a long, cold, stormy and wet winter. We hope you managed to catch the heather bed looking fine on one of the good days in February. It's currently looking even better with the daffodils in bloom.



## Calendar of events

All events are subject to any COVID-19 restrictions and may be cancelled. Please check with the Rock Garden, tel: 07985 878515, or a member of the Friends committee, nearer the time.

### Garden Events

**Sat 25th April:** Spring Clean Up from 10.00 to 12.30 with a coffee break at 11.00. Any help would be very much appreciated.

### Band Concerts

**Sun 28th June:** 2pm – 3pm

**Sun 26th July:** 2pm – 3pm

### Activities for Children

**Countryside Rangers:** The number and date/s of any sessions with the Countryside Rangers are still to be confirmed.

**Thursday 2nd July:** 11am -11.30am  
Storytelling with Dundee Libraries

**Thursday 16th July:** 11am -11.30am  
Storytelling with Dundee Libraries

**Thursday 6th August:** 11am – 11.30am  
Storytelling with Dundee Libraries

### Outings (see previous page for details)

**Tuesday 23rd June:**  
Saughton Park, Edinburgh

**Wednesday 22nd July:**  
Braco Castle Gardens, Perthshire

**Thursday 20th August:**  
Crathes Castle, Banchory