



## Newsletter - Autumn 2011



"October - the month of the spade - for trenching and double-trenching, planting bulbs and doing back-aching things all day in the herbaceous borders." (A Gardener's Dozen)

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It's not October yet but I can identify with the back-aching bit! And that's just with trying to get down to the earth beneath the overblown stuff on top.

Hurricane Irene is causing chaos in America, mega storms are flooding parts of Britain, and in between there have been a few warm, calm, lovely days. It makes it difficult to plan outdoor things with any certainty of success. But our summer events were fairly fortunate (apart from the monsoon at the beginning of the Gala in the Garden!), and the Autumn programme is here for you to study and support if you can.



For new members, our AGM is a well attended, cheerful affair, as are the talks with speakers well-known in the horticultural world; so please try to come to them. The 'Members' Night' is still under construction, so to speak - details in due course .....

Enjoy the rest of the year, at home or on holiday.

Editor

### Extract from our first Newsletter - February 1998



"No of members - 113      No of workers (?) - 25      No of hours worked so far - 230

On 8 May 1997 we celebrated, with a picnic on the site, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Barnhill Ladies Golf Clubhouse."

We did have one other picnic the following year - perhaps we could try another bring-your-own picnic next year, 15 years on. What do you think?

Ed

### Work Party News - Plant Swap Scheme

Plants, shrubs and bushes you are tired of, or have too many of, may be exactly what someone else is looking for - or vice versa. A swap scheme may be the answer, and if you are interested, contact John Grocott on 779581. Now is the time to make bold decisions! Our improved nursery area is well under way, and you will be welcome at the Thursday afternoon work sessions, 1.30 - 3.30 pm



John Grocott



### Need to contact us? - call

Ann Taylor	737573	Heather Dailly	778061	John & Kate Grocott	779581
Anne Hesketh	739982	Jim Millan	779304	Tom Neilson	774737
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**Dead-heading** - keep dead-heading all actively flowering plants, especially tender annuals such as cosmos and petunias, or late flowering dahlias and penstemmons to prolong their display as long as possible. Do this with secateurs, cutting back to a bud or leaf.



### From the Chairman's Diary -



**Spring clean-up:** We had another record turnout this year and were assisted by Cubs and Scouts from Monifieth. This meant the Friends could concentrate on tidying beds and planting. We were also joined by 2 sisters and their families who came to plant alpine in memory of their mother.

**Gala in the Garden:** not even a cloudburst could keep people away but it did lower the numbers this year. The last minute addition of a marching band from Denmark turned out to be the highlight of the event, with Margaret Chapman, aided by John Grocott, planting a tree above the renovated Scree Bed to the accompaniment of a Pipe Band.



Members of the Garden Team and Committee went out to Templeton Woods in July for the presentations of the 2011/12 Green Flags. It was Templeton Woods' first and our fifth.

We were particularly pleased to welcome a small group from the Grampian & Tayside Plant Heritage Group, who were very impressed with the garden and the plants.



Our local librarians came to read and sing with a group of young children, some of whom later came to the Glasshouse for 'colouring-in' sessions. The Countryside Rangers also arranged a number of activities. Pond-dipping was particularly successful with a wide range of water insects, small fish and tadpoles extracted from the ponds.

Finally, thanks to all who have helped in any way over the past 6 months.

**Mary Saunders**

**Lavender:** Cut back lavender that has finished flowering. Don't remove all new growth, but don't be afraid to reduce the shrub to a tight neat shape. This will prolong its life.



**Garden Update:** - Hello again. Despite the rain, the garden has thrived, giving an impressive display and we have been working hard to replace or cut back plants that were lost or damaged over the winter. A new bridge has been constructed over one of the water features and I'm sure you will agree it looks splendid. Now it's time for the usual Autumn jobs of tidying up and bulb planting, and of course the Autumn Clean-Up, when I hope to see as many of you as can come to help. Many thanks to those who came along to our events this year - the support from the Friends continues to be very encouraging. I am looking forward to the coming season (whatever the weather!).



**Michael Laird**

*It has been an unpredictable year, but who said gardening was easy? Perhaps it's time to throw in the trowel and pay someone else to do the job!*



### Notes on our Summer Outings



**12 May: Rossie House, Forgandenny.** This visit was a wonderful start to the summer season - we were very fortunate with the weather, despite the forecast. Rossie House was built in 1657 by the Oliphants and over the years it has been much modified and it is now the home of Judy and David Nichol. One group of us toured the gardens, the other took tea, after which we changed over. (cont'd over)

The tour was conducted by Mrs Nichol, who was very interesting and knowledgeable about the plants and the estate. The garden has winding and undulating paths through magnificent rhododendrons and carpets of bluebells. A lovely show of candelabra bordered a stream which flowed into a pool that was home for a heron sculpture by David Annand. Elsewhere there were 2 wooden sculptures carved from trees from the estate. It was hard to believe that, apart from Mr & Mrs Nichol, there was only one full-time gardener and occasional help. All in all a delightful way to spend an afternoon.

**Frank Clish**

**8 June: Cortachy Castle Gardens, by Kirriemuir.** 51 Friends were on board, equipped for all weathers, but we enjoyed a fine afternoon and hardly any rain. First we traversed the Great Strath of Angus - the first Strath in Scotland and a joy to see in the early summer sun. We were met by Lord and Lady Airlie who led us to the Gardens, where the layout was explained to us. We set out in small groups and benefited from having the Gardener, as well as Lady Airlie, to answer our questions. The gardens are large and the time was too short to do them justice. A superb high tea and a blether at the Strathmore Arms completed the outing, and we headed home, tired but with a sense of an afternoon well spent!

**George Grant**

**21 July: Castle Fraser - NTS house, garden and estate.** In the foothills of the Grampians, we paused for coffee at the Clatterin' Brig, with its banks of glowing bell heather and bright willowherb, then journeyed over Cairn o'Mount, crossing Deeside at Ballater to Castle Fraser, with its immaculately maintained gardens. We went our own ways to snack in the Kitchen Café (when space permitted), tour the castle rooms, pant up the tower to revel in the view, or walk the quiet woodland paths. The delightful walled garden and the vast numbers and diversity of varieties absorbed the enthusiasts and identification baffled even the experts. But we had to make for Inverurie where the attraction had to be the Bervie Chipper, after which we dozed homeward replete.



**Barry Crawshaw**

**20-23 June: Alnwick and the Gardens of Northumberland.** 33 Friends departed by coach to travel south, and after picking up our tour manager, Andrea Cameron, in Edinburgh, we journeyed to Alnwick Garden, our first official stop. This unique garden project was inspired by the Duchess of Northumberland and has already established itself as a major attraction. One of the many delights of this visit was watching a group of nursery school children enjoying themselves in and out of the water features. After lunch we continued our journey to Durham and the Marriott Royal County Hotel, our 'home' for the next few days. The following morning, we visited the gardens of Belsay Hall, a classical brownstone mansion built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the design of its owner, Sir Charles Monck. The Quarry Garden was very dramatic with towering cliffs. Our afternoon visit was to Cragside House and Gardens at Rothbury where strong legs were required to tackle the steep paths! On Wednesday morning, we enjoyed the warm sunshine at Crook Hall, a mediaeval manor house and garden in Durham, and in the afternoon many of the group chose to make their way to the Cathedral, one of the most beautiful in England. Our destination on the last day was to Howick Hall Garden & Arboretum, a grand late 18<sup>th</sup> century house overlooking a series of balustraded terraces linked with steps. The Bog Garden was a real delight with a colourful display of plants. Our final visit was to Lamberton Nursery to purchase a few plants and enjoy teas and coffees before making our way back to Broughty Ferry. My thanks to all who made this a very happy and friendly trip.



**Mary Saunders**

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**New borders** - NOW is a good time to assess your garden and plan the complete overhaul of tired, overgrown beds. So clear the decks (very satisfying) and prepare for Autumn planting. Heavy earth may need the effect of winter frost, wind and rain. (No problem there then ....)





- PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Autumn/Winter programme  
2011/2012

**2011**

Friday-Sunday  
2-4 September

Dundee Flower & Food Festival  
Camperdown Country Park. Details in local Press.

Wednesday  
28 September

Annual General Meeting  
Age Concern Hall - 7.30 pm  
See separate sheet

Saturday  
1 October  
10 am - 2 pm

Autumn Clean-up - Join the regulars, even for a short time - we do have breaks for coffee and lunch - and it's amazing how much can be accomplished with a band of cheery Friends! Hope to come? - please phone 477761, or any Committee member. Any questions about anything - same tel no before 9.30 am on the day. Contributions for catering always welcome.

**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.

**2011**

Wednesday  
26 October

**'Bhutan Expedition'**  
Julia Corden, Explorers' Garden, Pitlochry

Wednesday  
23 November

**'The Christies Down Under'**  
Ian Christie, Alpine Nursery, Westmuir

**2012**

Wednesday  
22 February

**'The Upper Engadine' (Switzerland)**  
Michael Almond, Angus Rock Garden Group

Wednesday  
28 March

**Members' Night**



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