



RHS garden in Salford

continued

Stuart Smith. It was a delight with alliums swaying with grasses in the flower beds and in true paradise tradition a pond in the middle, with rills running by.

There were two choices of places to eat with the more traditional cafe next to the entrance and The Shepherd's Hut at the back of the walled garden. How lucky are the people of Salford to have this wonderful garden on their doorstep!

Elizabeth Taylor




Britain in Bloom award for Dundee

We were pleased to learn that once again we have been awarded a 'Green Flag' for the Garden and 'Outstanding' for the work the Friends undertake towards the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' award. However, this year Dundee did very well in its awards too.

In August, judges visited Dundee as one of the finalists for the RHS Britain in Bloom award (city category). They started at the Rock Garden with a Council presentation on the Friends/garden groups around the city (there are several). After a short tour by the Friends of part of the Rock Garden, a summary of the Council poppy/wildflower planting over the road, they visited other community gardens around the city - in torrential rain! The Bonnie Dundee entry was one of three finalists competing with London Borough of Havering (London in Bloom) and eventual winners, Wrexham in Bloom (Wales in Bloom). Everyone was delighted with a silver gilt award.

Editor

Weather challenges

Today	Thu 13th	Fri 14th	Sat 15th
 14° 2°	 7° 1°	 9° -1°	 4° -5°

What strange winter weather we have been having. Our weather watcher, Harry Rogers, gives us a monthly report.

In December the lowest temperature was -5° and the highest 14°, the average being 8.7° daytime; 3.1° night-time. Not typical festive season weather. He also monitors rainfall. Our newsletter this time last year reported on flooding after Autumn rains. However, lately the soil seems to have been very dry. Harry has confirmed this, as there was only 74ml in December and 36ml in January (cf 174ml December 20023).

All in all, along with storms, the weather is a challenge for gardening.

Editor

Calendar of events

It is disappointing to hear that it is very unlikely that there will be any band concerts this year. We are hopeful, however, that the Council are continuing with the ranger and library events. Some details have still to be finalised. If not available at the time of print, they will be available on the Council website and posters on display in the Rock Garden. We will also email members with the information.

Activities for Children

Countryside Rangers: See above.

Storytelling for the 5s and under with Dundee Libraries:

Tuesday 29th July 11am to 11.30 am

Tuesday 5th August 11am to 11.30 am

Tuesday 12th August 11am to 11.30am

Summer Outings (see previous page for details)

Tuesday 27th May: Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh

Wednesday 25th June: Pitmuies Gardens, Guthrie, Angus

Thursday 24th July: Dunninald Castle Gardens, Montrose

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**Friends of the
Barnhill Rock Garden**



Friends of the
BARNHILL ROCK GARDEN

Spring Newsletter 2025

From the Editor Once again, I am currently drafting this from Australia. I was, however, keeping abreast with weather in the UK as storm Éowyn approached these Isles. The 5th Storm of the season (apparently it starts in September) and we are not long clear of the after effects of the last severe one. It was some relief to see the Dundee area just outside the red warning area and a greater relief to hear from Michael that all was well after it passed. This newsletter will bring you abreast of our recent activities and those to come.

Anne Hesketh



Little Blue Tokens

The saying goes "Points make prizes" and this can be said about our last two ventures into Tesco funding, namely "Tesco Bags for life" and "Tesco Stronger for Life". We have been very lucky with both of these and this has enabled us to further expand on what we can provide for children within the garden setting.

In the past we have provided tree trails, bird trails and the planting of bulbs. However, with some small grant funding we were able to buy in wildflower plugs for planting in the wildflower meadow, along with garden carpet games. The children also continued to enjoy filling up the bug hotel with twigs, etc. It is nice that they have taken ownership for this.

More recently, with additional Tesco funding, we have bought

in the services of craft teachers whose activities the children have not only enjoyed, but have been a great distraction from the usual things they have done in the past. This funding has also come in useful in providing bird box kits, which the rangers used for some of their demonstrations. The children ended up taking them home, even if not completed, for their parents to help them finish. These not only provide a diversity but enabled the children to enjoy the garden from many aspects.

The funding, therefore, has been very useful to enable us to plan extrinsic events, no matter the additional cost. The gardener, Michael Laird, and I will continue this in 2025 and have even more calendar events planned for any visiting children. This, of course,



could not be possible if it were not for people choosing us for funding through the little blue tokens. Thank you all for your help.

Ann Taylor

From the Chairman

The weather this winter has not been too bad, with no snow to date and little prolonged frosty weather. However, we have had some severe gales which luckily did very little damage to the garden. The Committee continues to meet monthly and has been busy planning three summer outings (see opposite).

The two Winter talks, which have already taken place at time of writing, were 'Lochee to Buckingham Palace' by Alex Garty and 'Iceland - A Virtual Field Trip' by Val Vannet. Both were well attended and very well received. By the time you receive this newsletter, two further talks will have taken place.

In my last newsletter report, I said that we hoped to see the renewal of the electric cabling to the pumps. We have been told recently, that expected funds are now NOT available. We (the Friends) had offered to contribute £6000 to this project. We are now busy looking at other methods of fundraising.

To date, there has been no progress on replacing the wooden bridge, which gave access over the water feature, and it seems unlikely that community services can replace the old bridge. We are looking at other ways to get this done as well.

John Grocott

Michael's gardening tip

Remove dead and diseased branches in spring to encourage new growth. Always clean your pruning saw to prevent the spread of disease. **Michael Laird**



From the Gardening Team

Every Monday, a large group of volunteers from 'The Friends' continue to meet to get 'stuck in' to various jobs. This Autumn and Winter, we have been adding plants and bulbs to the scree areas, which we feel are one of the special attractions of the Rock Garden. We have also decided to re-plant some areas of the Helen Fleming Bed. This large bed at the West end was renovated by the Friends some years ago and in need of some rejuvenation. We also intend to add additional plants in the Snowdrop Wood area. After the lovely display of aconites and snowdrops in the Spring, this area tends to look unkempt. Finally, the beds around the Geddes Glasshouse will be 'topped up' with additional plants.



From the Gardener

Once again, I'm pleased to say, the garden was on the Scottish snowdrop festival for our spectacular display in the snowdrop wood in Spring. As soon as we started back in January, we were busy pruning several areas in the garden requiring attention, as well as clearing up two large branches resulting from the storm. Removing any dead branches across the garden provides better access throughout. We then moved on to mulching several borders to continually improve soil nutrients, to help plant growth.

We will try, once more, to replant the old unofficial east entrance with more

We are continuing our vegetable growing efforts in the raised planters in the Geddes area. This year we are hoping to have more success with carefully chosen vegetable varieties. In the Nursery Area, we are propagating and growing plants for use in the garden. In the Spring, we shall be re-opening the plant table for sales.

John Grocott



substantial plants, as this has been replaced with a new east entrance. We will enhance the planting around this entrance as well. We will also be removing brambles from an area in the garden that has become infested by the plant. This could be a big and prickly job!

Once mulching has been completed, I hope to get the compost and dump area fit for the new season with the removal of prunings and emptying of the compost heap. We will replace the tree trail signs around the garden as the old ones have deteriorated over time and some are missing. Seed sowing will once again begin in the spring to help fill areas in the garden.

I am looking forward to another season ahead. As always, we will try to achieve all our awards and help set up the few events the garden hosts though out the year. Thank you once again for your continued support. It is much appreciated!!

Michael Laird

SUMMER OUTINGS 2025

All summer outings leave **opposite Broughty Ferry library at differing times.**

© Royal Botanic Gardens



© Pitmuies



© John Carracher



Tuesday 27th May 2025 - Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh

Leaving Broughty Ferry library at 10.00 am, we will drive straight to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. The Gardens, founded in 1670, cover many acres, and have many plant collections from all over the world, as well as large glasshouses with collections of

plants from palms to succulents. There are many eateries and sitting areas within the garden for visitors. Our return journey will include a comfort break at Kinross, and we anticipate arriving back in Broughty Ferry around 5.30pm.

Wednesday 25 June 2025 - Pitmuies Gardens, Angus

Our second outing is to Pitmuies Gardens, leaving opposite the library at 13.00. Pitmuies has been the Ogilvie family home since 1945; however, its history goes back to the 1500s, and the walled garden back before 1780. Its present form was substantially developed under the Ogilvies. Today there

are herbaceous borders, roses, a kitchen garden and lochside and woodland walks. From there we will visit Brechin Castle Garden Centre around 16.00 where booked tables will be provided for purchased refreshments. We anticipate being back in Broughty Ferry around 18.00 hrs.

Thursday 24 July - Dunninald Castle Garden, Montrose

Leaving beside Broughty Ferry Library at 1.00pm, we travel to Dunninald Castle arriving at approximately 2.00pm. Close to Fishtown of Usan, near Montrose, the castle grounds have several interesting features. These include an acclaimed, 2 acre walled garden, planted with rose borders, traditional mixed borders, vegetables, herbs and soft fruits and fruit trees.

At its best in July, this garden has been in existence for almost two hundred years. It also offers lovely and peaceful woodland walks and, in the Spring, displays of snowdrops and bluebells. Having looked round the garden, we will go for tea/coffee and a scone/cake at the Old Boatyard, Arbroath. We anticipate arriving home at approximately 5.30pm.

RHS garden in Salford

As indicated in our last newsletter, we are now giving full justice to the visit/report on the newly developed RHS garden in Salford.

The much-anticipated visit to RHS Bridgewater was a full day in our 'Gardens of Cheshire' trip. The garden is so new it doesn't yet feature on the Ordnance Survey map. In 2017 the RHS took over this neglected estate and house (demolished in 1940) and slowly transformed it into a garden fit for the 21st century, whilst retaining some of its original features.

There was something for everyone: ponds, lake, streams, ducks, geese, Chinese Garden, Walled Garden (inner and outer),

community projects, vegetables, grasses, rhubarb trials, new trees grown from old trees, cafés, and a well-stocked shop.

(I regret now not lingering longer in the shop, but who in June is thinking of Christmas presents?)

After the excitement of exploring the restored Chinese Garden, it was a contrast to meander through the Paradise Garden, designed by Tom

