

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 23rd APRIL 2007

www.colintongardens.org.uk

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

AGENDA FOR THE 28TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at 8.00pm on Monday 23rd April 2007
In Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of 27th AGM on 24 April 2006
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Chairperson's Report
5. Secretary's Report on the activities of the Club
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Approval of the Accounts for the year 1st September 2005
to 31st August 2006
8. Report on the Finances of the Club in the current year
9. Appointment of the Auditor for the year 2007–8
10. Nominations to the Committee
11. Election of Office Bearers for 2007– 2008
12. Any Other Business.

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24th. APRIL 2006 AT DREGHORN LOAN HALL

At the outset of the meeting the Chairperson, Isobel Lodge, informed members of the death of Joyce Carlile. The meeting showed respect by a minute's silence. Our condolences are expressed to Robert Carlile, a past Chairperson of the Club

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Gill Perry, Dina Milne, James Smith and Jess Duffy.

2. Minutes of meeting on Monday 25th. April 2005

The minutes were approved and proposed for adoption by Bryan Dale and seconded by Elizabeth Ferro.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered in the agenda.

4. Chairperson's report

This has been an exciting and eventful year for Colinton Garden Club with a number of new ventures and our celebration of twenty five years of the Club. In June 2005 the Gardening Scotland Show took place and Colinton participated for the first time in a micro gardening competition. A small group designed and constructed a miniature Colinton within the confines of a

pallet, one metre square. Although it did not win a prize, it was a splendid effort and attracted considerable attention from the public. Isobel thanked the team working on the pallet garden for their cooperation and help with this project. The Club will submit an entry to the 2006 Gardening Scotland competition.

At our Open Gardens morning on Saturday 4th June, members enjoyed wandering in the lovely gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Innes, Miss Mclaughlin and Mr. and Mrs. Duffy in the Torphin and Woodfield areas of Colinton. The plant sale raised a record sum.

The sun shone for the Garden Club outing on Saturday 9th July. We visited Kellie Castle in Fife, where, after refreshments, members dallied in the scented rose bowers of the ancient walled garden. Picnics in St Andrews and then a visit to the sheltered garden of Cambo followed. Each visit was accompanied by an informative guided tour and it was a truly glorious day.

The Club season started on 26th September with a lecture on alpines by Professor David Rankin who showed spectacular slides of the Alps in three continents with beautiful, vividly coloured flowers. All the lectures, this year have had excellent attendances and this is evidence of the consistent quality and the diversity of subjects selected and facilitated by Jonathan Davey.

The Plant Sale held in the Episcopal Church Hall on 8th October was also a popular event, and members were able to buy plants and bulbs at knock down prices, and exchange information. The profit was less than the previous year, but still healthy.

On 24th October, three representatives from LEEP told us about recycling and gave us tips on sorting our greens and browns for the best mixture in the compost heap. They even donated a green plastic receptacle which was raffled at the Christmas party. Our second environmental lecture took place on 27th February when

Peter Levy from the Centre of Ecology and Hydrology gave an overview of climate change and gardening in the future.

On 28th. November, George Mackay took the Club for a journey across the Andes to Auchtermuchty, when he explored the origins of the humble potato. On 23rd. January, members revisited the scene of the memorable summer outing in the company of Sinclair Williamson, Property Manager at Kellie Castle, and on 27th. March Billy Carruthers of Binny Plants dazzled with his description of exotic peonies.

The Christmas Party is an important event in the calendar but this year it had stellar status as the sparkling silver anniversary celebration. Everyone was asked to wear something silver and the atmosphere was warm and friendly. Everyone participated in the fiendish quizzes. Members were entertained to a pantomime with the largest cast ever, including a Greek chorus, entitled, “OUTING TO THE LOST GARDENS OF HELLAGAIN”! The evening ended with traditional carols.

On 1st. April, the Club held its second workshop event at the Botanics. The subject was plant division and it was held in the nursery gardens in Inverleith.

The Garden Club, like all good growing plants has developed an offshoot in the form of a club for children held in conjunction with Colinton School. With the approval of the Committee, Johanna Carrie and Isobel have been conducting sessions with the help of a teacher. The children have been enthusiastic in their feedback and attendance has been good. The Club and the School are supporting an entry to the Pallet Garden competition at Gardening Scotland, so the Club will be represented on two fronts.

Our summer programme this year includes an evening visit to Alex Kerr's garden in Observatory Road on 29th May; and our Open Gardens and Plant Sale on the morning of 10th June when three gardens in Bonaly Road and Fernielaw will be open to members. We do appreciate the kindness of all these gardeners as there is nothing we gardeners like better than observing gardens and gaining ideas. Our outing on 8th July promises to be an exciting trip to three famous gardens in the Borders.

The Garden Club has strong roots and a solid stem and it is growing and thriving under the loving care of the Committee and members. Members help in many ways such as distributing newsletters, posters and assisting at meetings. We owe a particular debt of gratitude to Margaret McDougall and Carol Lumsden who have done a wonderful job for a number of years organizing the catering for meetings and events.

The Committee comprises a group of very special people. Each has brought his or her particular skills to the roles required and they form a valuable and hard working team. Without their dedication, the Club would wither. Although those currently in office will remain in post until September, there are three who do not seek re-election and, inevitably, this will bring some change in responsibilities. Sonia Duffy, who has masterminded our website, is willing to extend this to editing the newsletter, taking over from Alasdair Ferguson who will take over the post of Secretary. Sadly, James Smith cannot continue in the post of Implements Officer but Gill Perry has offered to take over the implements and we are very grateful to her. Jo McEwan, our Library Officer, has agreed to take over as Treasurer, where her efficiency and creativity should prove invaluable. Unfortunately, Dina Milne has been unable to continue as Purchasing Officer due to work demands but will continue to support Club activities whenever she can. Linda Innes, our popular and effective Membership Secretary, will continue in this role, and Alison

Gilchrist will continue to manage the laborious job of Bulb Purchaser. Dawn Ellis, who joined the Committee last year has been an ever willing and enthusiastic supporter, will take over as Purchasing Officer. Jonathan Davey is an incredible source of knowledge and he has arranged all our speakers, workshops and outings. He has decided to vacate his post at this juncture but will continue on the Committee as advisor.

For six years, Mitchell MacLean has guided and protected the Club's finances. With unfailing good humour and sage advice, he has made a huge contribution to the Club in all aspects, and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Christopher Davies has performed his role as Secretary with skill, aplomb and expertise. He has agreed to stand for the position of Chairperson and we commend him to you in the knowledge that he has all the abilities to make him a very capable successor.

After at least ten years as Chairperson, albeit not continuously, Isobel feels that it is time to go. She has loved her time in the post and thank all for their support and friendship.

5 Secretary's report on the activities of the club

Christopher Davies thanked Isobel Lodge on behalf of the Committee and the Members for her tenure as Chairperson, having taken over from Pam Hume two years ago. Isobel is standing down at her request in order to be able to give more time to her many other interests, but she will remain an active and committed member of the Club.

Isobel has the attributes one looks for in a Chairperson: knowledge, experience, commitment and dedication to carry out

the job very professionally and in the best interests of the Club. She runs a tight Committee meeting and gets the business done.

Isobel has the ability to make a seemingly impromptu opening to meetings and when the situation requires, to present a poetic, appropriate and witty vote of thanks.

Above all, her contribution as master-mind of the Christmas cabarets, which we reinstated three years ago, has made this one of our most popular events.

Christopher asked members to join him in thanking Isobel for her contributions as Chairperson over the past two years, and confirmed that her thespian skills will remain absolutely at our disposal!

The Club aims to provide the Members with an informal forum where they can meet like-minded people, exchange information, and learn something interesting – in the form of an entertaining talk or other diversion. Our membership has increased to 188 paid-up household-members, compared to 181 this time last year.

Societies such as the Garden Club are a real resource for Colinton and contribute substantially to the feeling of community and the quality of life here.

Our activities can be divided into three areas: programme, services and administration.

Our **programme** covers eight meetings a year plus workshop, open gardens and an annual outing, and this is the core of our activity, and its success owes much to Jonathan Davey.

Services includes *Implement Loans* – as usual the scarifier has been the item by far in most demand. and in future Gill Perry

will be the contact point for implements. Our popular *Library*, until now run by Jo McEwan assisted by Mary Davey is continuing as a popular asset. 89 books and 11 videos loaned out.

Fertiliser Orders went without a hitch in the Spring, although we were not able to offer this service in Autumn 2005. The *Bulb Orders* programme continues to be popular.

The whole area of **administration** covers a number of items, including minute taking (or record keeping) and *communications and publicity* – newsletter, posters and sound system (sometimes a tricky subject). Our purchase of a “data projector” at the beginning of 2005 has proved to be a popular and useful asset, enabling our speakers to project their images in large scale, bright colour and for us to make mini-presentations as part of our regular meetings. As a result the use of dimly lit slides is becoming the exception. Members can make use of this facility by inviting us to feature their gardens, plants or gardening hobbies. Either let us have your own (digital) pictures or invite us to photograph on your behalf.

Our **website** is becoming more and more relevant and an important source of information for the broadband generation, and viewing figures are increasing. It contains current and previous newsletters, details of meetings, photographs of events, ordering details for bulbs and fertilisers, and library catalogue. Members can contact office bearers by direct email.

Chris asked members to confirm their email address when renewing their subscription. This will not be disclosed to other organisations, but from time to time, we may contact members via email on Club business. Our newsletter is on the website, but we plan to continue to send out hard copy as we believe most members appreciate this.

The role of *Membership Secretary* requires – and gets - perfect data management, receipt of subscriptions, updating of our data base, issuing of membership booklets and the ability to cope with stress when everyone rushes to pay at the same time!

Chris asked members to pay their subscriptions as soon as possible after receiving the reminder with the August newsletter. We will not be increasing the annual subscription (£5) for the year 2006/7. We hope you agree this is extremely good value, covering as it does a household (not just individuals).

We could not function without the generous help from so many people, from putting out chairs, managing refreshments, distributing newsletters, putting up posters. We are always looking for new members and if you would like to participate in the hands-on running of the Club just give us a signal!

The most important people are you the members. Without you we would have no meaning or justification. It is your presence and support that motivate and inspire us. Coming to the meetings, and taking part in our activities provides that “buzz” that makes Colinton Garden Club something important and special.

Chris asked if there were any questions, but there were none at this time.

6. Treasurer’s report

Mitchell MacLean reported information concerning the financial situation of the club. The reserves had been reduced as compared to previous years, and the main reason for this was the purchase of a new projector. In spite of the increased costs of

events and outings, the financial result for the year was a surplus of £8.

7 Approval of the Accounts for the year 1st September 2004 – 31st August 2005

There was discussion about the fact that the accounts which were being discussed were for the year ended 31st. August 2005, and whether it might be possible to move the AGM to a date earlier in the session so that they might be more up-to-date at the time of discussion. The alternative might be to change the accounts “year ending” date to another date. The general feeling of the meeting was that it was not necessary to change the dates of the financial year or that of the AGM. It was agreed that the Committee would discuss ways of keeping members informed of updated estimates of the latest financial situation. On this subject Mitchell indicated that the Club was currently operating at a reasonable surplus.

The acceptance of this report having been duly proposed by Elizabeth Ferro and seconded by Jonathan Davey, the accounts were adopted.

8. Appointment of the Auditor for 2006 - 2007

Iain Copland was nominated again as auditor. This proposal was accepted having been duly proposed by Mitchell Maclean and seconded by Pat Taylor.

9. Nominations to the Committee

Pat Taylor, being proposed by Alasdair Ferguson and seconded by Elizabeth Ferro, and Johanna Carrie, proposed by John Lodge and seconded by Christopher Davies, were appointed to the Committee.

It was noted that there was a vacancy on the committee, and anyone interested should contact a member of the committee.

10. Election of Office Bearers for 2006 - 2007

The following changes were noted:

Christopher Davies was nominated as Chairperson by Jonathan Davey, and was seconded by Alasdair Ferguson.

Jo McEwan was nominated as Treasurer by Mitchell Maclean and seconded by Elizabeth Ferro.

Alasdair Ferguson was nominated as Secretary by Isobel Lodge and was seconded by Mitchell Maclean.

It was proposed that the other members of the committee not standing down, should continue as committee members. This was proposed by Mary Davey and seconded by
xxxxxxx

It was agreed that unfilled roles on the committee should be discussed and agreed at the next committee meeting.

11. Any Other Business

Isobel Lodge asked that the Colinton Primary School Garden Club were looking for small pots – anyone able to donate some should contact Johanna Carrie or Isobel Lodge.

Similarly anyone able to offer practical help with the construction of the pallets for the Primary School Garden entry

into the Gardening Scotland competition, should contact Johanna or Isobel.

There was some discussion about the date of the Dalgety Bay talk about Alnwick Garden – this was later confirmed as Friday 5th. May 2006, 7.30 p.m.

Isobel Lodge gave a brief outline of some of the proposed talks in the 2006-2007 session, and these met with approval.

It was proposed by Isobel Lodge that Margaret MacDougall and Carol Lumsden, who have helped out with refreshments over a number of years, should become Honorary Members. Alasdair Ferguson seconded this proposal.

Elizabeth Ferro reminded members that the Royal Botanic gardens of Edinburgh Plant sale will take place on Sunday 14th. May 2006 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting duly closed and was followed by a social get-together of those members present.

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 August 2006

	2006	2006	2005	2005
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions & Donations	910		855	
Party & Outings	1,549		1,017	
Plant Sales }	2,014		377	
Sales of Materials }			2,567	
Interest	60		121	
Sundry	<u>12</u>		<u>24</u>	
		4,545		4,961
Less:				
Materials for Resale		<u>1,537</u>		<u>2,237</u>
		3,008		2,724
EXPENDITURE				
Affiliation & Donations	20		20	
Cost of Meetings	241		222	
Printing & Stationery	194		105	
Postage & Telephone	107		80	
Outings & Functions	1,571		1,495	
Repairs & Maintenance	9		62	
Rental & Insurance	264		279	
Sundry	38		10	
Depreciation & Write Off	<u>336</u>		<u>443</u>	
		<u>2,780</u>		<u>2,716</u>
NET SURPLUS		<u>£228</u>		<u>£8</u>

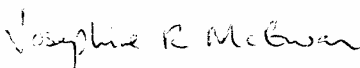
COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 August 2006

	2006	2006	2005	2005
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tools & Equipment	844		1,126	
Book Library	<u>160</u>		<u>203</u>	
		1,004		1,329
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash	35		10	
Building Society	175		173	
Bank	3,876		2,972	
Debtors	<u>0</u>		<u>142</u>	
		<u>4,086</u>		<u>3,297</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		5,090		4,626
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors		266		30
		<u>£4,824</u>		<u>£4,596</u>
RESERVES Brought Forward		4,596		4,588
SURPLUS for Year		<u>228</u>		8
		<u>£4,824</u>		<u>£4,596</u>

Josephine R McEwan

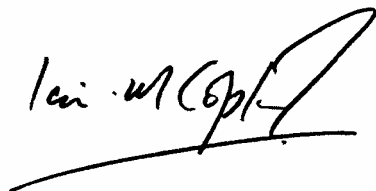


Hon Treasurer

These Accounts are in accordance with the Books and Records supplied.

They represent a true Statement of the Club's financial position at at 31 August 2006

Iain M Copland



Hon Auditor

