

# Colinton Garden Club

Newsletter 88

November 2009



## Coming soon...

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
November, 8 p.m.**  
"The Redwood  
Trail, California and  
Oregon" – Ian  
Douglas, Scottish  
Rhododendron  
Society

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>  
December, 8 pm**  
Our annual  
Christmas  
extravaganza - get  
into the festive  
mood with an  
evening of fun,  
entertainment and  
refreshments!

**Membership**  
If you haven't  
renewed your  
membership please  
do so as soon as  
possible – please  
see page 3 for  
details

## From the pen of our Chair...



### Dear Friends

The glorious, multi-coloured Autumnal display at this time of year is an affirmation of Nature's splendour and at the same time an advance compensation for the darker and colder winter days which we know will be coming soon. How fortunate we are in Colinton, against the backdrop of the Pentland Hills, to have such a wealth of trees with their profusion of golden foliage, changing gradually into ever richer hues, delighting our eye and imagination. The acer in our garden is glowing a fiery red and the shrubs, though past

their best, are still full of colour and texture.

Such was the panorama that welcomed us on our return after 3 weeks in Switzerland, where in an Alpine village, we experienced three seasons in three weeks: hot summer, crisp autumn, and the first winter snow. There is drama in the mountains, but a lot can be said for the gentler landscapes and contrasts of the Pentlands and the Water of Leith.

So another year has started for the Garden Club, and it has started well.

Welcome to our new members (20 at the time of writing). We are sure that you will find fellowship in the Club and we invite you to participate in our activities by contributing your ideas, for topics, workshops or outings. Old hands know how it works: have a quiet word with a Committee Member and we will follow up.

New people mean new ideas, and new ideas mean new life!

At our first meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September, Ian and Carole Bainbridge expertly described and illustrated Alpine Plants of Scotland, showing how these hardy and beautiful plants, great survivors, seek out appropriate environments for their existence. Ian was optimistic that they would continue to adapt. The Plant Sale & Coffee morning on 10<sup>th</sup> October was very well attended, with an excellent result. Thank you to all who supported this event. The Committee is particularly grateful for the expertise and assistance of the helpers, including Elizabeth Ferro, Ann Dean and Mitchell MacLean. On 26<sup>th</sup> October, Professor Robert Crawford spoke to us on "A Plant View of Climatic Warming". Here in  
*/continued overleaf*

**Treasurer's Report on the financial situation as at the end of October 2009**

Our Treasurer and Bulb Coordinator writes:

We had a very successful take-up for Parker's Bulbs this year, and we distributed no less than 75 kilos of bulbs. For those of you who have ordered bulbs, I will contact you as soon as they arrive.

I am pleased to report that there was a similar good response to the Fertiliser Orders, both in Spring and Autumn.

Together with the equally successful Plant Sale in October, we have banked around £600 and the total assets of the Garden Club now stand at around £7500, though this will reduce as we pay our bills over the coming months.

*Elsbeth MacGregor*  
Treasurer & Bulb Coordinator



**From the pen of our Chair... continued**

*/continued from page 1*  
an accomplished wide-ranging survey, he illustrated how plants survive and how environments adapt to changes, and expressed his view that the human race will do the same.

You will see the details of forthcoming events in your membership booklet, or for updated information you can refer anytime to our website, conscientiously maintained by Sonia Duffy, with current and past newsletters, photo-gallery and factsheets where available.

Our Christmas Party will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, in our usual venue. This always a popular event, having a well earned reputation for good humour and bonhomie. The highlight is the performance of a specially written play, where the keen, amateur cast do their best to meet the expectations of the audience and the demands of the Author/ Actress/ Director, Isobel Lodge. For practical reasons, we have to limit numbers attending, so access is for members only and by ticket only, please. Tickets are available, £6 per person, which includes a glass of wine (or soft drink) and refreshments. If you want to come, don't hesitate. Phone me on 441 2152, or email [chair@colintongardens.org.uk](mailto:chair@colintongardens.org.uk) to reserve your places.

Consistent with our interest in the natural environment, the Garden Club is active in community projects. Members gave hands-on help with the Colinton Primary School "Room to Grow" Garden which was featured on BBC TV Beechgrove in September. The Amenity Association much appreciates our helping with looking after "The Triangle" in the village, and we are also involved with the Colinton Community Conservation Trust "Long Steps" project. Chris Seiler spoke about this at our meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Ann Dean is the person to contact in the Garden Club if you would like to help.

Finally, Colinton Garden Club is a Council Member of the Scottish Gardeners' Forum (SGF) and through this we actively contribute to the wider scene in Scotland. The SGF publishes a quarterly newsletter (of which I am editor), which you can access on the internet. If you would like to receive this by email, see the details on page 3 of this newsletter.

Perhaps you are contemplating the final grass cut of the year, or facing repeated raking-up of falling leaves. Either way – or both – we wish you clear, crisp November weather, satisfaction at a job well done, and

**Happy Gardening!**

Christopher Davies

**COLINTON HONEY for sale: £3.50/500g pot**

This has been a poor year for honey, so there is a limited amount available.

To order, telephone Jean Haskell on 441 3242 (she may be able to deliver the honey).

## Membership 2009/10

The vast majority of our members have renewed for 2009/10. But if you haven't renewed your membership please do so as soon as possible – by sending your subscription to Colin Whitehead, 21 Laverockdale Park, Edinburgh EH13 0QE and enclosing a stamped addressed envelope to receive your membership booklet. At £5 per household, this must be the bargain of the century!

Also just a reminder that you can also opt to receive your regular newsletter on-line rather than hand-delivered – just let Colin know.

## Scottish Gardeners Forum

The Scottish Gardeners' Forum Newsletter is published quarterly and contains interesting articles and information about Gardening and Garden Clubs in Scotland. If you would like a copy you will find it (and previous issues) on the website

[www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk](http://www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk)

... or you can order a copy to be sent to you by email by writing to Alex Rutherford at

[secretary@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk](mailto:secretary@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk)



## Dates for your diary...

Date	Event
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2009	Meeting: "The Redwood Trail, California and Oregon" Ian Douglas, Scottish Rhododendron Society
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2009	Members' Christmas Party Festive fun!
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2010	Meeting: "Creating a Country Garden" Margaret Kilpatrick (Hon Member Colinton Garden Club)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010	Meeting: "Growing and Showing Roses" Iain Silver, National Rose Society
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2010	Meeting: "Birds in Your Garden" Stan da Prato, Wildlife Conservationist
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2010	Annual General Meeting
Saturday in May/ June 2010	Open Gardens Date to be confirmed nearer the time
Saturday in June/ July 2010	Summer outing Date to be confirmed nearer the time

## Ho Ho Ho!!



## Christmas

## Party 2009!

Don't forget our Christmas party is on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December starting at 8.00 pm (doors open at 7.45 pm)

Tickets for this event (£6 each) are now available and are going fast. To reserve a place, phone Christopher Davies on 441 2152, or email [chair@colintongardens.org.uk](mailto:chair@colintongardens.org.uk) - or contact any Garden Club Committee Member.