

SCOTTISH GARDENERS' FORUM

Newsletter

Vol 8: Issue 3



Autumn 2010



www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

AUTUMN 2010

EDITORIAL

SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

It's been a good summer! Perhaps a few too many showers for us humans, but judging from the lush growth, the gardens have had a 'field-day'. As I wrote in my local newsletter "Gardening is a dialogue with Nature. It is an inspiring partnership in which the unexpected is the companion to the achievement." So be it! Now enjoy the Autumn.

We hope you find this issue of the Newsletter interesting.

Happy Gardening!

Christopher Davies (Editor)

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The Scottish Gardeners' Forum exists to provide the communication link between Scotland's many horticulturally-oriented organisations. The Council (see back cover) meets regularly to discuss matters of interest, either to horticulture as a whole, or members in particular. One of our concerns is that individual clubs should flourish in their local context, benefiting from the experience of the SGF as a whole, and in turn responding to the requests for information from other members. We invite you to send your questions to the Secretary (or to any Council Member listed):

Alex Rutherford, Flat 1/1 21 Highburgh Rd, Dowanhill, Glasgow G12 9YG
0141 334 6523, email secretary@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Our cover picture shows a view of the Japanese Water Garden, Stobo, near Peebles. Here you can enjoy an inspiring combination of water, shrubs and landscape, waiting to be discovered in a magical hidden valley. (Visits by prior arrangement – see website).

OUR CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Friends

By the time you receive this Newsletter we will be into September and I'm reluctant to say it, but where has this year gone?

I hope you are all having a very productive and successful growing season even with the challenges that Mother Nature continues to send us.

The SGF had another good turnout at Gardening Scotland by non members for our Pallet Garden Challenge and our new Planter Challenge. We continue to increase the numbers from schools and other organisations. However it was rather disappointing that more of our own members didn't take up the challenge of taking part. Out of 52 pallets 5 were SGF members and out of 34 planters one was from an SGF member. I would like to encourage and support as many of you as I can to take part. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me.

We had a busy time with guests to our stand and were delighted to welcome the Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP who took time to speak to some of the competitors. I was also privileged to show some of our pallets and planters to Mr Masataka Tarahara, the Consul General of Japan and his wife Mrs Naomi Tarahara.

Representatives from Dobbies, our new sponsors, also visited us and were very impressed and supportive of what we are trying to achieve.

I must not forget that we also have members who take stands and help in the main floral hall e.g. Scottish Bonsai Association, Polmont Horticultural Society, Penicuik Horticultural Society and the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, all of whom contribute a great deal to a wonderful show.

Planning has already started for 2011 so please come and join us in next year's event.

Our AGM this year sets out to be a fantastic event on the 30th October at Oatridge College. We have guest speakers Jim Jermyn, horticulturalist, lecturer, author & show manager as well as our favourite TV and radio garden presenter Jim McColl. We will also be having our very own gardeners question time so please come along to test our team with all your garden problems. Further details will be sent out to you all shortly about the AGM but It may be advisable to book early as this will be a very popular day.

I hope you enjoy reading our latest newsletter and I look forward to welcoming your representatives at our AGM in October.

Best wishes.

Jim

A PLEA FROM ANN BUSBY

KEEPING THE REGISTERS UP-TO-DATE

I am in the process of updating the Registers of Speakers and Judges which creates an opportunity to include new contributors. If your organization has had a particularly good speaker or a speaker on an unusual topic I would like to hear about it. Similarly, if you have had someone who has judged at your annual flower show but whose name is not on our Register, I would be interested in following this up. If I am given an initial contact phone number or email address I shall take the matter on from there and explain the system and what is involved in being on the Register.

We would also welcome comments, positive and negative, suggestions and constructive criticism on the contents and information in the Registers. Feedback from organizations is the only method we have to monitor standards, content and usefulness. Passing on your comments will help to ensure that the Registers reflect the needs of the many varied clubs and societies which make up SGF, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

*Ann Busby, Register Secretary.
01436 671352. Annbusbyscot@aol.com*

BILL GRIMMOND – IN MEMORIAM

We were sad to hear of the death of William (Bill) Grimmond who passed away peacefully on Sunday 6th June. We send our sincere condolences to his widow, Averil, their three daughters and grandchildren.

Bill's services to horticulture were recognised by the award to him in 2009 of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society's Certificate of Merit. He was a driving force behind the Bothwell Horticultural Society, occupying the positions of Treasurer,



Secretary, Vice President and President. He had a reputation for enthusiasm and innovation, extending the scope of the Society by, for example organising visits to the Caley Spring Show, including a tour of the RBGE, not forgetting lunch.

Bill was an active and committed Council Member of the Scottish Gardeners' Forum, contributing to the discussions with his wide and mature experience. His congenial nature, combined with gentle good humour made him a popular Council member. He will be greatly missed. His was a life well lived. May he rest in peace.

THE SGF IN ACTION.....

MEMBERSHIP & BENEFITS

The SGF membership is uniquely focused on Societies rather than individuals – the latter focus which RCHS (“The Caley”) already manages with excellence. The Forum’s objectives as expressed in its Constitution are:

- to advance education in the knowledge and best practice of all aspects of gardening and horticulture for the public benefit in Scotland.
- to foster co-operation among general and specialist Horticultural and Gardening Societies/ Clubs/ Associations/ Branches for their mutual benefit.
- to encourage the retention and development of existing and new Societies.
- to provide a voice for the non-professional sector of gardening in Scotland

Membership of the Scottish Gardeners’ Forum includes: -

- Register of Judges – updated regularly
- Register of Speakers – updated regularly
- Register of Societies
- Access to Public Liability Insurance
- A Quarterly Newsletter
- Access to a nationwide network of like minded enthusiasts

SGF WEBSITE

Our website has been redesigned and is being kept regularly up to date, so that it is an efficient source of information, not only for members, but for anyone enquiring about the SGF.

Our intention in redesigning the website was to make it easy to access and navigate and to give you the basic information you are looking for, including details of SGF events, downloadable application forms, who's who and contact addresses, current and back numbers of newsletters and photographs of recent events, for example, the pallet gardens competition. Do make use of this website and let us know how you experience it. If you yourselves do not have a website and are thinking of establishing one, and would like to tap our brains, please get in touch with me: editor@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Please inform your members about the availability of this site and encourage them to visit it.

www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

SGF NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is published four times per year, in March, May, September and December. We are taking care to make it topical, easy to read and entertaining. We would like the circulation to be as wide as possible.

You can help in three ways:

Firstly: contact us, give us feedback, reactions and comments so that we can gear the content to your expectations, avoid “dead wood” and encourage fresh growth.

Secondly: we want the Newsletter to be a forum for the exchange of information and a bridge between the community of gardening clubs (our members) in Scotland. Please let us have relevant details of your events, topical stories of human or gardening interest, club happenings, articles on aspects of gardening in Scotland: basically,

things you would like to share with others. The Newsletter is a resource at your disposal! Use it!

Thirdly: help us with distribution, that is by circulating the printed copies, or better still making your members aware that they can read the Newsletters on line.

Finally, we are introducing the facility for you to receive the Newsletter by email (as a pdf file, which the majority of computers will be able to download and print out if you wish). At this point in time we do not have a full list of members' email addresses, so we have to ask you to notify us.

Please email our secretary, Alex, on:

secretary@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

and we will put you on our mailing list.

For the time being, at least, our Newsletter will continue to be sent to member organisations as a printed version in 'hard copy'.

Items for the Newsletter (quarterly: March/May/September/December) are welcome and should be sent to the Editor: Christopher Davies, 7 West Carnethy Avenue, Edinburgh EH13 0ED: Tel 0131 441 2152,

Email: **editor@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk**

SGF AGM – SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER

Don't miss out on this exciting programme and the chance to meet gardening enthusiasts from all over Scotland – exchange news and make new friends!

SGF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER



Scottish Gardeners' Forum

Secretary: Alexandra Rutherford

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Glasgow
G12 9YG

Tel: 0141 334 6523

Email arutherford@perennial.org.uk

NOTICE OF MEETING

The **Ninth Annual General Meeting** of the Scottish Gardeners' Forum will be held on **Saturday 30th October 2010** at **Oatridge College, Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, EH52 6NH** at **10.00am**

Alexandra Rutherford
Secretary

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

10.00 am: Registration and coffee

10.30 am Annual General Meeting

11.45 am Jim Jermyn

“Walking in the Alps - a diversion for the Show Manager”

12.45 pm Lunch

14.00 pm Jim McColl - Topic to be confirmed

15.00 pm Horticultural Question Time

“Panel – Jim McColl, Ann Burns, Jim Jermyn”

16.00 pm Close

GARDENING SCOTLAND 2010 – LOOKING BACK

BRILLIANT sunshine brought out the crowds at Gardening Scotland 2010 and rain didn't arrive until the Sunday, by which time 35,000 visitors has passed through the gates and exhibitors had reported record-breaking sales

It was a bumper year all round with more exhibitors and more show gardens than ever before. Highlights included the 'Reinforcing Nature' garden by Water Gems which won 'Best in Show' and the brilliant Pallet Gardens, which were once again a star attraction with visitors.

First Minister, Alex Salmond, was an early visitor on the first day of the Show while environment minister Roseanna Cunningham toured the Show on the Friday afternoon, stopping off at many stalls and exhibits and taking time to visit The Big Cooking Bus, which had returned for a second year.

In The Big Back Garden STV gardener Pete Jackson and his colleagues at Earthy combined gardening with recycling and in the drive to make more of us live green lives they also brought a bike made out of bamboo.

Here too the Active Schools campaign kept children, parents and grandparents entertained with lots of energetic activities, including welly throwing contests.

As so many people flocked to Gardening Scotland to replace plants lost during the harsh winter, not only were exhibitors busy but so too were the plant crèches run by Perennial.

Meanwhile in The Living Garden the theme was International Year of Biodiversity, where as well as lots of environmental experts, there was also a 'Pod' garden devoted to the elements of nature.

A full programme of talks and workshops meant that The Beechgrove Theatre was packed for three days and The Beechgrove Garden programme devoted to Gardening Scotland and broadcast on the evening of the first day captured a real flavour of the show.

Many top nurseries, including several that had never exhibited in Scotland before, were represented in The Dobbies Floral Hall and some had almost sold out long before the show finally closed.

Here too were many specialist societies including the Scottish Bonsai Association who, as always, put on a stunning exhibition of trees.

Three local authorities were amongst the exhibitors and they contributed stunning floral displays, alongside the beautiful exhibits created by Quercus, Binny Plants and others.

This was a vintage year for Gardening Scotland and this didn't escape the media who gave the Show more coverage than ever before. The Scotsman devoted the front page picture slot to it on Saturday and on the same day The Herald gave over most of page three to the Show.

And the BBC arrived before breakfast on the Friday and didn't leave until the Show had closed, broadcasting live on TV and radio at intervals throughout the day.

All this was possible not just because of the efforts of the organisers, but because of the huge contribution that specialist societies, volunteers and visitors themselves made to a very successful Show.

Alex Rutherford

SUNTRAP – AN UPDATE

SUNTRAP GARDEN, GOGARBANK, MIDLOTHIAN

Many SGF members will have heard of the Suntrap Garden, near Edinburgh. SGF Council members will certainly know the garden, as they will have spent many happy hours at meetings there! Some of you may have noticed a number of reports in the national press in June, that, following a review of its available resources and in consequence a curtailment of future spending plans, Oatridge College was proposing to withdraw its support for the garden, and consolidate all its horticultural teaching activities on the main site at Oatridge.

First of all, an understanding of the history of the garden will help readers understand what is happening now. The land where Suntrap is now located was formerly the home of George Boyd Anderson, M.B.E., M.C. He started the garden in 1956. In 1966, he gave Suntrap to the National Trust for Scotland so that a Gardening Advice Centre could be created for the 'benefit of small gardens'. Suntrap was part of his property of Millbuies which he bequeathed to the City of Edinburgh because of his close association with the skiing developments at Hillend on the Pentlands. (Boyd Anderson also built the White Lady Shieling in the Cairngorm and Lagganlie in Glen Feshie) He died in 1972.

Lothian Regional Council inherited Millbuies from the City of Edinburgh. The southernmost third of the garden – which includes Boyd Anderson's original house – Millbuies, belonged to the latter organisation, the remainder which includes another house called Suntrap belongs to the National Trust for Scotland. The Education Department of Lothian Regional Council approached the NTS in 1982 seeking agreement to the management of the entire site being taken over by Oatridge College who would use it as a resource for teaching students. The agreement at the time stipulated that Suntrap should continue its role as a Gardening Advice Centre, and

importantly the 'Friends of Suntrap' (FOS) would have continue actively to participate in the activities of the centre. (Friends of Suntrap were set up in 1984 when the garden was passed on to Oatridge College) These volunteers have supported the horticultural staff of Oatridge College in maintaining the garden, and raising much needed funds. The Friends have also maintained an important link with the NTS.

In 2001, Suntrap became a Centre for Life-Long Learning, specialising in horticultural therapy for people with learning difficulties and complex needs, in addition to offering a range of courses for amateur gardeners.

Now that Oatridge no longer has the resources to support Suntrap, discussions are currently underway between the Friends of Suntrap and the National Trust for Scotland to decide the future. The Friends have taken the lead in exploring with local groups who use the garden how it can continue into the future. In addition, the Friends have had a number of meetings with the NTS seeking clarification regarding how the garden will be supported in the short term, and whether there might be a role for the Friends and others to contribute to the longer term future of the garden. So far, the Friends proposals have been viewed positively. The Friends believe that in the current climate where gardening is becoming increasingly popular, and where the benefits that can be derived in terms of good health and wellbeing through gardening are now recognised, it is likely that Suntrap could have an increasingly important role as a resource for local communities and groups.

A group, chaired by the FOS, has been set up with representatives from the Scottish Bonsai Association, Scottish Rock Club, Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, Perennial, Suntrap Gardening Club and the SGF to develop a strategic business plan for the future of Suntrap. Progress with these plans will be fed back through future SGF newsletters.

Shiona Mackie

“NAIRN SCHOOLS’ PALLET CHALLENGE”

There certainly seems to be no shortage of green fingered children in Nairn and the surrounding area. In April this year, Nairn & District Gardening Club challenged all the local Primary schools to create a metre-square garden with a theme of their own choice. Pallet frames for these gardens were donated to each school, courtesy of Awards for All Scotland lottery funding.

The children worked on their pallets during the summer term and they were judged before the schools closed in June. The judges, Colin Green, Helen McFarlane- Grieve & Annie Stewart, were very impressed with the hard work put in and the enthusiasm of the children, supported by staff and other helpers. The pallets had been imaginatively planned to reflect an aspect particular to each school. The standard of the gardens was extremely good and the schools have every reason to be very proud of their pupils.

It proved a very difficult task to pick a winner, but after much deliberation, 1st Prize was awarded to Millbank with a garden showing their Centenary cake, 2nd Prize to Ardesier for their pallet of the area, complete with dolphins in the sea, the airport and Fort George and 3rd Prize to Moray Firth School for their Seascape garden. Highly commended were the other schools: Croy for their excellent vegetable bed, Cawdor for their bio-diversity garden and Rosebank for their eco-garden.

Photographs of all the pallet gardens and some of the children who created them will be on display at the Nairn & District Gardening Club Annual Show in the Community Centre on Saturday 14th August 2010. The trophy for the winning school will be presented at the Show and all schools taking part will receive certificates and prizes.

*Annie Stewart
Nairn & District Gardening Club*

HELENSBURGH & GARELOCH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - PRIMARY SCHOOL BULB COMPETITION

PPrimary Schools in Argyll & Bute from Cardross to Arrochar are invited to take part in this Competition which takes place between September to February of the following year.

Last year we had 13 Primary Schools took up the Challenge and the results were published in the Local Paper in March.

Two categories namely Daffodils & Hyacinth for which each school is awarded a Certificate of Merit in 1st, 2nd & 3rd place.

The Points system is also used and the Primary School with the most Points receives the Shield of which the owners of Ardarden Nursery has presented for the last three years, and also there is a Certificate of Merit for the runners-up.

Of interest: the Carnegie Trust remarked that 10% returns are average but our Competition produced 53.6% Hyacinth & 55.3% Daffodils and they remarked this was outstanding.

Voluntary Members of HGHS pack the bulbs in September at Ardarden Nursery and then distribute them to the Primary Schools who wish to participate and then we collect them in February the next year and take them back to Ardarden Nursery to be Judged.

The Competition is advertised in the local paper "Helensburgh Advertiser", banners placed at the Primary Schools and word of mouth which all helped in the success.

This is a brief outline of the activities so far, which will be followed up in the Spring issue of the SGF Newsletter in March 2011, with a list of winners and photographs.

Aileen Taylor

THE CALEY TOUR TO THE LOW COUNTRIES

Towards the end of April, thirty two members of the Caley joined Bill Patterson's coach in Charlotte Square heading for the overnight Hull ferry.

Our first day in Flanders started with the Floraleis in Ghent. This enormous exhibition is mounted every five years. *It is enormous!* It displayed all of the best plants that the growers in Belgium and the Netherlands could produce. Stunning! We could have spent the whole day there, but we wanted to see the Belgian Royal Glasshouses at Laeken, the summer palace of the Belgian Royal Family, just outside Brussels. These opulent glass houses are only open to the public for two weeks each spring. We were glad to be able to see them. The plants were absolutely perfect. I will always remember the tunnels of fuchsias, trained overhead, with beautiful pelargoniums (utterly insect free) blooming below them.

The Arboretum Kalmthout (free to RHS members) in the Antwerp province of Belgium, provided us with a quieter day after all the rushing around the Floraleis and royal glasshouses. It contains memorable collections of *Hemerocallis* and more *Chaenomeles* varieties than any of us have ever seen in one place. The lovely layout and variety of woodlands, open spaces and ponds were a delight. It provided us with a splendid café and an excellent shop.

Next day we went to the Palace of Het Loo. It is famous for its formal gardens – carefully restored to its 17th Century grandeur: showing what can be done with box hedging, fountains and statuary. However our next port of call, the De Weirsse estate seemed to me to be so much more interesting. The house itself is a Moated Grange with its estates ranged around it. The garden has been designed and managed by same the family since 1678.

We stayed throughout our trip in Dordrecht, the oldest city in the Netherlands. Its old town is well worth a visit, but from there some of us were able to take to the water along with the commuters, and head for the Kinderdijk. On this waterway they have managed to preserve a large number of windmills, one of which is open to the public. All along our travels we saw an immense number of waterfowl. Storks nesting, spoonbills, greater-crested grebes, and so many kinds of geese and their progeny that we stopped counting.

Most of Western Europe obtains its flowers through Holland, and the Aalsmeer market is one of the largest. We saw flowers from all over the world being routed through the market, auctioned and sent on. The auction halls were fascinating – Dutch of course, with the price descending until someone pressed their button. It all moved very fast, while the consignments of flowers moved through the hall on an automated train.

On the way back we stopped off at the Hortus Botanicus, the Botanical Garden of Leiden University. It exceeded all expectations. There happened to be an exhibition of orchids, which was a bonus, but the glasshouses and the gardens, set beside canals, were lovely. Our last day was spent at the famous Keukenhof Gardens. So different from all the others we had seen and very crowded, but the tulips were astounding. Some of the mixed planting was inspirational in the way they mixed colours – orange tulips interplanted with narcissi whose trumpets were an exact match.

We saw the bulb fields in all their glory, in lovely weather throughout; the only rain during the trip came one evening just as we were all back into the hotel. Most of us had packed far too many jumpers and too few t-shirts, but were glad to enjoy the sunshine after the dour skies of Edinburgh.

Alison Murison

The Caley Tour....

For those interested in obtaining further information, here are websites of places mentioned in the article:

Ghent Floraleis	http://www.floralien.be/
Ghent Floraleis	http://www.floralien.be/
Glasshouses at Laeken	http://www.palaisroyal.be/palace-and-heritage/greenhouses-laeken
Kalmthout Arboretum	http://www.kalmthout.be/Arboretum-Kalmthout.html
Paleis Het Loo	http://www.paleishetloo.nl/
De Weirsse Estate	http://www.dewiersse.nl/
Dordrecht	http://cms.dordrecht.nl/
Kinderdijk	http://www.kinderdijk.nl/
Aalsmeer flower market	http://www.floraholland.com/
Leiden Hortus Botanicus	http://www.hortus.leidenuniv.nl/
Keukenhof Gardens	http://www.keukenhof.nl/



SNIPPETS & CUTTINGS.....



FURTHER SUCCESS FOR POLMONT SOCIETY

Polmont Horticultural Society extended its run of medal-winning gardens for an eighth consecutive year at *Gardening Scotland 2010*, when the Society's garden won a coveted Silver Medal.

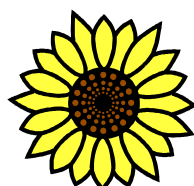
Entitled “A Garden Allotment,” and designed by Johnston Mitchell, the Society’s garden illustrated how the average gardener might lay out an attractive and productive vegetable garden.

French marigolds added a splash of colour and at the same time discouraged aphids.

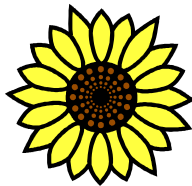


Sandy Simpson, the Polmont President, said “The Society’s purpose is achieved if the team which has built the garden overhears members of the public saying, “We could do that.” We thank our sponsors Build Center and Klondyke for their invaluable support.”

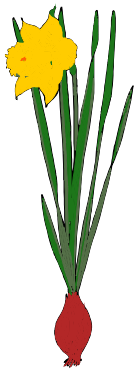
Polmont HS also draw attention to their programme of garden related talks on the last Sunday of each month from October – April in the Greenpark Communnity Centre, Polmont 7pm



If you are a “Tomato-phile” you might be interested to check out a new website which came to our attention. The website is called www.tomatopedia.com, is run by someone called Nick Botting and aims to provide gardeners with the largest selection of tomato seeds available. They claim currently to have a store of over 900 tomato varieties, including heirloom tomato seeds, hybrids and rare seeds. The selections are categorised into shapes, include non standard colours and are sourced from seed suppliers around the world.



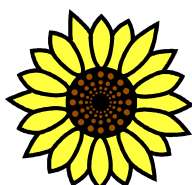
Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Spring Show



As summer comes to an end so the preparations for next Spring’s Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Spring Show begin. The Show, which next year will be held on the **26th & 27th March**, has grown over the past few years and has moved to the Fletcher Building at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Within the show is a specific Inter-Society Competition – for the Hazelwood Trophy; North Berwick in Bloom are the current holders. So if you have an idea for a spring planting for an outdoor Pallet Garden - 1m x 1m and no taller than 1.5m – why not start planning.

Schedules are available from Pam Whittle (pam_whittle@btinternet.com) or by writing to Pam at 2 Halmyre Loan, Romanno Bridge, West Linton, EH46 7DN



ANN'S DIARY

A job for September – taking cuttings for autumn

Your garden will probably be looking at its very best at the moment; summer bedding filling up the spaces, plants cascading from hanging baskets and containers. If you act now and take cuttings you will be able to root many plants before the onset of winter, saving yourself quite a bit of money next year.

Many shrubs and a great number of half hardy perennials can be propagated taking what are known as semi-ripe wood cuttings. This basically just means using plant material that has been produced this year that has started to harden off under the summer sun.

Shrubs propagated just now include; *Artemisia, Choisya, Santolina, Sambucus, Philadelphus, Lavandula, Potentilla, Helichrysum italicum, Rosmarinus. Weigela, Thymus. Hebe, Deutzia, Salvia, Buxus.*

Half hardy perennials include; *Fuchsia, Pelargoniums, Diascia, Sutura or Bacopa, Argyranthemum, Verbena, Osteospermum, Penstemmon.*

Method;

- Check the plant is free from any pests or disease – don't use plants where their health is questionable. If the odd white fly is present make sure you remove them by hand before using this plant material.
- Work early in the morning or in the evening; alternatively choose an overcast or damp day where your cuttings won't wilt as soon as you chop them.

- Select the sturdiest stems that have no flower bud attached preferably. If all stems have flower buds then these will need to be removed before the cutting is used.
- Work out where the start of this year's growth is – it will be green. Last year's growth will be brown and probably rougher to the touch. Only this year's growth is taken when a cutting is made.
- Measuring from the tip downwards make each cutting around 12 – 15cm (3-4"). Make sure to cut just under a node (leaf joint) each time.
- Stick the cuttings in a poly bag with a dribble of water in the bottom to keep them damp until you are ready to pot them.
- Carefully remove the bottom leaves from each cutting until you only have around 1/3rd left at the top.
- Dip each cutting in hormone rooting powder or gel if you desire. Many of the cuttings at this time of year need no rooting hormone help so you can do without.
- Using a pencil or your finger 'Dib' each cutting into a pot or tray of compost. I use 70% general purpose compost from one of the big DIY chains with an added 30% sharp sand.
- Leave cuttings in a light, warm situation with a bit of bottom heat if possible until they root. This usually takes 6 -8 weeks at this time of year. Don't pot up the cuttings until next spring.
- Next May – plant out and enjoy.

Ann Burns

Ann Burns is Team Leader, Horticulture and Landscape Construction, at Oatridge College

YOUR COUNCIL

Honorary President: Professor Fred Last

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(Suntrap Gardening Club)

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Ann Cross (Kirkintilloch HS)
Christopher Davies (Colinton GC)
Hazel Main (RHS Aberdeen)
Alison Murison (Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society)
Mike Rossi (Scottish Bonsai Association)
Alistair Simpson (Gardening Scotland)
John Smith (Oatridge College, Suntrap)
Helen Wands (Helensburgh HS)

Consultants: Tom Mabbott and David Sinclair

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