

SCOTTISH GARDENERS' FORUM

Newsletter Vol 9: Issue 1

Spring 2011



www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

SPRING 2011

EDITORIAL

MARCH 2011

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Hallo again, and welcome to our first newsletter of 2011, sharing news and views from across Scotland. The enforced rest due to the weather in December and January will have done the gardens good – and perhaps the gardeners too. But now, as the days get longer and warmer, is catch-up time!

I was delighted with your response to my request for news items and hope you enjoy this newsletter which is becoming a real forum. Thank you and 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 is an artistic depiction of daffodils, harbinger of Spring, with the promise of warmth, colour and light as Nature is reborn after the winter's sleep.

OUR CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

For me this is a wonderful time of year knowing better weather and lighter nights are on their way, hopefully to the majority of us soon.

My garden has been out of bounds after another severe winter however Mother Nature is bursting forth with new vigour. Surveying the damage caused by the heavy snow brings some sadness for the plants lost but gives me new opportunities to start planning what to put in their place.

In the year ahead the SGF is planning to enhance the information we provide to you all by collating a list of local shows. Mike Gourlay will be co-ordinating the data collection and I will keep you up to date on our progress. Please let us know of any shows you run or know about in your local area.

Most of us will have created our new club events calendar for the coming year. I know how difficult this task can be, especially when trying to find a speaker. We are always keen to hear of any new speakers / judges who are not in our registers. Passing on their details to us may allow us to increase our database to the benefit of you all.

Our new council member Margaret Drummond has taken over the updating and development of our registers from Ann Busby and I wish her well.

I'm really looking forward to the months ahead in the garden and hope you all have a great start to the season.

Hope to see you at Gardening Scotland 3rd to 5th June.

Best wishes.

Jim

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 membership secretary, Mike Rossi, on:

membership@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

“WHAT’S ON” FEATURE

In this issue you will find a list of Members' events of which they have notified us. This list is not complete, nor exhaustive. We have sorted it in order by date, as we think this will be most useful to you. At this stage you may find it interesting to browse through the list. It may perhaps suggest ideas. However in the future we will probably have to be selective, to cover annual events and plant shows, for example, as it would simply be impractical to list the full programmes of all our members. Let's wait and see how it develops.

GARDENING SCOTLAND 2011 – DON'T MISS IT!

WHEN Gardening Scotland 2011 opens to the public on Friday, 3 June, at the Royal Highland Centre, near Edinburgh Airport, it will mark the start of three days packed with inspiration, information and the chance for gardeners to buy exceptional plants direct from some of the UK's leading growers.



Every year the Show continues to grow, with more to attract family audiences and those new to gardening. However, at its heart it retains a commitment to horticulture of the highest standard and this year regular visitors and those new to the event are set to be wowed by some of the finest show gardens and floral exhibits that the Show has ever staged.

Outside, Gardening Scotland is delighted to welcome back Dougal Philip and Lesley Watson of New Hopetoun Garden who will be creating a 'Pretty and Pickable' potager, as one of this year's many Show Gardens, while indoors a huge exhibit created jointly by Keith Jackson, who set Falkland on the path to Britain in Bloom glory, and Jon Wheatley of Winchester Growers, will mark 90 years of the Scottish Poppy Appeal.

The popular Pallet Garden competition, which is organised by the Scottish Gardeners Forum, will return and this year, it will once again be sponsored by Dobbies Garden Centres. These mini-plots continue to attract a huge number of entries from gardening clubs and from schools and the standard rivals anything achieved on a larger scale by the professional designers.

Amongst the many exciting developments this year is the sheer number of exceptional nurseries who will be exhibiting at the Show for the very first time. These include alpine specialists Darcy & Everest and Pheasant Acre who will be brightening an already

colourful Dobbies Floral Hall with their eye-catching display of gladioli.

Multi-award winning Kevock Garden Plants will be collaborating with The Scottish Rock Garden Club to create a very special exhibit while in The Living Garden the British Dragonfly Society is just one of a number of new environmental organisations that will join an already-impressive line-up giving advice to visitors.

From specialist plant societies to grow-your-own enthusiasts and guerrilla gardeners who carry out undercover gardening raids, brightening up neglected public ground, Gardening Scotland has something for everyone and with more than 400 exhibitors set to take part the Show can provide everything that gardeners need to achieve impressive results at home.

Fortunately gardeners' charity Perennial will once again be operating its popular plant crèches, so anyone who finds that they have bought more plants than they can carry will have somewhere safe to leave them while they continue enjoying the Show.

Almost every day brings exciting new developments to this year's Show and you can check these out online at Gardening Scotland's new website, www.gardeningscotland.com or by following the Show on Facebook or Twitter.

Advance tickets are now on sale offering a £2 discount on gate prices and there are also attractive savings available for group bookings.

You can check out prices and buy tickets online or by calling 0131 333 0965.

Gardening Scotland 2011 will run from Friday, 3 June until Sunday, 5 June at The Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh.

Agnes Stevenson



Win a pair of Perennial Tickets to Gardening Scotland 2011, including lunch, worth £70!

To celebrate Perennial's third year as Gardening Scotland's partner charity, we are holding a Free Prize Draw open to members of the Scottish Gardeners' Forum. The lucky winner will not only receive full day passes for two to the Show, but will also enjoy a sumptuous two-course lunch at The Quality Hotel, which is perfectly situated at the entrance to the Showground.

To enter, simply fill in your name and address below and return to Perennial Prize Draw, Flat 1/L 21 Highburgh Rd, Dowanhill, Glasgow, G12 9YG. The closing date is Friday 15 April 2011.

Perennial is working hard to support people in the horticulture industry who have fallen on hard times due to accidents, family or business problems – visit www.perennial.org.uk to find out more or make a donation.

Name.....Organisation

Address:.....

City: Post Code:.....

Tel No:.....

Email:

Please send me further information about Perennial and its work in Scotland YES/NO

The Judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

The closing date for the competition Friday 15 April 2011

This application form may be downloaded from our website

www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR NEWSLETTER

You might well think, “What else do you expect an editor to say?” But don’t forget, I have other jobs too. I am not the editor for want of choice but because I believe in it. And if you are the Chairperson of your club, or otherwise able to influence the course of events, let me encourage you to give your newsletter the attention it requires.

People – our members – come to meetings and events because they enjoy them, and not always just because of the talk or event. They may like the feeling of togetherness, meeting people, exchanging news, getting “on net” in addition to finding answers to their questions or learning something new. Meetings need to be reassuring, well prepared and well managed.

Your newsletter is an integral part of your club. It needs to reflect the same values as the members enjoy at the meetings. Most of us are perceptive, if not critical when it comes to partaking of the services provided by others, perhaps entertainment, gastronomy or simply shopping. We expect quality and value. If we don’t get it, we will look for alternatives.

So, the newsletter has several functions:

- It is a source of information to members about coming events.
- It acts as a written record of happenings in the current season.
- It enables the club to convey news, views and information.
- It keeps all members informed of what the club is doing, including those who may have missed one or another meeting.
- It projects an image of the club and has the effect of creating a reference point for a ‘virtual community’ resulting in a sense of belonging and loyalty.
- It is often read by non-members (in local libraries, doctors’ surgeries, on websites etc.) and reaches out into the wider community.

- It can be used actively to recruit new members.

To fulfil its aim and realise its potential, the newsletter needs to be what it says – a “letter”. It should echo the style of the club so that a stranger reading the newsletter and gaining an impression from it, would recognise the scene on going to a meeting.

A few points to bear in mind.

- Consider the layout. Make it accessible, easy to read, modern and entertaining.
- Keep your audience in mind. Write as if you are talking to them.
- Use pictures and graphics to break up the text. Keep the narrative moving.
- Proof read carefully. Make sure the layout is consistent and tidy. Pay attention to detail. Sloppy layout and typing errors convey lack of respect to the readers.

Now you can check my latest newsletter against my criteria. Go to www.colintongardens.org.uk, click on *February newsletter* under current news (bottom of home page) and let me know your opinion.

Christopher Davies

TROPHIES AND AWARDS

At the 2010 SGF AGM, a question was raised by a number of organisations regarding insurance cover for the trophies, cups etc that many of you have been awarding over the years at your shows. I picked up from various members on the day that clubs/societies dealt with the issue of insuring cups in a variety of ways. A number of you had sought insurance independently, and advised me that this was becoming prohibitively expensive; others



thought they had solved the problem by asking recipients of the cups/trophies to keep them at their place of residence; and finally others had decided not to award cups at all but to give medals/other prizes instead. The SGF agreed to look into the provision of appropriate insurance and get back to the membership.

Needless to say, when I approached our insurance broker, I discovered that there was no easy answer to the question posed! To provide a quote for insurance cover for trophies/cups through the SGF, the broker and the insurance company would normally need to know total value of the trophies to be insured. In addition if any item were more than the 'unspecified single article limit' (usually £1500, but can vary from policy to policy) then that would have to be specified separately.

To date there has only been a small amount of interest in providing insurance for trophies/cups. And at this time the SGF executive are not in a position to seek insurance on your behalf.

So, what can clubs/societies do – there are three options (five, if you include substituting medals/other prizes for cups, and disposing of the latter – immediately removes the theft threat! And at the opposite end of the spectrum – you don't insure any of them)

Firstly, you can check whether the building where you keep your trophies has an insurance policy which includes contents cover which in turn might provide the cover for the trophies; secondly, you can seek insurance independently and thirdly, you can ask the prize winners to take their trophies home. In the latter scenario, they should ensure that their house contents insurance will cover the trophies, taking account of the applicable Single Article Limit, while they reside on their mantelpieces.

I would be happy to hear from member organisations and to give general guidance. It will help us to assess the level of demand and therefore the role of SGF in possibly pursuing this matter for the future.

Shiona Mackie, Treasurer, SGF

SKYE GARDENING SOCIETY'S CHARITY GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME

Following on from the success of last year's gardeners' question time, the committee decided to hold the event again this year with the proceeds going to the charity "Crossroads". With the charity aspect in mind and thereby numbers attending the location of the event was switched from last year's venue, St Columba's Church, to the larger venue of the Portree Shinty Club and took place on Saturday, 29 January.

Due to the difficulties in hearing the panel by those at back of the audience at last year's event, the layout at the Shinty Club was changed whereby the audience seating was formed in a semi-circle with the panel located at the centre. The response from members of the audience to this arrangement was very positive from both a viewing and hearing aspect.

The format followed last year's event with two 45 minute question sessions with a 30 minute break between the sessions for afternoon refreshments. With the charity aspect in mind attendees were requested to donate both on entry to the event and for their afternoon tea. A raffle was also introduced.

The panel comprised: Chairman - Archie Edwards and Gardening Experts – Calina MacDonald, Harriet Forrest, Andrew Peters and David MacLean. The Society is fortunate that it could call on so many experts to support not only this event but all our events throughout the year. So a big vote of thanks goes to them and Archie for giving up their time; without them there would be no Gardeners' Question Time.

Following the Chairman's opening address and introduction of the panel, the question time sessions started with a discussion on how to deal with "Thug" plants, those plants that grow and grow and

take over the garden at the detriment of those plants around them and finished on a similar theme the visiting “Thug” namely the rabbit. In between the questions ranged over most aspects of gardening, plants suitable for Skye and the growing of vegetables. The Panel members encouraged audience participation in providing responses to questions raised and this made the question sessions a relaxed and genial affair. The second session finished with each expert providing their gardening tip for the forthcoming quarter. These were:

1. Tidy and plan for the coming growing season.
2. Keep all garden waste for composting.
3. Map garden to avoid planting over dormant plants.
4. Given Skye’s unique environment consider plants from around the world.

The break for afternoon refreshments provided the ideal opportunity to catch up with friends and to discuss further aspects of gardening. The spread provided by the “Society’s ladies who bake” was once again second to none. Their efforts are much appreciated and how much poorer events would be without their input. So once again a big vote of thanks goes to each of these ladies and also those ladies who formed the catering team on the day. A special vote of thanks must go to Alison Smit for organising all aspects of the catering. The break was completed by the drawing of the raffle.

Gardeners’ Question Time once again proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable event that was enjoyed by the 70 plus audience and is one that should feature on a regular basis in the Society’s Programme of Events. This year’s event had the added benefit of raising £453.13 for “Crossroads Care Skye & Lochalsh”

Tom Smit, Treasurer

GIFFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: A SHOW NOT TO BE MISSED

Imagine a village green setting in an historic East Lothian village in mid-August. Place in this unique location a 160ft marquee. Then, after a year of planning, hold a two day Flower Show in the marquee with over 700 different competitive classes.

The result is the annual event staged by the Gifford Horticultural Society.

The Show features horticultural excellence, as has been its principal purpose since it was first instituted in 1848. However, it now also hosts the annual show of the East Lothian Beekeepers' Association and classes for stick dressers in the county. In addition there is the mix of competitions that can be seen in the many other shows that are held across Scotland. From floral art and preserves to baking, crafts and photography and, of course, a large area set aside for children's competitions.

The Gifford Show continues the special tradition of flower shows but it too has had to evolve over its history. Its first [very limited] vegetable show was held in December and the laird, the Marquis of Tweeddale, and his family, were prominent supporters. But like all things the Society has changed over the years. Post show dances and spring shows are activities of the past while war years and interruptions for when no committee could be created, have all challenged its survival.

There is no longer a laird and the teams of gardeners that served the big houses have gone. As a consequence the Society has had to steadily change to meet what its members expect of it, and there are now over 300 of them. No longer is the Society just responsible for holding an annual show but it also provides a winter programme of talks, summer outings, various social events, the benefits of

buying in bulk composts and fertilisers and, most importantly, it encourages those who might be labelled novice gardeners but who will be the show competitors of the future.

All this takes organising and the need for a large committee, with everyone taking on a role to spread the workload. As happens, there can become a reliance on a few but when they resign there is a sudden re-awakening of what the Society is, the responsibilities it has to its membership and the importance that it has in the community, both of the village and that beyond. The Society is presently going through such a change but everyone is getting involved, even taking on roles that they hadn't imagined a year back. Thankfully, that's the type of Society we have. It always bounces back. That is why it has survived so long!

So, as the Society faces its 2011 Show with a new team, everything is slotting in place for another horticultural spectacular. The dates

for your diary are the weekend of the **20-21st August**. Don't miss it. It's special, unique, friendly and well worth a visit. We look forward to seeing you.

John Sheldon, Secretary

HGHS SCHOOL SPRING BULB COMPETITION

Helensburgh & Gareloch Horticultural Society's Primary School Spring Bulb Competition was Judged by Mrs Kathleen Murray at Ardarden Nursery, Cardoss on 11th February 2011. The competition started in 2003, when HGHS invited all the local Primary 4 and 5 children to participate in the competition. Mr and Mrs Montgomery of Ardardan Estate



supported the idea and donated the Ardardan Shield for the winners. The aim is to educate and encourage the children to take an interest in horticulture. Their enthusiasm grows year on year. The Bulbs were packed on 3rd October 2010 and delivered to the various Primary Schools and then collected the beginning of week 7th February for judging. This year out of 564 Bulbs delivered only 278 entries were received, perhaps because of the cold snap.

If anyone would like any more information, please contact me.

Mrs Taylor (HGHS Show Secretary & Librarian)



SGF NEWSLETTER – MAY ISSUE

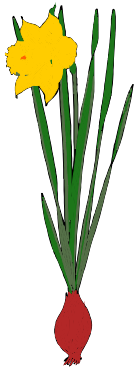
The next issue – “Summer!” – is already on the horizon. If you are enjoying reading this one, have something you would like to report, observations you would like to communicate to fellow gardeners, then contact us, send in your comments and articles, together with photographs, to me, by April 30th, please.

editor@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

SNIPPETS & CUTTINGS.....



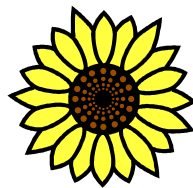
Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Spring Show



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, 2011**, 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

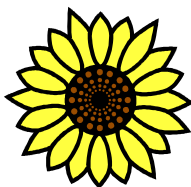


NEWS FROM DALKEITH HS

Gladys Hardwick (Secretary) writes: Dalkeith Horticultural Society Annual Show will be on 17 & 18th September 2011 at the Schools Campus, Cousland Road, Thornybank, Dalkeith. If you would like a schedule please contact me on 0131 660 1816.

Another item - we have a quantity of green artificial grass table covering and some rolls of corrugated paper which we want to dispose

of. If anyone would like this they can contact me and arrange to pick it up free of charge



POLMONT WORK WITH ROTARY

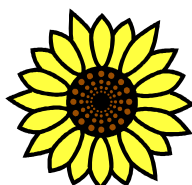
The Polmont Rotary Club community officer asked for help from our society to replant a flower bed on the bank(45'slope) at the side of the Station Road .

This bed had been planted to celebrate the millennium but had been neglected. It would improve the local environment and advertise local organisations and what they do in the village. With a few boys from the community services, members of the society cleared the old heathers and fertilised the bed.



It was then planted with yellow polyanthus and blue violas in the shape of the rotary wheel. It is hoped that each year a different organisation's work in the community will be promoted. This year the rotary are promoting a

campaign to eradicate polio world wide.



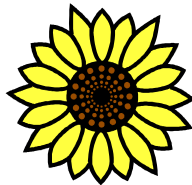
Killearn Cottagers' Horticultural Society

Are holding their Gardeners Market and Coffee Morning Saturday 21 May, 10am - 12 noon, Village Hall Killearn.

They write: "Enjoy a pleasant morning browsing our stalls - locally grown plants. Bedding plants. Gardeners bric a brac. Various stalls including displays by Sustainable Killearn.

Tea room with delicious home baking, £2.00. Everyone welcome. Entry free."

Enquiries to Glenda Asquith 01360 550142



"ALLOTMENTS - A SCOTTISH PLOTHOLDER'S GUIDE"

Jenny Mollison writes:

Some of your readers may be interested in our new publication "Allotments - A Scottish Plotholder's Guide". It is written for anyone in Scotland who rents or is thinking of renting an allotment plot. Local authorities and devolved management associations in Scotland may find the guide useful to give to new and existing plotters. Information about how to get a new allotment site and guidance about allotments legislation in Scotland is also included. The guide was launched recently at reception in the Scottish Parliament for MSPs and guests

Printed copies are available from Jenny Mollison (secretary@sags.org.uk) at the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society and from the Allotments Regeneration Initiative (www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari/). The publication can also be downloaded from their websites. The full colour guide is free and has been funded by the Big Lottery Scotland.

Happy to supply any further information!

With best wishes, Jenny Mollison

secretary@sags.org.uk



Blackhall Horticultural Society would like to draw attention to two key dates:--

1) **Saturday 14 May : Annual Plant Sale: 10am-12noon**

Come and satisfy your requirements from a wide range of plants for containers & bedding out in the garden (all from a reputable supplier!)

2) **Saturday 27 August : 57th Annual Flower Show**

Like many local flower shows we are suffering from a lack of entries in all sections, and would welcome more folk to exhibit. Entry forms are to be returned by Wed. 24 August and schedules are available from me (please send a 2nd class stamp)

For further information please contact: John MacLennan
Tel: 0131 539 6543: johnmaclennanuk@googlemail.com



Willie Campbell, Scottish Rhododendron Society, writes:

The Scottish Rhododendron Society stages the Scottish National Rhododendron Show each year in spring, it is reputed by the judges, (David Chamberlain (RBGE) and Alan Clark, leading authority on rhododendrons) as the best show in the UK. However last year some of our visitors commented that the Sprays and Trusses were excellent but the show vases let them down and paint peeling etc.

To come to the point, were are looking for new vases or decent second hand one and we were thinking that the “Forum” may well know of a horticultural group that’s closing down and we may be able to purchase them.

If you know or hear of anything we would be interested, we realise one can buy them but we could never afford the 500 + we need

If you can help, please contact Willie Campbell on:
william.campbellwj@btinternet.com: Tel 01786 860392

ANN'S DIARY

A job for April – Herbaceous division

The clocks will have finally gone forward and officially 'Spring has Sprung'. With the warmer weather the spring flowering bulbs are catching up and tree buds are bursting into leaf. This is the time of year when herbaceous perennials start into vigorous growth and is therefore the best month for lifting and splitting those plants as they are quite literally desperate to grow.

Herbaceous plants may need divided when their growth becomes congested; the centre of the plant may even die out (the 'polo mint' effect) as the plant gets older, *Aster* and *Helenium* for example should be split every 3 years to keep them healthy. Alternatively you may choose to divide clumps simply because you want more plants, many herbaceous plants will thrive for years with no division at all, for example; *Hosta*, and *Geranium*.

So identify the plants that you want to work with and:

- Cut back any dead foliage or flower left over from last year close to the ground, taking care not to damage any new shoots and buds.
- Using a spade lift the whole plant from the ground and lay it onto a firm surface.
- Decide how many new plants you want to produce and what size these should be. If you only need a few plants the sections can be quite large, smaller pieces when split must have at least one bud and some root attached.
- Divide plants using a sharp spade, carefully placed between the buds, or on smaller more delicate specimens use an old bread knife to cut through the plant. Be very careful if you choose to use the back to back two fork method as this can easily damage buds (not to mention the gardener). Discard the oldest central part of the plant.

- Replant new divisions in the garden or pot them up and swap them with other gardening friends. Avoid replanting any plant in the same space it was lifted from; plant elsewhere in the bed and you will produce a much healthier plant.
- Add a small handful of general slow release fertiliser such as bone meal around the newly divided plant.

Some examples;

- Snowdrops; Lift the whole plant, gently pull the bulbs apart with your hands, replant clumps of around 5 bulbs leaving the leaves intact.
- Deciduous grasses such as *Miscanthus* and *Calamagrostis*; cut back to within a couple of inches of ground level, use an old bread knife to split the clump then replant.
- Water Lillies; lift the whole plant from the pond. Using a sharp knife cut through the rhizomes, retaining 10 – 15cm long sections with outward facing buds. Replant the sections, one per 20cm pond basket, use aquatic compost.

Ann Burns

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



Snowdrops at the RBGE on 25 February 2011

“WHAT’S ON:” This feature is provided for the interest and convenience of members. The information is given in good faith, depending on the accuracy of those who supplied it. In the event of your acting on it, we suggest you double-check. The events are arranged in datal order.

SOCIETY	EVENT	VENUE	DATE
Royal Horticultural Society of Perth	Spring Show	The institute, Bridge of Earn	19th March 12-4pm
Stonehaven & District HS	Spring Flower Show	Stonehaven Town Hall	19-Mar
Penicuik Horticultural Society	Spring Show	Ladywood Leisure Centre, Penicuik	19th March 1-4.30pm
Polmont Horticultural Society	Preparing for Gardening Scotland	Greenpark Centre	27-Mar
Helensburgh & Gareloch HS	Bulb Competition	Victoria Halls, Helensburgh	6th April 7.30pm
Barrhead & District HS	Spring Show & Coffee Morning	South & Lavern Church Hall. Barrhead	16th April 10-12am
St Andrews' Gardeners' Club	Spring Show	Hope Park Church Hall, St Andrews	16th April 10.30
Baldernock Gardening Club	Plant Sale	Milngavie & Bearsden Sports Club	30th April 11am - 12.45pm
Torosay Isle of Mull Gardening Club	Flower Show & Craft Exhibition	Craignure Village Hall	2nd May 10.30am-2pm
Dalgety Bay Horticultural Society	Annual Gardeners Question Time	Dobbies, Dalgety Bay	6th May
Helensburgh & Gareloch HS	Plant Sale	Victoria Halls, Helensburgh	7th May 9.30am
Pathhead & District HS	Plant Sale	Pathhead Pavillion	Sat 7th May
Barrhead & District HS	Display & Seed Planting for Children	Neilston Agricultural Showground	7th May 9am-4.30pm
Royal Horticultural Society of Perth	Plant Sale	North Church Lane, High St , Perth	14th May 10am -2pm
Ormiston Horticultural Society	Plant Sale	Marketgate, Ormiston	14th May 10am -12pm
Blackhall Horticultural Society.	We can offer a wide range of plants for containers & bedding out in the garden.	St. Columbas Church Hall, Muirdale Terrace, Edinburgh 4	14th May 10am- 12 am
Dollar	Plant Sale	Burnside Hall Dollar	21st/22nd may
Dollar	Dollar Open Gardens	Burnside Hall Dollar	21st/22nd May
West Linton	Plant Sale	West Linton	21-May
North Berwick Horticultural Society	Annual Plant Sale & Coffee morning	St Andrew Blackadder Church	21st May
St Andrews' Gardeners' Club	Plant Sale & Coffee Morning	Town Hall, St Andrews	21st May 9.20am - 12 noon
Dalgety Bay Horticultural Society	Annual Plant Sale	Community Centre, Dalgety Bay	21st May
Friends of Suntrap	Open Day	Suntrap	22nd May
Banchory Horticultural Society	Plant Sale	Banchory Scout HQ	28th May
Biggar Horticultural Society	Plant Sale & coffee morning	Gillespie Centre, Biggar	28 May 10am - 12
National Bonsai Collection of Scotland	Bonsai Exhibition and Display	Ingliston	3rd-5th June

Menstrie Community Council	Fete Week	Menstrie, Various Locations	6th-10th June
Menstrie Community Council	Gala Day	Menstrie Park	11th June
Penicuik Horticultural Society	Open Garden Scheme	Var Gardens, Kirkhill :tel 01968 674046	3rd July 2-5pm
Grangemouth Horticultural Society	Rose, Sweet Pea & Carnation Show	Grangemouth Town Hall	16-Jul
Scottish Begonia Society	75th Anniversary	Ayr Flower Show	5th, 6th, 7th Aug
Banchory Horticultural Society	Gardens Open Day	Banchory	6th & 7th Aug
Leuchars & District Horticultural Society	Summer Show	Burnside Hall, Balmullo	06-Aug
Nairn	Annual Show	Community Centre Nairn	Sat 12th Aug 1pm-4pm
Girvan District Horticultural Society	Annual Flower Show	North Parish Church, Girvan	13th Aug
Nairn & District Gardening Club	Annual Show	Nairn Community and Arts Centre	13th Aug 1-4pm
North Berwick Horticultural Society	Summer Show	North Berwick Community Centre	13th Aug
Culter & District Horticultural Society	Flower Show	Culter Village Hall	13th Aug
Perth & District Fuchsia Group	Fuchsia Show With Open Classes	North Church Hall, Perth	13th Aug
Royal Horticultural Society of Perth	Summer Show	The institute, Bridge of Earn	19th & 20th Aug
Largs & District Horticultural Society	Flower show	St. Johns Church Hall, Largs	19th & 20th Aug
Gifford Horticultural Society	Flower Show	Gifford	20th & 21st Aug
Fife Fuchsia Society	Annual Show	Rothes Halls, Glenrothes	20th Aug
Currie Parish Horticultural & Ind Soc	Currie Show		27th Aug 1.30pm
Helensburgh & Gareloch HS	Flower & Veg Show	Victoria Halls, Helensburgh	27th Aug 2pm
Inverness Horticultural Society	Inverness Flower Festival	Inverness High School	27th & 28th Aug
Musselburgh	Annual Flower Show	Loretto Church Hall, Newbiggin	27th Aug 1-5pm
West Linton	Annual Show	West Linton	27th Aug
Stonehaven & District HS	Summer Flower Show	Stonehaven Town Hall	27-Aug
Blackhall Horticultural Society.	57th Annual Flower Show We would welcome more exhibitors	St. Columbas Church Hall, Muirdale Terrace, Edinburgh 4	27th Aug
Broughton Horticultural Society	158th Annual Exhibition of Fruit, Veg & Industrial Work	Village Hall, Broughton	27th Aug
Scottish National Chrysanthemum Dahlia Society	S.N.C.D.S. Flower Show	Albert Hall, Stirling	30th & 31st Aug
Banchory Horticultural Society	Annual Show	Banchory Town Hall	3rd & 4th Sept
Biggar Horticultural Society	Annual Show of Flowers, Veg & Ind.	Municipal Hall, Biggar	3rd Sept 1.39 - 4pm
Dollar	Flower Show & Craft Exhibition	Burnside Hall Dollar	3rd Sept

Kilmalcolm Horticultural Society	Annual Flower Show	New Community Centre	3rd Sept
Paisley Florist Society and Garden Club	Annual Show	St Mirin's Cathedral Halls	3rd Sept
Polmont Horticultural Society	Annual Show	Polmont Sports Centre	03-Sept
Barrhead & District HS	autumn Show & Coffee Morning	South & Levern Church Hall. Barrhead	3rd Sept (to be confirmed)
Livingston and District HS	Annual Flower Show	Howden Park Centre, Livingston	3rd Sept
Penicuik Horticultural Society	Autumn Show	Ladywood Leisure Centre, Penicuik	3rd Sept 1-4.30pm
East Lothian Horticultural Society	Annual Show	Corn Exchange, Haddington	3rd Sept
Dalgety Bay Horticultural Society	Annual Show	Community Centre Dalgety Bay	3rd Sept
Kirkintilloch Horticultural Society	Annual Flower Show	St Mary's Parish Church Hall	3rd Sept
Central Scotland Fuchsia Society	B.F.S. Show	Linlithgow P.S.	4th Sept
Cowdenbeath & District HS	Annual Flower Show	Trinity Church, Sinclair Ave	10th & 11th Sept
Central Scotland Fuchsia Society	C.S.F.S. Show	Greenpark Centre Polmont	11th Sept
Pathhead & District HS	Annual Show	Pathhead Community Hall	Sat 12th Sept
Helensburgh & Gareloch HS	Bulb Sale	United Reform Church Hall	17th Sept 10am
Caledonian Bonsai Society	Fife Flower Show	Dobbies Garden Centre, Dunfermline	17th & 18th Sept
Dalkeith Horticultural Society	Annual Flower Show	Dalkeith Campus	17th & 18th Sept
Grangemouth Horticultural Society	Annual Open Show	Grangemouth Town Hall	24-Sept
St Andrews' Gardeners' Club	Annual Show & Coffee Morning	Town Hall, St Andrews	24th Sept 10am - 4pm
South West Scotland Rock Garden Gp	SRGC Travelling Speaker, N Zealand		8th Oct
Leuchars & District Horticultural Society	An Evening with Willie Duncan	Burnside Hall Ballmullo	13th Oct
South West Scotland Rock Garden Gp	Davie Sharp, Rock Garden Construction		14th Oct
Grangemouth Horticultural Society	Late Chrysanthemum Show	Grangemouth Community Unit	23-Oct
Leuchars & District Horticultural Society	Autumn Show	Burnside Hall Ballmullo	29th Oct
Leuchars & District Horticultural Society	Let's Cook (Sarah Mellersh)	Burnside Hall Ballmullo	10th Nov
South West Scotland Rock Garden Gp	Liz Mills & Anne Chambers, Arizaemas		11th Nov
Leuchars & District Horticultural Society	Floral Art (Alyson Christie)	Burnside Hall Ballmullo	8th Dec
South West Scotland Rock Garden Gp	Malcolm McGregor, Saxifrages		9th Dec

YOUR COUNCIL

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