



Scottish Gardeners' Forum Newsletter

PROMOTING SCOTLAND'S GARDEN CLUBS



The delegates to AGM 2018 were piped to lunch through the Brighter Bervie Garden for Life

Winter 2018

Vol 16: Issue 3

Contents

Letter from the Chair	2	Society Events	16-17
My Favourite Plant	4	2018 AGM Report	18
Dundee Flower and Food Festival	5	Kilmacolm Horticultural Society	20
Membership Renewal	5	News from the NE Region	21
Collective Nouns for Flowers	6	Christmas Gardening – No Chance!	22
Dates for Skye Gardeners 2019	7	100 Years of Glendoick Gardens	23
Pallets with a Purpose	8	Gardeners Harvest from Bags of Help	24
Gardening Scotland 2019	9	Deadline	24
Seed Company Discounts	10-11	Christmas in North Berwick	25
Lanark Garden Club	13	The Currie Show 2018	26
Arran Horticultural Society	13	Regional Co-ordinators	26
Donibristle PS Millenium Garden	14	Gardening in Later Life	27
Renewal of Saughton Park	15	Your Council	28

Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleague,

I am sitting writing this letter to you as it pours with rain outside – seems to have been doing this for the past few weeks. But we probably cannot complain – reflecting on 2018, we have had exceptionally good weather and even autumn has been mild. Our gardens have responded to this warmth – the roses in my garden have thrived, and I have had a bumper crop of apples. And my sweet peas continued to flourish until the beginning of November! Now the Malus outside my window is still laden with fruit – appropriately, resembling Christmas baubles!

Those of you who attended the AGM in November will be aware that, because of recent onset of ill health, Roger Evans is not able to be actively involved with the SGF at the present time. I am, therefore, standing in for him as Chair on an interim basis until the end of February. Roger was able to attend the AGM briefly, chauffeured

by Christine, his wife. It was good to see both of them over lunch, and I know he enjoyed meeting up with friends and colleagues.

You can read about the AGM in this newsletter. Tom Campbell of Brighter Bervie, and his colleagues in Inverbervie made us all so welcome – the day went without a hitch – superb planning! There was a definite buzz about the meeting. And the venue – well – I have never been so warm in a church! I thanked the beadle afterwards.

Unfortunately, we had no new nominations for Council from attendees at the AGM. However, we were delighted to elect one new Council member (in his absence – but we did check with him prior to the AGM!): Cameron Tasker who is one of the glasshouse team at the RBGE. He has volunteered to take on the role of ensuring SGF features in the many

facets of social media. At last we will have regular postings on Facebook, Twitter (in 2019) and maybe Instagram – so keep an eye on our website for updates on progress.

Subsequent to the AGM, Veronica Davis, current Chair of Helensburgh and Gareloch Horticultural Society, has agreed to be elected to the SGF Council. She will be the Regional Co-ordinator for the West. We are very grateful to Veronica for coming forward to fill this gap. Kathryn Pitts, who currently has been updating the Speakers and Judges Registers, has also agreed to take over the role of our Secretary.

We are obviously very pleased to have two new Council members. However, should any of the longstanding members of Council retire or stand down without notice, your Council would be in a precarious situation. Therefore, at our Council meeting on the 25th November we considered the options available to us to ensure that we could continue to support our members should we not have sufficient volunteers coming on to Council. We agreed that our core functions were the provision of Public Liability Insurance (PLI), the development of a new Show Database and the Pallet and Planter Challenge. I would add our role in enabling networking between our members. Over the next few months, we will be

looking at how we can ensure these functions can be made sustainable. We will keep you posted – but in the meantime the SGF will continue as it has done for the past fifteen years.

Renewal time is looming – forms will be heading out to you, and they will now incorporate details relating to how we can communicate with you; it is legally important to fill this out as well.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and while you recover from all the festivities, you can indulge in some garden planning for 2019.

Very best wishes
Shiona Mackie



My Favourite Plant

The Orkney island of North Ronaldsay is famed for its native sheep which graze on seaweed, outside the stone dyke, which confines them to the shore. My personal association with this remote island is, however, of a horticultural nature as it is where I encountered my favourite plant over thirty years ago.

Our hosts on the island had an intriguing pot plant with smooth, round, glossy green leaves on long stalks, which they had named Elephant's Foot. They were happy to remove a plantlet which travelled south with us in a polythene bag. This was duly planted and it thrived, producing many more plantlets.

I still felt very unsure about its name and had little success trying to track down its scientific name. We were in Shetland when we next saw the plant and my enquiry resulted in the response that it was called the Norwegian plant. I finally established its true identity when I saw a plant of this species being exhibited at The Royal Norfolk Show. I left a note under the pot and was rewarded with a reply from the exhibitor confirming that it was indeed *Pilea peperomioides*.

The story goes that a Norwegian missionary found the plant while fleeing the Yunnan province of China in 1946.

He brought the plant home, via India, to Scandinavia from where it reached the UK. This would explain two of its current common names: Chinese Money plant and Missionary plant. Apparently George Forrest found *Pilea peperomioides* in 1910 although I imagine it couldn't compete with some of his other horticultural specialities. I have since learned that Kew struggled to identify the plant until the 1980s, which would



Pilea peperomioides

explain why I had found its nomenclature so elusive.

One of the attractions of *Pilea peperomioides* is its ease of propagation. When in optimum conditions for growth: bright, indirect light and good drainage, plantlets are produced on the stem and in the soil and these can be easily removed and put in their own pot. They are excellent material

for plant sales, hence another common name, Pass-it-on Plant.

The Chinese money plant is now available commercially and we saw it on sale at Kew during a recent visit. Having surfaced from relative obscurity, it has recently been described as an 'uber cool plant'. Apparently it is frequently featured in Scandi design shoots and such an elusive plant has now become remarkably on trend.

We continue to nurture our own *Pilea peperomioides* and it is doing well and providing more plantlets. This year it was rewarded with a prize in the foliage plant class at The Annual Show of Nairn and District Gardening Club. Our member of the clone has certainly come a long way since our first encounter with it in North Ronaldsay.

Anne Vincent
Nairn & District HS,
and North Regional Coordinator

SGF at Dundee Flower and Food Festival

The SGF manned a stand at Dundee with Council members and volunteers from clubs. Brighter Bervie provided the flowering greenhouse, much admired by visitors and pictured here with Christine Walkden, Guest Speaker, and Mary Finch, Brighter Bervie.

SGF were awarded a Silver award for their stand.



Membership Renewal

It is nearly membership renewal time and I have enclosed a renewal form along with this newsletter. If you pay by standing order you will not need to fill this in unless your contact person has changed, as we will need their data protection information. Membership fees and Public Liability Insurance have been kept at the present level for another year.

Membership runs from 1st February to 31st January. Can you please include an **email address** if you have one, as we are trying to cut down on postage costs so that we can keep membership fees as low as possible.

If you will not be renewing your membership this year can you please let us know, along with the reason for this, before the 1st February. This is especially important if your club takes Public Liability Insurance as the SGF has to pay the insurance premium on the 1st February. *If you do not let us know you are not renewing, your club will still be liable for this payment.*

If you change your **contact person** please let us know so that we can ensure that newsletters and any other information go to the correct person and that we have permission for how you would like to be contacted

If you feel that we can help in any way, please get in touch with any member of the Council. You can find contact details in this newsletter (p. 28) or on the website.

Mike Rossi
Membership Secretary,
and Fife Regional Coordinator

Collective Nouns for Flowers

When visiting a garden in the west of Scotland, I was struck by the bright yellow display of skunk cabbage, *Lysichiton americanum* flowers. This had me thinking that there ought to be collective nouns to describe flowers. After all, there are nouns to describe cows – herd; geese – a gaggle or skein; a shoal of fish or a swarm of bees, and so on.

With the help of several friends, we have come up with the following mostly alliterative list, although there can be many other suggestions.

Acanthus	an acclaim	Dierama	a dancing
Aconite	an awareness	Echinops	an elegance
Acer	an attraction	Embothrium	an effervescence
Agapanthus	an acclaim	Eranthis	an exuberance
Allium	an allotment	Eremurus	an eruption
Alyssum	an aroma	Erica	an enrapture
Anemone	an acquisition	Eschscholtzia	an extravagance
Anthurium	an armful	Euphorbia	a euphoria
Antirrhinum	an army	Forget-me-not	a fondness, a recollection
Arum	an array	Forsythia	a formation
Aster	an astronomy	Foxgloves	a flurry
Bamboo	a bamboozelium	Freesia	a fragrance
Begonia	a brilliance, a beguilement	Fritillaria	a fascination
Bellis	an XL	Fuchsia	a fantasy
Berberis	a barrier	Gardenia	a glory
Bougainvillea	a brashness	Gentiana	a gem
Boston ivy	a blaze	Geranium	a galaxy
Brambles	a bristling	Gladiolus	a gladness
Buddleja	a bower	Godetia	a garland
Bulrush	a stampede	Grasses	a granary
Busy Lizzies	a bereavement	Hebe	a harmony
Calluna	a carpet	Heather	a hummock
Camassia	a campus	Helenium	a happiness
Camellia	a cameo	Helleborus	a herbal
Campanula	a campanulatum	Hollyhock	a highlight, a haughtiness
Cherry flowering	a crescendo	Hosta	a hoard, a host
Chrysanthemum	a celebration	Hyacinthus	a huzzah
Clematis	a cascade	Hydrangea	a homily
Colchicum	a conference, a nakedness	Hypericum	a highlight
Convolvulus	a confusion, a curse	Ilex	an imposition
Cosmos	a constellation	Impatiens	an invasion
Cotoneaster	a community	Iris	an iridescence
Crocus	a croaking	Ivy	an intrusion
Cyclamen	a kaleidoscope	Jasminum	a jumble
Daffodil	a drifting	Jonquil	a jollity, a joyousness
Dahlia	a delight, a dazzle	Kniphofia	a kindling, a knot
Daisy	a carpet	Laburnum	a labyrinth
Daphne	a dreaming	Lathyrus	a loveliness
Day lily	a semester	Lavandula	a lingering
Delphinium	a delight	Lilac	a lullaby, a luxuriance
Dianthus	a delicacy, a delectation	Lilies	a lingering

Lupinus	a fantasia
Lysichiton	a luminescence
Magnolia	a magnificence
Mahonia	a marquee
Malus	an amazement
Marigolds	a marvel
Meconopsis	a magnitude
Mentha	an intelligentsia
Mimulus	a mockery
Mock orange	a scoffing
Monkshood	a monastery
Muscari	a multitude
Nerine	a gratitude
Nicotiana	a nocturne
Nigella	a recipe
Nymphaea	a pool
Oleander	an outrage
Orange blossom	an oohing
Orchids	an orchestra
Osteospermum	an outpouring
Paeonia	a perfection
Pansy	a posy
Passiflora	a passion
Pieris	a peerless
Peppers	a platoon
Petunia	a picture
Phlox	a plenitude, a flock
Pieris	a peerage
Polyanthus	a palate
Poppies	a pulchritude, a parade
Primula	a pride
Privet	a privacy
Protea	a proliferation
Prunus	a plethora
Pyracantha	a prickle
Rheum	a dormitory
Rhododendron	a rampage, a riot
Rose	a romance, a rainbow
Rosmarinus	a remembrance
Rowan	a radiance
Rubus	a rambling
Ruta	a rueing
Sage	a wisdom
Salvia	a salvo
Saxifraga	a swathe
Sedum	a scattering
Skimmia	a sensation
Sloes	a dawdle
Snowdrop	a snowdrift
Snowflake	a snowfall
Stocks	a sweetness

Sorbus	a stridency
Stonecrops	a henge
Streptocarpus	a symphony
Sunflowers	a sunniness, a radiance (ray dance)
Sweet peas	a swirling
Sweet William	a starburst
Syringa	a scintillation
Thistle	a prickle
Thyme	a ravage
Trillium	a trilogy
Tulips	a triumph, a tumult
Verbena	a vanity
Verbascum	a vibrancy
Veronica	a verisimilitude
Viburnum	a visit
Viola	a voluptitude
Virginian creeper	a vividness
Water lilies	a wallowing
Willow	a weeping, a wake
Wisteria	a waterfall, a whispering
Witch hazel	a wizardry, a wonder
Woodbine	a packet
Yew	a flock
Yucca	a defence
Zinnia	a zephyr

It has been fun compiling this list which hopefully may be adopted for general usage.

William A Tait
The Caley

**Dates for
Skye Gardeners 2019**

20th January 2pm

**Gardeners' Questions
Portree High School**

6th April 1.20pm

**Spring Show
Dunvegan Village Hall**

Pallets with a Purpose

Any readers visiting North Berwick High Street last summer could see a reminder of Gardening Scotland in the form of two gold medal pallet gardens. Even before the show they had both featured on the BBC's Beechgrove Garden when presenter George Anderson and a camera crew visited Law Primary School and North Berwick in Bloom as they prepared their entries for Ingliston. Both pallets carried strong social messages.

For 2018, NBIB chair, Rosie Oberlander, worked with Primary 6B and their teacher, Ailsa Kellagher, on a mini garden to demonstrate the children's concern about the harmful effect of plastic waste in the Firth of Forth and other seas. The Beechgrove team were impressed by the children's ingenuity in

creating a range of sea creatures from plastic trash which they then planted up using plants that grow by the seaside. The judges liked the pallet too and it won the schools section.

North Berwick in Bloom's pallet celebrated 70 years of the National Health Service and the connections between medicine and plants. The pallet has examples of wild plants people used to pick – some nowadays thought of as weeds – such as nettles to ease the pain of rheumatism, dandelions for bladder problems, yarrow for stopping bleeding. From these developed physic gardens with collections of medicinal herbs (Edinburgh Botanics started in 1670 like this) and a wider range of imported plants – rosemary for pain relief, sage for sore stomachs, and



mints for bowel problems. Not all these plants were beneficial – tobacco was once described as the holy herb and some doctors still recommended it as late as the 19th century!

Moving to the present day, group member and GP, Libby Morris, explained that many plants are still the basis of important drugs such as willow for aspirin, foxglove for heart disease; even the opium poppy is grown under licence in the UK to make painkillers, while a tropical periwinkle

from Madagascar is now used in the treatment of leukaemia. The public were able to interact with the pallet by ringing a bell for a pint of artificial blood and, more seriously, showing their appreciation of our NHS by clicking on a counter. By the end of the three day show 26,000 people had done this and the figure was passed to the NHS authorities. However we decided not to have bell, blood and counter in the summer display.

Stan da Prato

Tickets Now on Sale for Gardening Scotland 2019

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of Gardening Scotland and tickets to the national festival of gardening and outdoor living are now on sale.

To mark two decades of bringing Scotland's gardeners top quality horticulture and plants, tickets are available until 31st March for just £14 – a saving of £3 for every visitor.

There are great deals to be had too on group bookings – starting at just £11.60 per person for every group of more than ten. And weekend tickets, hospitality and afternoon tea packages are also available.

Gardening Scotland organiser Martin Dare said: "We have a very special show lined up for 2019 and we hope to welcome back gardeners who have been with us from the very start, along with the many new visitors who have joined us since then.

"Since the first Gardening Scotland at Ingliston in 2000 the show has become a fixture on the gardening calendar



and we have just signed a new three-year deal with the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society that will see the show remain here where it started."

Gardening Scotland brings together top nurseries from across the UK, including renowned Scottish growers of specialist plants, and its mix of talks, workshops, entertainment and advice has something for everyone, from knowledgeable gardeners to complete beginners.

Gardening Scotland 2019 will take place from Friday 31st May to Sunday 2nd June.

For tickets and more information visit

www.gardeningscotland.com

Agnes Stevenson

Seed Company Discounts – Collated by Sue Thomas, Badenoch Gardening Club

Company	Discount on seeds	Discount on non-seed	Minimum order	Individual orders	Group via organiser	Postage	Comments
Marshalls	35%-50%	0-10%-20%	£75 before discount, £101+ gets higher discount	No	Collated by organiser and posted to one address	?	
Dobbies	50%	15%	No minimum per individual. £100 (after discount), over the year. Top up orders any value	Direct delivery to individual		£1.99 seeds, £4.99 other	Can adjust discount so some goes to club funds
Suttons	50%	15%	£100 before discount	Direct delivery to individual		£1.99 seeds, £4.99 other	Can adjust discount so some goes to club funds
Thompson and Morgan	50%	20%	£100 after discount. (i.e.£200) Then £25 for further orders	No	Posted to one address but can be bulk or individually packed per person	free for either bulk or packed individually	
DT Brown	25% - 50%	15%	£100	No	Posted to one address but individually packed per person	95p per person	Free gifts, £30 seed voucher for organiser
Mr Fothergills	25%- 60%	15%	£100, but £1000 at catalogue prices to get 60%	No	Posted to one address but individually packed per person	£1.95 per person	Free gifts, £30 seed voucher for organiser



The winners at the Badenoch Annual Show



More winners at the Badenoch Annual Show

Nairn and District Gardening Club Hosts Another Successful Show



Would there be any cut flowers to exhibit when most plants had been at their best weeks earlier? It had been a sensational season for tomatoes in the far north but what about the other vegetables? Would we find a substitute for the judge who had pulled out at the last minute? These were just a few of our concerns as August 25th, the day of our show, approached! The resilient gardeners in this area, however, still produced some exceptional exhibits for the show bench. Even the ageing show database behaved impeccably and our 36th Annual Show was voted a success.

Our show schedule includes a members-only class. This year, our June meeting had taken the form of a hands-on session, where each club member had been given a trio pot which they were invited to fill with a selection of annuals. The aim had been to provide a colourful display along the edge of the stage. The intense heat of this summer meant

that some of the annual plants were well past their best and some members were too embarrassed to enter them. Some had been put on the compost heap rather than the show bench!

At the other end of the scale, the Best in Show was awarded to George Pirie of Alness with a spectacular Begonia. This magnificent plant was an impressive entry in the pot plant section and greatly admired by all.

The trophies were presented by Derek Hosie, who was previously Head Gardener at Cawdor Castle. (He's in the SGF Speakers' Register and offers a variety of talks, so he's one to book for next year's programme.)



George Pirie's 'Best in Show' Begonia

At the end of the afternoon, after all the show staging has been dismantled by a band of loyal helpers, we are able to reflect on a masterpiece of voluntary organisation. But not for long, as we start compiling the schedule for 2019, in

early September.

If you are interested, next year's show is booked for 24th August at Nairn and Community and Arts Centre. You will be given a warm Highland welcome if you are able to join us on the day.

Anne Vincent

Lanark Garden Club

Easy Alpines for Scotland

Entry is free to members, £6 for non-members and will include a cup of tea and biscuits.

If you are interested in attending, please contact: Cary Jones, email caryjones67@hotmail.com (or 07759 527820 preferably by text) with your name and a contact number.

Cary Jones

Our regular monthly meeting on the last Thursday of the month will be a change in venue for 28th March 2019. It will be held at the Cartland Bridge Hotel, Glasgow Road, Lanark, ML11 9UE, at 7 for 7.30pm. The Guest Speaker will be Julia Corden, President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club and manager of the Explorer's Garden, Pitlochry, who will be giving us a talk entitled:

Arran Horticultural Society

Arran is glowing in the most beautiful Autumn colours thanks to the summer heat wave that caused not a few difficulties for our gardeners prior to our summer show. While in the Spring, the 'Beast from the East' presented challenges for those entering exhibits in the show at that time. Nevertheless we had two good shows this year, and of these the Spring show, with the crucial help of the Primary Schools, had the usual wealth of excellent children's entries, and it really was a joy when this was repeated at the summer show. It was very encouraging to see a number of first time exhibitors; this has been reflected in the memberships taken

out, which continue at a high level.

Our garden club is having some difficulty in attracting speakers from the mainland in the winter when visitors are rather reluctant to take to the high seas, and there is also the cost of overnight accommodation to be considered. However, despite drawbacks, an ambitious programme is being planned for 2019.

'The Arran Community Land Initiative' continues to expand, gaining interest from all ages, skills and diverse gardening interests. Beekeeping is also on the increase which in turn makes gardeners more aware of the need to nurture plants to help sustain the bee population.

The seasons that used to determine our gardening programmes are not now as clearly defined, but all the same present interesting challenges.

Happy gardening,

**John Sillars,
President,**

Arran Horticultural Society



Donibristle PS Millenium Garden

Dalgety Bay Horticultural Society (DBHS) received a £75 grant from the SGF to help with the redevelopment of the Donibristle Primary School seven point garden, designed and constructed by parents in 2000 as a millennium project. DBHS match funded the £75, which gave the project £150 to work with.

The garden was looking a bit dreary and unloved: although the pupils at the school were planting, they had no real direction.

The wooden structure was badly in need of a paint and this was done by Fife Council people. It took a while for them to actually do the job which delayed our work.

Firstly, as it was late on in the year, until we got started, we planted Tête-à-tête daffodils, which would give a good show in the spring.

There are fourteen raised bed plots in the garden and the ultimate goal was to plant a clematis, a montana, which are profuse and take less maintenance than other clematis species, at each

Before



After



upright pole of the garden. Netting was erected for the clematis to grow up. Pupils, with the help of DBHS, planted summer bedding and other plants such as sunflowers and sweet peas in each of the raised beds and the garden took on a beauty that had not been evident for a few years.

All the clematis were planted in October 2018, far later than planned, but this had been out of our hands. There is still work to do to allow the clematis to fan out and grow over the top of the structure but DBHS will take care of this.

We planted some more Tête-à-tête bulbs to add to the spring display. A DBHS member has a few herbaceous plants which we will transplant into the school garden next year. The pupils at the school have promised to work with DBHS to keep the millennium garden watered and weeded. DBHS will work with them to keep the garden up to scratch.



Michael enjoying his lunch at the AGM

It was good working with the kids and to see how keen they are.

Michael Gourlay
Chairman, DBHS

Renewal of Saughton Park, Edinburgh



The enormous project revitalising Saughton Park is coming to fruition. As well as the contractors, there has been significant input from volunteers from The Caley and especially from the Friends of Saughton Park, pictured here. Look out for opening dates!

Alison Murison

SOCIETY	EVENT	VENUE	DATE
Broughty Ferry in Bloom	Snowdrop-In coffee morning, raffle, cake & candy & Lindsey Harrow will be selling her artwork	Barnhill Community Centre, Campfield Square, Broughty Ferry	February 23rd (provisional), 10am to 12noon
Royal Caledonian HS	Junior Groups Spring Bulb Competition and Show, details www.thecaley.org.uk/events .	John Hope Gateway, RBGE	March 23rd and 24th, 12 to 5pm
Royal HS of Perthshire	Spring Flower Show	Burnside Halls, Scone , PH2 6LP	23rd March 23rd, 12 to 4.30pm
Royal Caledonian HS	Spring Bulb Show, further details www.thecaley.org.uk/events .	Saughton Park, Edinburgh	March 30th & 31st, 12 to 5pm.
Dalkeith HS	Inter Society Quiz is hosted by Dalkeith	Masonic Hall, High Street, Dalkeith	April 4th
St Andrews Gardeners Club	Spring Show, Further details can be viewed on our website www.standrewsgardeners.co.uk	Hope Park Martyrs Church Hall in St. Marys Place	April 13th, 11am until 3.30 pm
Dalkeith HS	Coffee Morning	Welfare Hall, St. Andrew Street, Dalkeith	April 20th, 10am to 12 noon
Musselburgh HS	Plant Sale	The Hollies, High Street Musselburgh	May 4th, 10am to 12 noon
Dalkeith HS	Plant Sale is in Welfare Hall, St. Andrew Street, Dakeith.	Welfare Hall, St. Andrew Street, Dalkeith	May 4th, 9.30am to 12noon
Stewarton GC	Plant Sale & Coffee Morning	John Knox Church Hall	May 11th, 10am to 12noon
Helensburgh and Gareloch HS	Plant Sale	Victoria Halls Helensburgh	May 12th, 9.20 to 12noon
Killlearn Cottagers HS	Plant sale and coffee morning	Killlearn Village Hall	May 18th, 10am to 12noon
Gifford HS	Plant Sale We have a new website www.giffordhorti.org	Gifford Village Hall	May 18th, 10am
Banchory GC	Plant sale and Coffee Morning	Scout HQ.	May 25th from 10am to 12 noon
Nairn and District Gardening Club	Spring Coffee Morning and Plant Sale	The Royal Legion Hall, Nairn	May 25th
Ayr & District Flower Show	Flower Show	Ayr Racecourse, Whitletts Road, Ayr, KA8 0JE	August 16th & 17th
Alford and District Garden Club	Annual Flower Show	Village Hall, Kingsford Road, Alford, Aberdeenshire	August 17th, 2-4pm
Culter & District HS	Culter Flower Show, presentation at 2pm followed by a cafe with home bakes	Culter Village Hall, Peterculter Aberdeen	August 17th at 1.45pm
Gifford HS	Gifford Flower Show, We have a new website www.giffordhorti.org	Gifford Village Hall	August 17th & 18th
Nairn and District Gardening Club	Annual Show	Nairn Community and Arts Centre	August 24th
Helensburgh and Gareloch HS	169th Annual Flower and Vegetable Show	Victoria Halls Helensburgh	August 24th, 2pm
Musselburgh HS	Annual Flower Show	The Brunton, Musselburgh	August 24th
Killlearn Cottagers HS	153rd Annual Show	Killlearn Village Hall and Church	August 31st, 2.00 to 4.30pm
Banchory GC	Annual Flower Show	Banchory Town Hall	September 7th & 8th
Mauchline Horticultural & Agricultural Society	Flower Show	Mauchline Parish Church Halls	September 7th, 2pm to 4.30pm
Dalkeith HS	Dalkeith Show (Incorporating the National Vegetable Society Show in 2019)	Dalkeith School Campus, Cousland Road, Thornybank, Dalkeith.	September 7th & 8th
Stewarton GC	Plant Sale & Coffee Morning	Flower Show	September 7th, 1.30 to 3.00pm
Dollar Horticultural and GC	Annual Flower Show 2019.	The Burnside Hall, Dollar	September 7th
St Andrews Gardeners Club	Summer Show, Further details can be viewed on our website www.standrewsgardeners.co.uk	St Andrews Town Hall Supper Room	September 28th, 12 to 4.30pm
Brighter Bervie	Gardens Open Daily to the Public	Montrose Road, Inverbervie, Montrose	
		HS=Horticultural Society	GC=Gardening Club

2018 AGM Report

For this year's AGM, on Sat 3rd November, we ventured north eastwards to Inverbervie, situated on the coast between Montrose and Stonehaven. This well-attended event was hosted by local member club Brighter Bervie.

Following the customary pattern, the day began with registration, tea, coffee and chat in the church centre where an interesting selection of stalls were set up for delegates to browse, collect gardening related information and buy seeds, plants and books. Also present was Neil McNulty from Hurlford who is helping to provide an updated show database for use by member clubs.

Outgoing chairperson Shiona Mackie welcomed everyone to the business part of

the meeting in the adjacent parish church. As always, Shiona led us efficiently through the business items then gave her comprehensive report on the generally healthy state of the SGF and its activities during the past year.

Turning to the election of office bearers, Roger Evans was duly installed as our new chairperson. Unfortunately Roger is currently undergoing medical treatment and is not immediately able to take up his new role, but we were all

delighted that he and his wife managed to make the trip to join us for a good part of the day in Inverbervie. In these circumstances, Shiona has agreed to act as joint chairperson for the next three months.

Shiona was presented with a bouquet of flowers and gift as a token of our gratitude for the dedicated and successful leadership she has given to the SGF over recent years.



Tom Campbell addressing the meeting

The final business item was a discussion concerning vacant office bearer positions which are proving difficult to fill. This is a situation which is not sustainable. Another plea was issued for volunteers to come forward; this has been circulated to all member clubs.

As a contingency in the event that sufficient office bearers cannot be found, the assembled delegates gave their approval for Council to

explore alternative arrangements for running the SGF which could involve collaborating with other Scottish gardening organisations. If this proves to be the case, an extraordinary meeting of members will be called in Spring 2019 to discuss and decide on the future administration of the SGF.

The morning concluded with an illustrated talk by Tom Campbell on how Brighter Bervie has grown as a community gardening group since it was constituted in 2013. Delegates were "piped" to a tasty lunch in the neighbouring Living Rooms by members of the Mearns Pipe Band playing in the adjacent Voyage of Life Garden (See Front Cover). Over lunchtime everyone had the opportunity to look around the community garden, visit the stalls once more, or view a demonstration of Neil McNulty's Show Database.

Julia Corden, manager of the Explorers' Garden in Pitlochry and president of the SRGC, began the afternoon session with a fascinating presentation on modern day plant hunting. She showed beautiful photographs of an

astonishing variety of Meconopsis in wild mountainous terrain. She demonstrated how committed she must be to take such very long treks to see some of these lovely plants in their native surroundings.

The second presenter in the afternoon was Fiona Guest who, with her husband, runs Scotia Seeds at Farnell near Brechin, where they specialise in growing native wildflower species. Fiona's expertise and enthusiasm shone through as she explained why we should be growing wildflowers in our gardens, and how she and her family have developed meadow areas beside their nursery. Many delegates went back to her stall to stock up with seeds to create their own meadows and native plant highlights.

The church heating had been working at full power throughout the day, so by the end of the afternoon, the atmosphere was akin to the arid house at the RBGE! Nonetheless, the day's proceedings were enjoyed by all who attended.

Tom Campbell



Delegates enjoying the stalls

Kilmacolm Horticultural Society

2019 sees the Society celebrating its 140th anniversary. It was formed by a group of young gardeners who worked on the large estates surrounding the village, meeting to share gardening stories, exchange advice or solve tricky problems.

In the First World War seventy six young men from Kilmacolm – a small village in those days – were killed in the slaughter. The Society closed down for the duration of the Second World War, but the need for fresh fruit and vegetables saw an explosion in allotment ownership, and conversion of grass and fields into sustainable small farming enterprises.



Summer Fete 2018

Times change, and over the past thirty years our committee has seen a decline in the 'do-it-yourself' planting of a vegetable garden that our grandparents loved so much. Flower beds filled with shrubs and easy maintenance plants have become more popular, perhaps due to the ease of purchase of a huge variety of vegetables grown in Britain or imported from abroad. But – flavour is best if home-grown!

We are very fortunate to have the support of a loyal band of members, ageing but enthusiastic with their support of our annual Flower Show,

Spring Bulb competition, our Winter Lectures, fundraising coffee morning and Spring Plant Sale.

The past thirty years also attracted new members who enjoyed the Spring and Summer outings which we planned, visiting famous gardens in Scotland, Ireland and the Lake District in Cumbria.

Currently the Society is struggling to find activities which would encourage younger members to join us. Sport and leisure activities with their families are more enticing.

We are fortunate to have a strong committee, led by our chairman Dr Ian Morrice. Ian has a superb

knowledge in horticultural matters, he is a good leader and we all work well together. We look forward to many more years serving the people of Kilmacolm and Inverclyde. Working in a garden or sitting at leisure in a garden is an ideal way to de-stress, relax with friends and admire the beauty of nature.

Please look for further information, details and photographs on our Website:

www.kilmacolmhorticultural.com

Jill Russell
Secretary (since 1985)
Kilmacolm Horticultural Society

News from the NE Region

As reported elsewhere, we were delighted to host this year's SGF AGM in Inverbervie and to see such a good turnout of members not only from the North East but also from across Scotland. Thank you all for making the effort to attend this friendly event. Your positive responses support Council's aim of engaging members from all parts of the country. So, I wonder which region would like to host the 2019 AGM, and I look forward to the opportunity of meeting gardeners in another part of Scotland next November.

Several North East clubs have taken part this year in *Its Your Neighbourhood* and *Beautiful Scotland*, as indeed have clubs from all around the country. I'd like to note the successes of SGF members from our region in these competitions run by *Keep Scotland Beautiful*. Please take a look at their website where you'll find details of participants and the inspiring gardening work that they are doing in their communities. It's also interesting to see the multitude of other active gardening groups. If you know of any in your locality, please try to encourage them to join the SGF as I know some you are doing already.

Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden achieved an Outstanding award in *Its Your Neighbourhood*.

In *Beautiful Scotland*, Broughty Ferry in Bloom achieved a Gold award and Brighter Bervie received Silver, plus RHS discretionary awards for Overcoming Adversity (removing invasive species) and Growing Communities. Please

excuse me if I've missed any.

Special mention must be made of the spectacular achievement by the small but obviously perfectly formed SGF member group, East Haven Together, in gaining not only a Gold award in Britain in Bloom 2018 but also winning their category in competition with much larger UK rivals. Well done East Haven! This is a first and brief effort at presenting regional news in our newsletter. I hope it will encourage all regions to share their news with us all in future editions.

Tom Campbell
NE Coordinator

Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Spring Flower Shows

Junior Groups Competition

23rd and 24th March 2019

in the John Hope Gateway, RBGE

To enter the competition you will need to enter 6 x 1litre pots.

Each pot must contain 5 bulbs of dwarf daffodils such as Tête-à-tête or Jetfire.

The competition is open to all nurseries, primary schools and junior groups (Brownies, Cubs etc)

New for 2019:

Additional Cups and Awards!

Contact Paula Collings
schoolspringshow@rchs.co.uk



Christmas Gardening — No Chance!

Eat a mince pie or do some weeding? Drink another glass of wine or prune back the herbaceous plants? I know which ones I will choose. I may take a long walk down my short garden on Christmas day to inspect the *Hellebores* and get a bit of fresh air but I'm sorry, that's about it – the garden gives me plenty to worry about in the summer;

- ♪ On the first day of Summer my garden gave to me – a frost on my pear tree (killed all the flower buds).
- ♪ On the second day of Summer my garden gave to me – two slimy slugs (ignoring my real ale beer trap) and my frosted pear tree.
- ♪ On the third day of Summer my garden gave to me – three uncut hedges (due to nesting blackbirds), two slimy slugs and my frosted pear tree.
- ♪ On the fourth day of Summer my garden gave to me – four cabbage whites (on the cauliflower), three uncut hedges, two slimy slugs and my frosted pear tree.
- ♪ On the fifth day of Summer my garden gave to me – five unidentified things (I think they grew from the wild

bird food), four cabbage whites, three uncut hedges, two slimy slugs and my frosted pear tree.

- ♪ On the sixth day of Summer my garden gave to me – six neighbours' cats (scratching in the seedbed), five unidentified things, four cabbage whites, three uncut hedges, two slimy slugs and my frosted pear tree.
- ♪ On the seventh day of Summer my garden gave to me – seven vine weevils (notching my *Camellia* leaves), six neighbours' cats, five unidentified things, four cabbage whites, three uncut hedges, two slimy slugs and my frosted pear tree.
- ♪ On the eighth day of Summer my garden gave to me – eight barbecues burning (him indoors cooking again), seven vine weevils, six neighbours' cats, five unidentified things, four cabbage whites, three uncut hedges, two slimy slugs and my frosted pear tree.
- ♪ On the ninth day of Summer my garden gave to me – nine fences falling (global warming – unseasonable winds), eight barbecues burning, seven vine weevils, six neighbours' cats, five unidentified things, four cabbage whites, three uncut hedges,



two slimy slugs and my frosted pear tree.

- ♪ On the tenth day of Summer my garden gave to me – ten green bottles (maybe that's another song – but they're great for catching wasps), nine fences falling, eight barbecues burning, seven vine weevils, six neighbours' cats, five unidentified things, four cabbage whites, three

uncut hedges, two slimy slugs and my frosted pear tree.

- ♪ On the eleventh and twelfth day of Summer I gave up and went on my Summer holidays!

So you see the festive season is really a great time of year. 'Merry Christmas' and 'No Garden Worries'.

Ann Burns

One Hundred Years of Glendoick Gardens

In 1919 Euan Cox, set out for Burma, accompanying renowned plant collector Reginald Farrer, on an expedition in search of potential new garden treasures. Euan arrived home in Autumn 1919, laden with seed of rhododendrons, conifers, perennials and bulbs and with these, he established the woodland gardens at Glendoick House near Perth.



Today those gardens have reached glorious maturity and the nursery alongside them has become world-renowned for breeding outstanding new varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas, including its series of dwarf Rhododendrons named after birds.

To mark the centenary of the gardens, Kenneth Cox, third-generation plant hunter and nurseryman, will be leading guided tours around the gardens and talking about the Himalayan expeditions undertaken by himself, his father, Peter Cox, and by his grandfather, during which many of the plants that grow at

Glendoick were collected.

Kenneth has also rewritten the Glendoick Nursery guidebook to include a history of the gardens, and in 2019 and 2020 Glendoick will be releasing the latest new evergreen and deciduous azaleas bred at Glendoick.

The Gardens at Glendoick are open in April and May 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm. Tickets (£5) from Glendoick Garden Centre. Ken will be running guided tours on Sunday 5th May and Sunday 12th May 10.30am. For more details see:

www.glendoick.com

Agnes Stevenson

Gardeners' Harvest from Tesco Bags of Help

Heading into deep mid-winter here is a warming story of garden investment across Scotland.

Nearly 400 gardening projects across Scotland have harvested over £1.5M from *Bags of Help*, the sales of the 5p and 10p Tesco plastic carrier bags, since Spring 2016.

The common theme to the diverse range of projects is bringing benefit to the local community and environment. Bags of Help projects have brought people together and closer to nature in fruitful open spaces, generating thousands of hours of volunteering.

One third of these projects are specific garden and allotment projects in schools and nurseries. Above and beyond this £1.5M are many, many schools and nurseries that have also upgraded their grounds for outdoor learning and play, including making mucky mud kitchens and shelters of all kinds.

This investment saw the creation, improvement and maintenance of gardens in public spaces including community gardens, allotments, wildlife sanctuaries, high streets, forests, social centres and public parks.

The funding began with larger capital awards of £8,000 to £12,000 on infrastructure such as access and pathways, services, outdoor classrooms, polytunnels, greenhouses and rest facilities.

As the customer voting became continuous, the funding spread into supporting activities such as sessional



tuition, volunteer expenses, tools, training, educational and promotional materials and celebratory events.

The motivations behind these projects are as wide-ranging as the scope and geography. Groups are inspired by beautifying streets, creating social and therapeutic spaces, inclusion, education, sustainability and supporting specialist interests in plants and wildlife.

Take a look at some of the Bags of Help in greenspaces across Scotland at www.greenspacescotland.org.uk

How are you motivated? Awards of £1,000 to £4,000 are now available by applying online. Follow this link:

bit.ly/bagsofhelp4

to find out more and open an online application account to bring benefit to your local community and environment. Need help with your application or just want to bounce ideas of us – find your local Community Enabler

www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/grant-funding

Tamara Hedderwick
Community Enabler,
Greenspace Scotland

The **Deadline** for the next issue is
March 21st 2019
editor@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Christmas in North Berwick

It was North Berwick Gardening Club's last meeting of the year and a great opportunity to start thinking about Festive decorations. What better place to start than the garden?



Starting with a breadbasket full with foliage from her garden, Margaret Ann Crawford, our Club Chair, beautifully demonstrated how to use your plants to create festive arrangements and decorations, giving us all useful hints and ideas along the way.

As well as the traditional Holly and Ivy, many other plants were used including Skimmia leaves and berries, Hebe, Brachyglottis, Juniper, variegated Pittisporum and Cypressus foliage, white Rowan and Snowberry berries; dried seed heads including fir cones, Allium and Eryngium. Whilst the majority of the materials were from the garden, Margaret Ann cleverly and creatively added silk flowers and other props to enhance the displays.

One hint we will all take away from the event was "How to make holly leaves



look as if they are sprinkled with snow". Take your holly sprig, mist with water using a spray, place the sprig in a plastic bag that is already half full of sifted white flour. Shake. When you remove the sprig it looks as if it is sprinkled with snow and can be placed directly in the arrangements.

By the end of the meeting, we had a selection of decorations including a door swag, wreath, candle decoration, Santa's sleigh and Christmas tree. Some can be seen here, others can be seen at

www.northberwickhortisoc.com

Cathie Wright



The Currie Show 2018



The SGF Chair, Shiona Mackie, was invited to present prizes at the Currie Parish Horticultural and Industrial Society Show.



left to right: Sheila Mason, Show Secretary, Shiona Mackie, SGF Chair, Graham Thomas, Society Chairman, Pat Hampton, Society Treasurer



Regional Co-Ordinators



North	Ann Vincent, Nairn and District HS north@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk
North East	Tom Campbell, Brighter Bervie northeast@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk
East	Kathryn Pitts, Penicuik HS east@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk
Fife	Mike Rossi, Scottish Bonsai Association fife@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk
Lothian	<i>Vacancy</i>
West Central	Andrea McDowall, Kirkintilloch HS westcentral@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk
West	Veronica Davis, Helensburgh and Gareloch HS west@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Gardening in Later Life

With Autumn just over a month left to run, this sudden cold snap, for me, completes this year's weather. I'll leave it at that since it's not the "done thing" for the Misty Isle Dedicated Gardeners' Epistle (MIDGE) editor to moan, at least not too much. Whilst flowers and some shrubs have suffered this year, some parts of our garden, with the phenomenal amounts of rain, are in danger of becoming a jungle and heralds loud and clear that extensive cutting and pruning will be required over the winter months. I suspect that I will not be alone in undertaking this task.

For this edition I believe it appropriate to discuss gardening for the future. As a member of the grey brigade I know how relevant this has become. Our garden was started thirteen years ago at around this time of year and my wife and I agreed that it has brought us tremendous joy and satisfaction over the years. Did we make mistakes in those early days, without a doubt; planting shrubs etc too close, bulbs lost beneath other plants, introducing thuggish plants and shrubs that thought they had the right to spread wherever they chose, to mention a few. Find me a gardener who has not made the same mistakes, if such a person exists.

It became clear a few years ago that we needed to change the garden if we were to stand a chance of managing it effectively in our later years and

some two years ago we set about the task. With two large garden areas totalling around half an acre, with many different plants and shrubs, some difficult choices were required because we knew things could not stay the same. The first decisions were to open up those areas of the garden that had become inaccessible and to take out all the thuggish plants and shrubs. Were these decisions hard to take – yes they were. Escallonia hedging, berberis, sorbaria, hebes and unrelenting ground cover to name a few have been removed or are being removed. Flower beds are being re-designed, with better accessibility and containment in mind, and replanted with more suitable plants. This year's phenomenal shrub growth has exposed areas within the garden where planting shrubs too close has become a problem, so more difficult choices lie ahead of us, but it is clear that these will have to be made if we are to retain the ability to manage our garden and maintain the same levels of satisfaction in our later years.

Whilst every garden is thankfully different I believe it appropriate for members to think about gardening in future years. Conclusions will differ due to the shape and size of each garden but hopefully it will lead to continued enjoyment for you all.

Tom Smit
Isle of Skye

Your Council

Honorary President:

Jim McColl

Honorary Vice-President:

Jim Jermyn

Chair: Roger Evans (Lanark HS)

chair@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Vice Chair:

Kathryn Pitts (Penicuik HS)

Secretary: Kathryn Pitts (Penicuik HS)

secretary@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Treasurer:

Andrea McDowall (Kirkintilloch HS)

treasurer@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Membership Secretary:

Mrs Mike Rossi (Scottish Bonsai Association)

98 Main Street, Coaltown of Balgonie,

Glenrothes, Fife KY7 6HZ

Tel: 01592 771541

membership@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Registers (Speakers and Judges):

Kathryn Pitts (Penicuik HS)

registers@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Council Members:

Ann Burns (Oatridge College)

Tom Campbell (Brighter Bervie)

Veronica Davis (Helensburgh and Gareloch HS)

Alison Murison (The Caley)

John Smith (Pallet Garden & Planter/Gardening Scotland)

Cameron Tasker (RBGE)

Anne Vincent (Nairn and District Horticultural Society)

Newsletter Editor: Alison Murison

editor@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk