



# Scottish Gardeners' Forum Newsletter

PROMOTING SCOTLAND'S GARDEN CLUBS



*Tulipa tarda*, from the North Berwick Tulip Festival 2019 see P21

**Spring 2020**

**Vol 18: Issue 1**

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## Letter from the Chair

The last few weeks have been both frightening and unsettling for all of us. As we have watched the Coronavirus pandemic sweeping the globe we are now faced with enormous changes to our home and family lives.

Many of the events which we enjoy at this time of year have necessarily been cancelled as we are advised to avoid contact with other people. One of these cancellations is Gardening Scotland and so we have had the upsetting task of telling many school and community groups that their plans for the Pallet and Planter competition must be put on hold until next year. I know that a lot of work goes into the planning by the exhibitors and also the SGF council members who undertake the organisation, I am very sorry that this is the case, but we must ensure that everyone is kept safe.

This news has somewhat taken the shine off other events which took place earlier in the year.

We held our first Council meeting of the year in the meeting room at Saughton Park and some of us were able to have a look round the bare bones of the garden on a chilly but sunny February afternoon. The garden is now closed but when it reopens it will have flourished in our absence and we will be able to enjoy the lush planting and brilliant colour once again.

At the Caley AGM in March, I was honoured with an award, a Certificate of Merit for my contribution to Horticulture and Gardening in Scotland. This was a most enjoyable evening and it was humbling to meet other recipients who all seemed to have achieved so much more in their careers. I recalled the first time that I was in the lecture theatre at RBGE almost 20 years ago as I sat the RHS certificate in Horticulture. Three hours of frantically trying to recall types of ephemeral weeds, trees

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suitable for a small garden and theory of cultivation. My supervisor on this distance learning course was John Smith (one of the organisers of the SGF Pallet and Planter competition) and so it was a great pleasure to see him awarded the very much deserved Dr Andrew Duncan Medal at the same ceremony.

Before the restrictions came into force, I was able to visit Helensburgh and to start plans for the AGM later in the year. We have a lovely venue and some interesting local speakers lined up, so fingers crossed that we are able

to go ahead.

Our council members have also been coming up with ideas to keep gardening in their neighbourhoods and have suggestions to help occupy bored children and adults alike.

I hope that with the weather improving, many of us will seek solace in our gardens and that we can all get outside and enjoy doing what we love. Good gardening, keep safe and look after one another and I look forward to meeting some of you later in the year.

**Kathryn Pitts**  
Chair





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## My Favourite Plant- the Tulip (Tulipa)



There is nothing subtle about tulips, their flowers make sure they get right in your face. To my mind they perfectly round off the season of Spring bulbs with a colourful climax before the arrival of Summer, which brings a wider and in some cases a softer range of plants and textures to our gardens and countryside.

My first paid job during school holidays – gosh that was a long time ago – was in a squad weeding and disbudding a five acre field of chrysanthemums. Like tulips, chrysanths' attraction is in their brightly coloured blooms. Maybe it's the memory of that repetitive work with back bent or on hands and knees amongst the chrysanths that feeds my preference for the tulip!

I can recall in the early to mid-seventies seeing fields filled with stunning swathes of multi-coloured tulips in the area around Carnoustie in Angus. Sadly for me, these have given way to daffodils which are very attractive in their own way and obviously more commercially viable, but lack

the alluring colour palette provided by tulips. We can thank our Dutch neighbours who became besotted with the tulip and developed so many varied colours and forms of the flower.

25 years ago my wife and I paid our first visit to the Keukenhof tulip park in Holland. We were able to return there last year to appreciate the breathtaking displays of every imaginable size, form and colour of tulip immaculately cultivated and presented in woodlands which include peaceful water features. I'm sure several readers will have enjoyed the late-Spring visual feast at Keukenhof – a pleasure I recommend if you've not been before.

I hope the accompanying photos from Keukenhof help you share my delight in tulips.

**Tom Campbell**





## Congratulations Jim!

The RHS has awarded our Hon President, Jim McColl, the Victoria Medal of Honour.

Congratulations also to Peter Sandwell of Dundee F&F, who has been awarded Associate of Honour of the RHS, and Ian Young of SRGC the Veitch Memorial Medal.

*The Victoria Medal of Honour (VHM)*



*Jim McColl visiting the SGF stand at Dundee Flower and Food Festival 2018*

## Stewarton Gardening Club

Spring came in this year cold, wet and windy, however members were busy over the winter months preparing their single Hyacinth bulb in a glass for the February competition.

The February speaker, Katrina Clow, gave us an interesting insight to challenges of making a new garden from a bare field, and the joy of enlarging a boggy area and turning it into a wildlife pond.

The gardening world has been deeply affected by the current Covid-19 pandemic and sadly all meetings, speakers and spring shows have been cancelled. We are not alone as many countries across the world are similarly affected.

This is a time when we can all appreciate our gardens as a place of sanctuary.

**Hazel Mulberry**  
Secretary

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## Dalgety Bay Horticultural Society

### To Show or not to Show

**07/03/2020** - The year is progressing nicely. We have had two meetings already. We never had one in January because nobody would want to come out on 3rd January; too near all the festivities for that. We had the DBHS Annual Cheese and Wine in February which was the usual success. It was a good night, plenty of people, refreshments, a quiz and a few good stories. The first real meeting was about the Fife Pilgrim Way and it was really good.

**12/03/2020** - We had our DBHS Committee Meeting and discussed a variety of events planned for 2020. The Annual Plant Sale; Coach Trip to Gardening Scotland; Scotland Garden Scheme Open Day at the Allotments and the DBHS Annual Show. There was no hint of what was around the corner at that meeting. How events have developed and changed.

As usual, the speaker for the next meeting, in April, had been contacted and reminded of the date of his presentation, give him directions and to make sure everything was alright.

**17/03/2020** - An email was received today from the speaker for our next meeting. Last night the government had put out advice that the over 70's should be self-isolating. Being a man of a certain age, our speaker had decided that he should cancel his talk. We completely understood this and a message was circulated to our email

membership to inform them that the April meeting had been cancelled.

**20/03/2020** - An email was sent to all DBHS Committee Members asking for their views and agreement to a list of DBHS meeting cancellations. It seemed the right thing to do in the circumstances.

We will still have Committee Meetings by email. I will circulate my notes and the committee and respond with their views and any other ideas. I would rather do it this way than embrace social media platforms, which some of them, including me, would not be comfortable using.

**25/03/2020** - Our printers have informed us that they are closing for the foreseeable future. The Grapevine, the DBHS Newsletter, will continue to be produce and be circulated to the 77% of our membership who have said they would like to receive it electronically. There will be no paper copies. We cannot expect our distributors to hand deliver newsletters under the circumstances.

Since 25/03/2020, DBHS has decided to cancel the meetings in April, May, June and August. The October and November meetings will be reviewed at the end of June and the DBHS AGM in December will be reviewed at the end of September.

The Annual Plant Sale in May has been cancelled, the Coach Trip to Gardening Scotland in May has been cancelled.

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Of course, the organisers of Gardening Scotland helped us make that decision. A Scotland's Garden Scheme Allotments Open Day, along with a private garden in Dalgety Bay, to be held in July, has been cancelled. Worst of all, The DBHS Annual Show in September has been cancelled.

There is a big financial outlay for the show which we could not justify. Our Show Schedules are due to go out on 1st May 2020 and we would have had them printed in April, but the printers are now closed so we cannot do this.

All the Sponsors and Advertisers for the show have been contacted to tell them the show is off and it has been agreed with them that if they have already paid, by BACS, that this would be carried forward to the 2021 show.

The schools have closed so there would have been no Schools Section. No posters, no Poems, no Tallest Sunflowers and no Tattie Barrels. Guiding, Scouting and the Boys Brigade in Dalgety Bay have been suspended so that would mean no challenge for the Local Groups Section at the show. Nursing Homes are in lockdown so there would have been no entries for the Nursing Homes Section.

As well as this, there is no Dalgety Bay Gala this year. We would have a plant sale at the Gala, but not this year. The Gala Committee also run the tea-room at the Show and the Gala Royal Party present the trophies for the Young Gardeners and Young Photographers Sections at the show, but not this year. We have a fairly substantial Farmers

Market at the show and the trades who would normally come to this have all been told that it's not on this year. Fife Council, who cut the grass at a certain time have been told they should keep to their usual grass cutting schedule.

I speak with a heavy heart and I am very sad that the 45th Dalgety Bay Horticultural Society (DBHS) Annual Show has been cancelled for 2020. This is the first time in 45 years that this has had to happen. Anyone who knows me will know how devastated I am. It was, however, the right action to take in the circumstances. We will be back in 2021.

**Michael Gourlay**  
Chairman  
DBHS



We regret to advise that as a result of current circumstances surrounding Covid-19, Gardening Scotland has now ceased trading.

The company will be going in to liquidation. All creditors will receive further details shortly.

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## North Berwick Gardener's Question Time - November 2019



*Guest panel from left to right:*

*George Anderson, Beryl McNaughton, Stan Da Prato and Ian Craigie*

What a joy it was to have George Anderson from The Beechgrove Garden, Beryl McNaughton of Macplants and Ian Craigie from North Berwick in Bloom share their skills and knowledge with the North Berwick Gardening Club and North Berwick in Bloom members and guests. Stan da Prato, the gardening club's honorary president, chaired the event, ensuring an excellent entertaining afternoon.

Questions were answered, brilliant ideas and suggestions put forward, not only with good horticultural advice, but with a light touch and a sense of humour. There was an answer for everyone and every problem. These included where to plant your Camellia

if you want it to thrive in North Berwick, how to encourage a newly planted beech hedge to establish; best practice for bulb planting and how to identify the dreaded vine weevil. Other questions ranged from how and when to prune various species of plants and shrubs, pest control and suggestions of various plants to grow in the different soils and environments in East Lothian. The panel stayed for a cup of tea and answered many more questions on a one to one basis. These ranged from providing advice on taking cuttings from houseplants to identifying perennials from seed heads.

**Ann Jones & Cathie Wright**  
**North Berwick Gardening Club**



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## A Small but Mighty Weed

As I write at the end of March, we are all restricted to staying home, so those of us with gardens can be grateful that we have an opportunity to be outdoors as well as something to keep us busy. Growing your own food is even more important now.

Here in the Highlands, we have had some beautiful sunny days but they come with frosty nights (it was  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$  last week) so I am not planting anything outdoors just yet. However, the weeds don't seem to mind the temperatures so I thought I would focus on one small weed that pops up everywhere in my garden, and probably in yours as well – Hairy Bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*).

What does it look like? It starts as a small rosette of leaves and then throws up a stalk a few centimetres high with tiny white flowers on top. It is an annual and forms seeds in narrow pods which explode to scatter the seeds far and wide. This explains its nickname of Popping Cress. It is part of the Brassica family of plants so is related to the cabbages and broccoli. All of this family have flowers with four petals arranged in a cross, hence the other family name of cruciferae.

You may never have heard of it but it has been studied intensively. Its genome has been sequenced to help understand which genes control leaf formation

[www.mpipz.mpg.de/pm-tsiantis-lab-2016](http://www.mpipz.mpg.de/pm-tsiantis-lab-2016)

The popping seed pods have been researched as well. The explosive



shatter of the pods is so fast – an acceleration from 0 to 10 metres per second in about half a millisecond – that advanced high-speed cameras are required to see it. To put that acceleration in context, if it continued for a whole second, the seeds would be travelling at 10 km/s or 3600 km per hour! A mighty effort from a tiny plant. There is a video available at:

[www.maths.ox.ac.uk/node/16355](http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/node/16355)

You can understand why it can seed itself all over the garden. The secret to control is to remove the plants before the pods have a chance to split – and they don't have to be dry to explode, so the sooner the better. However, maybe you might find the plant interesting enough to let a few grow to maturity and see it for yourself!

**Sue Thomas**

[badenochgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:badenochgardeningclub@gmail.com)

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## Recipes for Contentment!

*Imagine, Imagine  
Fresh herbs in your stew,  
Newly picked salad leaves tossed in a bowl.  
Such interesting flavours not bought in a  
store!*

*Imagine, Imagine  
A sunflower growing tall at your door,  
And the smile it would give to each passer-by!  
Imagine no more!  
Drink up your milk,  
Save the meat container  
Empty the washing up bowl,  
Upcycle to pots  
And sow, sow, sow.*

### Salad Bowl

#### Ingredients:

1. Washing up bowl, holes in the bottom
2. Compost to fill bowl
3. Sprinkling of:
  - Spring onion seed
  - Cut and come again lettuce leaves
  - Rocket
  - Radish

#### Method:

1. Fill bowl with compost.
2. Sow a small area with spring onion seeds, another area with rocket and a third larger area with salad leaves. Keep an area free for radish
3. Dampen compost.
4. Place bowl in a sunny location inside if sowing before may.
5. **2 weeks later** sow final area with Radish seeds.
6. Keep compost moist.

The Salad Bowl can be kept outside once the risk of frosts is over.



### Peas in A Punnet

#### Ingredients:

1. Pea seeds
2. Strawberry or meat punnet with holes in it
3. Compost

#### Method:

1. Place the majority of compost in the punnet.
2. Firm down.
3. Cover with pea seeds
4. Water
5. Place in a sunny windowsill.
6. When the peas are about 5cm tall cut and add the tops to salads or stir fries.

They will re-sprout and can be cut again a few times.

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### Pitcher of Smiles

#### Ingredients

1. Sunflower seeds
2. 1 large milk carton, top cut off and holes in the bottom
3. Compost

#### Method:

1. Fill carton with compost.
2. Firm down.
3. Push a sunflower seed into the compost about 1.5 cm below the surface.
4. Water compost.
5. Place on a sunny windowsill.
6. When risk of frost is over move outside but give some shelter at night initially.
7. Stake to keep stem straight.
8. Move to a position to share with everyone on their daily walk!

### Bucket of Carrots

#### Ingredients

1. Bucket with holes in the bottom
2. Carrot seeds
3. Sand and compost mixed together in equal quantities to fill bucket

#### Method:

1. Place compost mixture in bucket.
2. Sprinkle seeds on top.
3. Cover with a thin layer of compost mixture.
4. Place outside.

### Potty About Herbs

#### Ingredients:

1. Any food or drink containers with drainage holes added if possible
2. Supermarket herb plants
3. Compost
4. Gravel

#### Method:

1. Put some compost into the container.
2. Often 1 pot of supermarket herbs contains many plants.
3. Separate them out and plant 1 plant in each container.
4. Put some gravel on the top of the compost.
5. Place on windowsill.

#### Notes

- Recycled containers can be painted or covered in material or ribbon.
- Compost and seeds can be purchased from some supermarkets, online and from a local hardware shop.
- *GardenWhich?* Voted Sainsbury's peat free compost as the best peat free compost to use.
- Water from cooked vegetables makes a good gentle feed for pots.

Caroline Mathias

## Dalkeith Horticultural Society

We have reluctantly decided not to hold our April coffee morning in view of the present climate. However the 2nd May plant sale will go ahead. [Check nearer the time. Ed]

It is all change for Dalkeith Show on 12th September when we are holding a one day show only with a reduced number of classes. We will still have the Fuchsia Society there and our popular craft stalls.

Gladys Hardwick

SOCIETY	EVENT	
Baldernock G C	Annual Plant Sale, tea & coffe available	Milngav
Scottish Bonsai Association	SBA National Exhibition	Troon C accomp
Killearn Cottagers H S	Plant Sale and Coffee Morning	Village I
Gifford H S	Plant Sale	Gifford \
Mauchline H & Agric Soc	Coffee Morning & Plant sale	Church
Cupar Flower Show	<b>Coffee Morning &amp; Plant Sale</b>	Corn Ex
Stonehaven G C	Plant Sale	Plainsto
Gifford H S	Scotlands Garden Scheme	Gifford \
Girvan and District H S	Flower and Craft Show. Schedules from Ian Fitsimmons, tel 01465 712667. email fitsimmons391@btinternet.com	North P.
Cupar Flower Show	Annual Flower Show	Corn Ex
Gifford H S	Gifford Flower Show	Gifford \
Alford and District G C	Flower Show	Public F
Royal H S of Perthshire	Summer Show	Burnsid
Kilwinning H S	Annual Show	Abbey C
Stonehaven G C	Summer Show	Stoneha
Currie Parish H & I Society	Annual Show	Balerno
Bridge of Weir H S	Annual Flower Show	The Bric
Killearn Cottagers H S	154th Annual Show	Village I
Broughton H S	167th Annual Flower and Industrial Work Exhibition	The Vill:
Dollar Horticultural and Gn C	Annual Flower Show and Craft exhibition	Burnsid
Darvel H S	Annual Flower Show	Darvel T
National Vegetable Society	NVS National Championships	Camper
Alness H S	Autumn Show	Ardross
Busby & Clarkston H S	Flower Show	Clarkstc
Paisley Florist Society G C	Annual Show	St Mirin
Mauchline H & A S	Annual Show	Church
Dalkeith H S	Annual Show	School + Secreta
Dunbar Flower Show	Flower Show	Dunbar
National Vegetable Society	Scottish Branch Championships	Cardwe
Fife Flower Show	Annual Flower Show	Leven F
Friends of the Cruickshank Botanic Garden	Autumn Plant Sale	Cruicksl
Chryston District H S	Annual Show	The Cul
Brighter Bervie	Gardens Open Daily to the Public	Montros

**Check locally before going**



VENUE	DATE
Angavie Town Hall	May 9th
Concert & Walker Halls, Troon, KA10 6EF. Free for members and accompanied children, £2 for non members £1 for seniors	May 10th, 11am-4pm
Age Hall, Kilearn	May 16th, 10am-12 noon
ford Village Hall and Broadwoodside	May 16th 10am
urch Hall, Mauchline	May 16th, 10am-12 noon
m Exchange Cupar	May 16th, 9.30-11.30am
instones	May 20th, 9-11am
ford Village Hall and Broadwoodside	July 12th, 1pm
rth Parish Church Halls, Montgomerie St, Girvan	August 8th, 2-5pm
m Exchange, Cupar starts 10am (staging Friday 7th between 3pm-10pm)	August 8th
ford Village Hall	August 15th & 16th
olic Hall, Kingsford Road, Alford, Aberdeenshire	August 15th, 2-4pm
inside Halls, Scone, PH2 6LP	August 22nd, 12noon-4.30pm
oy Church Hall, Vaults Lane, Kilwinning	August 27th, 2pm presentation of prizes 7.30pm
nehaven Town Hall	August 29th, 10am-3pm
erno High School, Bridge Rd, Balerno EH14 7AQ	August 29th 1.30-4pm
Bridge, Bridge of Weir	August 29th
age Hall, Kilearn	August 29th, 2-4.30pm
Village Hall, Broughton, ML12 6HQ	August 29th, Show opens 2.30pm
inside Hall, Dollar	September 1st
rvel Town Hall	September 4th, 2pm
mperdown Park Dundee	September 4th - 6th
ross and Alness Bowling Club Rooms, Alness	September 5th
rkston Halls, G76 8NE	September 5th
Virin's Cathedral Halls, Paisley	September 5th, 1 - 4.00pm
urch Hall, Mauchline	September 5th, 2-4.30pm
ool Campus, Cousland Road, Thornybank, Dalkeith.EH22 2PS. Contact secretary on 0131 660 1816	September 12th, 1- 4.30pm.
nbar Parish Church	September 12th
rdwell Garden Centre, Gourrock	September 19th & 20th
ven Parish Church Hall, Leven, Fife	September 19th & 29th
ickshank Botanic Garden, Aberdeen	October 31st, 10.30am
Cultural Centre in Chryston High School.	August 29th
ntrose Road, Inverbervie, Montrose	Daily
<b>going to any of these events</b>	

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## Cancelled Flower Shows

I am trying to keep the What's On list as up to date as possible and have removed all of the shows that I have been informed are cancelled. Some clubs are awaiting developments of the restrictions for shows taking place at a slightly later date but It may be that some of the others still on the list will not be going ahead even when the restrictions are lifted, **so please check before turning up.**

Obviously while restrictions are in place no one will be able to hold any meetings or shows, so even if something is still on the list disregard it if the restrictions are extended – as I am sure your common sense will tell you.

Hopefully this horrible crisis will have passed by the summer and some of the later shows will take place and I for one am looking forward to this. Stay safe and enjoy your gardening.

**Mike Rossi**



*Paisley Show 2019*

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## Spreading the News About Grow and Learn Awards

*'In all my years of involvement in horticulture and gardening I have not met a scheme that encourages, supports and rewards its students in the way that **Grow and Learn** does'.*

**George Anderson,  
Hon President, The Caley**

*'All the flowers of all the tomorrows are the seeds of today'*

### Chinese Proverb

Recently I attended my second SGF Council meeting and was amazed to find out how little awareness there was about the "Grow and Learn" awards run by The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. In my opinion, this course is truly marvellous. I therefore thought I would take the opportunity to spread the word to let you all know how the awards originated, the learning outcomes, and what it means to those who participate in it. I'd also like to state what joy and privilege it has been for me to work alongside my learners, taking them through the course content and how it has made a fantastic difference to all of our lives – it has certainly changed mine!

### Where did the course come from?

Grow and Learn 'Roots' award was developed and piloted at Suntrap Garden by John Smith and David Sinclair. Margaret Teale of the Caley further developed the scheme. They believed that everyone was capable of learning, benefiting from and

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enjoying horticulture irrespective of age or ability. Even those who found mainstream learning challenging could not only enjoy the benefits of gardening and learning new things but alongside this they could develop a range of valuable life skills and be recognised for their achievements.

### **What are the learning outcomes ?**

Many learners, old and young, have now participated in this award and have achieved all of the above skills and more. Learners, not surprisingly, wanted to do 'more of the same', to learn new skills and so the next level of award 'Nurture' was developed to follow 'Roots' level.

Progress is at a pace the individual is capable of, not to a fixed timeframe. It is recorded in a personal portfolio which is agreed and followed at the learner's own pace. It offers life skills-based education for all, as well as learning how to be a gardener.

Grow and Learn awards are for age 13 plus. There is now a Grow and Learn in Nature award ('GLiN') which is being piloted at Saughton Park, open to all ages.

The Caley provide a superb support network and tutor notes to help you and your learners through the award. They are always ready to help if you are unsure of anything or need to ask advice.

### **What Grow & Learn Awards are available and what do you learn?**

Grow and Learn 'Roots' is the starting point. To achieve the award the learner must undertake seven core activities, consisting of:

- Cultivation
- Composting
- Seed Sowing
- Propagation
- Potting on and Thinning Out
- Plant Care
- Harvesting

In addition, there are in 13 other activities: e.g. growing large exhibition vegetables, working on a planter, making jam, carving pumpkins, pressing flowers.

There are also three personal goals: e.g. learn to tie my shoe laces; grow carrots; make leaf mould; be less rude. The learner must also participate in at least 80 hours of practical gardening activity.



*Ray Collinson with Ann Burns and one of Team Oatridge*



*Team Oatridge at Gardening Scotland*

The Nurture award is along much the same lines; however, the activities are based around seasonality.

Grow and Learn not only teaches gardening skills but encourages work ethic, attendance, pride in work, thinking for yourself, consideration for others and working as a team to achieve a common goal. Their families hugely enjoy their success and the formal presentation of the Awards.

### **What about my group of learners – ‘Team Oatridge’?**

All of my learners, 13 in total, ranging in age from 25 to 55, attend ‘Pathways’ on either a full or part time basis. ‘Pathways’ is a West Lothian Council service that provides day services to adults with learning and physical

disabilities within the West Lothian area.

‘**Team Oatridge**’ as they call themselves have been attending Oatridge Campus every Tuesday for many years. They helped establish the current allotments, grow vegetables every year and help maintain the college grounds.

When I began teaching them they had great potential but nothing to show for it. The Grow and Learn Awards scheme gave them a focus, a goal and a way to show them just how talented they were.

Over the last three years they have all followed ‘Roots’ and ‘Nurture’. The whole team graduated with certificates and a project folder which recorded their achievements. Their portfolios are



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all wonderful: those who cannot read love to look at all the photos of their achievements and some still read it on a regular basis.

To see them receive their awards at the awards ceremony was amazing. They had a real pride in their achievements with some extremely proud parents, carers, teachers and fellow Oatridge Students.

When they were asked what Grow and Learn meant to them here are some of the responses they gave:

*'Gave an opportunity that I have never had before to learn these skills.'*

*'Fantastico ! this course makes me happy and excited. I love making food dishes that I can grow and take home. I love the smells from the herbs, especially the basil.'*

*'Excited to work on different projects,*



*especially Gardening Scotland.'*

*'It's more fun than the football.'*

Not only have they achieved these awards but over the last few years, they have entered four of the SGF Pallet Garden Challenges at Gardening Scotland receiving three Gold and two Silver Gilt medals for their designs. They already have Planter and Pallet Applications entered for 2020. [*Sadly now cancelled Ed.*]

So what has Grow and Learn meant to me? Essentially it has changed my life. I learned a lot more about horticulture but I also saw the better side of human nature, I have a fantastic job with fantastic learners – I never stop finding new talents in each of them which I never knew they had.

If you can see an opportunity to take a group through this award or assist with an existing group, I would strongly recommend you do so. There is currently a network of Grow and Learn projects all over Scotland and its islands. Excellent support is on hand from the Caley who will help you through the process.

To find out more about the Grow and Learn Award email:

[caleygrowandlearn@gmail.com](mailto:caleygrowandlearn@gmail.com)

follow us on twitter @caleygrowlearn

The Caley website

[thecaley.org.uk/grow-learn/](http://thecaley.org.uk/grow-learn/)

More details of my 'Team Oatridge' can be found on

[thecaley.org.uk/portfolio-posts/template-grow-learn-project-3/](http://thecaley.org.uk/portfolio-posts/template-grow-learn-project-3/)

**Ray Collinson**

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## 'Plastic Free Gardening' by Fiona Thackeray

The first of its kind, this book guides readers through the complexities of plastics and why and when they can become a problem, then suggests alternatives, recycling methods and ideas for changing the way we garden to use less plastic.

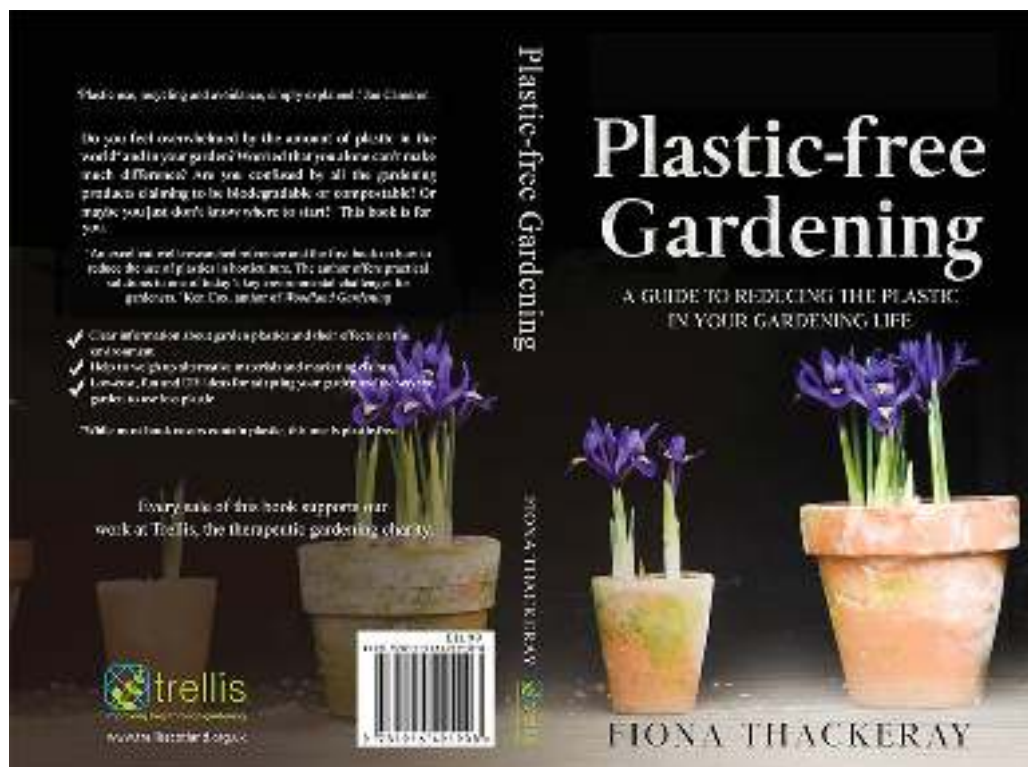
- The first guide for gardeners on plastics
- Full colour photography and line drawn illustrations
- Comprehensive, covering all aspects of gardening
- Practical tips and ideas
- Checklists and suggestions for reducing your plastic use

'An excellent well-researched reference and the first book on how to reduce the use of plastics in horticulture. The author offers practical solutions to one of today's key environmental challenges for gardeners.'

*Ken Cox, author of Woodland Gardening, Garden Plants for Scotland, Fruit and Vegetables for Scotland*

'Author Fiona Thackeray's passion and talent for gardening shine through this comprehensive guide to dealing with the problem of plastic in our gardens.'

*Claire Wingfield, author of '52 Dates for Writers and rookie gardener'*



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'Plastic use, recycling and avoidance, simply explained. A sensible and realistic guide to what you can do with a planned, staged approach to minimising the use of plastic in the garden. I want to buy a copy for all my gardening friends.'

*Jan Cameron, author of  
The Garden Cure*

If you have any problems ordering, please call us on 01738 624 348 or email [info@trellisscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@trellisscotland.org.uk)



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### Tesco Offer

The Tesco Bags of Help Fund is open for not-for-profit community groups to apply for up to £2000 for projects that bring benefit to communities. For each voting round lasting three months, three community projects in each local area will be voted on by customers in Tesco stores. Following the vote, the project that receives the most votes in its area will receive a grant of up to £2,000, second place will receive up to £1,000 and third place will receive £500.

The Community Enabler team at [greenspace scotland](http://www.greenspace-scotland.org.uk) can help you apply. For more details please visit

<http://bit.ly/bagsofhelpscot>

**Emma Halliday**  
Programme Manager

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### Caley Saughton Sundays



In line with many other events and activities, The Caley's Saughton Sundays have been cancelled for the time being. But don't fret – we have lots of things planned for when we are up and running again, so keep an eye on the events page of our website:

[thecaley.org.uk/our-events/](http://thecaley.org.uk/our-events/)

Once we can get back to our base at Saughton Park, we will post details of all the things we have in store for you.

If you want to be amongst the first to know, why not subscribe to our newsletter? Email Julie Muir at:

[administrator@rchs.co.uk](mailto:administrator@rchs.co.uk) and she will add you to the distribution list.

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### Lanark in Bloom



Never too young for a garden or a wheelbarrow ride.

**Tracey Stone**

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## Paisley Florist Society Gardening Club

### Scotland's Oldest Gardening Club

The Paisley Florist Society was instituted in 1782 and has a continuous history to the present day, making it the oldest gardening club in Scotland. The term 'Florist' in the title has the 1782 meaning – an expert grower and exhibitor of flowers, not as today – a person who sells or displays flowers. Because of the confusion with the word 'florist', at the AGM in 1999 the name was changed to the Paisley Florist Society Gardening Club.

Florist Societies date back to the 17th century and owe their origin to the Flemish weavers who settled first in England around that time. When the weavers arrived in England, they set up businesses employing apprentices who later travelled throughout Britain, setting up their own firms which were to become the foundations of Britain's great spinning and weaving industry. Fortunately they carried with them their employers' great love of flowers, and as Paisley was a centre of weaving in an agricultural area it was natural that a Florist Society should be set up here.

The Paisley Florist Society has a recorded history from 1782, but it is noted in Brown's *History of Paisley* that the Florists were in existence prior to this date and that several other societies were active in Paisley at this time, but all of these passed into obscurity.

The Society was modelled on the Craft Guilds of the period and rules were very strict:

- no ladies allowed. This was changed in 1882 when ladies were permitted to attend meetings if accompanied by their husband. (Fortunately ladies are now welcomed on their own, and make up a large proportion of our membership).
- the President and Treasurer would be fined 2d for non-attendance at a meeting 'unless a reasonable excuse was given'.
- meetings were from 8pm until 10pm and any member not in the room by 9pm would be fined 1d.

The Society originally used its funds to introduce new flowers to the area – seeds, corms, etc. being distributed to members and other societies in Britain. There seems to have been a lot of interest in Auriculas, Pansies, Carnations, Pinks, Tulips and Hyacinths. Competitions were held to







judge growing and quality, with prizes being awarded. For example, in 1825 a silver medallion was awarded for Best Hyacinth, and earlier in 1813 a snuff box was presented for Best Twelve Pinks. This is really interesting as it was Paisley Pinks that made Paisley Florists known throughout Britain.

The Paisley Florist Society Gardening Club continues to meet today. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month (except June and July), and an Annual Show is held on the first Saturday in September where exhibitors compete for 18 trophies. Our competitions now are mainly for Roses, Sweet Peas, Dahlias, Gladioli, Pot Plants and a wide range of Vegetables, and any member of the public can enter.

Our events and meetings are advertised on our Facebook page:

[Paisley Florist Society Gardening Club](#)

**Liz Coutts**  
Secretary

*The illustrations of vegetables opposite, above, and flowers on page 14 are from last year's show*

## Helensburgh & Gareloch Horticultural Society Programme of speakers 2020 - 2021

- Wed 9th September - Peter Baxter,  
Curator Benmore Gardens
- Wed 14th October - Brian Young,  
Owner Holmes Garden Nursery
- Wed 11th November - Katrina Clow,  
National Plant Collection Scheme
- Wed 9th December - Nicola  
Brownrigg, Herb themed  
Workshop
- Wed 13th January 2021 - Ewen  
Donaldson, Glasgow Botanic
- Wed 10th February - Kirsty Wilson,  
Edinburgh Botanic Herbaceous  
Border
- Wed 31st March - Kevin Hughes,  
Owner Cally Gardens

All our meetings take place in the Victoria Halls, Helensburgh and commence at 7.30pm. Doors are open at 7.00pm.

Visitors are most welcome.

**Christine Hands**

## North Berwick in Bloom Tulip Festival 2020

Although North Berwick is closed to outsiders, the residents out shopping or for their permitted exercise will be able to enjoy this year's display of over 2,000 tulips. Those lucky enough to live there may want to find the up-to-date maps of the route at:

[www.northberwickinbloom.org](http://www.northberwickinbloom.org)  
with thanks to **Stan da Prato**

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**The Caley Award Winners,  
with President, David Knott, and Hon President,  
George Anderson, 3rd March 2020**



**Regional Co-Ordinators**



<b>North</b>	Ann Vincent, Nairn and District HS <a href="mailto:north@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk">north@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk</a>
<b>North East</b>	Tom Campbell, Brighter Bervie <a href="mailto:northeast@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk">northeast@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk</a>
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<b>Lothian</b>	<i>Vacancy</i>
<b>West Central</b>	Andrea McDowall, Kirkintilloch HS <a href="mailto:westcentral@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk">westcentral@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk</a>
<b>West</b>	Veronica Davis <a href="mailto:west@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk">west@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk</a>

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## Your Council

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Honorary Vice-President:

Jim Jermyn

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Vice Chair:

Mike Rossi (Scottish Bonsai Association)

Secretary:

Caroline Mathias (Biggar Horticultural Society)

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Tracey Elrick and Ray Collison

(Pallets & Planters, Gardening Scotland)

Alison Murison (The Caley)

John Smith (Pallets & Planters, Gardening Scotland)

Tracey Stone (Lanark Gardening Club)

Anne Vincent (Nairn and District Horticultural Society)

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Alison Murison

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

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## A Well Deserved Caley Award



On 3rd March 2020, at the Caley's Award Ceremony, the Hon President, George Anderson, presented John Smith with the Dr Andrew Duncan Medal. This was awarded to John not only for his work at the Pallets and Planters Challenge at Gardening Scotland, but also as a founder of the Caley's Grow and Learn Awards.