

Preview

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Supporting Horticulture & Gardening in Scotland since 1809

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Letter from the President

Working with plants, in whatever capacity, is undoubtedly a 'good news' story and although plants can at times be hugely frustrating, the pleasure and rewards gained more than makes up for any disappointments!

The importance and benefits of working with plants is perhaps best exemplified by the Caley's *Grow and Learn* programme and all the hard work that the *Grow and Learn* Development Officer, Jean Gavin, and many others, have contributed over the years to ensure that it goes from strength to strength.

We have been actively seeking funding to allow us to meet and expand our commitment to *Grow and Learn*, so I am delighted to be able to report that we have been awarded £21,600 over two years from the R S Macdonald Charitable Trust for

that purpose. An excellent start to 2018!

2017 was an extremely busy and exciting year for the Caley, with 2018 likely to be even busier, as the construction and building work at Saughton Park ends and the Caley moves to a permanent base there in the latter half of the year. The Caley will then be able to start the exciting horticultural aspects of the project. Please check the Facebook pages and website for updates over the forthcoming months.

The show season will soon be here with the Children's Bulb Show on the 24th and 25th March, quickly followed by the main Spring Show on the 31st March and 1st April. Gardening Scotland this year is on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of June.

At this time of year, as the snowdrops begin to appear in gardens across Scotland and we can celebrate the Scottish Snowdrop

Festival by visiting the many gardens that open for their snowdrop flowering, we hope that Spring is almost here and we can begin to garden in earnest.

As this is Anna Buxton's last Preview as Editor, I would like to record the Caley's thanks to her. Over the last ten years her quiet, efficient manner has ensured that Preview is always a valuable source of accurate information on Caley matters. Thank you Anna!

Finally, we have just finished upgrading the Caley website. Huge thanks to Rona McDowell, Julie Muir, Neil Woodcock and Pam Whittle for all their time and effort in getting the website live. It includes a revised members' area, so if you have not already done so, please visit the new website address

thecaley.org.uk

In anticipation of Spring being round the corner,

Happy Gardening,



**David Knott
President**

Garden Visits 2018

The Caley will not be organising a Study Tour week away this summer although it is hoped to plan a tour for summer 2019. Norfolk or Hampshire have been suggested.

Wednesday 18th April 2018

An early evening visit to Macplants Nursery at Boggs Holdings, Berrybank, Pencaitland. Own or shared transport. If you do not have transport we may be able to arrange a lift for you. Contact Sally Heron as below.

Thursday 7th June

A day trip, by coach to two gardens near Dollar. In the morning, to Cowden Castle with its recently restored **Japanese Garden**, once described as the most important Japanese garden in the West. A



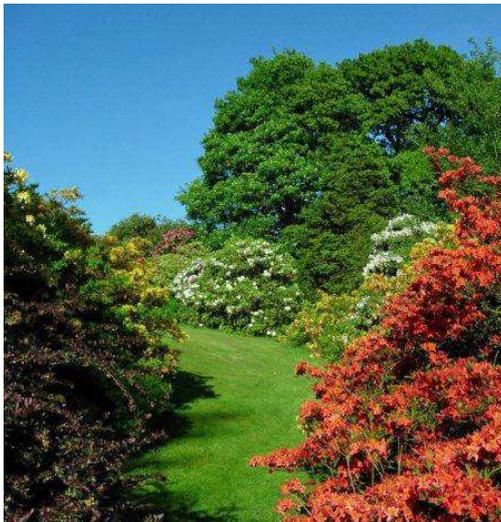
Cowden Castle Japanese Garden

garden of great historic value, the original garden was designed by Japan's first female garden designer. Kate White, a member of the Caley Council, is the Head Gardener. A soup and sandwich lunch (included) will be taken at Powmill Milk Bar, nearby.

The afternoon visit is to **Arndean**, a 15-acre garden and landscape set in the Devon river valley where the main attractions are the banks of colourful rhododendrons, particularly deciduous azaleas. There are also summer herbaceous plantings near the house.



Mindrum



Arndean

Wednesday 20th June

A day trip by coach to Northumberland. The morning visit is to **Mindrum Garden**, set among the Cheviot Hills, open by appointment. A 150 year-old garden with an abundance of old-fashioned roses, hardy perennials and shrubs, a rock garden, woodland walks and the river, home to a wealth of wildlife. A 2-course lunch will

be taken here; the cost is included in the price for the day. The afternoon visit will be to nearby **Kirky Cottage Garden**. This is in complete contrast to Mindrum. It is a cottage garden, having been created only 6 years ago, by Ginny Fairfax, creator of the Mindrum garden and mother of Mindrum's owner, Tom.

Thursday 19th July

An afternoon trip, by coach to **Station Road, West Linton**. A delightful and very personal garden, lovingly created over many years by owner John Irvine. This garden was featured recently in the Garden News Magazine, having been chosen as Garden of the Week. Although 89 years old, John is still enjoying working in his domain. The visit will be followed by a stop for tea and scones, (included) at Whitmuir Organic Farm, Lamancha



Quercus Garden Plants

where there is a cafeteria, farm shop, art gallery and farmyard animals. Quercus Garden Plants, an up-and-coming nursery is also on the site, with some unusual and interesting plants for sale. Places may be limited on this trip.

Wednesday 8th August

A day trip by coach to Lesmahagow and two gardens. In the morning, to **Beeches Cottage Nursery**. A family-run business, established in 2008, situated at 850ft, specialising in hardy cottage garden perennials. Refreshments on arrival. The afternoon will be spent at **Auchlochan**, a retirement complex, created from Victorian parkland, with mature trees along a river valley and plantings around the houses. There is also a picturesque walled garden with ornamental trees in several garden rooms, with arches, arbours and a double border, at its peak in August.

If you are interested in any of the above trips, contact **Sally Heron**, Caley Programme Convenor, who will send you more details and Booking Forms. The trips are also open, at no extra charge, to any friends of the Caley who are non-members.

Email: sally.heron@blueyonder.co.uk
Tel: 0131 449 3452

Spring is coming

The main Caley Spring Flower Show will be held on Easter weekend, **Saturday 31st March and Sunday 1st April**, 12noon to 5pm in the Fletcher Building, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Entry is free for members, children and students holding a valid student card.

There are lots of ways to get involved. You can enter spring bulbs, cut flowers, alpine and woodland plants, cacti and other succulents, indoor plants, or even create a floral art display. The choice is wide and varied; details of the various classes are available on the website. Alternatively you can come and admire the display, you can encourage others to visit, you could volunteer for a wee while over the weekend, or perhaps you can bake a cake or two for the home produce stall which is always busy over the weekend.

Remember, you do not need to be an expert to enter the show, the more entries the better. So have a look at the schedule and see what you can bring.

I always look forward to Spring. But as the cold wintry weather seems to have dragged on this year, I am keen to see spring flowers emerge. The workshop bulbs have been unearthed from the winter quarters at the allotment, and are gradually greening up. Read the blog, which is now a part of the new website, to see the regular reports from George Anderson.

Before the main show however, we have

the **Schools Competition** on the **24th and 25th March in the John Hope Gateway**. There will be lots of activities for children to participate in over the weekend as well as looking to see which schools do best. We are also testing out if this would work with other youth groups such as cubs so watch this space for future news!

In addition to the Caley shows don't forget that the Caley participates in the **Jim Davidson trophy group** for daffodil growers. The Aberdeen show is on 24th and 25th March, Dundee is on the 7th and 8th April, Keith is on the 21st April and Banff on the 28th and 29th April. So if your blooms are late there are plenty of opportunities to participate and share.

Pam Whittle

Saughton Update

The work at Saughton is progressing well. The building contractor is now on site, a little later than we originally hoped but the landscape contractors are due to finish towards the end of July, so we will be posting news for Saughton Dig-In days via the e-newsletter over the next few months as we firm things up. But we are already planning for 2019 when there will be a lot of new and exciting things to see and do at Saughton. There will be workshops, plant fairs, talks as well as a bit of gardening, and it will be a great place to pop in for a coffee and chat.

Pam Whittle

Can You Help?

The Caley has been invited again to recruit volunteers to help at the 2018 Gardening Scotland Show, which takes place at the Royal Highland Centre at Ingliston on 1st, 2nd & 3rd June.

Can you assist on any of these days with stewarding and liaison duties? Volunteers have free entry to the Show, plus special parking arrangements and refreshments will be available while on duty. Please note that it is hoped that volunteers will attend a preparation meeting to be held at the Showground at Ingliston at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30th May to clarify their duties and responsibilities.

So, if you can help this year and we haven't been in touch with you already as someone who has volunteered before, just contact Shona Muir, Rural Projects, The Stables, 2 Ingliston Gardens, Ingliston, Newbridge, Midlothian EH28 8NB (**Tel:** 0131 333 0969 **Email:** shona@ruralprojects.co.uk) as soon as possible and arrangements will be made for you to be sent a form to complete with your details.

If you just wish to visit the Show, tickets are available through the Gardening Scotland website

www.gardeningscotland.com

(or by telephone on 0131 333 0965). Quote CALEY2018 in the Promotional Code Box on-line, or when phoning to book tickets to get a £1 discount on the Advance ticket price.

David C Sinclair & Eric Birse
Volunteer Co-ordinators

The Caley Allotment

On the Caley allotment at the Bridgend site in Edinburgh, the new growing season started with George Anderson giving his ever popular workshop on the winter pruning of fruit. This February the sun shone on the highest turnout ever, with most people coming from other allotments in Edinburgh. The day also saw the removal of the Spring Show workshop bulbs from their new plunge bed on the allotment.

All the new fruit is growing well apart from the raspberries, which developed a virus and had to be removed. There has also been a replacement of the gage which in all the years we had it, hardly gave fruit into double figures. There is now a damson – a much hardier tree which should do better. We are already looking forward to this year's vegetables. The first ones in the ground are always the broad beans and the onions, both already in pots waiting to be planted out in March, and from then

onwards we are busy sowing and planting the large range of vegetables that are grown on the plot.

Our annual **Open Day** will be **Sunday 19th August** 2pm to 4.30pm. George Anderson will again be coming along to run a workshop on fruit pruning. All are welcome and there will be teas and produce for sale.

In the meantime you can keep up to date with what we do with the weekly blog on the Caley website. We love having visitors so do come along on a Thursday from 10am and see what we are doing. If you wish to arrange a group visit then, or another time, please let me know.

The allotment is on the Bridgend site, south of the Cameron Toll roundabout on the way to the new Royal Infirmary. The entrance is on the left hand side immediately after the cottages, and the Caley allotment is the first one on the site.

Moira Stevenson



Shallots Hative di Niort



Rhubarb Raspberry Red - the first stalks

The New Caley Website

The new Caley website, thecaley.org.uk is now live. The new format has many new exciting features including an events calendar, integrated blog, easily navigated pages with a search facility and the ability to add photos, ideas and requests for information.

One new feature is a 'Members Area' which features more detail on the benefits of being a member, offers, discounts, volunteering opportunities and much more. To access this area, you will need a username and password.

In order for the Caley to comply with the new Data Protection regulations that come into force later this year, you will have to give permission for your details to be stored on the website database. If you wish to give your permission, please email

administrator@rchs.co.uk

If you do not wish to give your permission, you will still be able to use the website. However, you will not be able to access the Members Area.

Please be assured that your details are stored for Caley use only and will never be passed to a third party.

Julie Muir, Administrator

The Gardening Scotland Pallet and Planter Challenge

In 2005 the Scottish Gardeners' Forum (the SGF) introduced the Pallet Garden Competition at Gardening Scotland. The initial idea came from a conversation between Jim McColl (Beechgrove Garden) and the late Alistair Simpson (then SGF Chair) to encourage gardening clubs and societies to participate in the show by designing and building miniature gardens that could easily and affordably bring their gardening skills to the wider public. During the first year 14 pallets were lovingly displayed opposite the Floral Hall at the road side – their creators having to



tuck in their rear ends every time a lorry went past; not ideal!

The Pallets have grown to a display of around 50 every year and were joined in 2010 by Planters to allow even smaller lighter-weight exhibits to be grown and shown. Entries presently include: adult day centres, special schools, nursery, primary and secondary schools, colleges, Brownies and Guides, community projects and of course many societies and garden clubs. Exhibitors take part from all over Scotland, from the Islands to the Borders; we've even had an enquiry from Finland!

In a recent exit survey we were delighted to find that the Pallet and Planter Challenge was the second most visited and enjoyed part of the show, after the Floral Hall! The organisers of the show frequently move the exhibit around the show to encourage positive traffic flow.

So how do you enter the Pallet Gardens Competition?

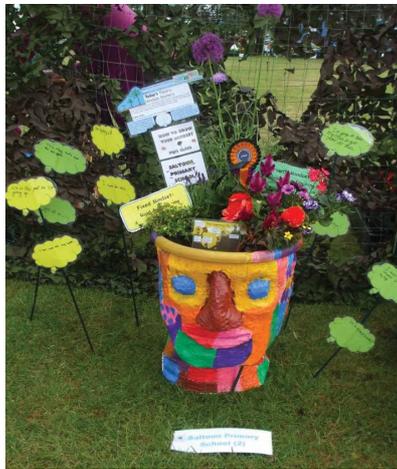
Gardening Scotland this year runs from 1st to 3rd of June.

Email a note of interest to andreamcdowall@hotmail.com and she will send you out information, the rules, and application forms for both pallets and planters.

Don't be too worried; remember the Pallet Garden is only 1m² in size with an option of a two metre height as a back drop. Or start out with a couple of containers if you think a Pallet is too much.

Have a chat with your club and identify a willing few who would like to compete. Alternatively get together with a local group such as; Beavers, Cubs or Scouts, Primary or Nursery School Class, or a Sunday School group and use your gardening knowledge to encourage their enthusiasm. You might even think of applying for an SGF Grant to help you on your way. Unfortunately application for these grants needs to be in at the end of February each year. But there is always next year, so get your application for funding in early.

Get your creative thinking caps on and



start dreaming and planning now, you still have months!

If you enter a pallet and happen to win first, second or third place you will receive £100, £60 or £40 respectively and if you win the public vote for 'The People's Preferred Pallet', this year sponsored by Jim McColl, then that elusive £50 extra could be yours....

John Smith

Scottish Gardeners Forum
scottishgardenersforum.org.uk



Moving On

I have been editing Preview since 2009 and feel it is time to hand over. Colin Wren, a member of RCHS Council, has kindly agreed to take over and will edit the September issue. Colin, who now works as a Gardens and Designed Landscapes Manager for the National Trust for Scotland, will be well known to members as he worked previously for Binny Plants. Many thanks Colin.

Many thanks also to Alison Murison who so skilfully prepares the layout for Preview, and will continue to do so. Until Colin has an email address for Preview please send any articles or photos for inclusion in the September Preview to Alison at alison.murison@gmail.com

Anna Buxton