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Foreword

The Caley is very fortunate to have a large number of extremely knowledgeable volunteers who give up their time and expertise willingly to the society and without whom the Caley would simply not exist. Thank you to each and every one of you; you all know you are! Your help, time and organisational skills allow the Caley to run a wide range of events including: the winter lecture programme, the demonstration allotment, the children’s flower show, the main spring show, provide stewarding and a presence at Gardening Scotland and this year, for the first time, a presence at the Dundee Flower Show.

Why you might ask is this important? At a time when there are wider social, economic and political uncertainties, I firmly believe that the enjoyment and solace individuals get from working with plants or enjoying the fruits of others labours through parks and gardens or from the taste of fresh fruit and vegetables is exceptionally valuable. There is now increasing and quantifiable evidence to support the assertion that plants are important to our health and well-being. We in the Caley need to help get this message out and encourage anyone in Scotland with an interest in plants, parks and gardens.

The impacts of external uncertainties on Scottish horticulture can be seen with the financial squeeze that both the private and public sectors are facing. It is quite remarkable that horticulture in Scotland is still of such a genuinely high standard in terms of the quality of our plants, our gardens, our landscapes and our parks and open spaces. The credit for this must go to the enthusiasm and passion of the many gardeners, horticulturists and the ever increasing numbers of ‘volunteers’ who combine to make such a difference to horticulture in Scotland.

Working with plants is not ever, as many of you will be aware, easy and we are facing the increasing challenges of climate change, the subtle every day and annual changes to the weather and our ability to cultivate plants. Working with plants we have to remain pragmatic and meet challenges and opportunities as they arise.

One of the greatest current challenges for the Caley is returning to Saughton Park and working with the City of Edinburgh Council to re-establish our permanent base there. 2017 saw the (sad) farewell to the Caley Cabin when the contractors began the restoration of the park that will by late autumn 2018 provide a small but practical base for staff, workshops, teaching and enjoyment. From this base we plan to put down roots and develop a programme of events and activities to meet our aspirations and help as many people as we can to enjoy the value and benefits of working with plants.

Exciting times for the Caley, Scottish Horticulture and the wonderful world of plants!

David Knott, President
We moved into what had been a small holding at an altitude of about 450ft on the bank of the Drumbowie Burn in East Ayrshire in December 2005. Our first tasks, apart from planning the bare bones of our new garden, were the re-roofing of the house, the replacement of all windows and doors, repairing floors, rewiring and so on. We extended it in the winter of 2010/11 and our new well-lit kitchen/diner now holds a collection of around 40 *Streptocarpus* plus *Petrocosmea, Saintpaulia, Pelargonium* and *Vireya* rhododendrons. The house extension allowed us to form a paved L-shaped enclosure where we currently have a collection of 17 stone troughs. Two of these are ericaceous containing small rhododendrons, *Cassiope, Vaccinium* and *Primula*, etc. The others contain *Edraianthus, Dianthus, Phlox, Celmisia, Androsace, Saxifraga, Crocus*, dwarf conifers and others. Elsewhere in the garden there are 40 other stone/ceramic troughs plus almost 20 made from polystyrene fish boxes - much easier to move around!

Challenges
The 6.5 acre garden runs from east to west in a shallow valley, with the burn flowing close to our southern boundary, alongside the road which leads to the house. We had been warned that the area was prone to ‘a bit of frost’ but we soon found that this was a gross understatement. Additionally, strong winds hit us from the coast to the west and overland from the cold north-east. Our soil is underlain with clay and the run-off water from nearby fields means flooding is a problem, despite an ongoing drainage programme which includes raised beds in the worst affected areas. The burn occasionally floods over the road but fortunately, so far, not into the house.
It is 35 years since I became aware of snowdrops as individual plants and not just welcome clumps and drifts of white in early spring.

Soon after we moved to Tynebank, with its large riverside garden by the East Lothian Tyne, we discovered the riverbank was covered in countless ‘wild’ snowdrops. They flourish here in the sandy silty river soil, and spread through the woodland in both single and double forms.

An unusual gift from a friend was an early flowering Galanthus elwesii with distinctive silvery grey foliage and large flowers that was discovered in the Cruikshank Botanic Garden Aberdeen by the then head gardener Fred Sutherland and was named G. ‘Fred’s Giant’. This was the start of the learning curve that would lead to the collection of classic snowdrop cultivars that my husband Ian and I enjoy.

I had met Betty Hamilton, grower and snowdrop collector, and it was her enthusiasm and the time I spent talking to her which triggered my interest so I began noting the plants that I liked. Now with gifts from generous friends I began this collection of
Over the years, East Lothian Council has planted over a million spring bulbs in North Berwick, and the display is added to every year by North Berwick in Bloom (NBIB) and the Rotary Club. Most of these are daffodils or crocus naturalised in grass. Pressure on local authority finance led to the council no longer planting winter/spring bedding in the town in 2009, a decision later modified to allow wallflower at the war memorial. NBIB was already planting our one hundred and fifty planters - barrels, large containers and a few old boats - for both summer and winter displays. We prefer to use tulips in our many planters in among violas or polyanthus as they have less obtrusive foliage than daffodils, are available in a wide variety of colours and heights and, by choosing appropriate varieties, will give colour from March to May. The group also decided to fund tulips to enhance the wallflower at the war memorial which, besides its primary purpose as a memorial, has a series of flower beds at a key site in the town centre. We were often asked by townspeople what the names of the tulips were so decided to add labels to all the beds and planters. We also developed a leaflet with a map showing the location of the main groups of tulips and giving a short description of each variety and what type of tulip it is.

**Planting**

Planting time is from late October once our summer bedding has been removed, something that is now happening later as we have fewer autumn frosts and the summer plants are still looking good into October. First we plant around 2,000 violas and smaller numbers of pansies and polyanthus. Much of this bedding is bought in as plug plants in the Friday cash & carry at Pentland Plants and brought on in our two not very large greenhouses, while we also buy more from East Lothian Council’s own small nursery.

For our seventh Tulip Festival in 2018, nearly four thousand tulip bulbs of 44 varieties, our widest range to date, have now been planted in beds and planters around the town. At planting two small handwritten labels are inserted into the side of each container. As the tulips emerge in spring a black plastic ‘T’ label is added giving the name of the tulip and the group, printed in traditional horticultural fashion as white letters on black using a Brother hand held labeller.
Pleione is a genus of approximately twenty species of pseudo-bulbous orchids. All pleiones are characterised by having an annual growth cycle comprising of a period of dormancy, followed by a period of vegetative growth during which time the pseudo-bulb is entirely replaced by one or more new pseudo-bulbs. Flowering usually occurs at the start of the new growth period in spring however a small number of species flower in the autumn at the onset of dormancy. These species generally experience higher temperatures (sub-tropical) and shorter dormancy in the wild thus requiring different care. Whilst the majority of species are lithophytic or epiphytic in nature those grown most widely in cultivation (formosana, bulbocodioides, speciosa, limprichtii and their hybrids) are mainly terrestrial growing in deep moss banks or humus pockets.

Pleiones range from Taiwan and Southern China into the northern mountains of Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar and up into the foothills of the Himalaya. Spring-flowering species experience a cool, dry winter when they exist as dormant pseudo-bulbs, commencing flowering then growth during the spring transition and put on most growth during the cool, moist summer monsoon. Whilst some Pleione species come from elevations that experience heavy snow and sub-zero temperatures over winter they do not cope well with relentless cold and damp or with frequent freeze-thaw cycles and are best kept cool and dry over winter at temperatures between 2–5°C. In Scotland they should be over-wintered in a frost-free glasshouse (or garage/cellar) though some growers store their dormant pseudo-bulbs in a domestic fridge at 4°C. As the flower-buds expand in spring it is best to keep the plants at a cool and even temperature to prevent the new buds aborting. Once new vegetative growth is established and the danger of a late frost has passed pleiones can be grown outside through the summer though they require shelter from strong winds, heavy rain/hail and midday sun. The aim is to achieve a temperature range between 12–25°C in a humid and airy atmosphere with good light but protection from sun-scorch. Dips in
Still relatively unfamiliar to many gardeners these very hardy, clump-forming perennials deserve wider use. They provide flowers ranging from white through shades of pink to rich maroon shaped like drumsticks, catkins or even squirrel tails from late spring till autumn. The attractive pinnate foliage of some forms makes a good contrast with other leaves and the flowers mix well in traditional herbaceous borders as well as the more modern naturalistic styles such as prairie planting. They go particularly well with grasses.

The genus is native to much of the northern hemisphere including the UK where the single wild species, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, which is largely confined to England and declining, is known as great burnet. Many gardeners know the genus through salad burnet, *Sanguisorba minor*, a Mediterranean medicinal plant introduced in Tudor times. They have more recently been popularized by the introduction of the dwarf *Sanguisorba ‘Tanna’* and some of the taller varieties such as *S. ‘Pink Elephant’* have been widely used in planting schemes by influential designers such as Piet Oudolf. They are also attractive to bees and butterflies.

Heights vary from 30cm to 180cm, making them useful for both front and back of the border. Most have strong flowering stems that hold up well throughout the season, though some do flop a bit. They are tough and easy to grow in most soil types, preferring a moist but well-drained site in sun or part shade. Cut the plants back to the base in autumn - later if you want to have some architectural interest over the winter - and propagate by division in spring.

**Bobbles**

For garden purposes the genus can be conveniently divided into three main groups. The native burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* has produced some fine garden plants. The flowers
Annual seed mixes have become popular with an increasing number of Scottish local authorities in recent years as they can brighten up public areas at relatively low cost. Fife started using these mixes around 2009 following a visit to the Pictorial Meadows Social Enterprise in Sheffield. A further boost was given by TV coverage of the large areas sown for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. They are often referred to as wildflower mixes sometime even as wildflower meadows which is misleading on two counts as they often include non-native plants to give more variety such as Californian poppies while many ecologists would argue a true meadow is based on permanent grass. Some of the most popular mixes are sold as urban meadow mixes. A native cornfield annual mix will typically contain blue cornflowers, red poppies, yellow corm marigolds and white mayweed/chamomile. Its drawback from an aesthetic viewpoint is that it has a relatively short flowering season. Most of the mixes now in use have other non-native seeds added such as cosmos to prolong the flowering period. Insects certainly make use of them. Although of benefit to wildlife they are more realistically thought of as a form of gardening rather than nature reserves. Our experience has been with relatively large areas such as roundabouts and roadside verges but these mixes can just as effectively be used on a smaller scale in private gardens.

**Cultivation**

To create the best floral effect you need to eliminate less desirable species such as thistles and docks before sowing. These mixes can be sown in the autumn or early spring. Sowing can be an ideal opportunity for involving local school children.
The rose is possibly the best known flower in the world today. In Britain it has been a powerful symbol for centuries due to its potent combination of an attractive flower, scent and thorns. Shakespeare has many references to roses while every Scot must know Burns’ lines …my love is like a red, red rose.

Modern roses have been developed from a family of plants widely distributed in the northern hemisphere. Individual species differ widely as they adapted to the various environments in which they grow. They vary from dwarf types through a variety of bushes to climbers up to 40’ high. Over the years, naturally occurring hybrids established themselves and were once identified as individual species only for modern geneticists to reclassify them as the hybrids they are. In fact it is believed that there are only some 120 true individual species in the world. The rest are cultivars most developed by gardeners.

The development of the rose
Before 1800, most of the roses grown had been selected natural forms or hybrids which were then propagated and distributed. Parallel with this was the discovery of sports where relatively minor variations of colour or form were valued and cultivated. Most early roses were scented but only had one flowering season. The bringing together of different species from diverse areas led to the growth of artificial hybridisation in the early 1800s. In Europe this was largely centred on France where breeders, largely amateur, embarked on their experiments. A major contributor to this was the Empress Josephine of France who patronized the development of rose breeding at Chateau de Malmaison. Here In 1824, Pierre Joseph Redoute completed his water-colour collection _Les Roses_, which is still considered one of the finest records of botanical illustration.

Roses past and present
Iain Silver
Gardening on the edge: The Orkney Garden Festival

Caroline Kritchlow

What comes to mind when the northern archipelago of Orkney is mentioned in conversation? Perhaps Neolithic World Heritage sites, Scapa Flow and the WW1 wrecks, wildlife, scenery but it is unlikely that gardens would be part of the list. Despite not being renowned for its favourable gardening climate Orkney and its neighbouring islands hosted Britain’s’ most northerly garden festival back in June 2017. Forget Chelsea, Hampton Court and even Gardening Scotland, in June 2017 Orkney was the horticultural place to be. Folk travelled from all over the globe to experience the horticultural treasures these wonderful islands have to offer.

If you live over the water there are many opportunities to go out for the afternoon, take in a garden, pick up a must have plant and then toddle off home filled with inspiration and good intentions of getting straight down to transforming your own patch of garden. Here in Orkney it’s not so easy and the opportunity to experience something new and have a truly great day out proved to be a real recipe for success.

Removal

It all started nine years ago when the boys from the Orkney removal firm arrived at my Derbyshire cottage to pack up everything I held dear for the move to the far North. The burly chaps expecting to shift heavy wardrobes were taken aback by five hundred plants (downloaded from the RHS list). It was apparent from their quizzical expressions that thoughts like ‘bonkers’ and ‘eccentric southerner’ were coming into their minds. A week later, droopy and in need of a good drink, both the plants and I arrived at the ‘currently under restoration’ Quoy of Houton and the work on the derelict garden began, an Orkney Garden Festival a dream away...
What makes our garden special to us?…. that is my wife and I, with combined ages of 173 years.

Our Aberdeenshire garden is rather large, on a corner site with the house to the North and the land sloping slightly from North to South with sun available form East and West, making it ideal for growing a whole range of plants. We have planted for all the year round interest.

In the winter there is *Viburnum bodnantense* and as I write there are mounds of winter flowering *Erica x darleyensis*, supported by variegated holly, *Griselinia littoralis* and *Aucuba*. Spring bulbs are being heralded by the appearance of the white buds of early snowflakes, snowdrops then crocus followed by a variety of daffodils as well as flowering cherries with their attendant bullfinches.

The summer display is a blend of annuals which we raise in our two small greenhouses, one 8’ x 6’ the other 10’ x 6’. Begonias feature strongly particularly ‘Flamboyant’ and with these we have been able to increase our stock by division then carefully overwintering the tubers.

In the herbaceous displays *Dierama pulcherrima* is prominent also *Meconopsis*, phloxes, delphiniums, hollyhock and *Thalictrum ‘Hewitts Double’*- who would be without it! At the bottom of the garden is the crowning glory of the *Eucryphia ‘Nymansensis’* with its eye catching white blooms in late summer.
Since 2004 Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow has been enhancing the local environment with a variety of horticultural and environmental projects and features. Our primary aim has always been to make our town look good but by entering competitions such as Beautiful Scotland we gain a sharper focus and feedback from experienced judges. We have been fairly successful winning a series of medals and in 2011 the rose bowl for the most successful entry in Scotland. We were therefore extremely concerned when West Lothian Council decided to stop providing summer bedding throughout the county from 2016 having withdrawn winter displays two years previously. All flower beds were to be grassed over and those tubs and planters maintained by the council would be removed. After unsuccessful attempts to persuade the Council to reverse its decision Burgh Beautiful decided to run a campaign to highlight the situation and if possible keep the floral displays which we knew were very popular with local people.

It was felt that to get the response that was needed the campaign had to be ‘in the faces’ of the townsfolk. It is all too easy for people to tut tut and says something is terrible but it’s just as easy for them then to forget about it. Every tub and flower bed ‘at risk’ had a handmade sign put in it saying Bye Bye or Help in letters six inches high and accompanied by a typed explanation of what was proposed by West Lothian Council and how Burgh Beautiful needed the town’s help both by volunteering and/or by sponsoring /donating to help keep the floral displays.

The campaign was well publicised in the local newspaper and community magazine as well as through Facebook and the group’s website. The response from the townspeople was beyond expectations. The number of volunteers more than doubled to over 90, donations in excess of £3,000 were received and every basket and tub was sponsored. In all we took over 16 flower beds and 27 planters.
The Edinburgh Living Landscape (ELL) programme was launched in November 2014 by Derek Mackay MSP who at the time was the Scottish Minister for Local Government and Planning. The programme is a partnership between a number of organisations including The Scottish Wildlife Trust, Edinburgh & Lothian’s Greenspace Trust, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Greensurge and the City Of Edinburgh Council.

The organisations involved in ELL each have individual parts of the project to deliver. As a council our ELL work is largely based around making amenity grasslands across the city more natural and create, restore and connect green areas to make attractive and biodiverse landscapes. This will encourage healthy, nature rich areas resilient to climate change.

Since the project began we have changed how we manage some of our grasslands and turned them into Living Landscapes. This includes:

- Creation of perennial meadows
- Creation of floral annual meadows
- Reducing the frequency of mowing, allowing natural grasslands to thrive
- Tree planting and creation of woodlands
- Increased herbaceous perennial planting across the city
- City wide bulb planting in selected grasslands

We now have approximately 10% of our amenity grasslands as Living Landscapes including 71 meadows across the city. This year, in phase 2 of the project, we introduced ELL into selected schools across the city, involving pupils learning about the ELL programme, making decisions on where to create a Living Landscape in their school and helping with the sowing of meadows. Teachers have now started using meadows as an educational tool for teaching biodiversity. Our teams of trained gardeners carry out regular
Creating a National Orchard Inventory for Scotland

Crispin Hayes

Making a comprehensive assessment of Scotland’s orchards has not been carried out for a long time. There has been work on particular areas such as the Clyde Valley and also on particular types of orchards notably those on holdings as part of the agricultural census. However none of these provide a comprehensive national picture. The last national work was the Caley’s own Apple and Pear Congress held in 1885 in Edinburgh. The Congress had great breadth with exhibitors from Orkney to Wigtownshire and most counties between. The report gives a really interesting snapshot of what was being grown and how well it was doing.

How did we go about creating the Inventory?

We wanted to cast our net wide and therefore we chose a broad definition of an orchard, though it is based on the former Traditional Orchards Habitat Action Plan.

We defined an orchard as five or more fruit trees that are within 20m apart from crown edge to crown edge. This means we are including specimens clustered in walled gardens as well as those in private gardens and even allotments. Because we also collect
Imagine a garden at Gardening Scotland, our national gardening show, designed, built and grown using principles of sustainability, full of plants you can eat as well as being good for wildlife. Imagine that it also celebrates the diversity of life across Scotland and is full of detail and humour. Now imagine that it is designed, built and grown by Scottish school pupils. That is the reality of the One Planet Picnic Pocket Garden Design Competition, coordinated by Keep Scotland Beautiful with the Garden for Life Forum.

This year will be the third year that schools across Scotland have been invited to design a small garden to form part of the Garden for Life area at Gardening Scotland. Since 2016 the competition has inspired schools from 29 of Scotland’s 32 local authority areas to enter. The winning entrants are invited to grow, build and bring their garden to display at the national event. This year an additional new theme is the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals.

**17 Global Goals**
The Global Goals are 17 goals to transform our world. They aim to end poverty, fight inequality, protect the planet and improve the lives of people everywhere. Each goal has specific
Henry Noltie retired in October of 2017 from Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh after a career spanning 31 years. In that time he authored/co-authored 72 botanical species and varieties, published 65 papers and articles and has written 18 books. Henry also contributed at least 3232 preserved specimens to the herbarium at RBGE with duplicates shared with herbaria worldwide. The Living Collection also benefited with 1029 accessions of plants making their way into the collection at RBGE and some more widely into cultivation.

Henry’s early work at RBGE centered on the preparation of the taxonomic accounts of monocot families for the *Flora of Bhutan*; with Vol. 3(1) the flowering Monocots published in 1994 and Vol. 3(2) the grasses published in 2000. As part of that work Henry travelled extensively in the field participating in a number of expeditions:

- Kew–Edinburgh–Kathmandu Expedition to NE Nepal (KEKE), August–October, 1989 (collecting monocots)
- Collecting trip to Bhutan, July 1991
- Edinburgh Expedition to Sikkim and Darjeeling (ESIK), July–August, 1992
- Kew Edinburgh Gothenburg Expedition to NW Yunnan (KEG), 1993
- Participant in Darwin Initiative/Scientific Exploration Society Namdapha Rainforest Project, January 1994
- Forestry Commission, Edinburgh Expedition to Deqin Prefecture, NW Yunnan (FED), September, 1995
- Edinburgh Expedition to Northern Sikkim (EENS), July, 1996
- Expedition to Cox’s Bazar and Chittagong. University of Chittagong, October 1997
- Bhutan, August–September, 1998 (collecting grasses)

Henry Noltie’s botanical novelties

Alan Elliott
Another year and another stunning botanic illustration exhibition. Once again the amazingly high standard of entries to BISCOT gladdened the hearts of all who saw them. The variety of botanical subjects was wide and interesting from tiny alpines to five times larger than life plant and flower studies. Nine artists showed at this competitive exhibition this year with three entrants from abroad: the U.S.A., Austria and New Zealand. This underlines our international reputation and adds excitement and colour, often by the introduction of species which are unfamiliar to most of us.

Two artists merited Gold awards this year: Fran Thomas from South Queensferry and Billy Showell from Tunbridge Wells in Kent. Both artists showed works which were executed to the highest standard but contrasted greatly, particularly in scale. Fran chose to illustrate subjects which are native plants of the coast and

(left) Thrift. (centre) Fran Thomas. (right) Sea arrowgrass.
Weather at the start of 2017 was relatively mild and dry for most of Scotland although there were some gales in February. For most of Scotland these conditions continued into spring. April was unusually dry with less than half normal rainfall in the south-east but this changed dramatically by June which ushered in a wet summer over much of the country. In the west growers complained of problems due to the wet though further east areas that are prone to summer drought actually noted better growing conditions for some plants. Autumn provided some very good weather for outdoor activities with long, sunny and mainly dry spells interrupted by several spells of very strong winds including the aftermath of Hurricane Ophelia. This changed towards the end of the year when temperatures fell below average and snow arrived in northern and central Scotland.

The weather over the week-end of the Caley spring show was fairly kind and attracted 800 visitors. The difficult growing conditions, the later date and a clash of date with the Lothian rock garden show, resulted in entries being slightly down this year 493, compared to 556 in 2016. The clash is something we will avoid in 2018. The Caley show is one of the five spring shows (Aberdeen, Dundee, Keith and Banff) which together participate in the Jim Davidson Daffodil Trophy. Both Pam Whittle and Elizabeth Ferro managed to enter all five shows and others managed three or four. In 2017 the Jim Davidson trophy was awarded jointly to Bill Copeland and Doug Martin.

Looking ahead to 2018 the spring show workshop was held as usual in October, but the bulbs were plunged on the Caley allotment, a first.

In 2017 Gardening Scotland was held in favourable weather. The new RHS show in Chatsworth, Derbyshire, had a noticeable effect on the number of nurseries at Ingliston although visitor numbers were similar to 2016. In addition to the more usual Caley offering of advice and showcasing Caley interests and highlights of 2017

The Caley 2017 spring show. Photos by the editors and Pam Whittle except where stated.
Scottish Horticultural Medal

Stan Green has always been actively involved in the promotion of Scottish horticulture. He ran Pinegrove wholesale nursery in Fife for many years before setting up his wholesale nursery, Growforth Ltd, near Dunfermline. He has been a staunch supporter of the horticultural trade in Scotland and an active member of the Scottish Horticulture Panel since its inception in 2015 working to create the Horticultural Framework for Growing Scotland’s Future document presented to Scottish Government in 2017. He has also been an active participant at the Scottish Government Plant Health workshops. He was Chairman of the Scottish Branch of the Horticultural Trade Association (HTA) for many years and progressed to various positions within the HTA before becoming UK President two years ago. He remains a Director of the HTA. His championing of Scotland’s National Garden (Calyx) alongside Jim McColl has been an epic and energetic crusade. His passion and conviction that Scotland needs a National Garden has won over politicians and business leaders and twice has come very close to fruition. Stan is also actively involved in the support of his local community, Lower Largo in Fife, and has been involved in charitable fundraising for the Children’s Hospice Association.

Dr Andrew Duncan Medal

Ann Burns started gardening as a toddler with her grandfather on his allotment. She still loves growing vegetables with half her present garden down to raised beds. She went to the East of Scotland College and then Auchencruive to study horticulture. She worked for B&Q in Glasgow and Edinburgh then became a self-employed gardener prior to securing a lecturing job in horticulture at Oatridge College where she is now Team Leader in charge of the department. She received a Certificate of Merit from the Caley in 2009, is a longstanding Scottish Gardeners Forum council member and a Director of Gardening Scotland. Ann has enthused countless Oatridge students who in 2016 nominated her for an award for Excellence in Teaching. The Caley is grateful for her support in the development of the Caledonian Master Gardener. Ann is also a very committed cub leader and holds The Chief Scout’s twenty five years’ service medal.

The Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Memorial Medal

Minette Struthers has worked tirelessly promoting horticulture initially in Argyll and subsequently in Scotland. She took over and restored the run down gardens at Ardmaddy Castle when she married her husband Charles. The walled garden is now productive...
It was in October 2013 when the Caley was contacted by an Alistair Watt with a query about Robert Fortune, the noted plant collector. He explained he was writing a major biography which he said was something that had never been done properly before. He was questioning references that Fortune moved to work in London in late 1842 from the RBG Edinburgh. At that time, he had already obtained information on Fortune’s later life through the RHS and Kew and had made three visits to China following the journeys of George Forrest and Kingdon-Ward. It was on the third trip in 2012 that he discovered he was walking in Fortune’s footsteps. Four years later his comprehensive biography was published by the Royal Botanic Garden Kew with the statement that ‘Great care has been taken to maintain the accuracy of the information contained in the work.’

The book has a wealth of information on the number of plants Fortune introduced. In January 1880, after his return home, he wrote an article for the *Gardeners Chronicle* which was a review of the novelties he had found and introduced to cultivation in Britain. According to the author, this led to a review of his role in the introduction of Chinese and Japanese chrysanthemums for breeding and adds that Fortune was disappointed that the flower trade had been slow to appreciate his collections of Japanese chrysanthemums. He had purchased several novelties from the specialist nursery garden near the Asakusa Temple in Tokyo. This was followed up in February 1880 with an article extolling the virtues of the tree peony which the author describes as ‘the most aristocratic of all the flowering plants to come out of China.’ He also supplied a large quantity of the herbaceous form ‘which the Chinese use for grafting.’
Help grow the future of Horticulture and Gardening in Scotland with the Caley

Scotland’s National Horticultural and Gardening Society

Lectures, Visits, Education programmes, Demonstrations, Workshops, Dig Days, Plant sales, Shows, Volunteering opportunities including at Saughton Park and on the Caley allotment

www.rchs.co.uk

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