

Preview

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Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society
Supporting Horticulture & Gardening in Scotland since 1809



The Japanese Garden, Cowden, visited on a Caley Summer Tour

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Letter from the President

I hope you all have had a good summer. It would appear that the recent spell of warm dry sunny weather has finally gone, with, for many gardeners in Scotland some welcome rain. However, it will be interesting to see and note the longer term impacts both positive and negative on different plant groups of the weather so far this year! There is also the longer term issue of climate change and the subtle and not too subtle changes required in the way we garden, and what plants we will and will not be able to grow in the short and longer term. I am hoping the autumn colour will be the best for a number of years! (Autumn wind and rain permitting!)

On perhaps what was the hottest day of the year in late June I was fortunate to visit Hansel village in Ayrshire and present a number of Caley Grow and Learn Roots Awards. Once again it reminded me of the value and importance of plants and



The drought revealed the position of the old Order Beds at RBGE

how working with them and the Caley's Grow and Learn Awards can make such a difference and have such a positive impact. It has been a busy summer behind the scenes for the Caley with a successful programme of garden visits and with the development at Saughton continuing apace. On a recent visit it was good to see the progress in many areas right across the park. We are hoping to organise a couple of Caley gatherings in the autumn to progress work on the Winter Border. Please follow the link for more regular updates:

www.facebook.com/SaughtonPark

Details are also available on our website. Whilst on your regular visits to our website to check out updates on visits, workshops and events please log on and register for the more regular email monthly newsletters. This is an extremely easy way to keep in touch with the Caley's activities.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and the early autumn, and I look forward to seeing you at the Caley lectures.

Happy Gardening,

**David Knott,
President**

A number of Firsts for the Caley Spring Show

If anyone had told me five years ago that I would be getting really excited about the next Caley Spring Flower Show seven months before the event, I would not have believed them. But here I am in August 2018, getting very excited about March 2019 because there are so many firsts to experience.

The next Spring Show, **30th & 31st March 2019**, will be the first show held in our new home at **Saughton Park**. The second 'first' will be the schedule which will be different as it will only focus on spring flowering bulbs. (We plan to have other small shows during the year to focus on other things.) So the Spring Show becomes the **Spring Bulb Show** and will be the first of the Caley Shows (yes, plural!) to be held at Saughton.



Spring Show 2018

We are still planning to hold the schools competition at the Royal Botanic Garden in the John Hope Gateway on **23rd & 24th March 2019**. However, this show will also embrace change as we want to widen the participation to include groups such as Cubs and Brownies plus other groups as well as primary schools. Contact **Paula Collings** at schoolspringshow@rchs.co.uk if you know a group that might be interested.

All of these changes mean we will need to vigorously promote the spring shows. So we want you to help spread the word. We want Saughton to come to life! As the Spring Bulb Show might be the first time some visit the Caley at Saughton Park, it is important we get it right.

**Margaret Teale
Spring Show Committee**

The Bulb Workshop, on 20th October, will again be held on the Caley Allotment at Bridgend. Participants will be able to plant four pots of daffodil (division one, two, three and four), and one pot each of Tulip and Hyacinth. We use quality bulbs for the workshop and – as previous participants can testify – these regularly feature amongst the winning entries. Costs are kept to a minimum – we only charge what the bulbs cost. This is usually between £22 and £25. Contact Pam Whittle to book your place. New participants are very welcome – we are here to help!

The other good news is that George Anderson, our Honorary President, will again be producing a bulb blog, sharing his progress and tips on how to aim for that winning exhibit.

The main spring bulb schedule, a separate young person's schedule, and the school and groups leaflet are all available on the website, via the e-Newsletter or by contacting Caley Administrator, Julie Muir or Pam. (see page 12)

Join us and get involved!

Margaret Teale
Spring Show Committee

Caley Blog

Are you missing out on the Caley Blog? The Blog page has been incorporated into the website and can be accessed from: thecaley.org.uk

Subscribers to the Blog can have notifications sent to them each time something is posted. To subscribe, simply go to the Blog page and enter your email address.

Julie Muir

SGF AGM and Forum

The Caley is one of the constituent societies and clubs that comprise the Scottish Gardeners' Forum (SGF), and so members of the Caley are invited to the Annual Forum arranged by the SGF and hosted by one of its member Societies.

Brighter Bervie, is hosting us this year at Inverbervie Church Centre, King Street, Inverbervie, DD10 0RQ.

Programme

Saturday 3rd November 2018

- 10.00 Registration
 - 10.30 AGM + Forum
 - 11.45 Julia Corden, Explorers' Garden, Pitlochry, President-Elect, SRGC
 - 12.30 Lunch and Opportunity to view Stalls
 - 13.45 Fiona Guest, Scotia Seeds
 - 14.30 Tom Campbell, Brighter Bervie
- Stalls will include:
- Dove Books Trellis Scotia Seeds
 - The Caley, Grow and Learn

The cost is £15 per person.

Register at

www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk/AGM

Alison Murison
SGF and Caley Council Member



The President and the Hon president with the recipients of the Caley's Awards presented at the AGM in March 2018

Caley Events at Saughton

I hope as many of you as possible are signed up to the newsletter as well as using the website, as this is where we will be giving advance notice, or short notice of dates. Our provisional plans are:

December 2018: a supporting presence at the Friends of Saughton Christmas event.

February 2019: (weather permitting) a number of special Caley member welcome visits.

Late February 2019/Early March 2019: the first in a series of daytime talks and practicals in the meeting space – the McHattie Room. Mr McHattie was the Superintendent of Edinburgh Parks who developed Saughton Park in the early 1900s and was also a former Caley President.

March 30th and 31st 2019: The Caley Spring Bulb Show.

Looking forward to seeing you at Saughton.

Pam Whittle

Winter Lecture Series 2018-2019

Held at 7.30 pm in the Lecture Theatre of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Tuesday 2nd October 2018

**Joint Lecture with the
Scottish Rock Garden Club**

**Ken Cox, Glendoick:
Woodland Gardening**

An acknowledged expert on Rhododendrons, Ken Cox has a passion for woodland gardening and his latest publication is devoted to the theme.



His talk will highlight aspects of the Woodland Garden such as its history, famous gardens, collectors, management and cultivation – and a look to the future.

Tuesday 16th October 2018

**Dr Alan Elliott, RBGE:
Patrick Neill & the Dons: Forfar,
Edinburgh, Sierra Leone & Nepal**

Alan is a well-travelled botanist and horticulturist, with a wide experience and expertise in plant collecting and fieldwork in Nepal and Bhutan. He also liaised with RBGE and the community garden team that constructed and maintain the Forfar Botanists' garden. He has tutored courses in horticulture and run workshops on Meconopsis.



Tuesday 6th November 2018

**Jim Jermyn,
National Trust for Scotland:
Branklyn: a Contemporary Look at
the Renton Legacy**

Jim Jermyn is well-known to Caley members; an experienced horticulturist and lecturer, he is currently Property Manager of Branklyn Garden, Perth, which was created in the 1920s by John and Dorothy Renton. Jim has followed their tradition of growing rare and unusual plants but has imaginatively reconstructed and updated some features of the garden.

Tuesday 20th November 2018

**Dr David Long,
RBGE Research Associate:
To the Black Mountain 80 Years after
Sherriff**

David is a globally renowned RBGE Himalayan botanist and bryologist, co-author of two comprehensive Volumes of the Flora of Bhutan. George Sherriff made a plant-collecting expedition to the Black Mountain in Bhutan in 1937. David recounts his own experiences of more recent travels to the area.

Tuesday 4th December 2018

**John Sinclair, West Craigie's Farm:
Craigie's, We're Growing**

John is the owner of Craigie's Fruit Farm, Farm Shop, Deli and Café, near South Queensferry, a popular venue where visitors can pick their own fruit. There is a strong emphasis on family-run events and experiences throughout the year. The talk will cover fruit-growing and some of the ongoing educational activities.

Tuesday 19th December 2018

An Informal pre-Christmas Evening

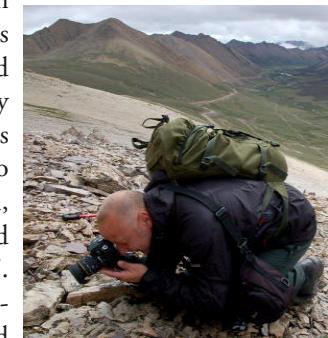
Paper-whites Competition. An update on the Saughton Project. Images of the year's Events and Garden Visits.

Tuesday 15th January 2019

**John Mitchell, RBGE;
In the steps of the Snow Leopard:
Travels in Afghanistan, Tajikistan,
Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan**

John is Supervisor of the Alpine Department at RBGE and Vice-Chairman of the Scottish Rock Garden Club. He has participated in many expeditions including to China, Iran, Georgia and the "Stans".

He has lectured and led tours in several countries. Recently his travels have been concentrated on central Asia.



Tuesday 5th February 2019

**Gavin McNaughton, Macplants:
Blue is the Colour: the big Blue
Poppies and Autumn Gentians**

Gavin and his family own Macplants, are sponsors of the Caley and well-known as frequent Exhibitors and stallholders at the Scottish Shows. This year, Macplants' exhibit at Gardening Scotland won a Premium Gold Medal. Gavin's talk will cover the cultivation of Meconopsis and the story of the gentians bred by his father Ian, an expert in the genus, who created Gentiana 'The Caley'. (see photo)



Tuesday 19th February 2019

**Caroline Thomson, Rossie Estate:
Backhouse-raised Daffodils of National
Importance. A Race against Time**

Caroline and husband Andrew run the Rossie Estate in Fife. She is a member of the Quaker Backhouse family who, over a period of one hundred years, through three generations of Backhouses, created a National Collection of daffodils. The collection and cultivation had a huge impact on the growing and preservation of these important and rare species. It has commercial significance – Britain supplies 90% of the world's daffodil needs.

Tuesday 5th March 2019

**Annual General Meeting and Awards
Ceremony**

N.B. this meeting begins at 7pm

Tuesday 19th March 2019

**Dr Emma Goodyer:
International Union for Conservation
of Nature**

Emma is the Manager of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme, based at the Scottish Wildlife Trust. She previously worked as a wetland ecologist, predominantly in Scotland and has made a study of blanket bog habitats. The use of large quantities of peat in horticulture has long been a matter for controversy. Emma will provide up-to-date information on the subject.

Garden Visits 2018

Caley Members and friends have made five garden visits this summer.

Wednesday 18th April

An evening visit to Macplants for some retail therapy. We were hosted by Beryl and Gavin McNaughton, who gave us an informative tour of the Nursery, followed by coffee and delicious homemade cake.

Thursday 7th June

A day trip by coach to two gardens near Dollar. We were excited to have the opportunity to visit the new Japanese Garden at Cowden Castle which was beautifully laid out. It is a tribute to the hard work and diligence of Head Gardener Kate White (a member of the Caley Council) and her helpers. Work is ongoing there to improve the entrance and facilities. We look forward to future visits.

After lunch at Powmill Milk Bar we viewed Arndean, a long-established



garden with extensive lawns, woodland, borders and colourful rhododendrons. We had a warm welcome from owner Johnny Stewart.

Wednesday 20th June

A day trip to Northumberland to two lovely gardens owned by the Fairfax family. Mindrum is a large garden on several levels with woodland, a lake,



a river running through it, sculpture, herbaceous beds, shrubs and abundant, fragrant 'old-fashioned' roses and clematis. Here, in the delightful conservatory, we enjoyed a superb two-course buffet lunch – including Coronation Pheasant – a first for many of us! Afterwards we visited Kirky Cottage, owned by matriarch Ginny Fairfax, who really knows her plants, a true artist's blend of cottage plants, old roses and wildflowers.

Thursday 19th July

An afternoon visit to a small, stunning garden, The Cottage, at West Linton, owned, designed and worked by John Irvine, who will be 90 in September. This was Garden of the Week in the Garden News Magazine last November and the title is well-deserved. The garden is divided into 'rooms' with a colourful front garden, back lawn, glorious herbaceous borders, trees, a shady corner with Hostas in pots; a damp bed, sunny herb area with seating, fragrant shrub roses all around, a dahlia bed and a colourful patch beloved by bees, sown only from seed. In one corner is a charming summerhouse, designed, built and even thatched by John, who knows the names of all his plants.



Wednesday 8th August

A day trip to Lanarkshire to visit two very different gardens. The morning was spent at Beeches Cottage Nursery and Garden Centre, near Hawksland, a small family-run nursery specialising in hardy cottage perennials, with many unusual cultivars, all in excellent condition. Following a short introductory talk by owner Steve Harrison, while we enjoyed homemade scones and cakes, and heavy rain battered the roof, the group indulged in more retail therapy among plants at very reasonable prices.

The afternoon visit was to nearby Auchlochan Garden Village, a retirement complex, with beautifully landscaped grounds, including magnificent trees, lakes and colourful borders.

After lunch, taken in the spacious, light and airy Bistro, Helen gave us a brief history of the Village and its aims. Head Gardener Chris Allen then guided us around the delightful Walled Garden.

Sally Heron

The CALEY's Grow and Learn Award

Grow and Learn is the Caley's flagship education programme delivered in collaboration with organisations across Scotland including social care organisations, local authorities, NHS and mental health groups as well as therapeutic gardening groups, schools, BME groups, horticultural gardens and training centres. It is a highly regarded initiative providing people, all too often marginalised by society, a person centred Award framework, recognising

personal progress and achievement in a garden setting.

Grow and Learn not only inspires participants to reach their full potential and develop vital transferable life-skills, but also helps to tackle social issues including isolation, inequality and inclusion. Grow and Learn also helps to improve physical, social and emotional well-being.

Over the years, the profile of Grow and Learn has increased significantly and we



Pathways Team Oatridge, SRUC at Gardening Scotland 2018



Greenroutes Gartmore

have seen a steady growth in participant numbers and also an increasing diversity in the participating projects. Awards are presented on a rolling basis. Currently we have 328 participants in 36 active projects from Barra to Stranraer.

"What I like most about Grow and Learn is working with other people and learning new things"
Josh (Fair Deal, Help Yourself Grow, Glasgow.)

Since January 2018 we have:

- Presented Grow and Learn Awards to 75 participants.
 - Supported projects and participants, deliver and achieve their Awards through our verifier support system, site-visits, and grassroots awards ceremonies.
 - Delivered a number of bespoke training sessions to projects, offered master classes and seasonal half day volunteering opportunities within public gardens.
 - Promoted Grow and Learn at a number of horticultural events, Scotland wide.

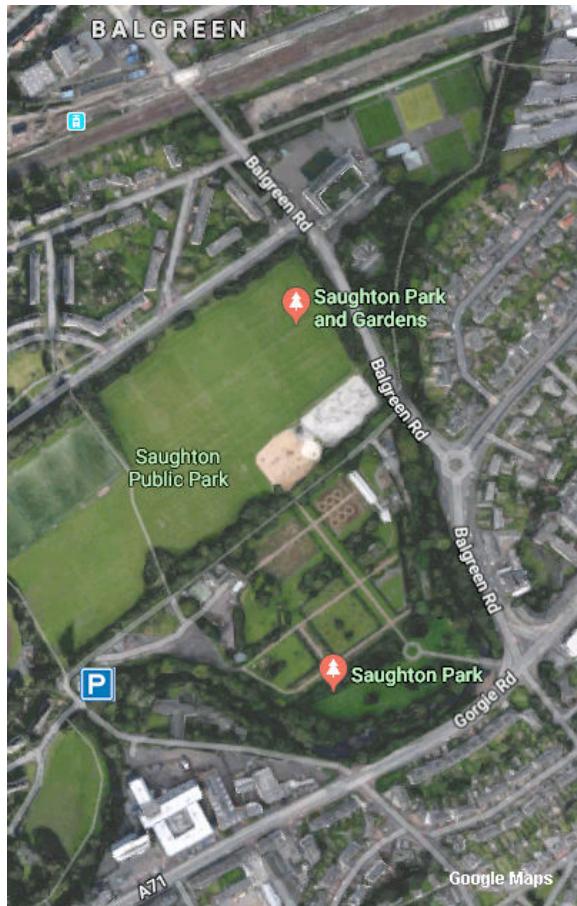
'It is amazing to look back at the work everyone has been involved in. It brings real joy when our students work on something and see it grow and develop week to week.' Sinead Frampton, support worker from Pathways Team Oatridge, SRUC.

Developing Grow and Learn with people in mind

We believe that close collaboration with participants, families and project leaders is crucial for the future development of the Award. Currently we are reviewing our existing Awards and have ambitious plans to develop a 3rd stage in 2019. To make a success of this, we will consult, review and co-produce Grow and Learn with as many participants, families and projects as possible, in order to continue to deliver an authentic, people-led learning opportunity.

Jean Gavin
Development Officer,
Grow and Learn

Getting to Saughton



Saughton Park is bounded by Balgreen Road, Gorgie Road and Forbes Road.. The Car Park is off Ford's Road to the west of the Park. Note that Google have not caught up with the Landscaping and Building works.

Next Preview

Material for the Spring Preview should be sent to the Editor by email by **12th February 2019**.

By Bus or Tram

There are lots of buses that stop near the entrances in Gorgie Road Lothian 3, 25 (from Hermiston Park and Ride), 30, 33, 38, First Bus 23, X23; or Balgreen Road (Lothian 1, 2, 22, 38); and the Balgreen tram stop is quite near too! (See the little blue sign on top left of the map.)

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