

Winter 2007

Issue 5



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...And a Happy New Gardening Year from Trellis



Trellis Network Events

Poolewe, 27th February 08
Poolewe Village Hall
Wester Ross

Arbroath, 9th April 08
HOPE Trust, grounds of
Hospitalfield House

To book, Tel: 01738 624348
or Email:
info@trellisscotland.org.uk

Even though Christmas is but a distant memory we love this image, created for Trellis by Thomas LaCroix, so much we've chosen to feature it on our front page for all to enjoy.

Trellis Conference '08
Quick, get your new diaries out and turn to **Monday 17th March** – it's the 2008 Trellis Conference at Dundee College. Booking forms and programmes will be winging their way to you in January. We'll offer some limited travel bursaries to those who have a long way to come and for whom the cost of getting there might otherwise prevent them attending. We'll also, of course, post details on the Trellis website. Visit us at: www.trellisscotland.org.uk

Network News ~ Projects meet in Aberdeen

Aberdeen, 15th November '07 – 19 participants representing 12 projects attended our Trellis network meeting at Solstice Nurseries, Drumduan Walled Garden, North Deeside. We heard about each other's projects, swapped new ideas and enjoyed a tour of the garden. Solstice has its first crop of heathers and very hardy plants almost ready to go to market (wholesale) after two year's hard work. On the previous day, Trellis Development Manager, Fiona Thackeray and director, George Philip met Trellis patron, Lord Aberdeen for a very productive discussion at Haddo Estate. All then went on to visit the Community Garden project at Formartine, where May and Helen of the Ellon Resource Centre led a very interesting tour.

Bridgend Allotment Community Health Inclusion Project.

Anne Jepson writes ~



Developing an early interest

The Bridgend project got going in April 2006 with four plots on a brand new organic allotment site in south Edinburgh. There are one or two things that make Bridgend a little out of the ordinary. The NHS is managing it as a community health project, looking to tackle the range of issues that we all know gardening is good for. Referrals are self-made or come through a variety of health professionals and support agencies. NHS Lothian and Edinburgh City Council like the model and are supportive of rolling the model out across the city as a way of working towards the aspirational goals of a healthy lifestyle.

To develop the work of the project, we were recently awarded £228,000 by the Big Lottery for two years. This will enable us to take on two more full-time staff, to open for many more hours and to do far more work in local communities. We want to make growing food a normal activity for those in the city who wouldn't have thought that they could do such a thing and for those who would not normally have the inclination. We work with children, parents who come with their children, high school kids, older people and people who are recovering. The focus is always on the activity – gardening – not on what brings people along. We have seen the effects already that reach way beyond the ability and knowledge to grow vegetables and fruit.



Taking time out to talk gardening at Bridgend

New funding guidelines launched January 2008.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

is one of the largest independent grant-making foundations in the UK aiming to improve quality of life throughout the UK through funding the charitable activities of organisations that have the ideas and ability to achieve change for the better and supporting work that might otherwise be considered difficult to fund.

The primary interests are in the UK's cultural life, education, the natural environment and enabling people who are disadvantaged to participate more fully in society.

For more information visit:

www.esmeefairbairn.co.uk

Investing in Volunteers [iIV] award subsidy scheme

Title: Environmental volunteering subsidy scheme

About the programme: Applications are encouraged from environmental volunteering organisations wishing to use the iIV process to develop and improve their practice in involving volunteers. Volunteer Development Scotland [VDS] administers the iIV subsidy scheme which is funded by the Scottish Government, through FEVA. [Forum for Environmental Volunteering Activity.]

How much can you apply for? In each of the 3 years of the scheme, there will be 12 bursaries (in-kind) of 80% of the iIV assessment fee for small environmental organisations with up to 3 office bases and no more than 100 volunteers. The organisation will pay 20% of the cost, to a maximum of £315 depending on the number of volunteers.

Larger organisations can apply for one of the 10 x £250 bursaries which will also be available each year.

To find out more about iIV: www.investinginvolunteers.org.uk or phone Anne Hislop at VDS, 01786 479593.

To apply: The application form is available from the VDS website. www.vds.org.uk or contact Anne Hislop anne.hislop@vds.org.uk

Q & A ~ Getting to know...

Carse of Gowrie Orchards Project

**School and Community
Orchard Workshop** (venue -
Carse of Gowrie to be confirmed)

Saturday, 23rd February 2008 -
10.00am to 3.30pm (fee to be
confirmed)

An informative day aimed at local community groups, teachers and older children wanting to know how to go about planting and caring for a new orchard. There will also be a presentation about the proposed Scottish Children's Orchard Project and informal workshops to "design your own orchard", "incorporating orchards into the curriculum" and "wildlife in orchards". There will be a visit to an established orchard.

**Half Day Practical Orchard
Fruits Training Courses**
(venue - Carse of Gowrie to be
confirmed) :-

Saturday, 26th January 2008 -
Winter Pruning Techniques (John
Butterworth of Butterworth's
Orchard Nursery): £12 per
person

Saturday, 17th May 2008 -
Pollination Essentials (Margaret
Lear, Plants with Purpose): £12
per person

Queries to: *Tayside Biodiversity
Partnership*, Tel. 01382 433042
email:
Rachael.Higgins@dundee.gov
.uk

Jim McColl ~ will be recognised by most of you as the 'face' of Beechgrove Garden. We are also lucky enough to have him as a patron of Trellis and he kindly agreed to be the subject of our first Propagator Q & A.

What's the best advice you've been given?

For gardening: You can't get the better of Mother Nature, you might cheat her for a while but you will find it easier if you are able to work with her!

For life: I was brought up in a Christian family, Scottish Presbyterian, and although I have drifted from organised religion I firmly believe that the teachings provide an excellent recipe for how to live your life. For example, just one well known saying - do unto others as you would have done to you.

Who has been your most influential mentor/biggest inspiration and what did they teach/inspire in you?

My late father Tom was a gardener all his days. He served in the Eighth Army in the second world war and fought in the El Alamein campaign. He virtually went out of my life when I was 5 years old and returned when I was eleven. He was a fine role model, quite strict without ever being a bully. He earned respect from family and workmates and he was rewarded in full. Two of his sayings stick with me - 'Suppose you live to be 150, you will never know it all' and secondly, very much related to that, 'every day is a school day'.

What was your biggest horticultural mistake and what did you learn from it?

The simple reply is that I don't know! Like everyone else, I have certainly made mistakes - that is how you learn. In my career path, maybe if I had gone to a fortune-teller, I would have been told that I wasn't cut out to be a gardener and funnily enough, one of my bosses once said to me 'well you may not be the best gardener in the world but you can certainly talk about it'. Interesting that much of my career to date has been related to communication - teaching, advising, writing, media work.

What is your favourite gardening chore?

You are never going to believe this but it is cutting grass! If the machine is in good nick and the weather is fine, I could walk behind a mower for hours. There is nothing quite like a good quality lawn, expertly cut, to show off the plants in and around it.

And your most loathed chore?

I once worked for a slave master who took great pleasure in sending me out to pick Brussels sprouts that were covered in snow and ice. Bodily I felt like I was frozen to the marrow and that my fingers had fallen off.

Can you recommend a great gardening book?

I'm going to cheat! The 'Expert' series by Dr David Hessayon, which is constantly being up-dated is a great thing for people to have. These books are readily available and comparatively cheap. They are written in a simple graphic style that makes them easy to understand. Over the years I have reported back some deficiencies to his publisher, as I'm sure others have too, but for all that I still think they are great.

What would you save if your garden shed was on fire?

As many of my implements as I can gather in my arms and my Garden Diary - everybody should keep one. Not only is it a reminder of things to come, it is a record of what has been!

A Taste for Independence

Community Food and Health (Scotland) have recently produced a new guide '**A taste for independence: using food to develop skills for life**' which aims to be useful for those working with people learning (or relearning) to live independently. It is based on the experiences of 21 organisations from throughout Scotland working with a wide range of vulnerable groups, including young people experiencing homelessness, people with mental health support needs and people with a learning disability.

This new guide looks at how food activities, such as cooking, food shopping and budgeting can be used to develop life skills and has information on how to develop food activities, such as encouraging people to take part, deciding on what facilities you might need as well as well as deciding what to cook. The guide also includes ten case studies, including information on projects working with people with mental health support needs, young carers and prisoners preparing to leave prison.

The guide is available free of charge to those working in Scotland and can be downloaded from www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk or call Alice 0141 226 5261 to receive a copy by post.

**SCOTTISH BIODIVERSITY
WEEK 2008**Monday, 19th to Sunday 25th May**UK Biodiversity****Newsletter** (October 2007
issue):<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/bn40.pdf>

Contains information on the launch of the revised Biodiversity Action Plan list, and more details on the MONARCH Report. The launch of Let our Gardens Live offers advice on making our gardens more wildlife friendly. There are features on ground beetles, wader birds and land drainage, and worrying news on the national decline of hedgehogs.

OATRIDGE COLLEGE SHORT COURSES

A list of short courses running until July 2008 can be viewed at: www.liss-scotland.org.uk/info-lib/training-employment.htm or at: www.oatridge.ac.uk/short_courses.

Conservation & Biodiversity News

~ from the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

SWIFT SURVEY 2007

Sightings and nest site information from 2007 can still be reported. Please log on to http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/Biodiversity_Survey_Swift.asp where you can add information on-line.

CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wca-schedule9/index.htm
Comments on proposals to the Review of 'Schedule 9' to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are welcome. The Schedule lists non-native species that are already established in the wild, but which continue to pose a conservation threat to native biodiversity and habitats, such that further releases should be regulated. The consultation also includes proposals to ban the sale of certain non-

native species. The consultation will close on 31st January 2008

BTCV Scotland's Supporting Communities and Environmental Volunteering Guide

aims to encourage grassroots action to conserve Scotland's green spaces and wildlife habitats. It includes case studies from a range of inspiring community conservation projects and tips on how to engage young people with the environment and community conservation projects.

There is also information on the support that BTCV Scotland can give environmental projects.

Download at:

www.ruralgateway.org.uk/download/2013/Supporting-communities-and-volunteering-guide.pdf or request a hard copy by sending three first class stamps to cover postage to BTCV Scotland, Balallan House, 24 Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG.

Biodiversity - 'How to Help' Slot No. 4 – Catherine Lloyd (Tayside Biodiversity)

- Clean out those bird boxes before the end of January!
- Make a new box - take part in National Nestbox Week around St. Valentine's Day – more information from www.bto.org.uk.
- Leave the bat boxes well alone as they may be hosting hibernating bats.
- Plan ahead to attract bats to your garden next summer: grow night-scented stock, honeysuckle and ivy to attract moths; herbs and flowering shrubs for beneficial insects. More information from www.bats.org.uk.
- Clean out ponds only in late winter; try not to do the job in one go. Leave any dredged silt on the side of the pond for a day or two to allow wildlife to escape back into the pond.
- Remember: pots of early-flowering bulbs (such as snowdrops, crocuses, squill, tulips and old-fashioned single-flower narcissus) are great for early bumblebees desperate for the first nectar and pollen of the season.

If you are renovating any buildings during the winter - including outbuildings and old sheds - bear in mind that you may be causing loss of homes for bats, swifts, house sparrows, or masonry bees if you replace ridge tiles, roofing tiles (especially if you tidy up the tiles at the edge of the building), re-mortar brickwork or stonework. If you need to use chemical treatments in a roof, check with Scottish Natural Heritage for advice. There are many new products on the market now suitable for use in bats roosts – ask before you buy. For general advice, download the "Householders' Guide to Biodiversity" from www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk, or Tel. 01382 433042 and ask for a copy to be posted to you.

Contact Trellis

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Trellis is the national charity that supports, promotes and develops horticulture for health, well-being and life opportunities for all.

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Submissions

'The Propagator' is your newsletter. We need your input. Send short project profiles (c200 wds), news, letters/rants, tips, poems, recipes, diary dates and ideas by email or post. **Next deadline is 20th March 2008**

You can now download the newsletter from:

<http://www.trellisscotland.org.uk/newsletters>

SNH research Growing Nature-
The role of horticulture in supporting biodiversity.

This is now available on the SNH website:

http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/Report%20No244.pdf