

Autumn 2007

Issue 4



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Trellis Network Events

Edinburgh, 22nd October 07,
 Bridgend Allotments, The Inch

Aberdeen, 15th November 07,
 Solstice Nurseries, Drumduan
 Walled Garden, N Deeside

Poolewe, 27th February 08,
 Poolewe Village Hall

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

Virtually Yours

With the help of cyber guru Iain Mackintosh, we've now developed a cosy corner of the Internet just for therapeutic horticulture sympathizers to visit, linger a while, swap stories, pontificate and seek help. Shape it, by logging on, exploring, using the forums, blogs and downloads and by bending our ears about what needs to change. Forum activity will take time to build up, but we hope it will be a useful resource for you.

Visit us at:
www.trellisscotland.org.uk

Trellis' First Anniversary - September 2007

Trellis is 1. As we butter another scone to celebrate, we've been reminiscing on the year gone by. First, we established contact with 130 gardening projects and 200 related stakeholders. We won the support of two wonderful patrons, the Marquess of Aberdeen and Jim McColl. We established our Mission Control at Perth from where your queries are answered, news shared and events plotted. Not content with material world existence, we've now colonised the virtual sphere too. Visit when you can, the website will only ever be as good

as the folks logging on. Our conference, (9th March, Dundee College), was a resounding success with Gardener's Question Time a particular highlight. Throughout the year, we've run regional meetings in most corners of the country. These have also been well attended. Thanks for coming along – it would have been no fun without you. Our summer Study Tours with the FCFCG brought funders & policy-makers to garden projects to see first-hand how good they are.



June saw Trellis' public launch at Gardening Scotland, Ingleston. Trellis and therapeutic horticulture has had good press coverage, and we plan to increase that publicity. Our own Propagator is now into its 4th issue. This September we spoke in Parliament, to a cross-party audience, about therapeutic garden projects at the SAGS 'Growing Scotland' event. A good year. What's to come? More network meetings, profile-raising & queries answered. Another conference, and more support for therapeutic gardening.

Network Encounters

On September 4th, projects from Ayrshire & the South attended our Trellis network meeting at Hansel Village to exchange ideas and enjoy a tour of the garden. The meeting was very productive - lots of connections made and tips exchanged. Some of the group went on to visit the Gardening Leave project at Auchencruive (see pg 3), where further partnership ideas were forged. Projects in the north met at the Furrow of L'Arche in Inverness on September 12th. Once again, the meeting was very positive and participants learned a lot from each other. We enjoyed a tour of the garden & craft facilities and, as in Ayrshire, the sun shone for us.



Easter Anguston Farm Training Centre – Dutch Adventures



VSA Easter Anguston is a farming / horticulture training centre for adults with learning disabilities. To widen our clients' horizons and expand their knowledge we planned a 'study tour' to Holland and at the end of May our expedition set out with thirteen trainees and four staff.

George Philip writes ~

We left on a Tuesday morning and returned on the Thursday evening giving us three full days in Utrecht.

We went on five very different but very interesting trips including a visit to a 'care farm', a rehabilitation working farm for young people who have lost their way in life and require some guidance and another chance.

There was a visit to the world famous Alsmeer flower auction, this was mind-blowing in scale, and later the same day, we were off to a rose growing facility. (*Fact - more roses sold from Holland than tulips*) The company retails all

the flowers that they produce plus more which are bought in. We visited an experimental farm near Leystad, where they were conducting trials on the comfort of dairy cows and next morning we were off to a plug plant production nursery. Again a huge set-up with eleven hectares covered by glasshouses! To round off our trip we took a canal boat trip round Amsterdam, then the train to Schipol and ready for the homeward flight.

Thankfully there were no problems with the travel arrangements and the trainees were a credit to themselves and to VSA Easter Anguston.



Our group take a tour of the glasshouses

Huge efforts were made by many people to help raise the funds necessary for our adventure. These included a barn dance, a concert, Xmas raffle, vintage tractor enthusiasts' event, and various individual donations.

For the trainees, many of whom hadn't flown before, it was the experience of a lifetime.

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Garden Open Days – Scotland's Garden Scheme

For those of you whose project sites can accommodate a visitor or two, a collection tub and a few teacups, opening to the public in Summer 2009 may be a good way to raise publicity for your project and even a few pennies. The SGS Yellow Book is put together each Autumn & the new edition will be out in Feb 08. Contact SGS if you'd like to discuss opening your garden under the scheme. If that seems a step too far, consider making friends with your local open garden to see if they might like to support your project, or just plan some days out. <http://www.gardensofscotland.org/gardenopen.aspx>

Gardening Leave ~ a project of national importance

Scotland's only national collection of poppies is being restored by Gardening Leave

Anna Baker Cresswell ~

Gardening Leave is a charity established to provide Horticultural Therapy for ex-service personnel with combat-related mental health troubles. The charity welcomed the first veterans to its pilot project on 16th April, 2007.



The project is based at the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC), 15 minutes drive from Hollybush House, the Combat Stress treatment centre in Ayrshire. Gardening Leave has leased, for a peppercorn rent, a south-facing terraced area within the ornamental gardens on the Auchincruive estate, given to SAC by the Oswald family in the 1920s.

The veterans' first task is to restore Scotland's only National Collection of poppies which, due to staff



The walled garden terrace before work began and in mid-summer 2007

and budget cuts at the college has been sadly neglected. All 71 different cultivars in the Collection are pre-1950 varieties and thus many of them are now listed as 'rare'.

Anna says "We have had an amazing start – beyond my wildest dreams! The weather has certainly helped, but the response from the veterans has been really positive and they all seem to enjoy being outside, being together and doing some gentle gardening, interspersed with 'obligatory brews'..."

In addition to restoring the Poppy Collection, veterans will be able to participate in growing vegetables and herbs, which will be used in the kitchens at Hollybush House – a delicious and meaningful destination for their labours.

All visitors are very welcome and the project is open from 09.00 until 18.00 Monday to Friday.

Visit:
www.gardeningleave.org



The first season's crops

Scottish Gardeners Forum

The SGF is an association, founded in 1999, of around 100 Horticultural Societies, Gardening Clubs and other horticulture-related organisations acting together for their mutual benefit. Services include a newsletter, a register of horticultural societies, speakers and judges for flower shows, and a low cost public-liability insurance scheme.

Visit: **<http://www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk/>**



Conservation & Biodiversity News

29th & 30th October

The SIREN Seminar Series

is being developed to allow in-depth discussion on emerging evidence in suicide and suicide prevention, and encourage active dialogue and learning, by drawing on the expertise of practitioners, researchers and policy planners.

29th October - Perth Concert Hall
30th October - St Mungo's Museum of Religious Life and Art, Castle St, Glasgow

<http://www.vhscotland.org.uk/events/seminars.html>

13th November

Getting it Right for Everyone Quality Hotel, Perth

Aiming to showcase models of good practice from the experiences of people with learning disabilities & highlight practical ways to help agencies towards mainstreaming for all groups.

People with learning disabilities will be involved in the running and presenting of the day.

Keynote speaker: Stewart Maxwell MSP, Minister for Communities and Sport

More info:

<http://www.vhscotland.org.uk/events/conf.html>

~ WIMBY

What's In My Back Yard is a joint venture with the National Biodiversity Network that allows users to search for information by looking for their own town, protected area, postcode etc. From the list of species that is generated by the search it is possible to select individual species and view images of them from the ARKive website. The site is also linked to GoogleEarth so an interactive map can also be viewed. Find the site at www.snh.org.uk/snhi and then click on WIMBY.

ARKive can be found at:
www.arkive.org.uk

~ National Soil Archive of Scotland

The newly refurbished Archive, held at the Macaulay Institute, was recently opened by the Environment Secretary, Richard Lochhead. Over the next 2 years around 1500 new samples will be added to the Archive, which already contains some 40,000 samples. As the samples were collected up to 50 years ago the archive can use current analysis techniques to samples taken before many of today's contaminants entered our soils.

~ Roy Maps Now Available Online

Maps produced by William Roy during his survey of Scotland in 1750 are the first comprehensive maps covering the whole of Scotland. They are the baseline maps for identifying ancient woodland and contain a lot of valuable historical information on land use, settlement and habitats. For the first time the maps are now available on line and can be searched by county, parish or place name and it is possible to zoom in to get some really fine detail.

Roy maps can be accessed at:
<http://geo.nls.uk/roy/>

~ A Blog Worth Watching

This website offers extensive plant notes, good photography, nest box webcams and many interesting links from a Perthshire garden. It also lists gardens open for charity across the world, international garden blogs, birding and wildlife and flower show links. Just make sure it doesn't keep you from your garden.

<http://blog.shirlsgardenwatch.co.uk/>

Biodiversity - 'How to Help' Slot No. 3

Autumn Wildlife

At this time of year, it's all about wildlife "hunkering down" for the colder weather. So we get ladybirds and queen bees hibernating in undisturbed leaves, tussocky grass or hedge bottoms. Hedgehogs will also build nests of grass or leaves at the base of a hedge; frogs and toads will find shelter there too.

Winter is the least damaging time to clear out ponds, but as many amphibians hide under the mud extra care needs to be taken.

Undisturbed log piles give homes to frogs and insects and will often be exploited by wrens searching for food. Leave fallen fruit on the ground and adult butterflies will feast on them before finding a shed to hibernate in.

Try to leave seed heads and foliage on herbaceous perennial plants - by tidying them up only in the spring many beneficial insects, including caterpillars, can over-winter in the plant stems. If this would make the

garden look too untidy, insects can still utilize the same stems, cut and piled up in a corner.

When lighting a bonfire, remember to move material left piled up for any length of time to a fresh site so that hedgehogs, frogs or toads escape incineration.

Garden birds will welcome all the berries, fruits and seeds available. Now is the time to plan ahead for providing new nestboxes and bat boxes for next year - and to clean out existing ones.



Events News

Due to an overwhelming response, a second date (16 November) has been set for the following course:

Disability Bitesize 1: Language & Communication: Getting It Right

**Friday 16 November 2007
12.15 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Glasgow Centre for
Inclusive Living
117 - 127 Brook Street,
Glasgow, G40 3AP**

You can get full details at:
www.jarcs.co.uk

This is the first of a series of short training sessions designed to fit in with the busy work schedules of people working in private, public and voluntary sectors. It will dispel any worries about using the "right" language. It will give practical advice on assisting people who have a communication impairment. It will also help delegates improve

the service they offer to disabled customers and clients. More details and a booking form can be downloaded from the website.

If you have any difficulty in downloading from the website, please contact:
Jean Alcock - 0141 649 1521
Or mail to: jean@jarcs.co.uk

Places are limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Funding News

~ **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation funds charitable activity including arts and heritage, education, environment and social change. It is alerting potential applicants to their new approach to grant-making from January 2008.

They will have an open, less prescriptive way of working, through which they will listen to your ideas. They hope to fund a wider range of work than before, so there is no need to rush applications through under the existing guidelines. Alongside this new approach, they will also run a small number of more focused funding strands.

The fund will accept completed applications under the current guidance and format until 31 October 2007. Any proposal received after that date will be dealt with under the new approach from January. Information about the new funding approach will be available on their website from 3 January 2008 and you can sign up to receive information when it becomes available. Visit: www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

~ **The Big Give**

The Big Give is a new website which allows wealthy philanthropists to find charitable projects to give to. It has registered 297 projects asking for a total of £195m to date.

The site gives UK-registered charities the chance to attract funding for projects. Potential donors can search for charities by sector and location.

It is the brainchild of Alec Reed, the founder of the Reed recruitment company and the Reed Foundation, who has pledged to give £1m to promote the site to wealthy individuals, corporate foundations, grant-making trusts and legacy advisers. Visit: www.thebiggive.org.uk

~ **HBOS Foundation - Community Action Programme (UK)**

The HBOS Foundation Community Action Programme, makes grants of up to £10,000 to support a diverse range of local activities. The programme is available in those communities where the HBOS bank operates. It is open to registered charities and has two key themes - money advice and financial literacy and developing and improving local communities. Applications can be made at any time.

Visit: www.hbosfoundation.org/index-community

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

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 December**

You can now download the newsletter from:
www.trellisScotland.org.uk/newsletters

Fieldfare Trust Millennium Miles

Millennium Miles are countryside paths that are accessible for disabled people, meeting the 'Countryside for All' standards. You can look up paths in Scotland at this link:
http://www.fieldfare.org.uk/btmm_2.htm

