

December 2006



No. 61

PREVIEW

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have had a very enjoyable lecture programme so far this year and it has been wonderful to experience the way in which you have supported our guests and our home grown speakers. At the time of writing I am looking forward to the final lecture of this pre Christmas session so that I can share in the experiences of our three members who have volunteered to speak at the December meeting. An innovative move on the part of the programme committee and a great way to show others the talents we hold collectively.

Last year at this time I wrote about the greenfinches feeding on the sunflower seed heads that I had suspended at various points around the garden. It is a different picture this year and I am saddened to say that I have seen few Greenfinches and indeed few small birds feeding on any of the materials I have put out. I bought a huge bag of birdseed in late summer on the strength of the numbers I enjoyed at the bird table last year and thus far I have been hugely disappointed. Maybe it is because the weather has been so mild maybe it is something else I will wait and see.

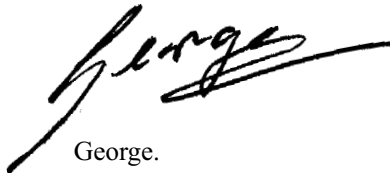
My neighbours Viburnum X bodnantense 'Dawn' is in full bloom at the moment and I am enjoying the scent it sheds. My young winter flowering cherry is also in full flower and while the flowers may not be as scented as those on the viburnum they are just as attractive and add that extra sparkle to the garden in winter. Currently nasturtiums, poppies, paper whites, snowdrops (in bud) cherry and fuchsias are still in flower and the first frost is awaited.

We all enjoy tea after the Caley meetings and it provides us all with the chance to speak to one another and to catch up on news and views in a less formal atmosphere. With the lectures being so popular and the numbers attending often in numbers over 150 it is becoming rather crowded and difficult for the folks in charge to serve everybody as quickly as possible. Please bear with them but also PLEASE VOLUNTEER to help. Gill has taken on the task as a stop gap only and we would really like to have a more permanent arrangement. Please help. I am sure that you will and look forward to hearing from you.

I was in London on the day that the tornado rushed through one of the city's north western suburbs and all chaos was visited on air traffic and local public transport. It is interesting how much we are affected by weather both local and global. Such is it too with horticulture. We work in a small local Scottish context and enjoy the comfort and pleasure that it brings to us every first and third Tuesday October - April. We need to get out and share our enthusiasm and encourage others to come

and join us. But that could bring a problem could it not?? If we get over 250 at a meeting we will not all get into the lecture theatre. Gosh I look forward to that day!! Thanks for your continuing support.

Here's to 2007 and The New Year.



George.

Classified – Society Notices

You may be aware that we are still seeking to fill the position of **Catering Convener**. If anyone would like to take on this very worthy position, even for just 1 year, please get in touch with George or any of the Council members.

Our current **Membership Secretary** is stepping down from that position and we urgently need a replacement. Contact Tom Mabbott if you would like to be considered for this position.

Following on from last year's success we would like to have some more **member's gardens** open in 2007. Anyone who would like to open their garden please contact Irene Birse on 01968 660354.

Date for your diary - Thursday 22nd February: Cambo Estate & Snowdrop Festival, Kingsbarns, Fife. 1/2 day (Soup & Rolls, but no high tea on this occasion) Contact Sally Heron 0131 449 3452 to book.

Books, Videos, CDs and DVDs

Now that we have had the new Logo Goods and Christmas Poinsettias, you may well be asking – 'What will we have next at the Society's meetings?' ...

We would like you all to look out those books, videos, CDs and DVDs that you no longer require and bring them along to the meetings in 2007. Hopefully we can turn them into funds for the Caley.

Members will get the opportunity to buy them first and any that are left at the end of the spring meetings can be sold to the public at the Spring Show or the Plant sales in May. These items don't need to be of a horticultural content but, if anyone wants to donate any cherished reference type material on Horticulture we can keep them and add them to our reference library at Suntrap. That way the students and others that use Suntrap can benefit from them.

Speaking of Logo Goods, I see that many of the Caley members are now sporting the new Caley logo goods. If you are feeling left out and would like to get your hands on the new goods take a look at page 7, where you can fill in the order form and send it off with a cheque (made out to The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society) to Irene Birse at Linton Grange, Carlops Road, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7DS.

The next Logo Goods order will be sent off at the end of February 2007.

The Fundraising Committee

Caley Hall: to be filled with the scents and sights of spring on the last week-end in March

Please remember that the Caley's Spring Flower Show will be held in 2007 over the last weekend in March (Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 March) in the Caledonian Hall within the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (11 am – 5.30 pm each day). It promises again to provide a fine display of Spring Flowers with over 400 entries expected from at least 60 exhibitors. Entry costs £1.50, although Caley Members are free as are Students and Children. In addition, all visitors to the Show will be given a voucher, entitling them to 10% off any purchase at the Terrace Café in the Garden, courtesy of Heritage Portfolio Ltd., who run the Café.

Please let your friends and family know about the Show and encourage them to come along. Some of the features to see, in addition to the keenly contested competitive classes, include: -

1. Vases of Daffodils from RHS Gold Medallist, Ron Scamp of Falmouth, to be set up by Daffodil guru, Jim Davidson from Banff, providing an outstanding display of blooms;
2. New for the 2007 Show and bringing even more interest will be the return of Floral Art classes;
3. There will also be a new Class, the R A Scamp Challenge which is restricted to Caley members, who will be exhibiting a single bloom of one Daffodil Cultivar ('Foxhunter'), supplied by Ron Scamp;
4. Fifteen Schools and Nurseries from Edinburgh will be competing again for the Scottish Daily Express Trophy by growing bowls of miniature daffodils provided by the City of Edinburgh City Council and mentored by members of the Society;
5. The successful Inter Society Competition for a 1m x 1m Outdoor Display of Plants and Flowers is to be repeated, providing additional interest for visitors to the Show;
6. The Sales Stands including Macplants, Lilliesleaf Nursery, Binny Plants, Hawthorn Castings with their Alpine Troughs and the Caley's own Plant Stall are all already confirmed;
7. Remember the Show 2007 Donation to be sent to Romania of Hats, Scarves & Gloves, knitted, crocheted or sewn to fit all ages from 5 – 95 and suitable for both men and women. For further information contact Gill Anderson 0131 669 4190

New exhibitors are always given a particular welcome; so anyone interested in competing this year for the first time should obtain a copy of the Show Schedule from the Show Secretary (details below), at Caley Lectures or download from the Caley Website:

www.royalcaledonianhorticulturalsociety.org

Nearer the time of the Show, offers of support will also be needed from members to provide Home Baking for the Cake and Candy Stall and prizes for the Tombola as well as help with setting up the Show on Friday 23 March, and with its breakdown early evening on Sunday 25 March and also to act as Stewards assisting on the door, on the Tombola, the Plant and the Cake and Candy Stall and on the Membership Stand during the Show.

Let David Sinclair the Show Secretary know if you are available to help. You can write to him, E-mail him, phone him or approach him at the end of any of the Caley Lectures between now and the Show.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David C Sinclair (Show Secretary), RCHS,
12 Jock's Hill Crescent, Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 7BJ
Tel: 01506 844107 • E-mail: davidcsinclair@btinternet.com

LECTURE PROGRAMME SPRING 2007

The lectures are given in the Main Lecture Theatre of the Royal Botanic Garden at 7:30pm.

Tuesday 16th January

David Howard, Head Gardener *The Prince of Wales' Garden at Highgrove*

David Howard is the current head gardener with HRH Prince Charles at Highgrove. He has responsibility for the running of the Highgrove garden and some oversight of the grounds and garden at Balmoral. David will speak on recent developments at Highgrove, and take us on a virtual walk around the garden pointing out some of the features, problems and solutions that he has had to deal with during his time in post. The Garden is run on organic lines and provides an interesting challenge from the practical gardening and management point of view. David was a student of the School of Horticulture of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and has been the Head gardener at Highgrove for a number of years.

Tuesday 6th February

Prof. Stephen Blackmore, Regius Keeper *The Garden Planet*

A personal perspective of global environmental change and the importance of plant conservation. Gardens and gardening have a fundamental and important contribution to make to the quality of life in the future.

Regius Keeper at RBGE since 1999. One of the authors of the "Global Plant Conservation Strategy" now adopted by the UN in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Tuesday 20th February

Prof. Allan Jamieson *Planted? The Role of Botany in Forensics*

One of the most curious clues that I have come across in my experience of forensic work was the case of the scene of crime officer who noticed that a plant seemed to be growing toward a wall – away from the light. Reasoning that plants generally did not do this, he reckoned that the plant had been moved recently. And so it came to pass that he found blood staining beneath the carpet and... Well, the rest is a crime story.

Crime fascinates people, and the science of crime fascinates even more, if one is to believe the obsession with programmes like CSI, Waking the Dead, and similar efforts.

Plants are not only involved in crimes as idle participants – sometimes they are the victim.

I make no promises about just where this talk will lead. Only that I hope that you will be educated, entertained, and surprised. What more can you want?

Professor Allan Jamieson, BSc, PhD, CBiol, FIBiol, AIBMS, MIHM

Is Director of the Forensic Institute, Edinburgh and formerly Head of Forensic Science for a Scottish Police Laboratory. He is Visiting Professor at the faculties of Law and Life Sciences at Napier University, Edinburgh. Allan chairs the Biotechnology and Bioscience Steering Group of SEMTA (Science, Engineering, and Manufacturing Technologies Alliance). He is a Board Member of the Centre for Forensic Statistics and Legal Reasoning, Vice Chair of the Scottish Council of the Institute of Biology, and a member of the SEMTA UK Science Strategy Group. He formerly chaired the Standards Committee of the Forensic Science Society and the Scottish Council of the Institute of Biology,

Most recently, he gave evidence on the subject of Low Copy Number DNA at the Omagh Bomb trial in Northern Ireland.

He was external examiner at the Universities of Dundee and Heriot-Watt (Forensic Science),

and formerly at Kings College, London (Forensic Science), and Hendon Police College (Crime scene examination and fingerprints). Currently co-editor in chief of a six volume Encyclopedia of Forensic Sciences, and a member of the Editorial Board of Clarke's Identification and Isolation of Drugs, a judge on the Crime Writers' Association Golden Dagger Awards for non-fiction, and writing three other books, as well as making several appearances as speaker and panel member at the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

He was the keynote speaker on forensic education at the International Association of Forensic Sciences Conference in Hong Kong, and, in London, along with Lord Justices Clark, Auld and Mustill, and Professor Sir Alan Craft, on the subject of assessing the authority of expert witnesses.

He has a Private Pilot's Licence and is learning to play the piano, cycles, and plays 5-a-side weekly.

Tuesday 6th March

John Dewar, Elmwood College *Practical Plant Propagation*

Propagation methods will cover seed sowing, soft stem, semi-ripe, hardwood and root cuttings and leaf cuttings, division, plantlets, bulbils. If time allows John will also discuss budding and grafting.

Time-served gardener with Fife County Council Parks Department for 9 years. Gardener with South of Scotland Electricity Board for 5 years. Horticultural Instructor and lecturer in Horticulture at Elmwood College for 30 years. Hobbies – gardening and reading.

Tuesday 20th March

Jim Williams – President NVS (Scottish Branch) *Inter Committee Quiz*

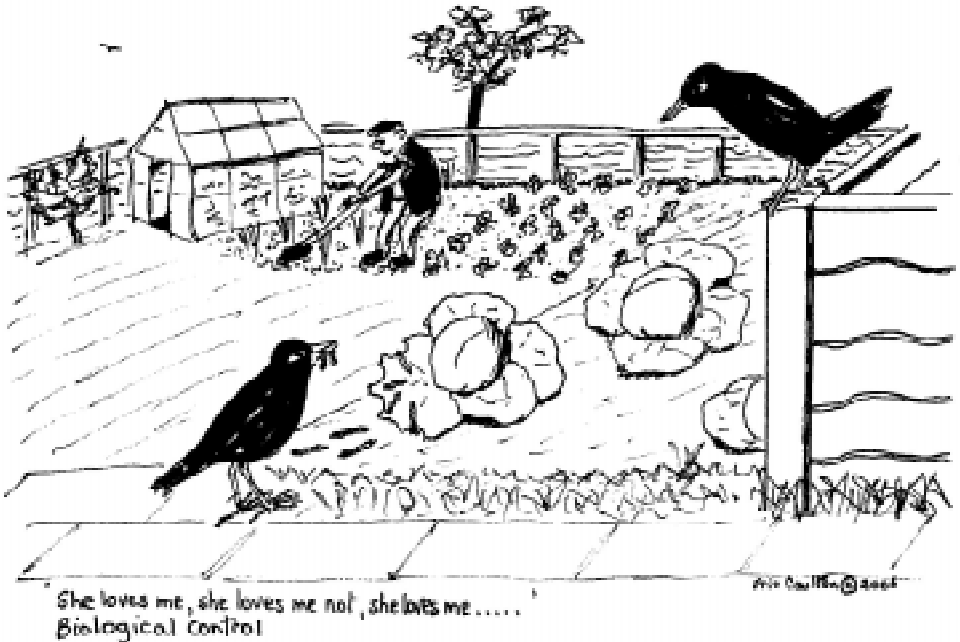
The Quiz will be held on a 'Pub-style' format, i.e. any number of teams can compete – including members of the audience, There will be eight rounds, five questions per round (all horticultural related). At the end of the quiz, the teams exchange papers and mark them as the question-master gives the answers.

Jim Williams' interest in gardening and horticulture took off in 1975, when he was persuaded to enter some onion 'setts' at his local Flower Show in Pathhead, a first small step which led to his involvement with vegetable growing and showing on a national scale. Joining the UK National Vegetable Society (NVS) in 1979, he progressed through the Management Committee and National Executive Committee to become Chairman of the Scottish Branch in 1996.

Since his appointment to the NVS Examination Board in 1995, he has been responsible for restructuring the theory and practical examinations, and has set and scheduled NVS Practical and Theory Examinations for the 5 UK Centres which handle some 30 to 40 candidates annually. He has exhibited for many years at both local and national Shows, winning many awards throughout the UK and sharing a Gold Medal award for the NVS stand at Gardening Scotland 2005. He is a much sought after Judge and each year gives talks to over 20 Horticultural Societies.

Despite full time employment as a biologist at the Moredun Institute and pressing NVS duties, Jim still finds time to support his local Society and serve on its management committee. He is also a member of The Caley and four other Lothian societies. In enthusiastically promoting vegetable production to young and old, within Scotland and throughout the UK, he is an outstanding example of leadership and commitment. The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society was proud to present Jim Williams with the Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother Medal in Horticulture.

The Caley Cartoon ...



Thanks once again to Eric Caulton for the cartoon. It seems the birds are looking forward to Spring already! (Ed.)

A Living Fossil - The Dawn Redwood

The Dawn redwood was only known from the fossil records until 1941 when it was found in Western China. Seed was collected in 1946 and distributed in 1948 to botanical gardens. It is easily propagated and has become a popular conifer gaining an Award of Garden Merit in 1984. The autumn colour of the foliage varies from yellowish pink through duller shades or even brilliant salmon pink or red in good years. Older trees have an enlarged base to the trunk with flutes. The rate of growth depends upon availability of water and shelter. The botanical name *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* refers to its relative – the giant redwoods or *Sequoia* species and also to the depressions on the cone scales.

Look out for the Dawn Redwood when shopping in the former Craighleith Quarry where it is planted outside a supermarket or visit the RBGE where there is a specimen dating to 1948 near the pond and you will find the Dawn Redwood on the Chinese Hillside.

Constance Gilleghan.

CALEY LOGO GARMENTS ORDER FORM

Name:

Address:

Tel no: E-mail:

Please circle the garment, size & colour you require. Payment must be included with order form. Cheques payable to: 'Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society'. Individual orders will be collected until we have sufficient to submit to our supplier. Garments can be collected at the Caley Meetings.

Gents polo shirt Price - £14	Size: s-36/38 m-38/40 l-40/42 xl-42/44 xxl-44/46 3xl-46/48 Colour: black, bottle green, royal blue, navy blue, burgundy, purple, graphite
Ladies polo shirt Price - £14	Size: s-8 m-10 l-14 xl-16 xxl-18 3xl-20 4xl-22 Colour: black, bottle green, royal blue, navy blue, classic red, sky blue
Gents sweatshirt (raglan sleeves) Price - £14	Size: s-36/38 m-40 l-42/44 xl-46/48 xxl-50/52 Colour: black, bottle green, royal blue, navy blue, burgundy, purple
Gents sweatshirt (set in sleeves) Price - £14	Size: s-36/38 m-40 l-42/44 xl-46/48 xxl-50/52 Colour: black, bottle green, royal blue, navy blue, burgundy, khaki, purple
Ladies Open Hem Sweatshirt Price - £15.50	Size: s-36/38 m-38/40 l-40/42 xl-42/44 xxl-44/46 Colour: black, royal blue, navy blue, light oxford grey, red
Ladies cardigan Price - £17.50	Size: s-10 m-12 l-14 xl-16 Colour: black, bottle green, royal blue, navy blue, brown, burgundy, red, purple, light oxford grey
Full Zip Fleece (zip pockets) Price - £17.50	Size: s-38 m-40/42 l-44/46 xl-48/50 xxl-52 Colour: black, bottle green, royal blue, navy blue, burgundy, purple
Windcheater (shower proof) Price - £13	Size: s-37 m-41 l-45 xl-49 xxl-52 Colour: black, bottle green, royal blue, navy blue, red
Body Warmer Price - £18.50	Size: s-34/36 m-38 l-40 xl-42 xxl-44/46 Colour: black/dark grey, dark grey/black, navy/dark grey
Caley Teddy Bear Price £15	Honey coloured teddy bear height 15" wearing cream velour T shirt. T shirt embroidered 'Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society'

Please return the completed form and payment to: Irene Birse, Linton Grange, Carlops Road, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7DS



SUNTRAP



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(in association with the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society)

Sign up now for the following Classes & Workshops

Classes 7pm-9pm

Amateur Gardening	- (10 weeks from 26th April 2007)	£65
Garden Design	- (11 weeks from 18th April 2007)	£95

Workshops

(On Saturday mornings)

<i>Pruning Shrubs & Climbers (10 - 12)</i> (Why is it necessary? What to do and how to do it!)	Saturday 24 February '07
<i>Introduction to Organic Gardening (10 - 12)</i> (Starting Gardening in an environmental friendly way)	Saturday 31 March '07
<i>Water Features in the Garden (10 - 12)</i> (Creating and maintaining successful garden ponds)	Saturday 28 April '07
<i>Summer Hanging Baskets & Planters (10 - 12)</i> (Please indicate when booking if you require Planter/Basket supplied)	Saturday 19 May '07

Fee is £5.00 each + cost of materials where applicable

To book call:

Moira at Oatridge College - 01506 864807

(email: mmontgomery@oatridge.ac.uk)

or

Suntrap garden - 0131 339 7283