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Welcome to your new Garden Club newsletter, aimed at keeping members informed as to what is going on around the Ardchattan Gardens and local environment.

We hope you will enjoy this, and will join in with activities, events, and supporting other gardeners in the area.

### Summer 2010

In previous years formally organized summer activities have had a mixed reception, so this year there is no formal calendar of events, but there are some great ideas as to what folks can do, and places to visit.

While the committee and support group will make every effort to keep you informed, the best place to find out what ideas are being suggested is on the new online LORN community. (see below for details)

The more members who can join in, the better we can communicate, and keep all our members in touch with each other, on and off line.

There is a form on the back for membership for all members, including those who have not yet renewed their 2010 membership, and

for those who would like to join the Garden Club, and included are a couple of others which it would be very helpful if you can complete and return.

Ideas suggested so far include

- **Wildlife surveying and identification**
- **Visiting experienced local gardeners**
- **Visiting allotments and community gardens**
- **Visiting community composting & renewable energy schemes**
- **Learning about keeping domestic livestock**
- **Skills workshops**



#### Dates for your diary

- May 15th : Plant Sale, Benderloch
- May 22nd : Scottish Orchards Gathering, Glasgow; also Achnacloich Open Day with SWT
- May 25th : Biodiversity evening, Corran halls, Oban
- June 4th—6th : Gardening Scotland
- June 19th : Permaculture course, Kilmartin
- August 21st : Horticultural Show, Benderloch

### LORN growing community : supporting a more sustainable way of living in our North Argyll community

The Garden Club committee recognizes that we are in changing times and that there are a growing number of local people who are very keen to learn and share knowledge about growing, particularly their own food, but they are not necessarily those who are so interested in meetings. More of us are getting online, and this provides the

opportunity to create easier day to day communication between us all. There is now a new online community for ALL in North Argyll who are interested in growing and eating food from the area, supporting local skills, traditional and modern, and increasing our awareness and appreciation of our natural and historical surroundings.

The address is **lorncommunity.ning.com** and the Garden Club will have its own group there for members to arrange visits, chat about what they are growing, share seedlings and surplus, solve problems and so on.

Join in : save time and paper, be the first to know about trips and other events, lots of other groups there to enjoy.



### Bee Flower Seeds— Propagator needed

The delightful folks from the Beekeepers club have given us a collection of seeds to pay us back for the money we sent them for their highly entertaining evening earlier this year.

If someone could germinate them into plug cells (Jill has lots of these) then we can most effectively distribute them to any member who is interested in planting them in their garden for the bees.

**Share your  
surplus harvest  
and benefit from  
that of others**



## Summer Visits and activities

### Where would you like to visit this summer ?

The simplest way to organize activities these days is obviously online, as someone can suggest a place or activity and others can join in as they want.

It is vital that those who can connect so easily make sure that we keep in touch with other members of the Club who are not online. The form on the back of this newsletter will help us know who to notify, and we welcome offers from all members to keep each other informed as new

ideas are suggested.

Some of the ideas offered so far have been

- visiting gardens and gardeners in the area who have more experience in growing
- Lochaber community composting scheme
- Practical workshops about beekeeping, domestic poultry keeping, composting
- Travelling to community or commercial fruit and vegetable growers in Argyll, like Bute Community

Garden, Growing Green in Seil.

- Wild harvesting eg : Mushroom walk
- Local Natural history walks, maybe ask the members of Seil Natural History Group to come up and guide us, or do we have volunteers locally?

There are plenty of options, and it might be that 2 or 3 people go somewhere or do something, and report back positively so others follow later.

## Seedling Swops, and Surplus produce

One of the advantages of the Group is to be able to share the surplus that each of us produces with those who have not grown so much, or are just starting out.

Few of us have large enough families or perfect successional cropping to use up everything we grow.

Keeping in touch with each other means we can share our largesse, and benefit from that of others.

So if you have surplus this year, let us know.

- Seedlings
- Flowers
- Seeds
- Fruit
- Vegetables

LORN market has a strong demand for more good produce of all kinds, so if there are a few of you wanting to run a stall there, the Club

could join LORN, and you could organize yourselves to sell the produce from all members.

Using an email list and the LORN community are the easiest means of communication.

For others, simply phone Jill or drop into Kintaline any time and we can add your details for you.

## Winter Talks

Please offer suggestions for our winter series of Talks.

So far the ideas we have :

- Natural Pest Control
- Herbs and Health—Kerry Caldock
- Butterflies and Moths

Perennial Borders in hostile soils

Preserving Our Garden Harvest

Christmas Decorations

Domestic renewable energy

Polytunnel growing

Wild Harvest  
Permaculture

What are YOUR interests?

Let us know

## Allotments

Are you interested in having allotments in the Ardchattan area (Bonawe, N.Connel, Benderloch, Barcaldine) ?

It would not happen over night, but the Garden Group is well placed to initiate the necessary steps to try and make this happen here.

It is hard to grow more vegetables, fruit etc in some of our gardens. There can be a conflict of space with kids, dogs, flowers. There can also be problems with soil quality, or lack of it !

## Orchards

John Hancox and Graham Scott, of the Commonwealth Orchard, have been working very hard in our area since the First Argyll Apple Day at the market last October.

They are busy mapping the location of all and any fruit trees in the area, and are keen to hear of more, even if its only one.

Graham is also providing an excellent local service of pruning trees.



## Butterflies

An excellent suggestion for a summer butterfly walk was made at the AGM.

Unfortunately Andrew Campbell of SNH understood this to be a winter talk, and is rather tied up just now.

If there is significant interest from the membership in learning about our local species of butterflies, and, even in getting involved with surveying in the area, maybe he can be persuaded to fit us in to his busy schedule in the next few months.

## Sharing your Garden and your Expertise

There are more and more local people interested in growing and gardening in the area. Many are not so keen on meetings, or have family commitments that mean they are not free in winter evenings.

However there has been keen support expressed in being able to visit other local gardeners, and to learn from their hard won experience.

A few people have already offered to be on the list - we look forward to many more providing the support for the next generation of local gardeners.

Please consider joining in, and let us know whether you prefer to have just one or two people visiting you through the year, or you would prefer to have a group of people on a single afternoon / morning.

All gardeners can join in, there is such a wealth of great knowledge, practical skills, and experience gained from the years of working in our, sometimes, hostile soils and climate.

This is so precious, however small the garden, or seemingly trivial the advice, its great to share and support those who are learning.

**Support the next generation of local gardeners**

## Communication

It is easy to feel like you are working alone, and often one wants to be able to share one's growing trials and tribulations with others.

If members are interested we could follow the excellent example of the Seil Natural History Group, who have created the most successful group of people interested in

the Natural History of Seil and its environs.

They have used a simple email list to communicate with each other. This is used to arrange walks, notify about talks, ask questions, and simply share what is happening in the natural world around them.

It would seem a sensible

development for the Garden Group to grow, used in association with phone calls to keep in touch with everyone not online.

It would encourage more members in the community to join in, so widening the appeal of the Club to all ages and gardening interests.

Email for details

[NDCgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:NDCgardenclub@gmail.com)



## North Connel & District Garden Club

Secretary : Jill Bowis, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, PA37 1QS  
 Treasurer : Anne Clement, 10 Letterwalton, Benderloch PA37 1SA  
 thank you to Anne Hilditch for her offer to join the committee later in the year, you and any other volunteers are most welcome.  
 NCDgardenclub@gmail.com 01631 720223

Support Group : Jean Boynton, Moira Cousins, Helen Mair, Alison Snowdon, Tom Webster, Jessie Wormell  
 We would welcome more committee and support group members at any time through the year.

Join the growing LORN community

<http://lorncommunity.ning.com>



People have asked about learning new skills and techniques, and not just simply growing plants.

If you have a skill or expertise in any of the following, or something we have not thought of that members might enjoy please offer to lead an informal workshop to members.

Maybe you can do this at home, or we have options for other locations. Some may involve walks or visits to other people's places.

- Propagation
  - Wild flowers
  - Bee keeping
  - Photography
  - Poultry Keeping
  - Bird identification
  - Butterflies
  - Wild flowers
  - Pruning
  - Successful successional crops
  - Preserving our crops / flowers
  - Using plants, other than food
- If these things interest YOU - let us know**  
**Or make your own**

## Membership form and Declarations of interest and support

Please fill in and tick the boxes to indicate your interests - simply add another piece of paper if you need to write more.

Please make membership cheques out to North Connel and District Garden Club - and send to Anne, our Treasurer.

Name :

Address :

Post Code

Telephone Number

Email address

I have already paid my 2010 membership

My membership of £7 for 2010 is included

I am interested in visits to local gardeners

I would welcome Garden Club members to visit my garden

I would be happy to lead an informal workshop on :

I am interested in visiting other productive gardens in Argyll

I am interested in community projects like allotments and composting.

I would like to offer lifts to others for visits in the summer if I am free

I am not online and would like to be kept informed of all the summer activities.

I am not online and am interested in winter meetings only

I would like to volunteer to help with the committee / support group

I am interested in swapping / selling surplus produce

My gardening interests are :

I would like to learn about :