

BARHAM
BOW OF FIFE KY15 5RG
Sir Robert and Lady Spencer-Nairn



The layout of the garden around the house at Barham is unusual for many of the old houses of its time as the house is surrounded by gardens rather than sited in policies. There are borders around the house and a large vegetable area to the side with extensive grounds beyond. Central to the south facing garden is a tennis court which was surrounded by formal beds of annuals 40 years ago. Much has changed since then.

While Sir Robert has been experimenting with growing a large range and unusual varieties of vegetables Joanna set to on the rest of the garden. Narrow linear borders were transformed into deeper more curvaceous shapes and annuals were replaced by shrubs and herbaceous perennials to create a long season of colour and interest. The borders are packed with rare and unusual plants that Joanna has collected over time and this is definitely a garden to visit to see something new. Many plants at Barham are raised from seeds collected by Joanna from her unusual plant collection creating new sports of old favourites.

As well as developing the garden on the south side of the house Joanna has created a small woodland garden under mature trees on the north side. This part of the garden is her pride and joy and full of cardamine, trilliums, erythronium, ferns, epimedium hellebores and many more. Again many are grown from seed collected from the garden and will be at their best during the garden openings in May.

Directions: A91. 4 miles west of Cupar
Opening: Weds 2-5pm 15, 22, 29 May and 5, 12 June

Plant sale: Barham has a small nursery of rare and unusual plants grown from seed collected or plants divided from the garden.

GREENHEAD FARMHOUSE
GREENHEAD OF ARNOT KY6 3JQ
T: 01592 840459
www.fife-bed-breakfast-glenrothes.co.uk
Mr and Mrs Malcolm Strang Steel



The garden at Greenhead of Arnot was started in 2001.

The south facing garden was designed to fit and be in proportion to the house combining a sense of formality in its symmetrical layout with an informal look of curved mixed borders contained within the overall design. This combined effect links the long views of the surrounding landscape and house beautifully.

Maggie has planted many of the borders 'cottage' style with a mixture of herbaceous perennials, bulbs and shrubs. Shrubs are particularly useful as they give support on windy days. Colour schemes of soft pastel colours create a relaxed, gentle and calming effect. Maggie loves roses which are planted throughout the garden and there is also a large rose bed and long trellis of roses which are at their best in June.

The garden layout extends to fruit trees to the side and paths through a wild life area beyond the flower beds where visitors may wander. It is constantly expanding and evolving. A new border and fruit cage area were created last year and a polytunnel for the north of the house is planned this winter. It will lengthen the growing season and supplement an existing vegetable plot for the feeding of family and B&B guests.

Opening times: Tuesdays 1-4pm 21, 28 May and 4, 11 June
Homemade Soup and sandwiches
Directions: 10 mins off M90 exit 5 for Glenrothes. A911 between Auchmuir Bridge and Scotlandwell.

EARLSHALL CASTLE
LEUCHARS KY16 0DP
Paul and Josine Veenhuijzen



Earls Hall castle is one of Scotland's great gardens created with the architectural and horticultural brilliance of Robert Lorimer. The garden was designed and the castle restored to produce a wonderful integrated whole in the arts and crafts style of its time. The owners Paul and Josine Veenhuijzen have researched into the details of the original garden design and together with gardener Vicky Macintyre have been rejuvenating and restoring the garden with much love.

The box garden and rose terrace have been re-created and vistas of the original design have been re-opened by removing self-seeded sycamores. Currently, the one hundred and twenty year old orchard is being rejuvenated by the creation of new stocks by grafting from the old trees of little-known apple varieties. The garden also contains a Topiary lawn, for which Earls Hall is renowned, a croquet lawn with herbaceous borders and a kitchen and herb garden. The overall garden design has been modernized by replacing annuals that would have been used previously with dense-planting of herbaceous perennials providing a much longer season of interest. Bulbs are added each year and 9000 bulbs are planted every autumn!

Also worth a visit is St Athernase church in Leuchars. At 800 years old, it is one of the two oldest Norman churches in Scotland (free guided tours on request – 01334 870038).

Opening: Mon, Tues and Wed 8am-4pm all May and June

Directions: On Earls Hall road ¼ of a mile east of Leuchars Village (off A919)

LOGIE HOUSE
CROSSFORD KY12 8QN
Mr and Mrs John Hunt



The south east facing garden of Logie House was originally designed as a traditional formal walled garden. Fruit and vegetables were grown elsewhere at Pittencrieff

Park until the property was bought by Andrew Carnegie. The garden was then extended to incorporate a fruit and vegetable growing area, possibly designed by Robert Lorimer while engaged with interior alterations of Logie House. Central to the overall design is a long straight path through a double mixed border which links the original walled garden to the fruit and vegetable area and extends into the tree belt beyond.

Vegetables, flowers and fruit are all equally important in the garden and long rows (no half-hearted rows here) of delicious vegetables also contribute to colour and design when seen from the house and terrace. The fruit and vegetable area also contains a magnificent and very productive Mackenzie and Moncur greenhouse in excellent condition with original benches, fully working vents and original central heating system with a huge boiler worthy of the Queen Mary!

Against the house there is a mixture of flowering climbers including trained pears, a tall wisteria and old apple trees, of which there are, apparently, about 14 varieties within the garden. As well as the long double mixed borders the garden contains a long border of repeat flowering roses, rose and annual beds in the lawns with mixed and shrub borders along the garden walls, all contributing to a long season of colour and interest.

Directions: M90 exit 1 for Rosyth and Kincardine Bridge (A985). After ~2 miles turn right to Crossford. At traffic lights in Crossford turn right and the drive opening is on the right at the end of the village main street.

Opening times: Weds 11am-4pm 22, 29 May and 5, 12 June

GILSTON HOUSE
BY LARGOWARD, LEVEN KY8 5QP
Mr and Mrs Edward Baxter



Catherine Baxter became interested in gardening just four years ago. She'd inherited a garden laid out originally by her mother-in-law June Baxter but not worked on

for 20 years. Catherine and her husband's first action was to have Michael Innes re-design the terrace garden beside the house to their children's delight as it made a brilliant racetrack for bicycle and skateboard. Thereafter Catherine found herself drawn to the garden, much to her surprise as she had no interest in gardening up to that point.

Together with help from friend Ali Petrie and gardener Chrissie Pate, supported by her long suffering husband, Catherine has been reworking the borders beyond the terrace. She looks to her favourite gardens for ideas: Cambo, Balcarres and Kellie Castle which are all nearby.

For overall design, Catherine is inspired by the late Rosemary Verey's writings where balance, rhythm and symmetry are key and mixed borders are now being created or expanded along these lines. For some borders, new combinations of plantings are being created from existing plants that have been split and moved around or from plants from gardens of friends. For other borders, the planting design is worked out in advance and plants are bought specially. Also underway is a new woodland area leading to the pond and boathouse recently cleared and planted with masses of hostas, hellebores astilbes and meconopsis. These are exciting times at Gilston.

Gilston is part of Eastneuk Estates: www.eastneukestates.co.uk

Opening: 1-5pm Wednesdays 5, 12, 19, 26 June

Directions: Signposted on A915 between Largoward and Upper Largo.

Homemade teas and Plant stall

ROSEWELLS
PITSCOTTIE KY15 5LE
Birgitta and Gordon MacDonald



Rosewells is a garden designed by Birgitta and Gordon MacDonald which has developed over the last 17 years. The garden continues to evolve and has an underlying theme that each part of the garden should work in relation to the rest to create one overall effect. The garden must also be child friendly.

The garden design centres on texture and foliage to provide a lively effect with structure and shape all year round. The winter 'bones' are provided with trees and shrubs with attractive features such as contorted stems and peeling or coloured bark. In spring and summer, texture and coloured foliage of specially selected shrubs and perennials add to the overall design. Birgitta sees flowers as an added bonus with scent and colour being important and combinations of yellow, blue and white colour schemes are preferred.

The garden has many varieties of cornus, magnolias, trilliums, meconopsis, agapanthus and acers which are Birgitta and Gordon's favourites. The garden also will be full of rhododendrons, auricula primulas fritillaries, erythroniums and peonies at their best during opening in May and June. The garden is also the inspiration for Gordon's paintings some of which will be on display while the garden is open.

Opening times: Weds 3-8pm 15, 22, 29 May and 5, 12, 19 June

Directions: B940 between Pittscottie and Peat Inn, 1 mile from Pittscottie. Rosewells is the ochre coloured house.

SOUTH FLISK
BLEBO CRAIGS KY15 5UQ
George and Julia Young



At the top of a hill on the edge of the picturesque rural settlement of Blebo Craigs you will find a very special garden at South Flisk. The garden with its wealth of natural hard landscaping presented huge challenges to Julia and George Young but also gave rich rewards and the garden you see now is the result of 17 years of hard work and effort to transform it into the inspirational place it is today.

The woods around Blebo Craigs are full of caves and quarries and it is one of these quarries which forms the centrepiece for the garden at South Flisk. The flooded quarry forms a huge pond with a lot of interesting marginal planting and hundreds of golden orfe, frogs and toads as well as dragon and damselflies. Combinations of spectacular boulders and cliffs and the many big mature trees create a very special garden which is at its best in May and June when the rhododendrons, azaleas and wild primroses provide a colourful backdrop to all the other plants. The woodland is filled with a variety of meconopses, trilliums, anemone and podophyllum. and some very special hellebores all interspersed with masses of colourful primulas. Recent storms, sadly, have brought down some of the original trees but this was an opportunity to embark on an exciting tree planting scheme with cercidiphyllum, liquidamber, sorbus and maples. The garden also contains a pretty, walled garden at the front with traditional mixed cottage-garden planting.

South Flisk is also the home of St Andrews Pottery, a working pottery not to be missed. Watch George Young, the potter, at work in his workshop and take in the breathtaking views over north Fife to Angus and Highland Perthshire

Opening times: Thurs 3-7pm 2, 9, 30 May and 6, 13 June

Directions: Blebo Craigs is six miles west of St Andrews off the B939 between Strathkinness and Pittscottie. There is a small stone bus shelter opposite the road into the village and a small sign saying Blebo Craigs. There will be signs from there to South Flisk. Also map on website www.standrewspottery.co.uk

WILLOWHILL
FORGAN, NEWPORT - ON - TAY DD6 8RA
Eric Wright and Sally Lorimore



Willowhill is a young garden developed over the last twelve years by Eric Wright and Sally Lorimore. Borders and paths have been sited to follow the lie of the land, sometimes to accentuate its rise and fall, and to link the garden into the landscape beyond.

The 3 acre garden comprises 5 main areas: a wildlife pond in a large grassland area planted with trees, bulbs and perennials, a vegetable garden and three large areas of mixed borders designed with different vibrant colour combinations. The planting is inspired by the exciting colour permutations of Christopher Lloyd and Fergus Garrett at Great Dixter and the late summer colour in the gardens at nearby Cambo.

On the north side of the house, a circular lawn is enclosed by borders where the planting concentrates on pale pink, blue, purple, white and lemon colours blending in the summer into burnt orange, chocolate and purple-reds. On the south side of the house a gravel path meanders through beds overflowing with plants in a palette of primary colours. This area is backed by a stone wall through which a gateway leads to a long hot border packed with orange, magenta, purple and acid yellow plants. The garden is still evolving and expanding and new borders prepared in 2012 will be planted over the winter where purple and red roses will be central to the overall design.

Plant stalls with many perennials from Willowhill and other gardens in Fife.

Opening times: Tues and Thurs 2-8pm 21, 23, 28, 30 May and 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 June

Directions: 1½ miles south of Tay Road Bridge. Take the B995 to Newport off the Forgan roundabout. Willowhill is the first house on the left hand side next to the Forgan Arts Centre.

THE TOWER
WORMIT DD6 8PP
T: 01382 541 635 M: 07768 406 946
Peter and Angela Davey



Situated 4 miles south of Dundee, this one acre Edwardian landscaped garden has panoramic views over the river Tay. The garden has been lovingly restored to preserve the original planting of unusual evergreen trees, azaleas, rhododendrons and magnolias. Renovation of the unique landscaping has taken place over a period of twenty years.

This is a beautiful example of the late Edwardian wild garden, so do not expect straight edges! Special features include a rhododendron walk, rockeries with hellebores and informal woodland planting schemes using native and exotic plants, trees and bulbs. Original raised paths lead to a granite grotto with waterfall pool. A board walk weaves around a stream and passes four further ponds, which attract a large variety of birds and insects.

Of additional interest are hand crafted garden features, ornaments and sculptures in wood, metal and marble. At the back of the house are raised vegetable beds made from granite setts, along with a walled section containing a selection of alpine.

Note: The property is set into a hill, with steps and a steep path leading to the garden. Not suitable for wheelchairs or those with poor mobility.

Opening times: Thurs 2-7pm all May and June

Directions: From B946 park on Naughton Road outside Spar shop and walk up path left following signs.

THE FIFE GARDEN TRAIL
GARDEN LOCATIONS

