

Friends of the Cruickshank Botanic Garden Programme 2016-2017

**Meetings are held on Thursdays in the Lecture Theatre, Biological and Environmental Sciences Building, University of Aberdeen, at 7.30pm
Non-members are welcome for a donation of £3**

October 13 *THE BEAUTY OF SCOTTISH BRYOPHYTES*

David Genney, Scottish Natural Heritage

Dave will give us a photographic tour of the mosses and liverworts he works to protect as Scottish Natural Heritage's bryophyte adviser. We will hear about some of the most important habitats and some current conservation issues, but most of all Dave hopes you'll gain a greater appreciation of the beauty and international significance of these small and often overlooked native plants.

October 29 (Saturday) Plant sale in the Garden 10.30am till noon

November 10 *THE STORY OF SCOTTISH BAMBOO*

Kerri Dall, Scottish Bamboo Nursery, Turriff

Kerri is very passionate about bamboo. She talks about their hardiness and garden potential, and gives us an insight into how Scottish Bamboo began and the challenges of running a mail order plant business in NE Scotland.

**December 8 *INTERACTIONS OF BOTANIC GARDENS AND WILD
VEGETATION COMMUNITIES: RISKS, REWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES***

David Burslem, Keeper, Cruickshank Botanic Garden

The Keeper of The Garden gives a personal perspective on the Botanic Gardens where he has had research connections, and considers how they have supported and informed his work on tropical forest ecology and conservation.

Soft drinks, wine and mince pies to follow.

**January 12 *GLOBALISATION AND THE THREAT FROM INVASIVE
PATHOGENS Steve Woodward, Institute of Biological & Environmental Sciences***

Our forests and gardens face unprecedented challenges from increasing numbers of invasive pests and pathogens arriving in the UK. Climate change predictions suggest that many additional pests and pathogens will become problems as temperatures increase and rainfall patterns change. Using examples from Europe and elsewhere, Steve illustrates the potential for alien pathogens to cause damage, reducing biodiversity and altering gardens and native ecosystems beyond recognition.

FCBC Programme Spring 2017

February 9 ***EARTHWORMS IN GARDENS AND BEYOND***

Kevin Butt, University of Central Lancashire

Kevin explores the diversity of British earthworm species, their life histories, needs and behaviours. He presents material from research projects investigating their actions as ecosystem service providers. Without the presence of earthworms - a group sometimes referred to as "Darwin's plough" - our world would be extremely different.

March 9 ***PETTICOATS AND PLANTS: THE UNTOLD STORY OF SCOTLAND'S GARDENING WOMEN***

Deborah Reid, Garden Historian

Scottish women gardeners have largely been omitted from garden history. Deborah looks at the contribution of nineteenth century Scottish gardening women who went beyond their garden gates and achieved within the wider public sphere of horticulture.

April 13 **Annual General Meeting at 7pm** followed by

DESIGNS ON THE LANDSCAPE: RESEARCHING SCOTLAND'S GARDENS

Marilyn Brown, Garden Archaeologist

Marilyn introduces historic gardens and designed landscapes in Scotland from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance with a discussion of their importance, and the type of information that can be discovered about them through survey and documentary research. The lecture will include examples from monastic sites, palaces and the houses of the magnates as well as town gardens with particular reference to the gardens of the north-east of Scotland.

May 11 **The Noel Pritchard Memorial Lecture**

THE ROMANTIC HERITAGE OF SCOTS ROSES ***Peter Boyd, Shrewsbury***

The first 'coloured' variant of the native *Rosa spinosissima* was found in Scotland in the 17th century. By the early 19th century, hundreds of single, semi-double and double 'Scots Roses' had been raised in a wide range of colours. These charming roses became particularly popular in Britain and Nordic countries but went out of fashion by about 1840. However, iconic Scots Roses were carried across the world by Scottish and Nordic immigrants to North America, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere. Their international heritage is now being re-discovered, but surviving old Scots Rose cultivars, and the habitats of wild *Rosa spinosissima* are under threat.

Soft drinks, wine and nibbles to follow

Tea, coffee and biscuits are available after other talks

May 13 (Saturday) Plant Sale in the Garden 10.30 - noon.