Welcome to our new Friends of Gardening Leave Newsletter with a make-over involving both a new title and a revised logo. After taking soundings, and wanting to reflect more on the relationship between Horticulture and Veterans, we have renamed this letter ‘Ground Cover’. This is a good time to change as the Friends organisation is now ready to take off with its own website and burgeoning membership list. In changing, we give due recognition to the originators of its predecessor, The Bullet, and its designer Stevie Gibb, one of our Veterans. We are also very grateful for the Pears Foundation’s funding of our artwork improvement.

I have just taken over from John Dalrymple-Hamilton as Chairman of the Trustees of Gardening Leave and wish to pay tribute to John’s time in office as he set up the Board initially and has been an incredibly strong leader of Gardening Leave over the last 3 years.

We continue to expand and explore new sites in order to deliver our special support to more Veterans and our latest is at Rosendael near Dundee. All this is only possible through the generous donations we receive from charitable bodies and individuals. We can only sustain our service through our team of Horticultural Therapists around our sites and without their contribution there would be no Gardening Leave. Whilst many supporters understandably often wish to fund more tangible demonstrations of their contributions, it is the salaries of our professional staff that need to be maintained most – this is our vital ground which needs its own cover.

Alistair Macmillan

“I COME TO GARDENING LEAVE BECAUSE QUITE SIMPLY, IT MAKES ME HAPPY”
VETERAN

Chief of the General Staff General Sir Peter Wall & Gardening Leave Chairman Alistair Macmillan during visit at GL Chelsea.

The Official Opening of Gardening Leave at Rosendael opened by Beechgrove Garden Presenter Jim McColl MBE.
On Location…
Catch up with all the latest news from our Gardening Leave sites

**Auchincruive**
The first project and where Head Office is based. The garden continues to develop and veterans have recently designed and constructed raised beds and a new potting shed thus encouraging ownership of their garden and helping to promote a sense of achievement and improve wellbeing. Other projects have been undertaken, the newly finished pond redevelopment funded by Poppyscotland and work on the Stovehouse is progressing well. Fishing is also very popular with veterans.

**Erskine**
The 2nd project to open, is situated within the grounds of Erskine Hospital. Recent developments include new raised beds and construction of a new shed and greenhouse; this goes along with the vegetables grown by veterans for the hospital kitchens to feed the residents of Erskine Hospital. Popular tasks also include building bird feeder stands and boxes.

**Chelsea**
Within the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, it is the first Gardening Leave site to be opened in England. The garden has moved to a new site within the Hospital which has been highly praised by veterans and staff alike. The garden has come a long way since its move last September and is proving to be an ideal venue for briefing events for partners and referral agencies and visits, most recently the Chief of the General Staff General Sir Peter Wall.

**Rosendael**
The latest project to be opened, is located within the grounds of Scottish Veterans’ Residences (SVR) in Broughty Ferry, Dundee. This marks a major step in progress of the charity as many veterans who live on the East Coast of Scotland can now benefit from the service that Gardening Leave provides. The site is run by Horticultural Therapist Kate Treharne & her Assistant Wilma Landgraf and the number of veterans attending is growing steadily.
The Stovehouse Project

The renamed Balfour Brothers’ Section in the Stovehouse which is now operational.  
Inside view, we now have room for art, woodwork and lots more growing space.

The Stovehouse is an 84 metre long Victorian greenhouse situated in the Ornamental Gardens at Auchincruive. Our Stovehouse Supervisor Hugh ‘Stevie’ McAulay and his team of volunteers and veterans are making great progress with the restoration. We have now opened sections 1 and 2 which have been renamed the Balfour Brothers’ Section as a mark of gratitude to our volunteers Joe and Willie for all their hard work on the project.

Friends of Gardening Leave News

We are very excited to announce the launch of the Friends of Gardening Leave membership organisation and website. Run by Anna Baker Cresswell and Marion Blair, the Friends will provide a vital link between all our supporters, veterans and staff at Gardening Leave. Our main aim is to communicate and connect everyone together who has an interest in the charity.

For an annual membership of £35.00 Friends can have access to information about our fundraising, news about what is happening at the charity and first call on tickets to events such as the birthday party, concerts and garden visits. Friends can log onto a password protected site and read Anna’s monthly newsletter or Marion’s bi-weekly blog. You can be kept up to date on special news items and features about staff members, on being a volunteer or personal stories written by fundraisers as well as learning about and supporting the many fundraising efforts around the country. Your membership funds will go towards various projects in all the gardens throughout the country. Gardening Leave receives no statutory funding however with your financial support as a Friend of Gardening Leave we can continue to raise money for various projects and help Gardening Leave to make an heroic difference.

Do visit the Friends of Gardening Leave site at www.friendsofgardeningleave.org or contact Anna or Marion on friends@gardeningleave.org for more information.

“The Stovehouse Project is an 84 metre long Victorian greenhouse situated in the Ornamental Gardens at Auchincruive. Our Stovehouse Supervisor Hugh ‘Stevie’ McAulay and his team of volunteers and veterans are making great progress with the restoration. We have now opened sections 1 and 2 which have been renamed the Balfour Brothers’ Section as a mark of gratitude to our volunteers Joe and Willie for all their hard work on the project.”

Veteran

“IT’S ABOUT GETTING THE CONFIDENCE THAT IT TAKES YOU TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE AND TO DO SOMETHING I NEVER THOUGHT I’D DO”

Veteran

Good News….

Gardening Leave was delighted to receive a runners-up award at the Sunday Telegraph Gardening Against the Odds ceremony at Syon House. GL Founder Anna Baker Cresswell was there to receive the award.

Veterans Attendance

At Gardening Leave

214
Veterans since 1st April 2011 have benefited from

3,866
Half day sessions of horticultural therapy

The Auchincruive project has recently taken delivery of a smart new Renault Espace supplied by Park’s Motor Group and generously funded by ABF The Soldiers’ Charity, RAF Benevolent Fund, Seafarers UK, Poppyscotland and the Royal Caledonian Ball Trust.
Ways To Support Gardening Leave And Help Us Grow...

Become a regular donor
Donations can be made to Gardening Leave by setting up a monthly or annual standing order. Regardless of the size of your donation, every single pound helps us maintain and improve our services to veterans.

Become a fundraiser
Since our last newsletter many people have been fundraising on our behalf. We had a veteran organise a Fun Run, donations from a lost property auction at the Royal Collection and even had one of our regular supporters complete a trek up in the Highlands! The possibilities are endless and the more fun you have raising the money, the more people will remember you and Gardening Leave, the more money they will give. Donate online: www.justgiving.com/gardeningleave

Raise awareness about Gardening Leave
Raising money to keep Gardening Leave going is important, but letting people know about what we do and who we help, is every bit as important. We can send a Ground Cover by post or by email so if you know anyone who would be interested to know more about us, please do not hesitate to contact Keith: comms@gardeningleave.org

Gift Aid it
If you are a UK tax payer, we can increase the value of any donation you make to Gardening Leave by claiming the Gift Aid back from HM Revenue. Evelyn has Gift Aid forms which she can send to you so please, take and an extra 5 minutes to fill one in!

Become a Volunteer
We literally couldn’t exist without our volunteers so if you are a good listener with a keen sense of humour and could commit to a regular morning or afternoon at least once a fortnight, please contact Anna BC. You don’t have to be a brilliant gardener, its your time we need, not your gardening expertise.

Who we are
Chairman:
Alastair Macmillan DL MB ChB
MPH FFPH
Chief Executive:
William Stafford
williamstafford777@btinternet.com
Founder & Development Director
Anna Baker Cresswell
info@gardeningleave.org
Admin & Finance Officer:
Evelyn McGill
admin@gardeningleave.org
Digital Communications Officer:
Keith Watson
comms@gardeningleave.org
Fishing Co-ordinator:
Jamie Murray
Stonehouse Supervisor:
Hugh ‘Stevie’ McAulay
Auchincruive:
Senior Horticultural Therapist
Pamela Smith
Erskine:
Horticultural Therapist
Brenda MacKay
Assistant Wendy Bryan
Chelsea:
Horticultural Therapist
Tara Jeewoonarain
Trainee Charlotte Richmond
Veterans’ Travel Buddy
Ian Ford
Rosendael:
Horticultural Therapist
Kate Trebarne
Assistant Wilma Landgraf
Hon Treasurer:
David Quayle

Resources Expended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>As % of income</th>
<th>11 months to February 2012</th>
<th>Year ended March 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staffing Costs</td>
<td>41.64%</td>
<td>54.67%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>2.03%</td>
<td>3.56%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs Operational</td>
<td>12.85%</td>
<td>21.63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs Administration</td>
<td>10.11%</td>
<td>8.20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Costs</td>
<td>32.29%</td>
<td>8.46%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>1.08%</td>
<td>3.48%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“IT’S NOT JUST A BLOODY GARDEN, THIS IS OUR PLACE”
Veteran

If you would like to receive the next issue of Ground Cover Autumn 2012 by email, we would be delighted as it would save us printing and postal costs! Please contact Keith: comms@gardeningleave.org

Trustees
John Dalrymple Hamilton OBE TD DL
Clive Fairweather CBE
Annie Lyell
Tolla Sutcliffe
David Chaundler OBE
Iain Whiteley

Gardening Leave Head Office
The Gardens Unit
SAC Auchincruive
Ayr
Ayrshire
KA6 5HW
Tel: 01292 521 444
www.gardeningleave.org