

Good morning everyone,

As I look out on a somewhat damp scene, I am already beginning to forget about the glorious sunshine, which at times was too hot to even contemplate working out in the garden. It was a summer the gardens enjoyed with plants standing straight and blooming as they do in catalogues. After the cold spring, the garden took time to come to life, but for five or six weeks over June and July the colours and plants all worked as they were intended to, with the courgettes plants being ridiculously over productive. Yes, my clematis in my six-stride walkway displayed flower heads in profusion and of incredible size; the eryngiums glowed blue; the delphiniums stood tall and at long last after many years of paltry and reluctant evidence of life, my agapanthus have actually put on a display. One disappointment over the summer as a whole was the relatively poor performance of my peonies, but the dahlias are now making up for that. I won't be enjoying any sedum this year as they have been delicately nibbled down by grazing deer, who have been visiting in the early hours of the morning for their breakfast. I have discovered how they get out of the garden, but they are being very cunning in their entry and nightly camera placements have so far been defeated in their detection trials. Despite the deer depredations, the garden is still flourishing, but is perhaps now looking beyond its best. The rain over the last two weeks has not helped with an air of sogginess pervading to depress the scene. Apart from a bumper crop of courgettes, the tomatoes are also doing exceptionally well, the strawberries were wonderful, the potatoes with the help of nematodes are clean and bounteous (on that note who would have thought that there was a world shortage of nematodes? That was the reason given to me as to why there was a delay in supplying part of my small order!) and I have a greenhouse full of chillies and peppers. I guess spicy meals soon for the next few months.

That is my quick view of my garden, but I am sure you have all been enjoying your own gardens, plus the newly recovered "freedoms" that vaccination has brought to us. Many of you, like me, have probably managed to get away for a few days and to visit other parts of the country, see family and friends and walk different walks. On top of that, your Gardening Club is about to start its new season on **Tuesday 7th September 2021** with our first speaker of the season being **Dave Goulson** talking about "**Bees and Wild Gardens**". This talk will be conducted over Zoom, as will those scheduled for **5th October and 2nd November**, with the same procedures as last season's. These first three talks will continue to be held on Tuesday evenings with the prospect of the latter two having a limited number gathering in the Fraser Centre to watch the talk should there be a wish. Under current restrictions and a continuing nervousness with "mass" indoor meetings, the number of people we can safely accommodate in the Fraser Centre will be around 25. Even without these restrictions, it had been evident that the Fraser Centre had become too cramped for our increasing audience attendance and our increased Membership. This made the necessity to find a new venue imperative. As from **Wednesday 8th December 2021**, our Christmas Party date, all our monthly meetings for the rest of this season will be held on **Wednesday evenings** in the well appointed **Sanctuary Hall at Baljaffray Parish Church**. The new hall can hold 300 people, but they are currently maintaining a 1 metre rule limiting numbers to around 90. The Hall is big, bright, airy with a stage, lighting and a theatre standard sound system, which will require some tutoring on its workings! There is plenty of parking available either at the Church or in the Baljaffray shopping precinct next door. There is a good sized kitchen and good toilet facilities.

Like all local church halls, this hall is well used throughout the week and the only day of the week available to us is a Wednesday. We enquired about quite a few other venues, but all

were fully booked and Milngavie Town Hall is still being used as a vaccination centre. Also, some of the other venues did not have the parking availability that Baljaffray offers. Hopefully the changing of the evening to a Wednesday will be acceptable to Members and a new calendar of Meeting Dates will be issued shortly once all the speakers from January onwards have been contacted and are agreeable to a change of date, which in most cases will be just an evening later. As the first Wednesday of each month at Baljaffray sometimes coincides with their Guild Meetings, our **March meeting will be pushed back to Wednesday 9th March**. I am hopeful Members will appreciate their new venue when we start to use it in December. Should anyone have concerns, then please let me know.

I realise all of the above is quite a lot to digest and I and the rest of the Committee will endeavour to keep you all abreast of dates as they are approached. In the meantime, you have the pleasure of hearing **Dave Goulson on Tuesday 7th September via Zoom on "Bees and Wild Gardens"**. Dave has featured on Gardeners' World and is an enthusiastic advocate of bees and other pollinators and creepy crawlies, including earwigs, inhabiting our gardens. He founded the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and is the author of several books including **"The Garden Jungle or Gardening to Save the Planet"**, in which he explains how our lives and ultimately the fate of humankind are inextricably intertwined with that of earwigs, bees, lacewings and hoverflies, unappreciated heroes of the natural world. Our gardens and what we grow in them are important for their and our survival. It will be a fascinating and interesting talk. I will send out an email asking members and subscribers to register for the talk on 1st September, but if you are ultra keen you can do so from now. Our speaker via Zoom for **Tuesday 5th October 2021** is **Timothy Walker** a well known botanist who was Horti Praefectus of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum - another talk not to be missed.

Just as I have been laboriously single-finger-typing this missive, an email has pinged in from Marie Kotzur, probably typed using all fingers on both hands, with your Subscription Renewal request. The Committee is meeting face to face in a couple of weeks time to plan out events for the year and to organise outings, so we are preparing ourselves and the Club for the recommencement of activities and of socialising. I do hope Members will renew to rediscover the pleasures of Baldernock Gardening Club. It is easy to renew via BACS! Remember, too, the Annual Plant Sale will be on Saturday 14th May 2022 in Milngavie Town Hall..... hopefully!

After all the frustrations and worries of the past eighteen months, it is exciting to believe we will be able to congregate again soon, but until then you have the pleasure of enjoying the last flourishes of your gardens and to plan what you are going to grow next year. I look forward to seeing many of you again and welcoming new members on screen on 7th September.

With best wishes

Willie

