

September 2021 Newsletter - Autumn is coming and so are the vaccines!

Good morning everyone,

There is no doubt about it, the mornings definitely have that autumnal feel and when walking into the garden each morning, I am quickly enveloped in spider webs that are strung across the most audacious voids. On opening the door to exit the house, the webs have to be cleared, but they keep on being inconsiderately reconstructed each night. The morning dew on the grass highlights the early morning food trails of the ducks waddling down to the bird feeder to hose up the chaff discarded by the tits; unfortunately the trails of the deer could also be seen, but I am hoping my Heath Robinson fencing maintains its fortress like defence (no deer for three weeks now!). Some of the trees are beginning to turn and the rowans continue to be berry laden. My cannas have been on the cusp of flowering for what seems like the last month, so I am praying I get a glimpse of a flower before the first frost. Sadly much of the garden is now looking a little tired, like the gardener, though the swaying seed heads, or they would be swaying if there was any wind, hold promise for next year. I have been moving a few plants around into better locations or to give others more air and light; there is still quite a lot of work of that kind to be undertaken. I am a bit aghast at how much the grass is growing and it is all looking so luscious, but with the fungi now appearing I have to avoid bits and don't chop the Pink Waxcaps, of which I appear to have quite a crop this year. The bank upon which they grow is definitely "unimproved grassland" and there is no hint of a churchyard in close proximity, as according to my book on the subject, that is where they are sometimes found. Your gardens constantly throw up pleasant surprises.

At the beginning of this month, Dave Goulson opened our season of talks on Zoom. I think everyone in the virtual audience was certainly well informed about the plight of insects around the world and the importance of their survival for us all. As he said during his talk, a lot of what he discusses can be quite depressing, but hope rests with us gardeners, who realise how useful most insects, butterflies, bees and creepy crawlies are. They all have a purpose, even the slugs. I still think a mown area of grass (I don't have a lawn) enhances the visual appeal of a garden, but I do leave a pretty large area to do whatever nature wants to do with it and I don't use insecticides. Dave's talk was, in my view, a terrific start to the new season.

Our speaker on **Tuesday 5th October 2021** is **Timothy Walker** and this promises to be another splendid evening. Timothy is a British botanist with a lifetime of experience in gardens. He has won four Gold Medals at the Chelsea Flower Show, he was Horti Praefectus at the Oxford Botanic Garden until 2014 and he presented a BBC4 series of three programmes in 2011 entitled "Botany - A Blooming History". He has long given talks to Garden Clubs and now he will have the added kudos of talking to us. His talk is "**Bordering on Insanity - Creating An all-Year Round Border**" looking exclusively at the herbaceous border in his wife's garden and covers the principles and practicalities to be adopted when trying to create a border that is interesting all-year round, plus a collection of plants you must have for such a border.

For this talk, Baldernock Gardening Club is taking the next tentative step towards what we used to call normality, but is now akin to walking in space. Timothy knows he is the guinea pig in this momentous leap

forward, **so please read the following instructions carefully!** I hope they will be clear.

1. The talk is on **Tuesday 5th October at 19:30** and will be delivered by **Zoom** into your home and to a limited number of Members in the **Fraser Centre in Milngavie**.
2. The Fraser Centre can only take a limited number of people; the maximum we will accept at the Centre is 30 people, of whom I will be one with, hopefully, 3 Committee Members to assist. So basically, we have up to **25 spaces** available. The Zoom talk will be projected from the Club laptop onto a screen like a slideshow.
3. **Preference to attend will be given to those members who have not been able to use Zoom over the past year.** Already two members in that category have said they are coming! **So if you fall into that category, please let me know as soon as possible that you wish to attend and certainly no later than Friday 2nd October.**
4. If you have been a Zoom Attendee, then you may apply to join the audience and hopefully some new members will take the plunge. You will be chosen on "a first come, first served" principle and as soon as I know the numbers from Point 3 above, I will let you know after Friday 2nd October whether you have won the lottery and can return to the Fraser Centre and an evening out.

5. **Those not at the Fraser Centre** will be able to register for the Zoom talk in what has become the normal way i.e. registering with me, who will then send you the link on the evening of the talk. You may register for Zoom now or wait until the reminder is issued next week.
6. Further details about attending the Fraser Centre and logging into Zoom from home will be sent out closer to the event.
7. If any of the above is unclear, then please do not hesitate to contact me or a Committee Member.

I look forward to seeing many of you either virtually or in person in October. On the topic of our Speakers, you have all received from Marie Kotzur the Programme for the coming year. Unfortunately Marie was given information that is not totally correct, as I am sure you will all have spotted. The days on two events in 2022 are correct, but the dates don't correspond; the one-fingered typist has been reprimanded and offers his apologies. The correct programme is now on the website.

Sandra Wilson has been organising our Outings, remember them, for a number of years and will be restarting these days out in 2022. Sandra has many other activities on her plate like Milngavie in Bloom and is seeking a bit of relief by way of a replacement, who she will be very willing to mentor/teach/instruct over the coming months. I would appreciate, as would Sandra, a willing volunteer so I am expecting a deluge of offers, otherwise the Coercion Police will be called upon.

Club life is slowly returning from the virtual to the real and you will soon have to dig out your name badges as Zoom, which identifies you so well, will no longer be so prevalent (👉). There is a lot to do in the garden after what has been a pretty good summer and now we all begin preparations for next year. All we require now is enough wind to turn the thousands of windmills for our power! I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon. In the meantime continue to take care and thank you for your continued support of the Club.

Best wishes

Willie

