

Good morning everyone,

The weather of late has just been too good to miss, which is my excuse for the delay in sending out the Newsletter. With the beautiful mornings, like this one, I just had to get out into the garden and by the time the evening came, I was, quite frankly, too knackered to even contemplate sitting down in front of a computer screen. I can't put the task off for ever, so I will attempt to rattle through this and get back out to tackle another area needing attention. The weather has been splendid. Lovely cool, crisp and sunny mornings followed by a day of warmth ideal for working. All around the area the early blossom on the trees and bushes has been wonderfully profuse; even up here in Crossburn the cherry plum has put on a dazzling display of white against the blue morning sky. The forsythia is like neon and the flowering currant is on the cusp of bursting. Snowdrops have died, ready for transplanting, but the crocuses and the daffodils are now providing us with their annual display. It is the erythroniums, the cyclamen (still), the wood anemones and the chionodoxas which give me the greatest pleasure. There is even hope that my fritillaria imperialis, after many years of unfounded promise, may actually deliver this year. They are all looking healthy, some have buds, so maybe at long last they will flower! It is definitely the period of frondescence as you can almost feel the trees stirring from their winter slumbers. Whatever, there is a heck of a lot of work to be done and these undertakings are not helped when the deer break in and, in the course of one night, chomp their way through 14 tubs of tulips, plus others in the flower beds. The house is still under attack from a mad tit determined to break through various windows, though there are signs that its determination is waning. The other evening a very large toad leapt at one of the courtyard windows and spread-eagled itself akin to those jelly like toys children love to throw at windows and then watch them slide down, which the toad duly did. The pheasant has returned and waits at the grain bin for feed, where he is joined by a pair of ducks as they enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner. The siskins have returned and the bull finch has been spotted at the back of the garden. Life is really returning to the garden.

Our next meeting is on **WEDNESDAY 6th April at 19:30 in Baljaffray Parish Church** where we will be delighted to welcome **Douglas Cameron** talking about the successful work done by all the volunteers in raising the profile and awareness of **Milngavie in Bloom**. It is worth noting that Bearsden now has a similar operation run by Ros Carmichael. The work both do in generating pride in the appearance of both communities benefits all of us. Unfortunately, or fortunately depending upon your point of view, I am unable to attend the Meeting on 6th April, so **Marjorie Thorburn** will be hosting the evening with **Marie Kotzur** in charge of technology. After the problems with the sound system at the last two meetings caused by issues

related to Zoom and the Hall, the decision has been taken that for this Meeting we will **NOT be offering Zoom**. The Church's tech guru (the minister, and maybe guru is not perhaps the correct designation) has been ill with Covid and so has been unable to help me sort out the problem, so I apologise in advance. At the last meeting, there were only 10 Members on Zoom whilst 50+ attended in the Hall, where the sound was not good. I am as confident as I can be, that just concentrating upon the Hall sound, the audience will have a better experience.

On **Wednesday 4th May** we have our AGM, which will **start at 19:00 for MEMBERS ONLY**, but non-members will be welcome to attend the talk by **Jeanie Jones on Primulas starting at 19:30 (doors for this latter event will open from 19:20)**. At the AGM, two of our long standing and valuable Committee Members are retiring to spend more time with their families. Sandra Wilson already has a replacement in situ with Caroline Preacher, but we need someone to take over Moira Adams's role of WebSite maintenance. Our website is pretty basic, but sufficient for our needs. So we need a volunteer to join the Committee. Computer competency would be an advantage, but not essential so if someone would like to join the Committee and be trained by Moira, then **please** let me know.

As you all know our **Annual Plant Sale is taking place on Saturday 14th May at Baljaffray Parish Church from 13:30 to 15:30**. Our booking for the various halls at the Church is from 09:00 until 17:00 allowing for set-up time and tidying up at the end. Full details and instructions will be sent out to all members in a few days time. There will be lists available at the **April Meeting for Members** to sign volunteering their services for helping with the plants, helping with the baking, helping with the tearoom, the plant creche etc. It is a fun day and a great way to get to know fellow members, and you may even get a Baldernock Gardening Club sweatshirt to wear on the day! In the meantime, you all will be busy choosing, nurturing and beautifying your selections. Please when labelling your offering, use only WHITE or WOODEN labels; our pricing system depends on coloured labels! An advert is already booked for April in the local Community Magazine, our banners are being prepared with our new location and date ready for erection at the beginning of May. Posters for shops and for your cars will be available to be downloaded shortly. It is our one and only fund raising exercise, so we need as many as possible to help make it a successful day for the Club. Also, for your information, the Scottish Rock Garden Club Annual Show and sale is being held at Baljaffray Parish Church on Saturday 7th May.

I have rattled through this. The sun is still shining so I am off to stretch the tired limbs once again. I do hope you will fill the Hall for Douglas Cameron on Wednesday 6th April and I do know you will enjoy a thoroughly entertaining and informative talk. Marjorie will give me a report on your behaviour.

Take care and continue to enjoy the weather and your gardens.

Best wishes

Willie



