

## **Baldernock Gardening Club: May 2023 Newsletter: Cold nights, sunny mornings for late April**

Good afternoon one and all,

This current cold snap is no fun at all, but haven't the sunny mornings been beautiful? Unfortunately, my early flowering meconopsis have not been able to enjoy the overnight temperatures and the blooms have succumbed to the cold. Fortunately, all the other meconopsis are doing fine as they were not so foolish as to try and flower early. Despite the cold and the requirement to unpack the winter fleeces for some of the plants, like my tree fern (15 unfurling fronds now!), this is one of my favourite times of year in the garden. The foliage looks fresh and vibrant in the various hues of green and then the daffodils add so much gaiety to the garden and to the parks. This year, for the first time, in the Mains Estate park, they have dramatic displays of huge blocks of yellow and white daffodils, which are a real eye-catcher. At Crossburn, the trilliums have at last started to spread, the erythroniums are doing likewise and creating lovely drifts of gently nodding heads. The Elizabeth rhododendron is a mass of red blooms, all of which appear, so far, to have survived the cold snap. The amelanchier is, in my unbiased opinion, the best it has ever been. It is just wonderful to watch the colour flood back into the garden and to yet again discover plants, planted years ago and forgotten about, deciding that it was about time they showed they were alive and had not been a waste of money. My one real disappointment this year is the tulips. Last year, the deer ate the whole lot over one night; this year the tulips are so disappointing that the deer are not even interested. For example, I planted four identical pots, with the same mix of compost, with ten new bulbs to each pot at the same depth. The outcome is that two pots look good, one has only three flowering bulbs and the other is a complete disaster. I am beginning to think that tulips are beautiful when they work, but it is a bit of a lottery and are they really worth the effort and the annual expense. Apart from that, I have been busy potting up cuttings for the Plant Sale and chasing pigeons and magpies out of a climbing rose where they have been trying to build nests.

There is a good deal of Club activity over the next few weeks. First, we have the **OUTING** to Glendoick and Branklyn on Wednesday 3rd May. Caroline has sent everyone all the details so you don't require any further information from me. The following week on **Wednesday 10th May** we have our **AGM**, which starts at 19:00 and is for **Members only**. At 19:15 approximately, the doors are thrown open for guests and visitors to attend our final formal meeting of the 2022/23 season. Our speaker for the night is **Dougie Boatman of Scotplants Ltd.** of Beith. Dougie will be talking about "**Well-Behaved Plants**". Dougie founded Scotplants in 1983 after being involved in horticulture for several years beforehand. Propagation of all types of plants has been Scotplants' objective. Their plants are grown for the vagaries of the Scottish weather conditions, even those experienced in Milngavie and its environs. Dougie will be bringing plants with him to the talk, so that we can all have an end of term scramble to buy more plants for our gardens. So, bring your badges along and some cash! It should prove to be another very interesting talk.

Talking of plants for sale, just to remind you that the SRGC show is on Saturday 29th April (this Saturday) at Baljaffray Church from about 11:00 onwards. Two weeks later we have our own **Annual Plant Sale on Saturday 13th May at Baljaffray Church**. I think we have a full list of volunteers now, but obviously if members wish to just turn up and help, preferably after 12 noon, then you will be very welcome. Please follow the instructions on delivering the plants and the baking. If you have valuable plastic crates for your plants or antique Tupperware boxes for your baking, it would be helpful if they could be taken away immediately after delivery. Should you use supermarket cardboard fruit boxes for transporting your plants, please leave those as they are useful for our customers to cart away their newly purchased treasures.

Banners and posters advertising the event will be on display by this weekend. **For the baking, we do need small tasty items for the Tea Room as well as Fruit Loaves and Gingerbreads, which can also be sold at the Bakery Stall.** Hopefully we will have another successful and enjoyable sale and good weather on the day.

On **Wednesday 14th June** we will be holding, for MEMBERS ONLY, our **Summer Social at Crossburn from 18:30**. Full details of this event will be issued shortly. An attendance form will be available at the meeting on 10th May for members to sign saying they would like to come. As usual we will be asking attendees to bring food with them either savoury or sweet, so please tick the column on the form to indicate which kind of delicacy, apart from yourselves, you will be bringing. The Club pays for everything else on the night. We will have to limit numbers to 50 for the night as space within the houses is not limitless. With any luck it will be a beautiful warm evening, with a gentle warm breeze to ward off the odd midge and we can all be outside wandering the gardens and hunting lily beetles.

Joyce Stanley has notified me of an exhibition in Dundee which may be of interest. The "International Garden Photographer of the Year" photo exhibition is being held in the High Mill at Verdant Works from 8th April until 27th August 2023. More details can be found at <https://www.dundee.gov.uk/events/event/31683>

Dundee City Council are also taking all the boats that Dundee Sailing Club offered to us as planters and will be using them in public places across the city. This is excellent news, but it does highlight my own marketing inadequacies, as no one responded to my pleas for interest.

An exciting few weeks ahead, for the Membership and more to come in September when the new season will commence. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the forthcoming events, but in the meantime, keep potting and do enjoy your gardens, because there is plenty more colour to come.

With best wishes to you all,

Willie







