

## Baldernock Gardening Club: June 2023 Newsletter: End of Season

Good morning all,

After four weeks without rain, a small amount has fallen to, at the very least, slightly moisten the ground. If one takes into account that the school holidays start at the end of this week, we should all see quite a bit more rain over the next few weeks. But hasn't the weather been wonderful? It has been great for the roses which are blooming with enthusiasm. I have a white climbing rose that is really enjoying this dry summer as it has been able to bloom brilliantly and to release its scent to delicious effect. In past years, the early summer rain caused the blooms to turn brown and very soggy, so, now, it is certainly making up for all that precipitation abuse. The warmth of the day and the nights makes going out into the garden each day a new experience, because something else has decided to flower. The peonies have huge heads, though I am not sure the blooms are lasting quite as long as past years, but that is a minor quibble. The clematis in the 8 stride arch may actually all flower at the same time! The plants in all the pots require daily watering, but the right arm bicep is coping and the tree fern is becoming impressive. The hostas, thanks to nematode treatment, have whole leaves instead of holey ones. The courgettes are promising a bumper crop and even the tomatoes are looking healthy (the plants at least!). The one major drawback of the rain and damp is the return of the midge and its 40 million cousins! Last week at the Summer Social we all enjoyed a midge free evening; it was not until the sun was setting that a few decided to come out and taste the flesh.

Tomorrow is the Summer Solstice and it has to be hoped that the gardens will continue to flourish for the rest of the summer and that we all get time to enjoy being in them, perhaps accompanied by a glass of cool Rose.

Ann Laybourn is looking for some help. Her daughter has moved into a "new" house and in her garden, there is a high quality 1930's cedar greenhouse that has fallen on hard times. It requires some urgent repairs to the joinery, but mainly to the glass; without some attention, it may well collapse. If anyone knows of a local who could take on this task - Ann has looked on line, but all repairers appear to be down south - would they please let Ann know and preferably before the greenhouse collapses.

In August the Annual Subscription Renewal notices will land in your In-boxes and I look forward to you all renewing your Membership with all the usual alacrity and sense of excitement for the year ahead. Our Waiting List is growing once again. Our first meeting of the new season is on **Wednesday 13th September at 19:30 at Baljaffray Parish Church** (new speaker system up and running, I hope!). Our first speaker is **Melissa Simpson, Head Gardener at Dumfries House**, which is a good start for what the Committee and I believe is another interesting and varied season of speakers.

Talking of the Committee, as was mentioned at the AGM in May, Douglas Patrick, our inestimable Treasurer, is resigning at the AGM in May 2024 and we require some new blood to learn from him and to assume the position of Treasurer. You don't need to be an accountant to be a treasurer. Marie Kotzur, who is our Membership

Secretary, has taken on a new job in Glasgow that is demanding more of her time and energy and, therefore, she feels that she cannot fulfil her Club duties to the standard she has set. She will complete her task of squeezing subscription renewals out of you in August and September (at the latest), but thereafter she will retire from the Committee, but thankfully remain a Member of the Club. We need someone to take her place, so please volunteer as her replacement. In short, we need two new Committee members...please!

That's it for this season. You are going to have a break until mid-August from the ramblings of Crossburn. We had a marvellous Summer Social in the two gardens, blessed by ideal weather, excellent food, wine and non-alcoholic stuff and lots of chat and laughter. It was a most enjoyable evening and my thanks go to you all for making it so. Have a wonderful summer, enjoy your holidays and your gardens and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

With best wishes

Willie

