

## “Exciting times in the garden and the Club” Newsletter April 2022

Good morning one and all,

The sharp-eyes of all of you may recall that last month's Newsletter was wrongly labelled as April, it should have read March, so I apologise in advance for the confusion that this will undoubtedly have caused. Members may raise it as a point of concern at the forthcoming AGM.

Now, we must move onto more serious matters, which all have an air of success about them. As those of you who have had to endure these monthly musings may recall that for the past few years I have been describing how my *Fritillaria Imperialis* have consistently promised much only to flop over with exhaustion and no flowers. This year, as I have previously reported, one of the ten bulbs planted all those years ago has given me cause for real hope and it has delivered! It has flowered for the first time in 8 years. Its companions have not obliged, so it has flowered in splendid and lonely isolation, but I am delighted.



Next joy would be to observe a blue tit pollinating it. Lonely as the *Imperialis* is, colour is beginning to appear all over the garden with the erythroniums, trilliums, wild primroses, anemones, pulmonaria all blooming. The brunnera is just about to startle and the Elizabeth Rhododendron is just a mass of red blooms; the azaleas buds are showing signs of bursting

and all in all the garden is really livening up, after what has seemed like a long winter break. The tulips, though, will not recover sufficiently from the gourmet attention of the deer. The birds are returning to the feeders with a pair of greenfinches now being regular visitors along with the gold finches, siskins, woodpecker and the fleeting snack-on-the-move from the nuthatch. The ducks and pheasant sometimes sup together and there has been evidence, by way of poo, of foxes sauntering around at night. So yes, activity is hotting up and already I am looking at what has happened so far this spring and what can be improved for next spring, in the belief that I will still be able to bend and crawl around hoicking out weeds!

Another piece of excellent news concerns the achievement of one of our Members, Colin Walker. Colin, as most of will know, is passionate about cacti and succulents ( he has a few varieties in the numerous greenhouses at his home), is a renowned authority on them and has been President ( he is not a lowly "Chair"!) of the British Cacti and Succulent Society for a number of years. Last weekend, at their recent Conference at Wisley, Colin was awarded the RHS Banksian Medal for all the work he has done in promoting the Society and the plants he loves. I am sure all of you will join me in offering Colin our congratulations for this most prestigious award.

The good news keeps on coming, because on **Wednesday 4th May 2022** it is our **AGM**. **The AGM, which will start at 19:00 in Baljaffray Parish Church Hall and is for MEMBERS ONLY**. Hopefully, the AGM will pass quietly and should be completed by 19:15, after which **Jeanie Jones** of the Hardy Plants Society, the Scottish Rock Garden Club and others will be talking to us about primulas (one of my favourite plants in all its varieties). She is a world authority on these plants, amongst others, and will be a tremendous speaker to conclude our 2021/22 season. Her talk will begin at **19:30 and is open to non-members**. So if you are going to fill the Hall for the AGM, please arrive before 19:00, but if just coming for the talk please time your entrance for after 19:15, but before 19:30. There will be no Zoom facility.

If the AGM is not exciting enough for you, ten days later on **Saturday 14th May 2002** our **ANNUAL PLANT SALE** grabs all the headlines when it opens again at Baljaffray Parish Church. Full details have already been issued. We have most of the Church booked from 09:00 until 17:00. The sale will be open to the public from 13:30 to 15:30 (if there are any plants left). **If delivering plants or home baking for the Bakery Stall and the Tea Room or gardening bric-a-brac please do so between 10:00 and 12.00**. Lists are being compiled of helpers and we do need a good number of you, the more the merrier. Final details will be announced at the Meeting on 4th May.

For the past two years we have been unable to hold our Summer Social (**Members Only**), but this year it is happening and will be held at Marjorie Thorburn and Colin Walker's abode in Strathblane on **Wednesday 8th June**. As our Membership has increased over the past two years, we are regrettably having to restrict the numbers attending to 50. A list will be available at the May meeting for Members to put their names down as well as indicating whether they will be bringing a savoury or sweet dish for the enjoyment of all attending. Full details of this riotous event will be issued later.

Before I leave you in peace, I would just like to extend my thanks to Nancy Stevens for stepping into the void last month and entertaining you all with her talk on trees. Also, thanks are due to Marjorie Thorburn and Marie Kotzur for running the evening as it should be run and providing you with a calm and relaxed couple of hours.

So, just less than 4 weeks to go before the Annual Plant Sale. All members should be selecting their choicest cuttings and divisions, potting them up beautifully to make them look even more irresistible, baking away like fury, clearing out the garage of unwanted tools, getting ready to attach notices to your cars and speaking constantly to friends and acquaintances about the wonder of this fabulous event. You may have the evening of 4th May off from your preparations to attend the AGM and Jeanie Jones's talk and it would be really marvellous to have a full-house for both events on that evening. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Best wishes and happy potting to you all,

Willie



*Banksian*



*Medal*

PRESENTED BY

*The Royal Horticultural Society*

AND AWARDED BY

*BCSS Shows Committee*

TO

*Dr Colin Walker*

for the largest total amount of prize money/points in the whole of the horticultural classes.

(Winners in previous two years excluded.)



