

Baldernock Gardening Club: August 2026 Newsletter:

Gallons of rain, then scorching days of sun and heat, but, thankfully, no fires down here

Good afternoon to one and all,

It has been quite hot and sunny for a good number of days over the summer, which after the somewhat damp start to the season, has been much appreciated, unless you live near Nethy Bridge or just about anywhere in Spain, France and Canada. The past couple of days of heavy rain will hopefully have helped to extinguish the Cairngorm wildfire and give those living there a rest from fighting it, as I know the residents of Nethy Bridge, if able, have been out assisting the fire service from dawn to dusk and gardening has definitely not been top of their leisure list.

For us down here in the damp west, the glorious sunshine and heat have brought out the best of the garden at one of its most colourful times. Unfortunately, at the start of summer the peonies when out in full bloom were subjected to the heavy rains, so all became a little droopy and very soggy; the later flowering ones were able to hold their blooms aloft and provide us with the pleasure of their shapes and colours. Everything else has come on in leaps and bounds with heleniums, hemerocallis, eryngiums, rudbeckias (just flowering now), thalictrums, lilies and crocosmia and many others, all creating a dazzling display. Amazingly, my agapanthus have decided to blossom this year and have spread, but the hot weather does appear to have had a bad effect on my sweet peas, which are looking very sad indeed; they have just not lasted this year. Despite not, personally, being able to do as much in the garden this year, it does appear to have managed without my interference, though the weeds have taken advantage of my physical restrictions, plus with any rain at all, the slugs and snails have invaded every part of the garden, as well as leaving lovely trails up windows! There is still the promise of much more to come with the plants budding very nicely.

I hope you have all had a chance to enjoy the summer and not found the heat to be too excessive. The evenings were very pleasant being outside sipping quietly away at a glass of wine or whatever your tippie is and knowing it was too hot and dry for the midges to bother you. But it is now time to start thinking about the Baldernock Gardening Club again, with our first meeting of the new season occurring on **Wednesday 9th September at 19:30 in Baljaffray Parish Church**. Our speaker is Simon Jones of the National Trust for Scotland, whose topic is **Pioneering Women in Horticulture: Past & Present**. Simon has talked to us previously during the Great Shut Down, when he gave us a most interesting, guided tour of the NTS Gardens of the West Coast.

Hilary MacNaughton has been in touch with all of us who have indicated we wish to join the outing to Cambo on Friday 28th August, when we can all wave at Ruairidh who is rebuilding the walls around the walled garden. He apparently, according to the Cambo Newsletter, enjoys being waved at! Following on from the club's outing to Carolside earlier this month, this should prove to be another exceptional day and perhaps a bit cooler.

Susan Brimelow will be contacting you all after August 11th asking you to renew your subscription to the club. She will be asking you to renew by 31st August and to pay by bank transfer straight into the club account. Unfortunately, our internet/mobile banking does not allow for the scanning of cheques and trying to find a branch that is actually open to deposit cash is

akin to participating in a "Race Across the World"; so it will be really helpful if members will help to simplify matters. The committee and I look forward to you all rejoining us for what should be another excellent year of talks and events.

So, relatively short and sweet this time, just to remind you all that the whole annual cycle of the club is on the move again. I think the last time I troubled your inboxes it was raining and as fate would have it, the rain is falling as I type, but the sun will reappear. I look forward to seeing some of you on the outing to Cambo and to seeing you all in September, when the speaker, this time, will be present!

With best wishes

Willie



