

# Baldernock Gardening Club: December 2023 Newsletter: It is not exactly digging weather these days.

Good evening one and all,

The Scandinavians have invaded us once again, but this time not in long-boats; instead they have sent us very chilly weather. To say it is Baltic is in fact true, though I suspect it may be even colder there at the moment. (I have just looked it up and I think we are having a heatwave in comparison.) When the skies are clear and the sun is shining, the garden does not have that awful bedraggled look. The frost enhances some of the plants, stems and remaining seed heads and in the early morning the whole place glistens. The hellebores behave like Collies in the cold by lying flat on the ground, whilst the red stems of the cornus flaunt their winter colour. Just about everything else is cooied doon for the winter. Fortunately, I have managed to get all my bulbs planted in the ground and in pots. Those pots requiring their thermal overwear have been suitably clothed and the tree fern has had its root trunk fleeced and its crown stuffed with oak leaves (recommended I read) and straw. All the pots with bulbs have had netting put over their tops to stop the squirrels, mice, unless they sneak up the drainage hole, and deer feasting on juicy tulip bulbs. I didn't cover one well enough as I had run out of suitable netting and in the morning several bulbs were missing and a lot of earth was spread around the tub; the air turned blue. As to wild life, there is not much to report, except that the pink footed geese squadrons continue to fly overhead every evening around 4:30/5.00 and then take the return journey the following morning around 8.00. The RSPB App describes their call as "an incessant and rather musical 'wink, wink' " It is incessant, it is very loud, but I cannot describe it as in any way musical; it is a bit like a large choir of me singing and that is not a melodic sound. The geese apparently arrived in Scotland at the end of October from Greenland and Iceland, with a return ticket for April. They are using the water-filled old quarry workings in Douglasmuir Quarry as their nighttime roost.

As all Members know, the **Annual Christmas Party (Members only)** is our next event on the calendar. The Committee have been beavering away trying to simplify all their brain exercising questions for the **Ridiculously Easy Quiz (REQ)** and to gather all the food and wine, both alcohol free and alcohol influenced, to help you all to enjoy the evening. The **Christmas Party**, in case you have forgotten, is on **Wednesday 13th December 2023**. The doors open at 19:00 with the REQ starting at 19:30. All those attending will be sitting at Tables of 8 or 7; names all drawn out of a hat of some sort in an attempt to ensure a close-run contest of brainwork, luck and good guessing. If you haven't put your name down yet to attend this extravaganza of chatter, laughter and getting to know other members, **then you have until 20.00 on Wednesday 6th December 2023 to add it**. The Committee and I look forward to seeing you all on the night around 19:00.

Our first meeting in 2024 is on **Wednesday 10th January, and this will be on Zoom**. Our speakers are Jack and Laura Willgoss of Wildegoose Nursery in Shropshire. To find out more about the Nursery and their garden then take a peek at

their website. It is well worth a visit. Full details about the meeting will be issued just after the New Year when you will all be at your most receptive.

As many of you may know, two of our staunchest members Jane Logan and Pat MacNair have undertaken, over the past few years, the task of creating a garden around Gavin's Mill, which is at the lower end of the Tesco car park. So without wishing to add to your valuable time and warbling on, I am going to cease now and let you enjoy Jane's words. To read Jane's article and to discover all about **A Postcard from the Front** you can find the link on the website just below the December newsletter.

Keep warm and I very much look forward to seeing you at the Party.

Best wishes

Willie

