

## **Baldernock Gardening Club; September 2022 Newsletter; It is officially now autumn.**

Good afternoon everyone,

The first morning of a new autumn has already been a mixed affair with a glorious start, then turning misty and "cool" and now the sun is again breaking through: so not good timing on my behalf to be inside whilst the sun appears. All in all, I think we have enjoyed a not too bad summer with plenty of glorious periods of sunshine (sometimes a bit too hot) intermingled with days of rain. We have not suffered the droughts of Fife, the Borders and down in England, so maybe the West of Scotland does have some meteorological advantages. The garden up here, after a quietish time with only splashes of colour, is now displaying the colours of the rudbeckia, the heleniums, the phlox, the dahlias and all three of my cannas are flowering. The tree fern still has only one frond. There are tinges of an early autumn in some of the trees and the rowan trees, everywhere, are laden with berries as are the brambles in the hedgerows. It is also the time of year when the fungi appear. My pink waxcaps are more abundant this year as I have counted up to 16 in the last week, whilst beautiful red buttons, scarlet waxcaps, have fruited on the "lawn", meaning I have to avoid them whilst cutting the moss interspersed with grass. The resident robin is still demanding breakfast and dinner. He gets quite tetchy if I don't respond immediately. There is plenty to do, even if James Wong reckons the word "gardening" is not "inclusive". Carol Midgley in the Times had a rather rude, but very funny response to that pronouncement.

With our monthly meetings now occurring in the middle of each month, I will strain every brain cell (harder to find one as each year passes!) to publish/inflict the Newsletter as close to the first of each month as I can manage. So, if you have anything you wish added to the Newsletter, please advise me prior to the end of each month. It just so happens that there are two additional items which may be of interest to Members. Firstly, Moira Cohen, who is a past Member, has a **Monstera Deliciosa** which she would love someone to take away and nurture. If you are interested then let me know and I will provide you with her contact details. Secondly, Val Penrice has a friend who has an **8ft x 6ft greenhouse** available. Please contact Val directly: her number is available in the Members' Contact Details on the Website.

On a slightly different note, one of our long standing members has recently spent a few days as a guest in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital undergoing tests after

falling ill. The diagnosis appears to suggest the cause could have been pneumonia or legionella, possibly brought about by handling and breathing in the dust from dry peat free compost, which had been kept in the greenhouse. If you do have bagged compost, and especially the peat free stuff from the Garden Centres, do not keep it in a warm place and, if the bag has been open for some time, dampen the contents in the bag prior to using. This is purely precautionary advice, as no concrete evidence has been issued to suggest this to be the cause. And talking of peat free compost, I am sure the tomato grow bags with PF compost do not maintain the nutrients as well and that you do have to add liquid fertiliser more often. That is my excuse, anyway, for the production of some weird tomatoes this year.

As you know, our first meeting of the year is on **Wednesday 14th September at 19:30 in Baljaffray Parish Church with Richard Green**. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, all wearing your badges, and when Members will receive their new printed Meetings Diary. I do think we are starting off with an excellent speaker, who will get us all in the mood for tramping the hills of Patagonia, which are a bit higher than the Campsies. On Wednesday 12th October, Jim Jermyn of Branklyn Garden is our guest. At all our Meetings you are treated to a delicious cup of coffee/tea accompanied by a biscuit, possibly even a chocolate one. Marie Lees, who organises all this, is looking for volunteers to help with the refreshments on the 14th September and at subsequent meetings. Volunteers should contact Marie directly as soon as possible.

I think that is everything, except I do have to comment on the More4 programme "Garden of the Year" and I am sorry if this is a spoiler for those who haven't watched yet. It was marvellous to see Glassmount in the final, but what a bore that the garden, which had had an awful lot of money spent on it, looked a bit "park like" and was very perfect, won. Glassmount was **not** Design heaven, but it had a great deal of soul and we know the lady, who is 84 by the way, worked every day in her garden. I am not sure the winners had ever really got their hands dirty. I just thought it was immensely disappointing for Glassmount and for the Welsh garden, because the owners of both were more interested in the plants and "nature", rather than the "look". You may well disagree, but we can all discuss it over coffee on the 14th!

Best wishes to you all and enjoy the first few days of autumn.

Willie





