

Baldernock Gardening Club: March 2026 Newsletter:

It is officially spring!

Good afternoon everyone,

Yes, today is the first day of meteorological spring and we begin with spring rain that feels no different from the winter rain. The last day of winter was a beautiful day, perfect for working in the garden, but this morning, at least, has returned to the winter mood. In reality, we have been fortunate with our weather throughout what has been a relatively mild winter. We have had storms aplenty, but most seemed to have bypassed the environs of the Baldernock Gardening Club and, yes, we have had many days of rain, but again not the constant downpours experienced by other regions. We have had no long periods of really cold weather, though there has been that damp coldness which always seems to eke into your skin. The ground has been soggy much more often than it has been hard and impenetrable, but whatever it is now spring. The snowdrops have been wonderful this year (on reflection snowdrops are wonderful every spring) and have spread more than in previous years. The hellebores are beginning to stretch their bells upwards; clumps of iris reticulata have decided to flower, when they have remained hidden for the last couple of springs. Daffodils, or rather the small narcissi, are beginning to bloom and that, from my photos of past years, is about two weeks earlier. The roses, clematis, azaleas all have healthy looking new shoots and buds. In fact, you can almost feel the earth moving as stems burst through into daylight to be greeted with song from the blackbirds, robins, song thrushes, chaffinches and the rest of the mob around the bird feeder and the garden as a whole. Some pots have been taken out of the greenhouse and others moved into position, which may tempt the frost to reappear, but I hope not! I have managed to get some work done in the garden over the past month, but this has been intermittent. It has been frustrating at times, when after struggling into my gardening gear, I step outside and then rain plummets down to drive me back inside again. Gardening in glaur is not fun, but there have been enough good days to achieve quite a lot and with only just over two months to go before the **Club's Annual Plant Sale**, there have been opportunities to begin the selection of plants to prepare for the sale. Spring is here and the clocks go back an hour in 4 weeks time.

Our club meeting at the beginning of the month was very well attended and attendees were rewarded with a most interesting talk, plus a small demonstration, of how physiotherapy can assist us to ease our gardening aches and pains. Matt Williamson, a Milngavie physiotherapist, compared activities in the garden to some Olympic sports like weightlifting, rowing, gymnastics and marathon running! Lifting heavy bags of compost or shifting heavy pots all require strength and stamina and can cause damage to the body. Repetitive actions can also cause damage, so don't just crawl around on hands and knees for hours weeding or looking for that support to get you upright again; vary your tasks throughout the day/afternoon. He was most entertaining and certainly gained the interest of everyone present. His talk was different and it worked.

Who is speaking to us in March? **Brian Young of Holmes Farm Plants** will be visiting us on **Wednesday 11th March at 19:30 in Baljaffray Parish Church** and he will be continuing his tales of expanding his garden down near Kilmarnock as well as the nursery at Holmes Farm Plants. This will be Brian's third visit to us and he has always provided us with an excellent evening, in which his enthusiasm for his plants and garden shines out and galvanises all of us. He will bring, I hope, a selection of plants for you to purchase.

On **Wednesday 8th May** our guest speaker is **Sandra Bannister of the Tealeaf Garden & Cafe, Culross**. Sandra will be recounting how she combines the success of her small cafe specialising in home baking, teas and coffees, with the delights of her hidden walled garden. The scones look absolutely wonderful and her garden looks serene. The garden and cafe are only open at the weekend. I think this could well be a gem of a talk.

For those of you who missed the meeting in February, I announced that our Outing Sub Committee had agreed and arranged three excellent outings for the Club. For those who were in attendance, this is a reminder of the dates. On **Monday 18th May** we will be visiting **Alastair Wallace's garden in Strathblane**. This will be a late afternoon visit. **Thursday 9th July** we will be heading down to **Carolside** just outside Earlston. Carolside has a magnificent circular walled garden, plus they provide lunch and coffee. It will be the only visit of the day. Similarly, we will be travelling to **Cambo, Fife on Friday 28th August** to look at the Walled Garden, which should be at its peak then, and the rest of the grounds. Lunch will be available and again it is the only stop for the day. Full details of all the trips will be published in the near future, and our thanks must go to the sub-committee for arranging such an excellent outings programme.

The rain has stopped, but I suspect not for long. We spent a few days in the Spanish sun over this past week and I have to say, it was very pleasant. It would be superb if we were to experience another good sunny spring here to lift all our spirits and to distract us, for a while, from all the turmoil that is afflicting all parts of the world. Spring is here and the garden is coming alive. It will be such a pleasure to view old, reliable favourites and to welcome new additions to the gardenscape. Gardening is all about the present and the future and it always provides hope and pleasure, so enjoy your gardens, BUT don't forget about the Plant Sale in May!

With best wishes

Willie



