

Baldernock Gardening Club: Meeting on WEDNESDAY 12th JANUARY 2022 @ 19:30

Happy New Year Everyone,

The temperature has dropped quite considerably this morning in comparison to the mid-summer (Ok, April/May if we are fortunate) temperatures we were experiencing over New Year, but I feel slightly more comfortable with the return to "normal" expected seasonal temperatures. The plants in the garden are slightly confused, too, as the tips of some over-trusting bulbs, which have peeked into view, could suffer from the cold edge of the frost. The balmy January temperatures have, unfortunately, been accompanied with plenty of rain leaving the ground up here squelchy underfoot with good boot-clinging mud conditions. I have to admit that the dark, damp days have not enticed me out into the garden often, but on the dry, bright ones I have started to clear areas where I know spring bulbs are gathering energy to burst forth. To keep things simple, not a lot has happened in this Crossburn garden over the past couple of weeks, but no doubt the holidaying muscles will begin to ache more comprehensively with use in the coming weeks.

There is no doubt that Baldernock Gardening Club is not a Club that functions without incident or without minor dramas. Every month brings a new excitement to challenge the problem solving techniques and the confidence of the Committee. As you all know, our next meeting is on **WEDNESDAY 12th January 2022** at 19:30 in Baljaffray Parish Church Hall and our speaker **was** scheduled to be Ian Stocks. Well, it is NOT going to be Ian, who unfortunately has had to postpone his visit to us as he is attending hospital for tests and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him well. **Gary Carroll of Cranesbill Nursery**, who was scheduled to give us a Zoom talk on 15th February, has very willingly agreed to bring his talk forward to 12th January 2022 and to replace Ian. Gary will be talking about **Hardy Geraniums**, in which his nursery, Cranesbill, specialises and I can verify the quality of his plants, as can other members. Cranesbill Nursery has been in existence since 1984; has had several owners and several locations. Gary bought it in 2016, moved it from Tewkesbury to Walsall, where he lives. Gary worked as a Gardener for the National Trust at Moseley Hall in Wolverhampton, when he decided he needed more of a challenge, so bought Cranesbill. In the six years he has owned the nursery he has greatly increased its profile and its business and it will be a delight to hear him talk about his experiences and his love for the plants every garden has to have, Geraniums.

Gary's talk will be conducted via Zoom, so if you wish to attend at Baljaffray and watch on the big screen or you prefer to remain at home and log into Zoom, **please register now and preferably before 18:30 on Wednesday 12th January 2022. When registering, please indicate clearly that you will be attending the meeting in person at Baljaffray Church or that you wish to attend via Zoom.**

For those who will be attending the meeting in person, please take an LFT before arriving (if negative come, if positive don't!), please wear a mask at all times and please enter the building by the side entrance off Grampian Way. The main entrance to the Church is the large doorway looking onto the car park. Follow the path to the **left** of the Main Entrance towards Garmpan Way and round the building until you come to the

side Entrance (it is not a long walk) where Marjorie will be signing you in; those who attended the Christmas Gathering will know where to go, hopefully! The seating in the Hall will be well spaced out, as we have plenty of room, and if you are lucky, there may be a cup of coffee or tea at the end. There is plenty of car parking space either in front of the Church or in the adjoining Retail Park. Doors will open at 19:00.

For those attending via Zoom from the comfort of your own sofa, the usual rules will apply. An invitation will be sent out between 18:45 and 19:00 on Wednesday 12th January to log into the meeting before 19:30. If there are technical issues caused by a hyperventilating Chair, please be patient and keep on trying. You don't have to wear a mask on Zoom.

Any issues with the above, then please let me know.

On Wednesday 2nd February at Baljaffray Church, our speaker will be Nicola McNaughton, the Bonnie Gardener. Nicola is a regular attendee of our meetings, is a trained horticulturist, writer, Garden Designer and is local. Another interesting talk for you all and one for all looking for inspiration as to what to plant and where..

I won't take up any more of your time as you will be busy taking down your Christmas decorations, removing the twinkling lights from your gardens, deflating the blow-up Santas and keeping warm in preparation for the snow and ice forecast for Friday. Keep warm, stay away from the spiky virus with the Greek name and hopefully see many of you on the 12th.

Best wishes

Willie



