

BGC Aug. 2024 Newsletter: Short newsletter: Long, lazy days of rain

Good evening to you all,

After a few lovely days of sunshine and bearable warmth (unlike Southern France, where the heat was fierce), the rain has returned to foil my planned attempt at a small bonfire of woody garden refuse. The wind is even blowing in the correct direction away from housing and farm animals. So the next best thing is to sit down and re-connect with the membership after being silent for nearly two months and let's face it, it has been a pretty terrible two months for gardening. The club was very fortunate that one of the good days in June was the day and evening of our Summer Social when we enjoyed the freedom of Isabel Ewing's splendid garden, complete with sculptures, and the comfort and hospitality of her home. It was a most enjoyable evening and on behalf of you all, I thank Isabel for allowing us the use of her home and garden.

The garden up here in Crossburn is looking a bit battered, a trifle overgrown with a never-ending supply of weeds. Tall plants like delphiniums, which were staked, just flopped with the weight of water on their blooms. The philadelphus had plenty of blossom, but that didn't last long as the rain assaulted it, but the soft fruit has been excellent (gooseberries became a bit soft) and the veg is doing well. The apple trees are looking laden so plenty of work to do over the next few weeks/months with harvesting them. There are six plums on the plum tree! The constant battle against voracious deer continues with the installation of deterrents consisting of flashing lights and Radio 2. Our neighbours are more up-market and their flashing radio is tuned in to Radio 4. The deer do seem to be pestering others at the moment, obviously confused by the coterminous mix of the BBC World Service and '60s Pop, but the foxes have been in the garden every evening for the past three weeks; they obviously enjoy Radio 2.

Anyway, I just thought I would remind you that our first meeting of the 2024/25 Season is on **Wednesday 11th September at 19:30 in Baljaffray Church Hall**. Our speaker on the night is our well-kent "Meetings-Checker-In" **Colin Walker**, who is also responsible for the amazing succulents and cacti sale at our Annual Plant Sale, will be talking about the **History of Herbs** as well as displaying some of his collection of these from his home library. It will be a marvellous and very interesting start to our new season.

Susan Brimelow, our Membership Secretary, will be writing to you all very shortly, encouraging you to re-enlist for the coming year. Where possible, please do pay your subscription by BACS as cheques require finding one of the fast-disappearing bank premises to lodge them into the club's account. Also, please do pay as soon as possible as that saves a great deal of administrative time. The subscription remains at £20.00 per annum and helps to pay the rent of the hall, our speakers, our Christmas party and club outings. The latter is in abeyance at the moment as we are still searching for someone to take this task on. I do hope all of you will continue your membership as we have another splendid array of speakers for the year ahead.

The sun is shining again, so I will end this short note and return to my dead-heading, feeding the pots and hanging basket, weed collecting and generally trying to tidy up the garden. Enjoy the rest of the summer and as you know the schools start up again in about a week's time, so the rain should stop then! See you in September.

Best wishes

Willie

P.S. This was meant to be sent this morning, but I discovered that our membership emailing database had been wiped; I presume during the global outage last month. Anyway, it has been reconstructed and, I hope, correctly. Still got to reform the Non-Members database!! if you don't receive this email, let me know! 😊😊😊

