

Baldernock Gardening Club; August Newsletter 2022: Lovely summer days and days of rain.

Good morning one and all,

After a couple of months of blissful silence, I reckoned it was about time to stir your interest for the upcoming season of talks and meetings. We have all enjoyed the last week of sunshine, though I have to admit that I had to retreat indoors quite often just to cool down. Fortunately, we have had a summer with a fairly good dosage of rain, which has meant our gardens have not been ravaged by drought, as they have down in the Borders and in the South of England. The past week did require a great deal of watering-can transportation and after an hour it was becoming tedious and ever heavier. It has been lovely, though, to enjoy gardens when the sun is shining and the plants are standing proud. Members of the Club were able to enjoy their Club Outing to Teases House and Gardens and to Glassmount House in perfect conditions. The former was a vast garden with the promising beginnings of a reconstituted walled garden and wonderful prairie like planting at the front of the house. The latter was a mixture of Alice in Wonderland and an Aladdin's Cave of horticultural delight. It was not a large garden, but it was so crammed with plants that paths were obscured, sense of direction was lost and every turn and view revealed another gem. You could hear voices of other members, but couldn't see them because of the density of the planting. My abiding memory, apart from the plants, was the number of step-ladders abandoned in various parts of the garden; their proliferation suggested the user couldn't remember or find where they were, so just bought another set! The log piles were a work of art in their own right!



Members were also able to enjoy their visit to Rona Macleod's garden the day before the sun disappeared and judging by the comments, they thoroughly enjoyed this "gardening gem" as one member described it. Unfortunately, my wife and I couldn't attend as we have fallen, at last, to the delights of Covid. Needless to say, I have Man-Covid, which is a much more debilitating attack of the mildest variant. **Worse** is the fact that our painter, who was working on the outside of our windows, has gone down with it, so goodness knows when that work will be finished! I don't think we are to blame for his infection, but

The garden up here in Crossburn has been looking pretty good, he claims modestly. Various plants have appeared that I had forgotten I had planted, others have been revived after I thought I had killed them, a few appeared which made me wonder why I had planted them in the first place and the tree fern, planted with such excitement in January, has produced one lone flag-waving frond, with perhaps the hint of more to come - I hope! The clematis has been spectacular on the six stride arch and the campanula lactiflora Loddon Anna reached a height of over seven feet with plumes of fragrant blooms. I thought I had staked it well, then the rain plummeted and I realised I hadn't. It is blooming again at about six foot. We had an excellent crop of strawberries and are enjoying a healthy dose of peas. Courgettes are on go slow and grow small, whilst the potato yield is good but will not really reduce the impact of the cost of living. As to the wildlife, we have far too many crows and wood pigeons, which is having a detrimental effect on the smaller birds' visitations, apart from the robin who waits on the seed bin every morning. Butterflies have been a rarity, which is a great pity given that many of the plants, especially the lavender and echinops, are alive with bees. It has been a summer, though, in which because of the heat, we have been able to sit down and enjoy the garden, with the occasional glass of wine!

During the summer hiatus, between our marvellous Summer Social at Marjorie and Colin's house and garden in Strathblane and our first speaker on **Wednesday 14th September**, your committee has not been idle. I realise many of you spend most days looking at the Club's Website, so you will have observed that it has undergone a major revamp, improving its appearance and making it easier to manage. Those of you who haven't kept up this daily regime, may wish to investigate. All your previous login requirements apply and comments will be most welcome. We have incorporated the Baldernock Tartan into the design as this provides a link with our beginnings. We have made the site more accessible to those who have sight problems; there is a wheelchair icon on the top left of the Home Page giving you various viewing options. There are still tweaks we wish to make and hopefully we can achieve those over the next few months. The Club still requires someone to relieve Moira Adams from her site management chores, so a volunteer would be very welcome. Contrary to your Chairman's previous claims, IT expertise is **NOT** a requirement; you just have to be able to type faster than a one-fingered Chairman.

Thank you to all of you who re-subscribed to the Club so rapidly after Marie Kotzur's renewal notice. Members will be receiving the revived printed calendar to keep in your hand-bag or wallet and this should be ready for the first meeting, which as previously stated is on **Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 19:30 in Baljaffray Parish Church**. Our speaker is **Richard Green**, who will be telling us about his plant hunting in **Patagonia**. Richard is well known to quite a few of our Members, as he is Chair of the West of Scotland branch of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, as well as being SRC's Treasurer. The SRC also meets in Baljaffray Parish Church, so the

venue will not be a new experience to him. Richard has a wealth of experience having walked many of the European Mountain Ranges from the Dolomites to the Picos, plus the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, the Rockies and Andes in the Americas; in fact there appear to be few world mountain ranges he has not walked! This will be a marvellous start to our new season, so do attend to listen to Richard and to obtain your new Club Calendar; it is an irresistible offer! Then in October, we have **Jim Jermyn of Branklyn Gardens**.

That's it for now as I need to go and feel sorry for myself, water the tomatoes, look at my one tree fern frond, continue the battle of trying to defend the garden from deer visitations and to pull up the weeds that will have appeared after the overnight rain. Gardening ensures you are never stuck for jobs to do, but most of them are enjoyable.

Best wishes to all and hopefully see you all in September. I will remind you closer to the event.

Willie





