

Good morning everyone,

With the clocks due to go back next weekend, we are entering that twilight period of the year when the daylight hours are fewer in number, but don't completely confine us. The autumn colours around the gardens and the countryside are just about at their best, though looking up the Blane Valley from Ardinning earlier this week, it will be a couple more weeks before the trees really display their final flourish of the year. We had a splendid talk from Syd House at the beginning of this month, in which he extolled the beauty of the Perthshire countryside in autumn, but there is plenty of colour around Milngavie, Bearsden and Baldernock in the woods and gardens. Doing my daily Covid walk around the local streets, I am seeing plenty of beautiful acers with colours so bright the dark glasses are almost required. As to Crossburn and its surrounds, the hues of autumn are on full display and with the recent stillness of the wind, it is a very peaceful and restful scene, unless you are trying to sweep up endless piles of leaves! Bulb planting for the spring is ongoing; division of plants is heavy work, especially in my soil and the moving of pots and containers is all part of the preparation for winter and the coming spring. The birds are back feeding like fury on the feeders, but too many magpies as always seems to be the case at this time of year. A buzzard was sitting on the fence at the back of the garden this morning, but wouldn't wait for his picture to be taken, which was pretty rude. When we bought Crossburn 36 years ago, there was one tree on our land. It was a relatively small Rowan, which grew as the years passed, but this year, sadly, it died and has had to be cut down and has altered the view up the long border. The stump has been retained and the plan is to allow clematis, perhaps, to climb and roam over it. The birds have adapted to the loss of many perches.

I have received quite a bit of correspondence which requires to be forwarded to you all, plus we have had a Zoom Committee Meeting and some decisions from that need to be announced, so you now need to concentrate. As mentioned above, Syd House gave us a fascinating talk on the Reforestation of Scotland, which I found to be very informative and quite inspiring. Our next speaker on **Tuesday 3rd November at 7:30 p.m. is Brian Young of Holm Farm Gardens**. Brian has spoken to the Club before and he is an enthusiastic plantaholic. His enthusiasm is pretty infectious so I reckon his talk **On Creating Holm Farm Gardens** will be full of boundless Zoom energy. The notice to get the login details will be issued around the 25th/26th of this month, but if you wish to register your interest now, please so do.



Now this little chap (presumptive masculinity) was spotted the other day preparing his voice for Christmas and the glory of all his relatives appearing on Christmas cards. But mentioning Christmas, leads me on to the **December Meeting**. This was scheduled, pre Covid, to occur on Tuesday 1st December, **but we have changed the date.** **THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL NOW BE HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER AT 7:00 FOR 7:30 P.M. and it will be for Members only.** Exciting

details will follow before too long, so **change the date** in your diaries/calendars/ handkerchief knots or whatever and start honing up on your plant knowledge, your botanic musical knowledge, plus your Christmas Flower Arranging skills. We are going to have a Zoom Party! Bring your own bottle and nibbles and be happy!

Jane Logan's grandson attends a nursery in Stenhousemuir, which has a garden for the children to play and do activities in. Unfortunately, it has just been vandalised for the 4th time and the Nursery is looking for help to replace plants and materials. If anyone has anything to offer, then please contact Jane directly. Her contact details are on the Club Website.

Sandra Wilson, well known in the past for arranging events called OUTINGS, is looking for any **HESPERANTHA** clumps that members may have dug up. She is looking for red, pink or white varieties of a plant formerly known as Kaffir Lily (probably NOT a name used much these days) River Lily or Schizostylis. If you have a photo, that would help. If you have any available please contact Sandra directly.



Fay Pascoe has separated some bearded iris, as shown, which she is delighted to offer to any members should they wish to collect. Please contact Fay directly.

Now is the time of year, too, when we buy calendars for the coming year and start to record the date and times of our busy lives. Recently, most calendars have been relatively blank, but in the spirit of "things can only get better", I have **TWO** to offer you. Number one is the **Milngavie in Bloom** offering of their annual production with photographs of all the excellent work they have undertaken around Milngavie in the past year. If you would like one or even more, they are £8:00 each so, again, please contact Sandra direct. She will be asking for the exact amount in cash, in an envelope for payment. The second calendar is **Ruth Rowlands's** annual collection of her own superb wildlife and landscape photographs. She is donating the profits for this to Alzheimer Scotland, so if members would email Ruth directly (email address on our Member Website) stating if they wish to purchase, at £9:00 each, either a Wildlife Calendar or a Landscape Calendar or both, Ruth will reply to you and will deliver sometime in early November.

Almost finally, when we last met way back in March in the pre -Zoom reality days, Babs Frame and Jean Nicholson were due to get, respectively, a long awaited new hip and a new knee. Sadly with the pandemic those operations were cancelled, BUT in August they both underwent their operations and are now gambolling about and enjoying their Covid walks. it is good to end on a positive note.

So, with a weather warning for rain over the next two days, it is time for me to vacate the desk and to venture out to attend to the increasing waiting list of jobs to be done. Please all stay safe and healthy, wear your spectacle misting masks and enjoy, as always, your gardens and the spectacular autumn colours around you.

With best wishes to you all,

Willie

