

November 2021 Newsletter:

Only 34 days until daylight starts to lengthen

Good evening everyone,

It is the time of year when venturing out into the garden to do more than sweep up leaves requires willpower. Mind you, recently it has been one horribly dank day followed by a bright sunny one, which is greatly appreciated but somewhat confusing. The nerines are flowering beautifully with those bright sparse blooms, the cyclamen is still going strong and the autumn primulas are struggling to be seen above the fallen leaves. The dahlias have all been lifted, cleaned and packed away in crates in the garage, which has very seldom sheltered a car! The last sweeping up of leaves, I truly hope, is about to happen, if I can create enough room in the leaf bins. The bare stems of leafless perennials provide both a stark structure to the annual decay as well as useful rest places for the birds before attacking the feeder or waiting their turn to feed whilst the woodpecker commandeers the whole thing as he stocks up. The tree sparrows cheekily ignore his aggressive nature and annoy him by going to posts outwith his immediate reach. . The bird feeder is being extremely well used and requires constant and costly topping up! All the bulbs have been planted for the spring and it is to be hoped the squirrels and mice don't find too many of them. The squirrels have stashed away a great quantity of chestnuts, which I keep on finding and then covering up again in the hope they will rediscover these rather than the bulbs.

My garden does not have any early flowering snowdrops, which, I admit, I didn't know existed until listening to Michael Myers's comprehensive talk earlier this month. Michael gave us a fascinating, in-depth talk on his love for snowdrops and how there are over 2000 varieties, which can only be distinguished by getting down on your hands and knees to study the green markings in the inner petals. It would be rising back up onto my feet that would worry me! Michael did not just concentrate upon the snowdrops and the prices of some single bulbs (£1760.00 each), but focussed, too, on hellebores, winter aconites and other heralds of spring. It was a detailed and informative talk, which certainly had the audience in the Fraser Centre enthralled. Our next talk is **at 19:30 on WEDNESDAY 12th JANUARY 2022 in the Hall at BALJAFFRAY PARISH CHURCH, Grampian Way, Bearsden.** Our speaker is **Ian Stocks** on "**Growing Vegetables: The Easy Way!**". Ian is Vice Chair of the National Vegetable Society and Chair of the Scottish Branch. He is a top grower, with a special interest in growing vegetables (obviously) for exhibition and alternative growing methods, such

as hydroponics. Full details regarding this meeting will be available next month and it is hoped, Covid restrictions allowing, that many more will attend in person in our big, airy new hall. Ian could be our first "real" speaker since Kevin Hughes in March 2020. This talk will, fingers crossed, be available on Zoom too.

Before our inaugural talk in Baljaffray, we have our **Christmas Party, which is for MEMBERS ONLY, on Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 19:00 for 19:30 in the Hall at BALJAFFRAY PARISH CHURCH.** The evening will be very much a social event, whilst maintaining awareness of Covid restrictions. There will be a Quiz, enjoyed by all over the years. Part of the Quiz will be choreographed, directed by and starring Ruth Rowlands and her cello; no dancing but Strictly Come Quizzing. All attending will be allocated a table with three other members and mixing new members in with seasoned campaigners. Google will have been scrambled during the Quiz! There will be finger food served by your wondrous Committee, so no personal rummaging for the sausage roll, but served to you via a tong. There will be soft drinks, water and, of course, wine, poured delicately by the resident sommelier. So, try to employ your in-house chauffeur, who can utilise the plentiful parking spaces around the church and view the various Take-Aways in the Baljaffray Retail Park.

We are keeping it all very simple this year as it is our first use of our new residence, plus we have many new members who have not had the opportunity to meet other members or enjoy the thrills and deep thought engendered by the Quiz, plus many of us haven't seen each other for nearly two years. The Committee and I hope as many of you as possible will join us on **8th December from 19:00 onwards.** To give us time to organise teams, seating, food and drink, **will all those Members wishing to attend the party at Baljaffray please advise Moira Adams, on the Club email, before the end of Tuesday 30th November 2021.** The Committee is really looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible on the 8th and enjoying a good dose of craic.

For those Members who wish to enjoy the challenge of the Quiz, but do not want to join us in the Hall, we will, dependent upon numbers, Zoom the Quiz, so again those wishing to participate by Zoom please advise me as usual, making it very clear that you are Zooming and please do so preferably by 30th November.

Now, there are several calendars, available to all, from Members who have outside interests other than just BGC (shocking). Milngavie-in-Bloom's calendar can be purchased from a few local retailers or from Sandra Wilson, cost £8.00. Jane Logan has, at £7.00, a calendar depicting

the countryside around Baldernock and in aid of the Baldernock Community Trust and the new Baldernock Tartan, which will be modelled on the 8th!. Ruth Rowlands, who has a Facebook page Ruth Rowlands Photography, has two calendars of her own wonderful photographs available at £10.00, profits to Alzheimer Scotland and Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue.

Also available are some dahlia tubers from Fay Pascoe. She has a super abundance of "tubers which produce a very large yellow flower". She would very much like as many as possible taken off her hands, or out of her garage! If you contact Fay directly or by the Club email; I will ensure it is forwarded. Furthermore, the West of Scotland group of the Scottish Rock Garden Club is responsible for the distribution of the seeds for the seed exchange the coming year (2022). The packaging and posting of the seed packets will take place from Monday 17th to Friday 28th January 2022 in Westerton Parish Church Hall. The SRGC are looking for volunteers to help with the packaging. Volunteers can earn their seed money (helpers will receive an allocation of seeds) by volunteering for a day, half a day or several days. Please contact Kathleen Cartwright on [arcturus@btinternet.com](mailto:arcturus@btinternet.com) if you wish to help.

That is all for this month. If anything is unclear, just let me know and I look forward to seeing and meeting as many Members as possible on the 8th. Now, I hope I press all the correct buttons on the computer this month!

Continue to stay safe and well.

Willie







