

BGC Newsletter June 2026:

Scorching weather, screeching starlings, striking colours

Good morning everyone,

There is a confession that has to be made, which is that I grew tired of the RSPB's plea not to feed the birds, until, that is, the starlings arrived. Somehow looking out from the kitchen window and seeing no birds on the feeders made for a very boring experience. The fledgling chaffinches were just beginning to chase their parents around the garden demanding a constant supply of food, when I stopped filling the feeders with seeds. The birds went on the huff and even refused to sing or chatter when I was around. The cold shoulder effect worked and I relented after nearly a week and after cleaning out the feeders yet again. That had them flooding back until on Thursday and Friday when the starlings descended. What a noise! Sitting out in the garden you could hardly hear what our guests were saying as the starlings sped all around the garden screeching their little heads off. It was the overgrown fledglings that were creating the din as the poor bedraggled parents scrabbled to find a morsel to ram down their dear little throats and hope that they stop yelling. All is peaceful this morning so it will be time and in the peace and quiet of the garden to fill the plant pots with summer bedding plants. Those few days of heat and warmth have transformed the garden with azaleas in full bloom, alliums standing proud, geums, lychnis and camassia adding splashes of colour, but as I am hobbling between two sticks I can't actually do very much at the moment, so, for once, I can just sit back and enjoy all the sounds, aromas and the colour, plus watch the weeds grow. I am waiting for all the peonies to bloom, which is always a highlight

We have finished the talks for this season and only have the Summer Social (Members only) to enjoy on Wednesday 10th June at Sandra Wilson's garden and home. There is still room for a few more to join the merry throng, so if you haven't signed up yet, please do so before Wednesday 3rd June. Let us all hope, too, that the weather is kind to us and we can spend a lot of our time outside enjoying Sandra's garden. Members still have two further Outings to enjoy, one to Carolside in July and the other to Cambo in late August and you will be kept informed about those throughout the summer. Those of us who descended upon Alastair Wallace's garden in Strathblane on May 18th had a marvellous visit. It is a hidden gem and we were made most welcome. It was all superbly organised by the Outings Team.

Our talks begin again on **Wednesday 9th September 2026 with our guest speaker being Simon Jones of the NTS. His talk will be about Pioneering Women in Horticulture - Past & Present.** This should be a fascinating talk to start off our new season. This is my last newsletter until August as I am giving you all a rest. It has also been quite difficult to write this one as I am under the influence of pretty strong painkillers, plus a new hip, and have found I have had to correct just about every word I have typed as I keep on hitting the wrong keys. No wonder most of the lyrics of the 1960s and 70s are still unintelligible, so I am keeping this short - sigh of relief all round. I do hope you enjoy your summer in the garden and that they all flourish. Subscription renewals will ping into your inboxes at the beginning of August and I look forward to seeing you all next season. Thank you for all your support.

With best wishes

Willie



