

## **Baldernock Gardening Club: May Newsletter: Sun and rain, lots, excellent for weeds.**

Good evening one and all,

Hopefully all the Club Members have fully recovered from their exertions at the Annual Plant Sale on 14th May. It certainly exceeded expectations after the hiatus caused by Covid and we were blessed again with good weather for the day. There were not too many plants left over from the sale and those that were have mostly found new homes. Since then it has been back to one's own garden and what have been perfect growing conditions for weeds, if we are still able to refer to unwanted growth as such. This year, as I mentioned before, has been exceptional for the tree and the rhododendron blossom, now it is the turn of the azaleas. In fact, everything is just again on the cusp of flowering. The irises are blooming, the astrantia has a few, the lupins, poppies and peonies have huge buds and the clematis is scrambling upwards. It is such a lift when you see all the colours beginning to emerge, but then realise you still haven't moved that one that clashes so badly with its neighbours (make another note to move it!). The primulas are providing a mass of colour up at the back of the garden in the boggy bit, where they are mingling quite contentedly with the irises and the weeds. On the nature front, there is not much to report on as the starlings have taken over the bird feeders! They descend like a black cloud and certainly not murmuring, accompanied by their big fledglings, who constantly bully them for more food. I have witnessed quite a few of these large youngsters trampling over the top of their parent, as they attempt to ram food into their mouths. The bird feeder has also been under attack from the squirrels, who have managed to chew through the metal and make off with two of the bolted-on bird perches. In fact, one of the dear things sat on the lawn with one of the perches in its mouth and made off with it when I came out. The woodpecker is the only bird both the squirrel and the starlings give way to, the rest just pounce when there is a moment of respite.

We have no more meetings until **Wednesday 14th September**, when our speaker will be Richard Green of the Scottish Rock Garden Club. Full details about that talk will be issued closer to the event. Until then, Members have only the Summer Social on **Wednesday 8th June** to enjoy (Marjorie is sending out details and directions very shortly) and the Outing to Teases and Glassmount on 26th July, which if you haven't signed up for this, then hurry up! In between the Summer Social and the Club Outing, there are garden events to see. On Sunday 19th June there is the Milton of Campsie Gardens Open Day. There are eight gardens to view, seven of which are private gardens and the last is a community Garden. The cost to view is £7.00 for all 8 and there is a tearoom in the Bowling Club.

Following on from the Plant Sale, there was one item of clothing left behind, a dark, blue quilted gilet. If it is yours please contact Marie Lees or me.

Some of you may have noticed, and been horrified, that our Website has not been allowing you access. We discovered this fault on Sunday. It is being rectified, but it may take a few days before we are back up and running again, so please display your renowned gardener's patience. You will be advised when it is fixed.

This is my last Newsletter until August as I think we all need a rest from the monthly musings, plus we will all be far too busy in our gardens, enjoying the sunshine and ignoring our emails. If anything of great import does arise, like the resurrection of the Website, I will keep you informed. It has been quite a year from the depths of lockdown and splendid isolation to a full blown, virtually maskless and overcrowded Plant Sale and throughout it all our gardens have continued to give us immense pleasure. Enjoy your summer, enjoy your gardens and hopefully I will see many of the Club Members in Marjorie and Colin's splendid garden on 8th June.

Best wishes to you all,

Willie



