

BGC Jan. 2023 Newsletter: The rain looks the same as last year!

Good morning and Happy New Year to you all,

It is to be hoped that you all had an enjoyable Festive period; I certainly did. The decorations are down now, though it seems hardly anytime at all since they were put up and a visit to the "cowp" has been booked to dispose of the Christmas Tree. A visit to Mavis Bank Recycling Centre is always a highlight of the day! The weather over the last few weeks has seen snow, a tremendous amount of rain, wind, ice, sunshine and temperatures ranging from -6c to +12c; on that last point, relatives in Birmingham, Alabama were recounting, via Zoom, their horror at the -13.3c they were enduring. In December down there they usually enjoy around +20c. My garden, entirely because of the weather and not because of laziness, has been somewhat neglected over the last few weeks and there are things that need to be attended to. The ground is pretty soggy and much of the garden is looking very sad indeed, but I will endeavour to galvanise myself to don the winter gardening gear and get out there, as, after all, the daily hours of daylight are increasing. The local bird population has continued to flock to the bird feeders, along with the grey squirrel who defeats all my deterrents. The deer have been in the vicinity, but so far they have not caused too much damage, probably because none of the offerings look particularly appetising.

Thank you to so many of you (the Members) for attending the Christmas Party. It was a most successful and enjoyable occasion. Particular thanks have to be extended to Marie Lees for providing us all with a marvellous buffet and to Ruth Rowlands for once again taxing our brains with her musical quiz. Her cello playing had many feet tapping and much head scratching as recognition of the tune was sought.

Our first meeting of 2023 is on **Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 19:30**, i.e. next week. Our speaker is **David Marsh** who is a gardener and a historian and for the last 20 years he has been researching and talking about gardens and the history of gardens and gardening. He gives talks at University level, to gardening clubs and horticultural societies. For us, he will be telling us all about the **History of Garden Gnomes**, which should be a little different from our usual talks. Should you wish to know more about David, then he has his own website www.gardenhistorytalks.com

David will be giving this talk by **Zoom**, which will be beamed into Baljaffray Church Hall from 19:30 on Wednesday 11th. **If you wish to attend the talk at Baljaffray**, then please arrive as per normal between 19:00 and 19:30 and watch the talk on the big screen. There is no need to advise me that you will be attending in the hall.

On the other hand, should you wish to stay in the comfort of your own home and watch the talk on your own screen, then let me know by 18:45 on Wednesday 11th January. At around 19:00, you will be sent the log in details for the talk. It will be just like the days of Covid and the lock downs! Should you be uncertain of the arrangements, then please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the Committee. In brief, if you are coming to Baljaffray, just turn up; if staying at home, let me know.

Greg Kenicer is our Speaker on Wednesday 8th February 2023. Greg will be talking, in person at Baljaffray, about the **Magic of Plants**. Greg is a botanist at Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden and he is also an author. His book, Magic of Plants, is an informative and entertaining look at why plants have been used in magic, so we should be looking forward to another excellent evening.

Just to remind you, the Scottish Rock Garden Club seed packaging exchange will be happening in Westerton Parish Church Hall from Monday 9th January to Friday 20th January. Should you wish to volunteer and earn yourselves a packet of seeds, plus some very good exchanges of ideas, then contact Kathleen Cartwright on arcturus@btinternet.com

That's all for this month, so I hope to see many of you next Wednesday either in person in Baljaffray Church Hall or on the big screen. In the meantime, stay clear of flu, Covid, other illnesses, stay warm and maybe do a little bit of gardening.

Best wishes to you all,

Willie

