

# Baldernock Gardening Club: August 2023 Newsletter:

## Wild and woolly gardens

Good afternoon everyone,

Welcome back to the world of the BGC after a couple of months of relative silence. I am hopeful you have all had a good summer in your gardens and, if you went abroad, you did not become over cooked. After the middle of June, there wasn't much chance of being over cooked in Milngavie as the jetstream ensured we had the rain other countries were praying for. It does seem a long time ago, almost two months past since the Club's Summer Social, when we were enjoying the warm sunshine, the balmy, midge free evenings, the profusion of rose blooms and the wish that the warmth would continue right through the summer. We forget, always, that the weather breaks as soon as the school holidays start; unfortunately, there is no counter contrariness when the schools return!

At the Summer Social, we enjoyed an almost perfect evening of weather and, I may be biased here, but both gardens at Crossburn were looking in pretty good nick for the occasion. Since then the increasing alarm warnings of water shortages caused by six weeks of no rain, have somewhat abated. The rain and the damp has certainly not abated. The garden here has had a good summer, so maybe the early summer heat followed by plenty of moisture, has been beneficial. The clematis on the eight stride arch have been spectacular and long lasting, thanks, in part, to a daily routine of dead-heading. Similarly, the salvia, which this year I planted in pots rather than in the ground, have actually survived and have given a wonderful display. For years I have had no success with salvia, of any variety or colour, so from now onwards it will be salvia in pots. For many years, too, I have grown my sweet peas up through cane wigwams and they produced short and twisted stemmed flowers, but this year I Heath Robinson-ed a free standing trellis and the effect has been remarkable (the trellis managed to stay up!). We have been collecting huge, long stemmed bunches daily for the past few weeks and they are still coming. The scent has been wonderful. The dahlias are doing well; in fact, as Joe Swift reported recently in the Times, the garden is looking decidedly wild and woolly with plenty of colour and over full beds, which seems to have even put off the deer as there is too much choice. The deer have visited over recent days, but they have concentrated their diet on the fallen apples, which has saved me from picking them up from the "lawn". Talking of apples, it does look as though we will have a good crop this year, which in turn means plenty of stewed-apple for the morning porridge. All the vegetables have done well, except for the garlic which has been pretty disastrous. So all in all, apart from battling against the persistent growth of weeds (sticky willow has been a particularly invasive nuisance), it has been a good summer in the garden. As each summer passes and the human body creaks a bit more, some tasks do take longer to accomplish and the requirement for increased tea drinking, accompanied by a seat, becomes more welcome and necessary.

Now I must move onto Club business, which is really what this Newsletter should be concentrating upon. Our first meeting of the new season is **Wednesday 13th September at 19:30 in Baljaffray Parish Church** and our speaker will be **Melissa Simpson, Head Gardener at Dumfries House**. At the time of writing, I am still awaiting details from Melissa, which I will advise you of prior to the meeting. Then on **Wednesday 11th October** our speaker will be **Andy MacGregor**, a Bearsden native, who is a member of the British Pteridological Society and has appeared on Gardeners' World, will be taking us into the wonderful world of ferns. By the time of our first meeting, I am still hoping the sound system at the Church will have been renewed, but like anything that affects disparate interests, progress is never quite as quick as one would wish for, so just keep your non-gardening fingers crossed.

It is not often I have the opportunity to talk about spoons, but if anyone who attended the Summer Social recognises these as missing family heirlooms, please let me know and I will return them to you.



I have been asked by Nancy Stevens to pass on her thanks to all the members who sent cards, emails or attended Dan's funeral. She found it very heart warming and is very much appreciated. She adds that the undertaker advised her she had underestimated the orders of service by at least 50, so for anyone who attended after they ran out and had to hum along to the hymns, she sends her apologies.

I know from the emails flooding into the Club today, that it is the Annual Subscription Renewal time. As you know Marie Kotzur, who has looked after the Membership applications for the past few years, has, regrettably, had to resign from the Committee due to the pressures of work. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Marie for the immense contribution she has made to the Club and also extend that thanks to Caroline Preacher for adding this portfolio to her Outings one, **whilst a replacement for Marie is sought**. As Marie said in her covering note to you all, it will greatly help the process if you could all pay by BACS. The Committee knows this may not be possible for everyone and we will be very grateful for a cheque instead, but if you can pay by BACS, then please do so. It really does make life and administration a lot simpler and faster.

Caroline, wearing her Outings badge, is busy, too, arranging an Outing to the Japanese Garden at Dollar in September. No date has been finalised yet, as she is arranging to visit another garden on the same day. Full details of this Outing will follow fairly shortly and once those have been announced, then you may put your names down for the visit.

The Committee will be meeting at the end of this month to review the year ahead, for, as you know, it is only 4 months until the Christmas Party and just over 8 months until the Annual Plant Sale. The annual cycle of events seems to spin faster and faster every year.

After two months of resting my right middle finger from typing, I have now brought it back into use with a vengeance, so I will suffer the consequences of pain in an unused muscle for the next few days. I do hope all of you will continue your Membership of the Club as we have another year of excellent talks ahead of us. For those readers who are not Members, you are always very welcome to join us for any of the talks at Baljaffray. I look forward to as full a house as possible on **Wednesday 13th September** and to hear Melissa Simpson. It should be a fascinating evening. In the meantime, there is still plenty of work to be done in your gardens and plenty of plants still to enjoy. Stay well.

With best wishes  
Willie

