Scottish Gardeners Forum Winter Gathering

By kind invitation of Busby and Clarkston Horticultural Society
and their President, Fergus Cumming.

Saturday 9th November 2024 10am until 4pm

Clarkston Halls
Clarkston Rd
Glasgow G76 8NE

Trains from Glasgow Central
to Clarkston

Fergus with his Caley Award

The programme for the day includes talks by:

Andrew Hinson
Head Gardener
NTS Greenbank Garden
Glasgow

MT O'Donnell
Editor of *Scotland Grows* magazine

Chelsea Lowe
Head Gardener
Horatio's Garden
Queen Elizabeth University Hospital
Glasgow

There will be a pot plant competition
(see page 7) and a raffle
Lunch and refreshments will be provided
Cost £15/person. Open to non-members.
Register with the central pull-out form.

Scottish Gardeners' Forum Newsletter

PROMOTING SCOTLAND'S GARDEN CLUBS

North Berwick Tulips, p 20

Summer 2024 Vol 22: Issue 2

Contents

Letter from the Chair	2	The Caley's Grow & Learn Award	14
Sign Up to e-News	3	Cupar Flower Show	15
Pallets & Planters 2024	4	North Berwick Tulip Festival	16
Almondell Model Railway	6	Bridge of Weir Gardening Club	18
SGF Winter Gathering	7	Dollar Gardening	19
My Favourite Plant	8	The Nairn Schools' Pallets	20
Scottish Rock Garden Show	9	Stewarton Gardening Club	22
Largs and District HS	10	Newburgh Plum Orchard	22
Ayr & District Flower Show	11	Your Council	23
Events	12	Regional Co-Ordinators	23
Form	*Centre Spread*	SGF Winter Gathering	24

Letter from the Chair

We have returned from the Scone Palace Garden Fair delighted with the entries to the Pallet and Planter challenge (see page 4).

Events like this are hard work and require a lot of planning but are also most enjoyable. It gives us the opportunity to meet lots of lovely people, some members of our clubs, but most of all it is a chance for members of the Council to catch up in person. We hold our quarterly meetings by video link, which works well for us, being spread the length and breadth of the country. However, we can't always travel the distances required to be together in one place. We were also very pleased to have the help of members from Auchtermuchty HS and RHS Perth clubs. Thank you, ladies, for coming along, it was lovely to meet you and I hope you enjoyed the Fair.

I particularly enjoyed talking to visitors to the Fair and hearing news from other clubs, some of it positive but also sad stories of clubs unable to function any longer and others struggling to keep going with their local shows, as fewer people are prepared to help. It seems unfair that the burden should fall on the same willing actors while many others benefit. A little help goes a long way; even those less mobile can fulfil a useful role and we all like to feel that we are needed.

We are currently looking for new members of the SGF Council and have been grateful for the goodwill of current members continuing long past their intended notice. Sadly, this is not sustainable.

Your Council

Honorary President:
Jim Jermyn

Honorary Vice-President:
Brian Cunningham

Chair:
Kathryn Pitts (West Linton HS)
chair@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Acting Secretary:
Alison Murison (The Caley)
secretary@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Treasurer:
Andrea McDowall (Kirkintilloch HS)
treasurer@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Membership Secretary:
Mrs Mike Rossi (National Bonsai Collection of Scotland)
98 Main Street, Coaltown of Balgonie,
Glenrothes, Fife KY7 6HZ
Tel: 07954410579
membership@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Council Members:
Fyfe Blair (The Caim at Luthermuir)
Tom Campbell (Brighter Bervie)
Hazel Mulberry (Stewarton Gardeing Club)
Anne Vincent (Nairn and District Horticultural Society)
Catherine Wright (North Berwick in Bloom)

Registers of Speakers and Judges:
Donald M Hepburn (Bridge of Weir Horticultural Society)
registers@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Newsletter and Website Editor:
Alison Murison (The Caley)
editor@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Facebook and New Media:
Tracey Stone
media@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Regional Co-Ordinators

North	Ann Vincent, Nairn and District HS	north@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk
North East	Tom Campbell, Brighter Bervie	northeast@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk
East	Kathryn Pitts, West Linton HS	east@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk
Fife	Mike Rossi, National Bonsai Collection of Scotland	fife@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk
West	Donald Hepburn, Bridge of Weir HS	west@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk
West Central	Andrea McDowall, Kirkintilloch HS	westcentral@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Stewarton Gardening Club

At this year's Annual General Meeting Jean Campbell retired after 15 years as the Club Treasurer. Jean has been a stalwart of the Stewarton Gardening Club for 36 years and was awarded an Honorary Membership of the Club.

Jean Campbell

The Club had another successful Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 11th May at John Knox Church Hall. Everyone enjoyed the coffee, tea and freshly made scones with friends old and new. Thanks to everyone who donated plants and baking. Fortunately, the weather was very kind to us with wall-to-wall sunshine – one of the few days this year so far!

The annual Flower Show is our next event and the Club gardeners have been busy getting ready to display their exhibits with the hope of winning a prize. It is hoped that the mixed weather and cold winds have not done too much damage to the plants – gardening is always a bit of a challenge and none more so this year.

The Stewarton Gardening Club Flower Show is on **Saturday 7th September** in John Knox Church Hall, Stewarton. It is open to the public from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

The new monthly programme starts on Monday 30th September with a presentation on Floriade International Garden Festival.

Hazel Mulberry
Club Secretary

Newburgh Orchard Group Plum Market

NOG is once again planning to hold its famous Plum Market, selling fruit from Newburgh's private gardens. Last year the crop was better than expected and we sold out by 11am on both Saturdays. The usual date is the last Saturday morning in August, but early indications suggest that the crop will be smaller than last year's. The actual date could be a week earlier or later depending on the weather from early June onwards. Please check our Facebook page Newburgh Orchard Group or website

newburghorchards.org.uk

nearer the time.

Paul Dodman
Treasurer

My plans for the coming months include an invitation from Nairn and District Gardening Club, on behalf of Scottish Gardeners Forum, to present the awards at their annual show. I am really looking forward to this and have taken the opportunity to plan visits to notable gardens in the area. Then we have been asked by the Scottish Rock Garden Club to attend their meeting at Livingston in September. This promises to be an interesting day with speakers and activities for visitors.

There will also be a ***Scottish Gardeners' Forum Winter Gathering***, to be held in November at the invitation of Busby and Clarkston HS. We would be particularly pleased to see as many members as possible at Clarkston, as it promises to be a most enjoyable day. Our hosts have worked hard to ensure that the arrangements go smoothly, and they are renowned for their hospitality and enthusiasm. We have arranged excellent speakers, two of whom are Head Gardeners in the locality and will talk about their experiences. Our third speaker is the editor of a gardening magazine.

Closer to home, work continues in my own garden; I have much to catch up on as a recent hip replacement, my Grandson's first birthday and then preparations for Scone have delayed things somewhat. The cold wet weather isn't helping either and I hesitate to move things outside until I am sure they will survive the wind and hail. Looking wonderful just now are the Iris sibirica near the pond, the Paeonies and the Delphiniums, all holding up well in the deluge. I can see that there is quite a lot of pruning needed but will seek expert help, particularly since ladders will be involved!

I am hoping that we will have a few more sunny days to come, but whatever the weather I wish you success in your own gardens and a rewarding and enjoyable growing season.

Kathryn Pitts
Chair

Sign Up to e-News

Scottish Gardeners' Forum has an e-Newsletter, which goes out monthly to keep you up-to-date with everything that is happening.

Your name and address will be held securely, and only for this purpose. You will be able to Unsubscribe at any time.

If you would like to join the 100+ already on the circulation list, then please fill up the form at:

http://eepurl.com/iKhMbo

The sign-up can also be found at:

www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk/membership/members-only/

Please send me news items and photos for inclusion in the e-Newsletter.

Alison Murison
Editor
editor@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

2024 Pallet Garden & Planters

On Friday 31st May and Saturday 1st June the third annual Scone Palace Garden Fair was hosted by Viscount Stormont in the magnificent grounds of his ancestral home. Head Gardener, Brian Cunningham, Hon Vice President of the SGF, organises this excellent event. The customary fine weather and spectacular displays provided a thoroughly enjoyable experience for the many visitors.

The SGF Gazebo and Pallet Garden and Planter Challenge were popular attractions for visitors, including a good number of SGF members. Our thanks for showing your support. Thanks also to the Council and Club Members who came to talk with visitors, to the staff and students of the Dundee and Angus (D&A) College Horticultural Department who helped to set-up and dismantle our display area, to our judges, and especially to the groups and individuals whose hard work and skills created the eight Pallet Gardens and four brightly coloured Planters. All this year's displays more than met the challenge and gave our judges a tough job to assess them.

There's no shortage of space in the Scone Palace grounds, so next year we'd love to welcome many more

The Build up

Visitors enjoying the display

sive potager in a pallet. The plants looked strong and showed luxuriant growth. Many had been grown from seed and we felt they had done very well in the light of the low temperatures which had prevailed. String with different coloured beads radiated from the plants and was attached to an adjacent wall and this represented the trajectory of fruit and vegetables thrown by the plants at the zombies. The young gardeners were most enthusiastic and had clearly been very engaged by this project.

The entry from Croy Primary School had been inspired by the Primary 2 class reading the Faraway Tree trilogy by Enid Blyton. They had decided to plant their pallet near the school gate, so that parents, pupils and staff could enjoy the garden. In keeping with their chosen theme, the pallet garden had been linked to a nearby Rowan tree by a path constructed from local stones. This was the first time we had seen a tree incorporated into a design. An oak sapling featured in the pallet alongside petunias, bacopa, sea thrift and fuchsias. This was a delightful interpretation of the story the class had been studying.

We awarded the first prize to Millbank and placed Croy and Rosebank joint second. The trophy and prizes (garden vouchers for each school) will be presented at our Annual Show, on Saturday 10th August 2024, at Nairn Community and Arts Centre. We look forward to welcoming Kathryn Pitts. Chair of SGF, who will be presenting the trophies this year.

Anne Vincent

Croy Primary

The Nairn Schools Pallet Garden Challenge 2024

The Olympic Games proved to be a topical and highly successful choice for the entry from Millbank Primary School, in the pallet garden competition organised by Nairn and District Gardening Club. An Eiffel Tower constructed from garden canes towered over the pallet which was backed by red, blue and white ribbons representing the French flag. The five coloured Olympic rings symbolise the union of the five inhabited continents and the meeting of athletes from throughout the world at the Olympic Games.

The young gardeners of Millbank had selected plants associated with some aspect of each continent. A Coca Cola plant (Artemisia abrotanum) was an inspired choice for America, while a bonfire begonia represented Australia along with corks hanging from the ring. Saharan Africa was represented by succulents growing in sand, alpines had been chosen for the continent of Europe and a curry plant and china teacups represented Asia. We were impressed by the great teamwork from the school's active and popular gardening club in assembling their entry which had illustrated the theme so well.

Rosebank Primary School again produced a very strong entry. Their theme was 'Plants against Zombies' inspired by a video game and this had certainly sparked the imagination of the P3 class. They had produced an impres-

The Mad Hatter and Queen of Hearts visit

Passing children having fun filling the demonstration pallet

of you there, with your Pallet Garden or Planter exhibits.

You could also encourage and support your local schools and community groups of all ages to enter the Challenge next year – it's great fun to do.

Please look out for advance information on SGF media, early in 2025.

Tom Campbell

Ally Power and his Euro 2024 Stadium

Aston McRae**, a D&A student, with his Touch of Zen garden, winner of the **People's Choice Pallet Garden

Almondell Model Railway needs Gardeners

In Edinburgh, 1894, a few keen Engineers met up to talk about building models. They wanted to improve their own skills, share their knowledge and combine their efforts to produce working models of everyday objects. Edinburgh Society of Model Engineers (ESME) was born.

In Broxburn, 2024 (130 years later), ESME have worked on 11.7 Acres of woodland near Almondell Country Park that they purchased in 2014. The site has been transformed from derelict, dense woodland into a place that young and old can enjoy.

It has taken 10 years since acquiring the Almondell site to create **Almondell Model Engineering Centre**. We've shaped the landscape, built tunnels, bridges, a pond, a meeting house with workshops, and laid lots of railway tracks.

This is the first time in its 130-year history that ESME has owned its own

Dollar Horticultural and Gardening Club with Dollar in Bloom

Our main focus this summer is to enter the Keep Scotland Beautiful award scheme in the Small Town Category. This is a step up from the last three years of entering the It's Your Neighbourhood section. At a recent meeting our chairperson, Caroline Clarke, presented our ideas to several groups and organisations within the town and received a very positive response. We have a lot of work to do before we are assessed in early August.

One new project, which combines horticulture and the history of the town, is the renovation of the old station platform, neglected in recent years. Clearance of overgrown shrubs, path improvement and construction of two planting beds has opened up a lighter area which we will plant and maintain. The old railway line is a walking and cycling route called the Devon Way. We have been careful to keep most of the area in natural wild growth.

Our annual show schedule has been finalised and distributed through local shops and venues. At our recent Town Gala we took a stall to promote the show with some examples of classes from a range of show sections. This created some interest and we handed out many schedules, hopefully resulting in increased entry levels.

Our annual plant sale was largely a one-off event this year: on a very hot Saturday morning in May we sold several hundred plants and raised £1,900.

Our spring tulip bulb planters in the town's main street were exceptional this year. These have now been replaced with summer bedding plants which, along with the newly hung hanging baskets, will soon be providing a glorious splash of colour.

Fiona Roe

Bridge of Weir Gardening Club

Our Plant Sale on 11th May was blessed with lovely weather. This helped bring out lots of customers. They were happy to chat and buy, with some commenting on how well the plants purchased at last year's sale had done and that was why they had come back. Bedding plants from Parklea nursery added to the perennials and self-grown seedlings contributed by members, so there was plenty of choice on offer. The Plant Sale also gave us the chance to hand out plenty of flyers, telling what the Gardening Club was doing later in the session.

The next opportunity to promote our Gardening Club came when we were invited to take a stall at the local Primary School Fair on 18th May. While we were able to raise some funds from selling plants, and make a donation to the school.

It was most interesting to see what plants were taking a trick with different ages of children and adults. As ever, some boys were interested in cactus, others took away ferns (after one Dad told his son it was dinosaur food). Many of the girls were more interested in things which would produce edibles – a chance to promote kale, tomato and herbs. Many of the parents were keen to have the children growing things, a good sign for the future?

Our next chance for public engagement will be the Bridge of Weir Gala Day, on Saturday June 8th. The purpose, again, is mainly to raise our profile but we'll have plants on the tables to attract people. Plants left from the Plant Sale and Fair, some seedlings which were late coming may by then be ready for public viewing, and bedding from Parklea Nursery will, we hope, draw a crowd. Hoping for good weather and a good crowd for our Gala Day and hoping other gardening groups have a good season.

Donald Hepburn

land and been able to decide what we do with it. However, while we have builders, electricians and plumbers within our membership of around 100, we have a lack of ***gardeners***.

We have tools and machinery, including a digger, a tractor/trailer, mowers, spades, forks, rakes and shovels. Most of the heavy construction work at Almondell is complete, but we are seeking anyone with the imagination and passion for making the site more beautiful.

Our lovely flower beds above the mouth of the bridge over the railway shows what can be achieved. We have a few large tubs with flowers around our building. We have focused efforts on the main public areas around our club building, but the scale of the site means that anyone with a passion for gardening could have a largely blank canvas to work with.

Almondell Model Engineering Centre opens to the public a few times each year, but for the rest of the time it is enjoyed by club members and friends. As a community space, it is available for anyone looking for good company and like-minded people, and it would be wonderful to welcome new people with more diverse interests.

If you are nearby and would like to help make a difference to a community project, and perhaps achieve your dream garden, we would welcome your participation.

Paul Hicks
paul.hicks.2002@gmail.com

SGF Winter Gathering

Saturday 9th November 2024
in Clarkston Halls, G76 8NE

(See back page for details)

Pot Plant Show

Class 1
One Cactus or Succulent
Class 2
One Flowering Plant
Class 3
One Foliage Plant

Regulations:

a) Maximum pot size 12" (30cm)
b) Only one entry per class
c) Plants to be staged on arrival on Saturday morning

Judging will be carried out by the audience

Prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd in each class

This is your chance to showcase your Society

My Favourite Plant

Years ago, one spring I first noticed these exquisite spring flowering perennials used as underplanting at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. They intrigued me, seemingly perfectly symmetrical with each flower having three leaves, three petals and three sepals. They were Trilliums, part of the lily family.

Red and White

Trillium erectum

It is only in the last ten years that I have had a garden with the right conditions to try and grow them: north facing, light shade and well-drained soil. Selecting a red and white Trillium erectum and the giant Trillium, Trillium chloropetalum, I set about encouraging all three.

My favourite must be the eye-catching giant Trillium, Trillium chloropetalum. It is now firmly established in my garden; whilst the Trillium erectums are still here, they are still work in progress!

A California native, Trillium chloropetalum has large dark red flowers with mottled slightly marbled leaves and grows to about 50 cm. It has proved easy to propagate, either by splitting the rhizome or collecting the self-sown seedlings, and now there are small clumps around the garden, nestled in nicely with the hellebores and spring flowering bulbs. Division has proved successful, new plants quickly producing flowers, whilst the seedlings have taken about five years to flower. I am on the lookout for the heads poking out of the bare winter soil, it's then time to put a bit of grit round the emerging plants – the slugs and snails seem to adore the new shoots. Disappointment as they fade, but excitement looking forward to next year's display. Maybe I will find a few more seedlings!

Cathie Wright
North Berwick

Trillium Chloropetalum

Triumph varieties in the High Street

with wallflowers can be seen in the photo of the High Street this spring – a wonderful riot of colour that lasted for weeks!

The work does not end with the last blooms fading. North Berwick Gardening Club hold their plant sale on the last Saturday in May. As many bulbs as possible will have been lifted by then; these are available at the sale for a small donation. This year a queue was forming by 10am, people eager to try and recreate the displays at home, but no guarantees given!

Cathie Wright
North Berwick Gardening Club

they start to flower, the labels go out. Some of our favourites that tend to thrive in North Berwick are the Triumph tulips: Raspberry Ripple, deep crimson and white and Abu Hassan, warm red and yellow trim. As well as the favourites, we always try out a few "new" varieties. This year the stunning – very showy – Double Early Tulip, "Royal Acres", deep reddish purple, was still magnificent at the end of May, a strong contender for next year's list. Another new idea was combining colours of similar flowering varieties. It worked best with the Triumph varieties: "Uncle Tom" dark red, "Cairo" orange, "Barcelona" pink and "Character" yellow, and these mixed

The Pallet

North Berwick Tulip Festival

For 13 years North Berwick in Bloom has been holding a Tulip Festival with over 100 planters, tubs and various containers throughout the town, bursting with the colour of stunning tulips, spring bulbs and bedding from March through to May.

The preparations start in August. What tulips will we have next year? We select over 40 varieties, aiming to have all 14 divisions of tulips represented and (with East Lothian Council) get the order in. The aim is to have the early tulip varieties flowering in March, mid-season varieties in April and later varieties throughout May, although without doubt the weather will affect the flowering time. A few Division 15 tulips, the species tulips, can be found in the restored Edwardian rockery in the Lodge Grounds, North Berwick's public park. These are left to their own devices – no need to plant them on an annual basis.

Tulip "Royal Acres"

The bulbs arrive in late October and the planting begins; with over 3,000 to plant it takes several weeks for the volunteers to get all the bulbs in. The tubs and planters will have already been prepared with compost top-ups, slow-release feed and bedding plants in place, with gaps left for the bulbs. We also plant up left-over tulips in small pots; these can then be used in the pallet that promotes the Festival (*see photo on right*), or sold at the Tulip Coffee morning, the Festival fundraiser, which is held in mid April. A leaflet detailing the tulips is available in the town and on the *North Berwick in Bloom* website:

www.northberwickinbloom.org/tulip-festival-2024

There is great excitement at the end of February, with all the volunteers on the lookout. Where will the first tulips flower? Will the first bloom be "The First", a white and red Kaufmanniana? Probably, and quickly followed by Johann Strauss, also red and white, and Stresa, red and yellow. As soon as

Visit the SGF Stand at the Scottish Rock Garden Show

Largs and District Horticultural Society

We have had a busy season so far with more to come as we head towards our annual Largs Flower Show on 24th August 2024.

March started with a Spring Workshop. Ian Taylor, our President, gave a demonstration on seed sowing and propagation, taking the audience through preparation, compost, feed, planting receptacles, including recycled items. There were refreshments, a raffle and free seeds for those attending. Starter Bags with salad crops, onions, potatoes and carrots for container growing were given to new gardeners. This free event has been well attended since its introduction last year, with great success stories and more keen gardeners.

In May we had our first Plant Sale at the local Car Boot Sale, selling plants grown and donated by members. It was a busy morning with visitors to the town and locals getting hints and tips on growing/caring for the plants and learning more about our Society and the Flower Show.

We also visited the local school children who grow for Scheduled Show Classes, to see how the seeds and plants we donated are getting on. P1-3 have their own raised beds, and are growing vegetables and flowers. They have also made a super bug house and sown marigolds. Growing Together Outdoor Club, P4-7 (previous winners of our School Class), have a large growing space where they grow a variety of veg to donate to the local foodbank and church at the end of the season. The children are so enthusiastic and enjoy being out in the gardens working.

Upcoming events:

20th July, 9am–1pm Plant Sale at the Car Boot Sale, St Columba's Episcopal Church

7th August 7pm at St John's TocH Hall, Bath Street, Largs. Advice/ demonstration on how to prepare exhibits for 24th August Flower Show.

Etta Strachan
Secretary
Largs and District HS

It is great to see what a confident young person Millie has become. She is employed now as well."

Group Leader at Fortune Works, Enable Glasgow – *"It's taught me a lot like adapting your teaching methods. I enjoy every aspect of gardening and I've been learning new skills as well. The composting is the newest thing; I hardly knew anything about composting before I started. Then you take that on and teach the guys. It is rewarding knowing that they are learning stuff as well."*

If you are interested in starting the ***Grow & Learn Award***, please contact

growandlearn@rchs.co.uk

Emma Griffith
Horticultural Educator
The Royal Caledonian HS

Cupar Flower Show

Cupar Flower Show will be held in the Corn Exchange, St Catherine Street, Cupar on **Saturday 17th August.**

Staging of exhibits must be completed between 12 noon & 10pm on Friday 16th August, unless you are entering the Baking Section, where you can bring exhibits to the hall between 7–7.30am on Saturday morning.

Information on the Show and the Society can be found at

www.cuparflowershow.co.uk/

Entries can be submitted in advance of the show by emailing them to

secretary@cuparflowershow.co.uk

Please note the closing date for Garden competition entries, floral art and Women's Institute competitions.

The event starts with a coffee morning in the Lower Hall at 10am on 17th August, with the Upper Hall opening from 11.30am until 4.30pm. The Show ends with the presentation of trophies and prizes.

This is an amateur show, open to everyone from novice to the more experienced. Please feel free to pass on this email to any family and friends.

If you have any questions relating to the Show, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Debbie Peebles
Vice President, Cupar Flower Show
07725 165421
dwheelans@ymail.com

The Caley's Grow & Learn Award

Do you work with learners who would like to earn an award for all the gardening and growing they do? Then the *Grow & Learn Award* is for you!

This is a person-centered award for developing horticultural and personal skills. It is made up of seven core horticultural activities, 13 additional activities and three personal goals centered on the person's own aims for themselves.

As part of the award, learners will develop core skills in cultivation, seed sowing, potting on, propagation, plant care, composting and harvesting. The 13 additional activities are fully flexible to your garden and interests. They can be anything from making bird feeders to cooking a meal with your produce, or pressing flowers for Arts & Crafts to learning how to use a lawn mower; and much more.

The award requires a minimum of 80 hours of gardening work and there is no deadline to completing these hours, so it could be completed over 1–2 years or whatever best suits your learners. To help you through the award there is a personal portfolio for each learner, to track progress throughout the award.

If you would like to learn more about the Grow & Learn Award, then please look here:

thecaley.org.uk/grow-learn/

Learners' and groups leaders' feedback about the ***Grow & Learn Award:***

Brian at Fortune Works, Enable Glasgow – *"We learnt how to build the work benches and shelves for the plants, planting out and potting on. The best bit was measuring the wood and cutting it with a saw, then getting to use the hammer and drill."*

Millie at Organic Growers of Fairlie – *"Millie was a pleasure to work with on Grow and Learn. She happily sets to any task needed to be done and does so well and thoroughly with attention to detail. She is extremely reliable and comes to the community garden in all weathers, even coming on the weekends sometimes to attend her plants and wormery.*

Ayr & District Flower Show

The planning for the 6th Ayr & District Flower Show at Ayr Racecourse is underway. This year it will be held on **Friday 16th and Saturday 17th August.**

We will have the usual wide range of classes – Vegetables, Begonias, Cacti, Chrysanthemums, Dahlias, Fuchsias, Pelargoniums, Pot Plants, Roses, Sweet Peas and more for the growers. There are of course the Handicrafts, Baking and Preserves to try your hand at too. There is a range of classes for the children to enter.

As in previous years there will be no charge to enter exhibits. Children will receive prize money in the Junior Section but for adults, instead of money they will receive an engraved keepsake which will be presented for the best exhibit in each section.

We will again be joined by local Floral Art Groups who will be running their own Show in the Princess Royal Suite. With the title of 'Earth Song', I'm sure it will be well worth a visit.

There will be a wide range of trade stands including plant, garden machinery and craft stalls. Musical entertainment will also be on offer.

To run the Show, we rely on the good will of the many volunteers who give up their time not only to steward on the Show days but to build and dismantle all the staging for the exhibits, collect gate money, sell programmes and do all the unseen work in the background to make the Show possible. We must thank everyone who has helped make Ayr & District Flower Show the success it has been over the last few Shows and hope they will keep up the good work again this year.

Anyone willing to join the team of volunteers, either on Show days or in the lead up, can get in touch for more information.

The Racecourse is an excellent venue for the Show. It is on a main bus route, handy for Bed & Breakfasts and the many hotels in the area. A large part of the Show is undercover so even on a typical Ayrshire day the Show can still be enjoyed. The site is wheelchair friendly and accessible to everyone. Unfortunately, no dogs except assistance dogs are allowed in the Show Ground.

Schedules have been sent to everyone who has exhibited in the past. A schedule can be downloaded from our website:

www.ayranddistrictflowerShow.com

Anyone who wishes a paper copy of the schedule or more information about the Show can either email

ayranddistrictflowerShow@gmail.com

or Tel 07803 782821.

Check out the website and Facebook page for updates and photograph of previous Shows.

Irene Yuill

SOCIETY	EVENT	VENUE	DATE
Nairn and District GC	Annual Show	Nairn Community and Arts Centre	August 10th, 1-4pm
Stonehaven GC	Summer Show 2024 with Stonehaven & District Floral Art Club	Stonehaven Town Hall	August 10th
Ayr and District Flower Show	Flower Show	Ayr Racecourse, Ayr	August 16th & 17th
Musselburgh HS	Musselburgh Community Flower Show Entry £2 Children free	St Michael's Church Hall, 21 Dalrymple Loan, Musselburgh EH21 7DH	August 17th, 1-4pm
Cupar Flower Show	Annual Flower & Craft Show	Corn Exchange Cupar	August 17th 10am-4.30pm
Pathhead & District HS	77th Annual Flower Show	Pathhead Community Hall, Pathhead	August 24th 2-2pm
Largs & District Hortcultural Society	Largs Flower Show	Dunn Memorial Hall, St John's Church, Bath Street, Largs	August 24th, 10am-4.30pm
Royal Caledonian HS	Late Summer Show	Saughton Park, Edinburgh	August 31st Sept 1st
Currie Parish Horticultural	Currie and District Flower Show	Balerno High School, 5 Bridge Road, Balerno, EH14 7AQ	August 31st, 1.30-4pm
Sky Gardening Society	Flower and Produce Show	The Venue, Portree High School	August 31st, 1.30 p.m
Bridge of Weir GC	Gardening Festival	Freeland Church Halls	August 31st
East Lothian HS	Flower Show	Haddington Aubigny Centre	August 31st
Broughton HS	Exhibiton of Flowers, Fruit, Vegetables, Industrial Work, Handicrafts and Childrens Classes	Village Hall, Broughton	August 31st, 2pm
Kilmalcolm HS	Annual Flower Show.	Kilmalcolm Community Centre	August 31st 10.30am-3pm
West Linton HS	69th Village Show	Graham Institute	August 31st 1.30pm, Trophies 3.30pm
East Linton Arts, Crafts & Flower Show Society	Annual Flower Show	The Community Hall, East Linton	August 31st, 2pm.
Killearn Cottagers HS , Saturday,	Annual Show Contact 07788 373142 for further details	Village Hall, Killearn	August 31st 2-4.30pm
Livingston and District HS	Annual Show	Livingston Station Community Centre	September 1st 2.30-4pm
Leuchars & District Gardening and Crafts club	Annual Flower Show	Burnside Hall, Balmullo, Fife	September 7th
Mauchline Horticultural & Agricultural Society	Annual Flower Show	Church Halls Mauchline	September 7th, 2-4.30pm
Dollar Horticulture and Garden Club	Annual Show	West Burnside Hall, Dollar	September 7th
Stewarton GC	Flower Show	Knox Church Hall Stewarton	September 7th
Paisley Florist Society GC	Annual Show	St Mirin's Cathedral Halls, Paisley	September 7th 1pm-4pm
Polmont Horticultural Society	Annual Show	Greenpark Community Education Centre, Greenpark Drive, Polmont FK2 0P2	September 7th, 2-4.30pm
Busby & Clarkston HS	77th Annual Show Admission £2.00	Clarkston Halls G76 8NE	September 7th 2.00pm
Scottish Rock Garden Club	Autumn Flower Show and Fair Many stands and talks from various groups and plant nurseries.	Howden Park Centre, Livingston EH54 6BW	September 28th 10am-3.30pm Free admission
Brighter Bervie	Gardens Open Daily to the Public	Montrose Road, Inverbervie, Montrose	Daily

This table can be found at **www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk/events/** and will be updated as information comes in.