

past 100 years. After the opening, members and guests moved into the cafe next door for refreshments, where we heard short presentations from three local speakers.

May was a really busy month and on the 13th and 14th we had our Festival of Gardening in the Museum Courtyard, where there was a range of gardening stalls, such as Alpines, Bee-keeping and Bonsai, as well as a range of plants supplied by members.

To end the month of May, we had our Centenary Dinner at the Stables Restaurant, Groomsport, where we had an excellent meal followed by an after dinner talk by David Maxwell of BBC Gardeners' Corner, and I would like to say a special thanks to Yvonne McIlmail who produced the floral arrangements for the tables.

So May was over and most of the members needed a rest, but only for a few days, because June saw three members' gardens open for other members to come and have a look. Likewise, in July we had another three gardens open. The changeable weather was kind to us and we had a good turnout at each garden.

Before we leave June and July, there were still two big events to take place. On Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd June we held our annual plant sale, with refreshments being offered this year for the first time since Covid. Thanks to all the members who brought along a wide selection of plants for sale, and those who worked hard over that weekend talking to members of the public, giving advice, selling the plants and serving refreshments. We achieved the highest total of sales ever, raising approx £2,500.

The second big event, and one we have never tried before, was a 4-night coach trip to Scotland and England, ending up at the RHS Show at Tatton Park. This was a great trip, where we saw many great gardens, stayed in an excellent hotel with good food and entertainment every night. A large vote of thanks must go to Liz McWatters who put the whole trip together, and I know that everyone who went along on the trip enjoyed it immensely.

The second coach trip that Liz organised was up the Antrim Coast, stopping at the new Coronation Gardens, followed by Glenarm Castle, ending the day with a visit to Ian Scroggy's nursery at Carnlough, and once again everyone had a very enjoyable day.

The last event in our Centenary year was our Summer Show, which was judged by one of our own members, Kay Dunlop. It was nice to see that a number of our new members were starting to take part in the show and some of them were getting Firsts and Seconds in the sections they entered.

I would like to say a special thank you to three long-serving members of our committee who are standing down after many years of service; Norma Nutt, Gertie Baxter and Nancy Graham. However, I hope all three will continue to come to the society's meetings. It really was a very busy year. Firstly, I would like to thank the committee, who were very hard-working during the past year, and to all the members who supported all the events, and I look forward to meeting all the new members who joined the society during the summer.

Charitable Status

As a registered Charity, the Trustees of Bangor Horticultural Society are aware of its 'Educational' charitable status and consider that the programme of Events, Talks and Visits and provision of help and information to both its members and the general public, adequately fulfil its 'Educational' criteria.



Derek McClure CBE
Chairman