

KAILYARD DIARY REPORTS – 2022

NAME	MONTH	COMMENTS	WORK REQUIRED	DONE
Chris Foster	1/1/21	Jobs for the New Year:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew bracken weed suppressant. • Prune Autumn raspberries March.	✓ ✓ ✓
	Jan 2022	Due to Storm Arwen FLS closed public access to Bennachie due to fallen trees. Access was restored shortly for about 10 days but then Storms Malik and Corrie towards the end of January caused further problems and access was closed again!		
Colin Miller	9/1/22	Happy to continue with my January slot. I will do the bracken-mulching when access is restored (even if not January!).		
	May 2022	FLS permission has now been restored for access to Bennachie and the Kailyard, so normal rota duties have now commenced.		
Chris Foster		With the re-opening of the Kailyard, Barry and I made a visit to check it over. Barry stabilised the back fence which had a broken post, While I did some weeding. We also pruned the Autumn raspberries which was 2 months overdue! Generally, the bushes were looking good and healthy. The leaves and blossoms were just starting to appear with quite a number of insects buzzing around them. The rhubarb was throwing up shoots. Several leaves were slightly chewed up, possibly slugs, although did not see any evidence.		

Colin Miller	6/5/22	<p>Coincidentally, I was cutting bracken for the Kailyard at the time you sent this report. Mulching now completed.</p> <p>Rhubarb looking good; currants in flower, and being attended by a peacock butterfly (see photos); green shoots and leaves appearing from ground at autumn raspberries. Very warm there today</p>		
Andrew Wainwright	8/5/22	<p>All looking very well except I thought the Rhubarb looked a bit off colour. Leaves all have yellow patches on them (looks white in the photos) and not growing very rigorously. Stems look good though.</p>		
Gary Middleton	29/5/22	<p>I made it up today, it was in good shape and very little to do. All I did was get rid of some of the older dying Rhubarb, cut back some of the leaves which had been eaten away. Tidied some of the fencing and removed some old pieces which had fallen away. I also removed some dead vegetation from around the spring, which was dry by the way. All else looked fine didn't see any insects so fingers crossed.</p>		
Chris Foster	1/6/22	<p>Visited the Kailyard today and trimmed the grass path. Plenty of fruit on the bushes, so it could be a good year if it all ripens. Rhubarb not so plentiful as last year and the leaves are all tinged</p>		

		with red, which could indicate that the leaves are dying. The summer raspberries are late coming on, which could be due to lack of water. The Autumn raspberries are growing well despite their rather late pruning due to access problems.		
Karen Main	9/6/22	<p>Everything looking fine at Kailyard except rhubarb. Not sure if it's a lack of chlorophyll or disease? Could you please advise? I've removed worst leaves in meantime but don't want to reduce plant to very few leaves. Plenty new shoots coming though, stalks look fine too. But one young leaf looks to be turning red around edge already.</p> <p>I've cut grass again to keep it under control and pulled a few weeds. I'll be up again next Monday.</p>	<p>When rhubarb leaves are tinged with red it can indicate they are dying back. It is a bit early for this to happen but the seasons over the last few years have been a bit unusual so for now perhaps just keep an eye on them. As long as the crowns stay healthy it should be OK for next year. If anyone knows a possible answer, please let me know.</p> <p>Chris</p>	
Karen Main	31/06/22	<p>I had been up most weeks and everything fine. However, the winds at the weekend meant the fruit bushes did take a bit of a battering – a few raspberry canes snapped clean off but otherwise fine. I have propped up the blackcurrant and some of the gooseberry branches and there is some windfallen fruit. The redcurrant bush leaves are turning yellow (see photo) but fruit seems to be okay. It was raining today but I gave the grass another trim and weeded. Rhubarb is dying back.</p>		
Willie Linklater	22/07/22	<p>I popped in past the Kailyard and there is so much ripe fruit going to waste, black and white currants and gooseberries etc, Colin or Chris could I suggest you put another email out to the BLP group and Ann maybe you do the same for the trustees saying there is fruit for the picking.</p>		

Alison Kennedy	23/7/22	<p>After my forage up to Shepherd's Lodge last weekend and enjoying some of the gooseberries, I was back up there earlier today to pick some more of the fruit.</p> <p>When I got up to Shepherd's Lodge, there was a couple there – man was in the kailyard and woman was standing outside. I said hello and asked if they had brought some boxes to help themselves to some of the fruit, but they said no. They explained they had noticed the kailyard and come along path to have a look and saw some of the blackcurrant bushes were lying on the ground (because of all the heavy fruit on them) and the man had been trying to prop them up with small branches. I thanked them for their help and ended up giving them an unscheduled talk on BLPG, Colonists, Shepherd's Lodge and an explanation of kailyard :) They had not appreciated the stones beside them had been a croft!</p> <p>After they left, I gathered some more gooseberries, and a few blackcurrants and redcurrants. Still lot of gooseberries, white currants and blackcurrants, as well as lesser amount of redcurrants waiting to be picked.</p> <p>Away to enjoy a gooseberry crumble which is just cooking in oven for my pudding tonight.</p>		
Jo Vergunst	24/7/22	<p>There is indeed a lot of fruit, we came back with 2kg blackcurrants which barely scratched the surface and about 1.5 of whitecurrants and there are plenty more of them too. We didn't touch the rest although the red dessert gooseberries are delicious and we shared a couple with two people who stopped to chat.</p>		

Next year it might be worth a harvesting work party! If anyone has time this week it would be good to go and if the fruit is still good by the August 6 workparty hopefully people can pick then, though some of it is beginning to go over.

As well as all the fruit, the garden was looking good and I just gave the grass border a cut with shears. There were a number of the magpie moths again, three or four on the blackcurrants and one on a gooseberry. Some of the blackcurrant bushes had leaves that were looking rather eaten, quite a lot of holes in parts of the bushes, but doesn't seem to have affected the cropping!

We had a nice chat with a couple of people, one remembering her grandfather growing lots of soft fruit and vegetables in his garden, and asking how we looked after the croft garden.

And also this handsome fellow, attached – think it was a toad?

It looked like all the rhubarb had been harvested. I might be wrong and some of it may just have died back. But I wondered if we had left some to grow on, which I think is normal practice with rhubarb. Might be wrong as I say.



Anne Reid	3/8/22	<p>Another warm morning on the hill & no midges! There is so much fruit, but everything is looking very dry; the blackcurrant bush nearest the gate is looking very withered & sorry for itself. Hopefully it will survive if it rains soon . Some of the leaves on the gooseberries also looking a bit yellow. However, the fruit is abundant. I picked 1lb of blackcurrants ...they are very plump & the rest need picking. The white currents are also looking good. I picked 6oz ..very tasty ! The redcurrants are now finished. There are some green gooseberries left but the branches are being weighted down on the red ones. I picked 14oz. The summer flowering rasps are well formed but are not yet ripe (apart form one or two) which is surprising . Some new rhubarb leaves have appeared. I cut the grass, which has not grown much. No frogs to be seen unfortunately. Hopefully some fruit will be harvested by the work party on Saturday.</p>		
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Anne Reid	23/8/22	<p>Most of the soft fruit is now finished apart from the rasps ...I did, however, pick the last of the white currants ...5 oz.</p> <p>The summer & autumn rasps are ripening. I picked 3 oz (a mixture of both) the summer variety seems very slow but there are a lot which will hopefully still ripen.</p> <p>I pruned out some of the dead wood on the blackcurrants but did not prune out fruited branches.</p> <p>The leaves on a couple of the bushes were looking a bit yellow with holes ...couldn't find any insects eating them???</p> <p>The rhubarb slowly starting to grow again ...looks healthy.</p> <p>I pruned overlapping stems on gooseberries & redcurrants & shortened new growth ...which I do on my own.</p> <p>I did a bit of weeding & cut the grass.</p> <p>There were a lot of bits of wood around & some had been used to successfully prop up the rasps.</p> <p>The fence looks a bit wobbly near the gate.</p>		
Chris Foster	31/8/22	<p>Made a quick visit to Shepherds Lodge/Kailyard to check all OK for Saturday's Trails, Tales and Tunes events for Year of Scotland's Stories 2022. Pulled out a few weeds and general tidy up. Checked out the fence as reported by Anne which looked like the corner post might have rotted off at the bottom. Barry has now made a temporary repair, but the fence does need a little bit of TLC or possibly renewing!</p>	<p>Fence in need of attention or renewing. A job for early next year.</p>	

Allan Will	17/9/22	<p>I cut the grass with some hand shears. There were about half a dozen lonely rasps left so I put them out of their misery!</p> 	<p>Autumn Raspberries:</p> 	
Allan Will	19/9/22	<p>As the gate was not in the best of shape, I went back up today with some pliers and tightened up the wire that holds it together so looking fine now. The string that kept it shut was gone so I took up an old wire coat hanger and manipulated it a bit so the gate can be secured.</p> <p>The leaves on the blackcurrant bushes were looking a bit holey as per the picture:</p>  <p>I did not do any pruning as I was not sure what to prune to be honest!!</p>		

Alison
Kennedy

15/10/22

I visited the kailyard on a lovely sunny day. Vegetation was in its usual autumnal condition. A few raspberries left but no other fruit.



The only notable issue is the condition of the fence in back top-left hand corner which has been damaged – at a guess, possibly someone has fallen against it while picking blackberries on the slope above it. The fence is still firm and rigid and not in danger of imminent collapse however, if we were considering improvement, it might increase the priority. The rest of the fence seemed sound, including the bit at front right-hand corner which Barry had repaired.



				
Barry/Chris Foster	<p>18/11/22</p> <p>21/11/22</p>	<p>It had been hoped to visit the Kailyard the week prior to the 21st November to carry out some basic pruning but due to the adverse weather was postponed.</p> <p>We visited the Kailyard this morning. Nice and bright to start with but the weather started to deteriorate by midday and rain followed pm. It was obvious by the condition of the footpaths that Bennachie had received abnormal amounts of rain over the last week. The well at Shepherds Lodge was full and had been overflowing. Although very wet everywhere the Kailyard was looking OK.</p> <p>Checked out the fence re Alison's concerns (see above). The bulging in the fence was due to a number of posts having rotted off at ground level. At the very least a new section of fence is needed in this area which could be carried out relatively easily by</p>		

		<p>replacing the broken posts and infilling with new brash. The rest of the fence is in a reasonable condition but could do with some infill where holes are appearing. Meanwhile, a temporary repair was made to prevent the fence from falling down completely. This was reported and discussed at the BLP meeting 21/12/22. An amount of timber is laying around due to tree felling, etc., which could be used. It was decided, therefore, to go ahead with a repair early in the New Year.</p> <p>The pruning has now been re-scheduled for early 2023.</p> 	<p>Repair back fence early in the New year using existing timber laying around the Shepherds Lodge vicinity. Also check for other weak points and repair.</p> <p>Pruning early 2023.</p>	
Barry Foster	3/12/22	<p>Had a quick look at the Kailyard during the work party in December and everything seemed to be OK apart from the fence which, as reported last month, needs some attention soon.</p>	As above	