**Cromarty Open Gardens, Studios and Art and Flower Festival**

As reported in last month’s newsletter, the return of Open Gardens Weekend after a two year lay-off is now being planned in earnest.

This year, it will share the weekend with Open Studios and also the Flower and Art Festival in the East Church which will run for the entire week beforehand.

At this stage the Open Gardens side needs to look for volunteers to help with the tasks associated with the event such as staffing the hub where the issue of tickets, selling plants and books and providing maps will take place, helping at the car park if necessary, maybe supervising a garden that’s open but the owners are away, helping at the tea spots, etc etc. There’s lots to do for volunteers and any assistance is gratefully received as these events don’t run themselves! Home made cakes will also be required on the day.

We’re also asking you to consider opening your own garden and this is plenty of notice to get it ready if you have to. Remember, this is about YOUR garden. It doesn’t need to be like the Palace at Versailles - it can be tiny, lived in, loved in, visible only from the street, a space for the kids to play or the adults to BBQ in. Every garden can provide inspiration to someone so don’t be shy - especially if you have one hidden from everyday view that will surprise people!

We are also looking for potted plants to sell at the hub - something interesting or cuttings of different species. So get planting/sowing/grafting and information on when and where they are needed will be provided nearer the time.

The dates for the **Open Gardens** **and Studios** will be **the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd July 2022**, with the **Art and Flower Festival** opening on **Saturday 25th June and closing on 3rd July 2022**.

Times will be from **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, each and every day!

If you are interested in committing to volunteer for some or all of that weekend or you want to open your garden on the day, please call Jeremy or Julie on 600709.

All money raised will be shared amongst local charities!