**Global Heating**

Otherwise known as ‘Global Warming’. We all enjoy being warm. The word ‘warm’ is often associated with ‘cosy’. I fear we have been let down by our vocabulary. Because of the rise in temperature happening to the planet we live on, it is not going to be ‘cosy’ much longer.

Apparently, according to a UN report, we have 12 years to do something about it. Not 11 years or 13 years. They are surprisingly precise about this. It seems related to the volume of ice that remains in the Arctic.

Disinvestment of your pension funds from major CO2 emitting companies, changing your electrical supplier to one that only uses renewable sources of energy and turning down the thermostat in your home are not really in the remit of an article about gardening. But in the not too distant future, whether or not these have been done will affect more than just our gardens.

The exquisite little inconveniences that have already landed at our garden gate include the Leek Moth. This pest arrived from the continent about 10 years ago. If it gets into your leek crop early, occasional plants will be lost from the row before most rot off. If infestation is after the plants are established, what had been handsome plants will wilt and turn to mush in the autumn. The only effective coping strategy is protection. This needs a fine, robust, nylon net, put over the leeks as early as possible.

Control of the pest is best started early in the year. It is a small fragile insect that can’t fly far and doesn’t like being disturbed in the cold weather. So hoeing the ground where you last grew any of the onion family will help expose the hibernation stage of the moth. Remove any debris from that area too. Bag it and put it in your dustbin. Have the council incinerate it.

Peat bogs cover less than 3% of the land area of the globe but contain 30% of all carbon stored on land. We need to use less peat in our potting composts. The quality of the reduced peat and peat free composts has improved considerably in the last few years. I have taken to using them more and more.

Re use whatever medium you grew last year’s tomatoes and peppers in, if you remove the old root ball, shake it up and add some fertiliser it will grow good lettuce and pumpkins this year. It works for me. It saves resources and cash, a win on two counts.

I had reduced the number of fires I had on my allotment to 2 a year.

(They are now prohibited in the summer months.) But I will be binning it all so that the carbon in my rubbish can be turned in to heat and power in the Bernard Road Incinerator. I hope you have a successful year.

Bill