

Keeping in Touch, May 2th 2020

Hello again on this splendidly sunny day. I've got some real smashers for you today, photos to inspire and give planting ideas. Hopefully I haven't overloaded your systems but I couldn't resist including them all!

KITBITS

First, a note from Frank Abel who you'll remember was cycling round Norfolk Park in aid of charity. Frank wrote to Dot Witton our Chair, she asked me to pass it on.

"Dot, I wish to thank you and the society so very, very much for your enormously generous donation of £100 to my fund for the Sheffield Hospitals Trust. I'm very aware that this comes on top of several members already having donated individually. Things had gone quiet for a couple of weeks, and both the charity and I thought I'd reached my total. This morning I had a thank you card from them, congratulating me on raising £1205. At a stroke, South Pennine Hardy Plant Society has transformed that into a glorious £1305! I'm over the moon, and very happy to sign off with such a magnificent total. At your next opportunity, would you please pass on my thanks to everybody. I am one delighted cyclist!"

Second, thanks to all who answered my plea for advice on my damp patch (so to speak), lots of ideas which I will research for autumn planting.

PLANT IDENT

Jean Houlton sent in this photo, can anyone identify the plant for her? She says "it is low growing with soft pink flowers. I bought it last year but have lost its label."



PHOTOS

Janet Boulding's cow shed wall is now smothered in Wisteria – looks magnificent



Janet Lister sent in several photos, the first is grown from seed from the Isle of Wight



Some self seeded thalictrum, Iris sibirica, and her hostas (looking in magnificent condition, a la Great Dixter round the entrance) and a lovely rose she bought from Jean Marshall





Speaking of whom, Jean sent in these photos from her nursery, Oxalis lone Hecker, Helianthemum 'Supreme' (fab colour), Clematis 'Jeannie', Hosta 'Fire Island' and a Papaver which she thinks is 'Goliath'.

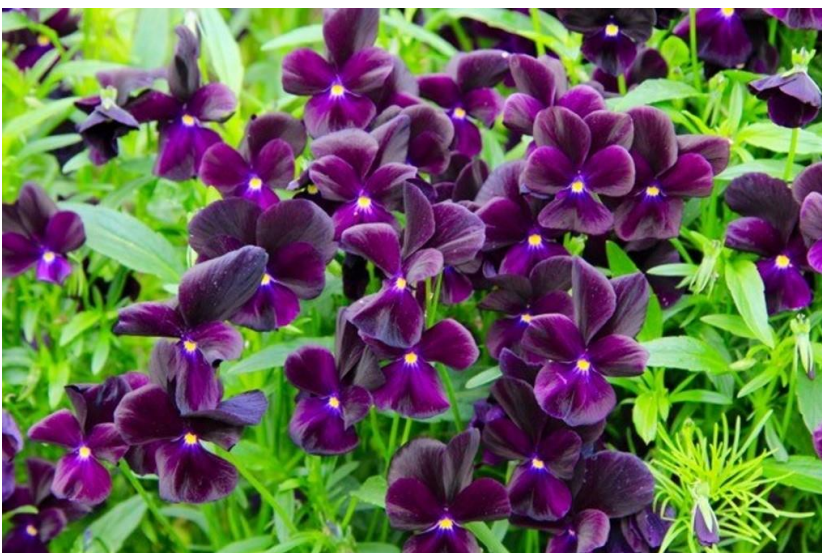








Don Witton has another viola from last years' sex drugs and murder talk by Jack Willgoss, he says 'V. Roscastle Black' is the best of three I purchased and is currently smothered in sumptuous deep purple flowers.



Don also says 'It's Astartia time!! Pink silver and deep red forms are revving up but Astartia Buckland is already at its floriferous best with pink, silver and green flowers. Also, if you give it a good haircut when the flowers start to fade it will produce extra flushes of flowers in summer and again in Autumnn."



Paul Forster sent in some very interesting specimens, real beauties. First is *Cypripedium*, he thinks its 'Victoria', then we have *Paeonia* 'Moonrise' and *Maianthemum tatsienense* (syn. *Smilacina tatsienense*). The latter bought from Bledwyn and Sue Wynn-Jones at Crug Farm. Viruses allowing, Bledwyn and his wife will be coming to talk to us in November.







Paul also sent in a pic of *Tulipa sprengeri*. I know I featured one from Barbara Dygans recently, but you can never have too many tulips in my book. Paul says 'according to Andrew Lawes article in HPS 41/1 they "only grow for you if they like you" - we're flattered.'



I'm tempted to try these, but what if they don't grow.....how devastated would you feel if a tulip took agin you. I would be heartbroken. I suppose the best strategy would be to plant them but not mark the spot, then if they didn't appear.....you'd probably forget you'd planted them. If they did, well imaging the delight!

The last photo is from Tricia Fraser, she says 'My peony Coral Sunset is looking lovely just now. I love the way it fades as it ages.'



Finally, as I typed this out and mentioned Janet's seed from the Isle of Wight I was reminded of an answer some years back on GQT. Someone asked, 'What is the best time to collect seed', quick as a flash, Bob Flowerdew said 'when nobody is looking'. Suffice to say, my family refuse to walk near me if we visit a garden.

Until our next edition of KIT, keep smiling and don't forget to send in your photos to tonifrascina@outlook.com

Cheers, Toni