

## Keeping in Touch, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Hello everyone,

This is the last of our weekly KITS for this season, but I'll put something together on a less frequent basis over the autumn and winter to hopefully complement our forthcoming newsletter – speaking of which don't forget to send Jim our editor any contributions for the November edition .

Many thanks to all the members (over 40 of you) who have sent in contributions, it's been a pleasure seeing your gardens and hearing about your projects. It strikes me that taken as a whole, we've compiled a guide to what grows well in our region from March to September. All of the KITS are on our [website](#) thanks to Tricia, I've used them to compile a shopping list.

This week's changes to COVID rules permitting, I'm off to Norfolk next Sunday for a week. However, last time I said 'I'm off to Norfolk next Sunday for a week lockdown was announced.....

### **KITBITS**

- Quiz Answers – did you have a go at the cryptic quiz sent in by Ruth Ludford? You will find the quiz and the answers in the separate pdf called Cryptic Garden Quiz on the same page as these KIT pdfs.
- Tricia Fraser's mystery Aster from last week – Decie Needham has sent in an aster (see below) which she thinks might be the same plant (S. 'Helen Picton'), she says it's a richer colour in real life than in the photo.
- FOBS lectures – I finally got round to watching FOB's first zoom talk by James Hitchmough. It focused on planting ideas for his Walkley garden, Judy Coulson forwarded us the link earlier in the month. It's well worth a watch and reminiscent of Fergus Garrett's approach at Great Dixter, layering the plants so that as the season progresses, you have constant colour and interest most of the year.

### **GARDEN VISITS**

Don and Dot Witton have been out and about visiting Newby Hall and Harlow Carr. Here are some of their photo souvenirs.

From Newby, the Dahlia beds and Autumn Garden.



Memories of Newby Hall always make me smile. I took my mother there in the 1990s and she found out that it had been owned in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century by a William Weddell, her father had the same name. She saw a painting of the Newby William, and was convinced there was a family likeness.



From Harlow Carr, the Rudbeckia trial, annual meadow border, new this year and the sub-tropical garden - also new in what was the foliage garden near the alpine house.







Don says that “a stand out plant in both gardens was Hylotelephium (Sedum) Red Cauli - one for my garden when I can source it.” Here’s a hint Don, I believe Judy Coulson has some (see last week’s edition), perhaps you can persuade her to part with a bit.

### **LOCKDOWN PROJECT**

Shelagh Wooliscroft sent in this photo of her newly constructed auricula theatre made from a free builder’s pallet, some lead and a tester pot of Cuprinol. She plans to hang it from a fence facing west. Pretty impressive stuff Shelagh.





### **MORE WILDLIFE**

Last week Jean Gater shared a photo of a caterpillar of the Elephant Hawk Moth merrily chomping away on her Fuchsia 'Red Chilli'. On the same afternoon, this dragonfly landed on the beech hedge and stayed to sun itself. Jean did a bit Googling and thinks it's the Southern Hawker Dragonfly, possibly female.





**PHOTOS FROM YOUR GARDENS**

Janet Boulding's white anemone looking grand





Don sent in this unusual Hosta, H 'Royal Standard', the flowers are white whereas every other hosta he grows has purple flowers. It's also very late for a Hosta and perfumed - if you can get your nose low enough!



His New England Asters are all bursting into colour. Don says 'this is a great form with shocking pink flowers and a dreadful name: *Symphotrichum novae-angliae* 'Andenken an Alma Potschka'!!'.





From Decie Needham we have another *Actea simplex*, this time 'James Compton'. She also has *A. simplex* 'Pink Spire' and 'Chocaholic'. Decie says , 'Pink Spire' is first in flower, followed by ' James Compton', Chocaholic has yet to open, but they are all very similar and strongly scented.





This is Decie's aster which she thinks is a ringer for Tricia's, *Symphyotrichum* n.a. 'Helen Picton'



And a very interesting plant *Euonymus cornutus* var. *Quinquecornutus*





Lastly a few more from Jean Marshall at Green End Farm

*Kniphofia* Wrexham Buttercup



And *Chelone obliqua* left, *Agastache* 'Red Fortune' right





*Colchicum agrippinum*



Stay well and don't forget to send in your late season garden treasures to [tonifrascina@outlook.com](mailto:tonifrascina@outlook.com).



Toni