

## Keeping in Touch, February 2021

Hello everyone,

I usually spend a lot of time in February prowling around the garden, poking ground to see what is starting to grow, reminding myself what I've planted, assessing what has survived or otherwise and starting to get excited about the prospect of a bit of warmth in the sun. Not this February; with repeated snowfalls, hard frost, rain, and some low temperatures all conspiring to keep the bulbs below ground. It's even difficult to find my snowdrops today because they are covered in the white stuff.

Advice from psychologists on how to get through bad times is to find one thing each day which brings you joy. Hopefully you will find that something below.

Before your photos, some announcements and information sharing.

### **SOUTH PENNINE GROUP WEBISTE by Tricia Fraser**

Whilst in lockdown I have been building a new website for South Pennine Group. Our old site which was hosted by BT Community Kit, will be closed down in mid-May unless we start to pay to keep it live. I decided it was a good opportunity to replace it, so I checked on what other groups use for their websites. I opted to use another free website provider called Webador (used by Staffordshire group) which has proved to be very easy to set up. Our new website URL is now: [South Pennine HPS \(webador.co.uk\)](https://webador.co.uk). I hope you like it and whilst parts of the old site are still visible there is now a link on the home page of the old site to the new one. Once our next newsletter goes out with the new link on the front page I will delete the old site. Because the website software is free there is a "Create a free website with webador" across the lower part of the webpages. That's the downside of free software! I hope we will change the banner image regularly (this is the photo that sits below the South Pennine Group heading) and I'd like members to send in photos of their gardens and borders at different times of the year (please email to me [triciaf2808@gmail.com](mailto:triciaf2808@gmail.com)). The images need to be landscape format. To launch the new site we are featuring an autumn image of Judy Coulson's garden. Please let me have your comments on the new site and anything else you would like to see on it.

### **FEBRUARY SPG TALK BY HILARY HUTSON – Sheffield Botanical Gardens - Twelve Months of Colour**

Hilary, one of our own members, gave us a very enjoyable talk last Wednesday. Around 40 people joined us, including hardy planters from other regions, all of whom gave lovely feedback.

### **ONLINE RESOURCES TO KEEP BOREDOM AT BAY**

Irene May kindly sent a list of online gardening lectures and podcasts. This was originally compiled for the Friends of the Botanical Gardens (FOBS) newsletter, so thanks to the editorial team for sharing it with us. These websites are often worth visiting on their own merit, but also include links to talks which you may be interested in.

The Kew Mutual Improvement Society runs a series of online lectures about many aspects of gardening, you can find them using this link [Kew Mutual Improvement Society lecture series | Kew](#). Here are a selection of the 2021 lectures to whet your appetite, at £5 per lecture

22nd February - A London secret garden - the Inner Temple with Sean Harkin

22nd March- Seasonal Cut Flower gardening with Becky Crowley from Chatsworth

29th March - A special lecture with Tom Stuart Smith about the new RHS Bridgewater garden ( extra cost for this )

Kew Podcasts include 6 episodes with botanist and plant geek James Wong where he reveals the role plants and fungi play in thrilling, sinister and heart breaking real life stories. There is also a range of other speakers, they can be found using this link [Search | Kew](#).

Other interesting websites include [Homepage - The Gardens Trust](#), [What's On - Garden Museum](#), [Site Search | National Trust](#), and talks from the London Garden Trust [Upcoming events - Booking by Bookwhen](#)

In the same vein, Barabara Dygnas sent in a link to Naturtrek, whose talks include some of botanical interest [Online Winter Roadshow - Naturetrek](#)

I hope you find something to enjoy.

## **BEEES AND NICOTINOIDS**

June Skinner sent this link to an online petition of interest to us gardeners, you may wish to sign [Petition · A bee-killing pesticide banned by the EU has been approved for use by sugar beet farmers · Change.org](#)

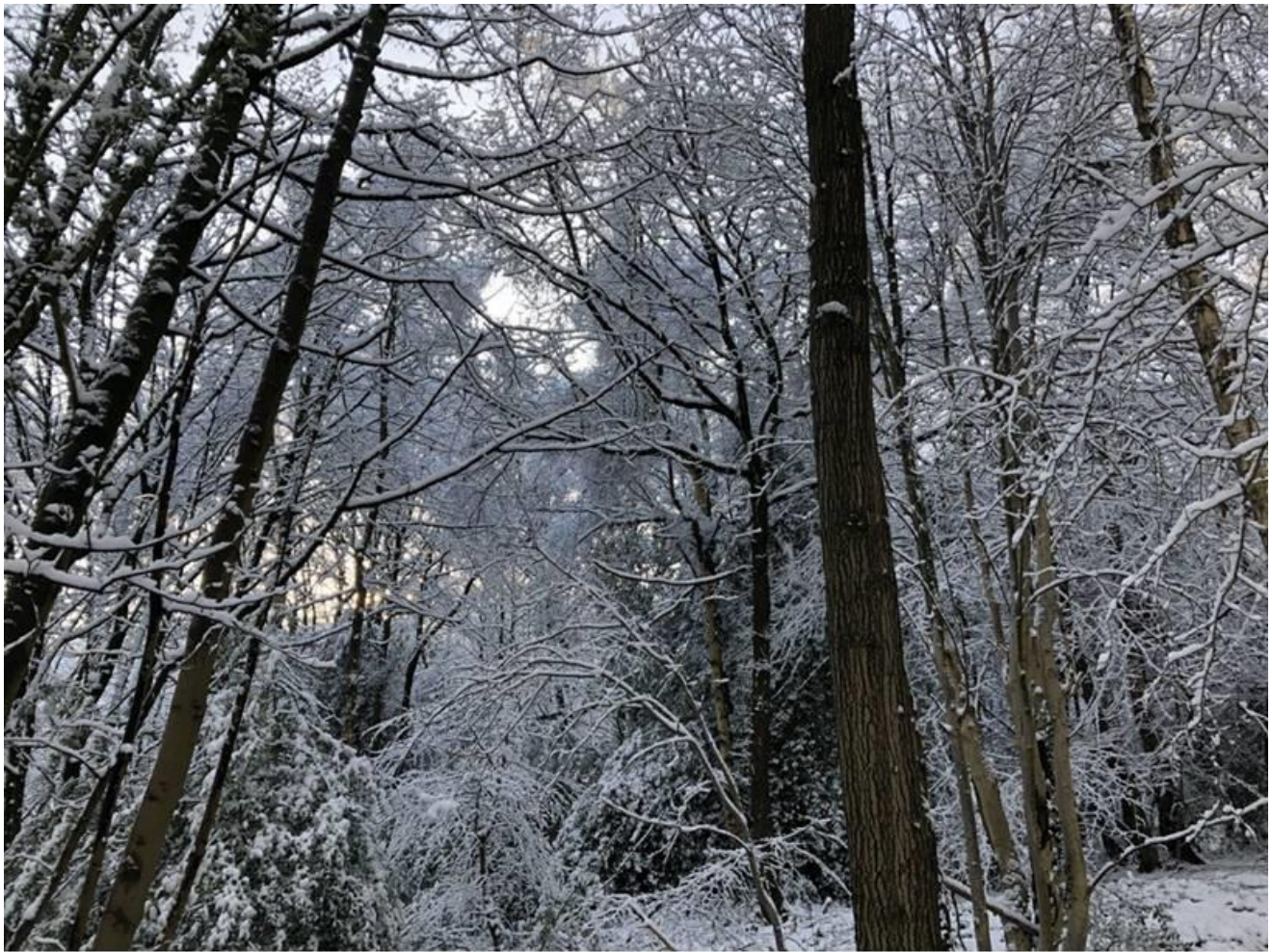
## **YOUR PHOTOS**

A couple of snow scenes. The first from Jean Gater, taken when snow on trees at the bottom of her garden was turned gold by the early morning sun. Glorious!





The second from a walk John and I did during the first downfall of snow. Lovely walk, marred only by John losing his keys in 6" of the white stuff. Of course it was the one day when I didn't take mine out with me..... a whole other story.



## Snowdrops

Some snowdrops from Decie Needham's collection. The gold marked one is *Galanthus nivalis* 'Ecusson d'Or' and the other with outer markings is *G. plicatus* 'Philippe Andre Meyer'



Then there is *G. plicatus* 'Madelaine', *G. plicatus* 'Priscilla Bacon' and *G. elwessi* 'Rodmarton Regulus'







As you can see, Decie keeps some of her collection in pots, mainly because of lack of space. She advises that this isn't the best way to keep them, but they won't suffer if kept this way for a couple of years.

A great resource for all you snowdrop lovers is [judyssnowdrops.co.uk](http://judyssnowdrops.co.uk) some great photos to help with identification.



## Hellebores

Don Witton's Hellebore Anna's Red here demonstrates just how resilient some plants are. First shot is after a -5C and second shot is around +5C.



Presumably some of the flowers made their way into their indoor display, floating in a shallow dish of water.





Two photos featuring Hamamelis, the first from Don, Hamamelis x intermedia Diane AGM in full flower and looking good in his front garden. He says the only drawback to this shrub is that, like most red flowered Witch Hazels, it doesn't have any perfume like the yellow and orange forms. The second (presumably scented?) is from Janet Boulding, sitting behind a Cornus.









In a dark spot against a north facing wall Don grows one of the many forms of the evergreen British native Harts Tongue fern. As you can see *Asplenium scolopendrium* 'Crested Form' has flared 'crinkle cut' tips to the leaves.



That's all for this month, don't forget to send in your contributions for March's edition to [tonifrascina@outlook.com](mailto:tonifrascina@outlook.com).

Best wishes

Toni