

Keeping in Touch, 13th September 2020

Hello all,

Hope you are enjoying the dry, sunny and warm September. Thanks for all your great photos. I have too many for this issue, so will include some in next week's edition.

IMPORTANT

Meetings for the rest of 2020 – these have now been cancelled, for obvious reasons, which means we can't manage AGM business in the normal manner. We usually publish last year's minutes and agenda in the newsletter, but this year we will be doing things slightly differently. **All AGM related material will go out via email, or posted for the handful of members who do not use email.**

We are hoping to send out the next Newsletter in November but Jim, our editor, would be happy to receive further articles by mid October as extra space will be now be available in the edition. Any articles and photos should be sent through j.a.chandler@shu.ac.uk.

KITBITS

- **You Tube** - Pam Hutchinson emailed in to say that one of speakers we had booked, Martin Fish, has a weekly programme on YouTube, Facebook etc called Pots and Trowels. Pam says it is easy to subscribe to for free and is usually full of interesting snippets. Well worth a try.
- **Seedlings on offer** - Barbara Dygnas has the following spare seedlings on offer in exchange for a small donation to the Trussell Trust. She has; Roscoea scillifolia atropurpurea, Arisaema consanguineum, Scabiosa ochroleuca, Primula veris hose-in-hose and Primula Barnhaven Victorian Violets. She also has some plants available again in exchange for a donation, including Iris 'Dark Aura', Euphorbia 'Fireglow', and Anemone lesseri. Contact Barbara directly bcdygnas@gmail.com.
- **Quiz** – no one entered the quiz to identify plants in Frank Abel's border, obviously not one of my better ideas!. However, undeterred, I include a quiz sent in by Ruth Ludford (See separate pdf for the quiz and the answers (no cheating!)).

GARDEN VISITS

We should have been visiting Barbara Dygnas' garden this week for one of our MAD (meet at destination) visits. Sadly that's not possible, but here's a few photos Barbara has sent in to give you a taste of what we have missed. I have visited this garden a couple of times and it's a treasure trove of unusual and interesting plants, many grown from seed.





Tricia Fraser visited the wonderful Holehird Gardens near Windermere a week or so ago. Holehird is a wonderful place, all the more impressive as its entirely run by volunteers. Here's a taste of what you'll find there in September. They hold four national collections, astilbe, meconopsis, daboecia and polystichum. Years ago I visited when the meconopsis were in flower and came away green with envy. I'm sure many of you have been, but if you haven't, put it on your post-COVID garden bucket list.



PLANT IDENT

Tricia also asks if anyone can ID this aster, fantastic colour but name unknown. (Later identified as *Symphiotrichon* 'Helen Picton').



Jean Marshall asks if anyone knows the variety of this Helenium



BIT OF WILDLIFE

Jean Gater solved a mystery for me this week. She sent in this photo of an Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillar. I had just been watching one make its way across my patio and had no idea what it was. They feed on fuchsia and rosebay willowherb. Sadly for Jean, her fuchsias!



PHOTOS FROM YOUR GARDENS

From Janet and Richard Lister's garden here's *Actaea simplex* 'Chocoholic' and *Hylotelephium* 'Thundercloud' (Sedum to you and me!)



Janet Boulding's fuchsias are in full bloom, but are they free of the dreaded caterpillar mentioned above??



Judy Coulson's *Hylotelephium* 'Red Cauli' is looking good. Judy bought it back in 2004 from a nursery called "Usual & Unusual Plants" based in Hailsham, East Sussex.



Sue Stockdale sent in this pic of her *Roscoea* 'Spice Island'. She says it has flowered very well again this year and she loves the dark red stems and underside of the leaves against the lilac flowers.



Ruth Ludford's 'Barr's Pink' Aster looks great. Ruth says it just gets bigger every year. The blue of *Ceratostigma* in the background thrives in my garden.



Plenty still flowering at <http://www.greenendfarmnursery.com/>. Jean Marshall sent in a whole bunch of pics, more of which next week. Here's a taster; *Silene* 'Betty Arnold', the variegated *Phlox paniculata* 'Nora Leigh' and *Viola* 'Myfannwy'.





Toni