

Keeping in Touch, June 2021

What a weird month May was weather wise. I estimate that at the beginning of June my herbaceous bed was about 3 weeks behind. On the 1st of June I had narcissi, tulips, camassia and allium all in flower at the same time.

As well as being unseasonably cold and wet, the thunderstorm which rained down on South Yorkshire during the month was experienced by many of us as hail. In my case it was the size of hazel nuts. Monocots seemed to broadly survive the attack, but anything with a broad leaf looked like it had been attacked by a cheese grater. Trees were partially defoliated, peony buds knocked off and stems of pulmonaria snapped in two. Beans I'd planted earlier that day were literally nothing but stalks the next day.



Then the bank holiday came and off we went on a family holiday. I came back to find the conservatory had turned into the Mojave Desert, with temps topping 50 and scorching some of my cacti and succulents. Not all were affected, and fortunately I have spares. But a lesson learned.

All that is behind us now and our gardens are bursting into colour as your photos below demonstrate. But first...

KITBITS

Sue and Phil's **open garden for the NGS is on Sunday 27th June**, 11-5. If you haven't visited before it is well worth it. Packed full of goodies and colour.

September Plant Sale – we are still waiting for the Council to open up bookings for the glasshouse and Dorothy Fox Centre. I suspect they are waiting to see if the June 21st deadline is pushed back, which is looking more

likely. All I can say is things remain uncertain, but we'll keep you informed. I know many of our regular customers were disappointed that the May sale didn't go ahead.

YOUR PLANT PHOTOS

Valerie G. sent in this Camelia, she took the photo at Renishaw and doesn't know the name. It looks very much like one that Decie N. sent in last year named C.' Comtesse Lavinia Maggi'.



Janice H. has been enjoying what she called her 'well behaved tulips'. The lawn looks pretty good too Janice!



In flower in Hugh and Judy's garden are *Eccremocarpus scaber* and something I'm not familiar with, *Philotheca myoporoides*.



Their Clematis montana is also in flowering beautifully, Hugh and Judy ask if anyone knows the variety?



Barbara D. shared photos of her first Arisaema, *A. penthoides*, as well as Red and Yellow Molly.



My Arisaema have yet to make an appearance, I fear they never will, although many are what Barbara calls 'late risers'. Bit like me.



Don had a pop up garden open day at his allotment. With only 2 weeks to advertise it he was pleased with the turn out of 63 including Hardy Planters from our group, West Yorks, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Here are 2 shots of the allotment taken before visitors came.



As well as his passion for Euphorbia, Don has been developing an interest in Erodium over the past few years. Two in his scree bed were looking gorgeous and were much admired. These were E 'Las Meninas' (top) and E 'La Feline' (bottom).



I wonder if Don will move his interests on to Echinacea, or Eryngium in the future? (spot the link).

Sue S. was on her hols in May and enjoyed Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens, Penzance, despite wet and windy weather. There were fabulous views of St Michael's Mount and interesting plants. Sue wonders if anyone knows the name of the lovely purple iris, she asked the gardener but she wasn't sure.





And finally a couple of different mice, from Janet B. (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) and Don (*Arisarum proboscideum*).

