

Keeping in Touch, July 10th 2020

Hello,

Well, it's yet another cool wet week. My hopes for some summer weather seem to have been dashed again. I hope you are able to enjoy the view of your garden even if you don't feel like working in it. I managed to get out a few days ago to collect seed from the spring flowering geraniums for the Hardy Geranium group's seed exchange, but that's it so far this week.

KITBITS

Plant Heritage normally sell seed at the Hampton Court Flower Show. This year seed is available online at £2 per packet via this link: <https://seed.plantheritage.org.uk/>.

The leaves on one of my Eucomis (growing in a pot) have gone all floppy! Any idea as to what may be the problem (lack of food, pot bound (though it was re-potted two months ago), too much watering??). In past years it has been fine.

Grown from Seed

Ruth Marsh emailed to say that her partner, Barrie bought some seed, which was supposedly a double geranium (pelargonium). They planted 10 seeds but only 4 germinated. As they developed Ruth wasn't sure they were pelargoniums, but planted two in a hanging basket, one in a basket on the wall and one in a tub. As they grew she and Barrie became even more convinced they were not pelargoniums at all, as they just kept growing (reach for the sky)! They look like mallows so if anyone knows which they are then please let us know.



Here's the flowers close-up:



Hostas Great and Small

Two of Don's Hostas at the opposite end of the size scale are looking good now. I'm sure some members will know of Hosta 'Sum and Substance'. This giant Hosta has leaves growing 4ft tall with taller flowers and is growing in full sun.



At barely 2in tall H. 'Teen-weeny Bikini' is the smallest of around 20 miniatures Don grows in pots and sinks. He bought it a few years ago from Sue Procter Hostas near Denby Dale and it hasn't yet flowered. Unfortunately miniature hostas don't have miniature prices as Don still has the label - £10!!



Gunby Hall Gardens

Last week Alistair and I visited Gunby Hall gardens, a National Trust property near Skegness. As with many such places, you need to book tickets in advance so we took pot luck with the weather and had an enjoyable day out despite the rain. The garden is well worth a visit (Roses and perennials all looked good) and just a few miles inland from Skegness should you want to have a paddle and fish and chips afterwards! Here's a few photos:



A lovely combination of a Kniphofia and Eryngium in the gardens. Any suggestions for names?



View into the walled garden.



Part of the walled garden. The building behind is the old stable block which has volunteer accommodation on the top floor. Alistair and I, with other volunteers, spent a few weekends here in the 1980s doing some conservation work. In those days volunteer accommodation was generally basic and the fire escape then was a rope ladder leading from the top window down through a large and prickly rambler rose. We were pleased to see there is now a fixed ladder and the rose has been pruned and trained away from the fire escape ☺ .



Lysimachia ephemerum I hadn't seen this before and it's now on my wants list.

Anemone 'Swan Series'

Sometimes the reverse of a flower is almost better than the face and here are two of my favourites. Both are from Elizabeth MacGregor's nursery in Kirkcudbright and are flowering now. She introduced Anemone 'Wild Swan' in 2011 and has since introduced several more in the series. They start to flower in late June and continue into autumn.



Anemone 'Ruffled Swan' 70-80cm tall, pale mauve reverse on the petals.



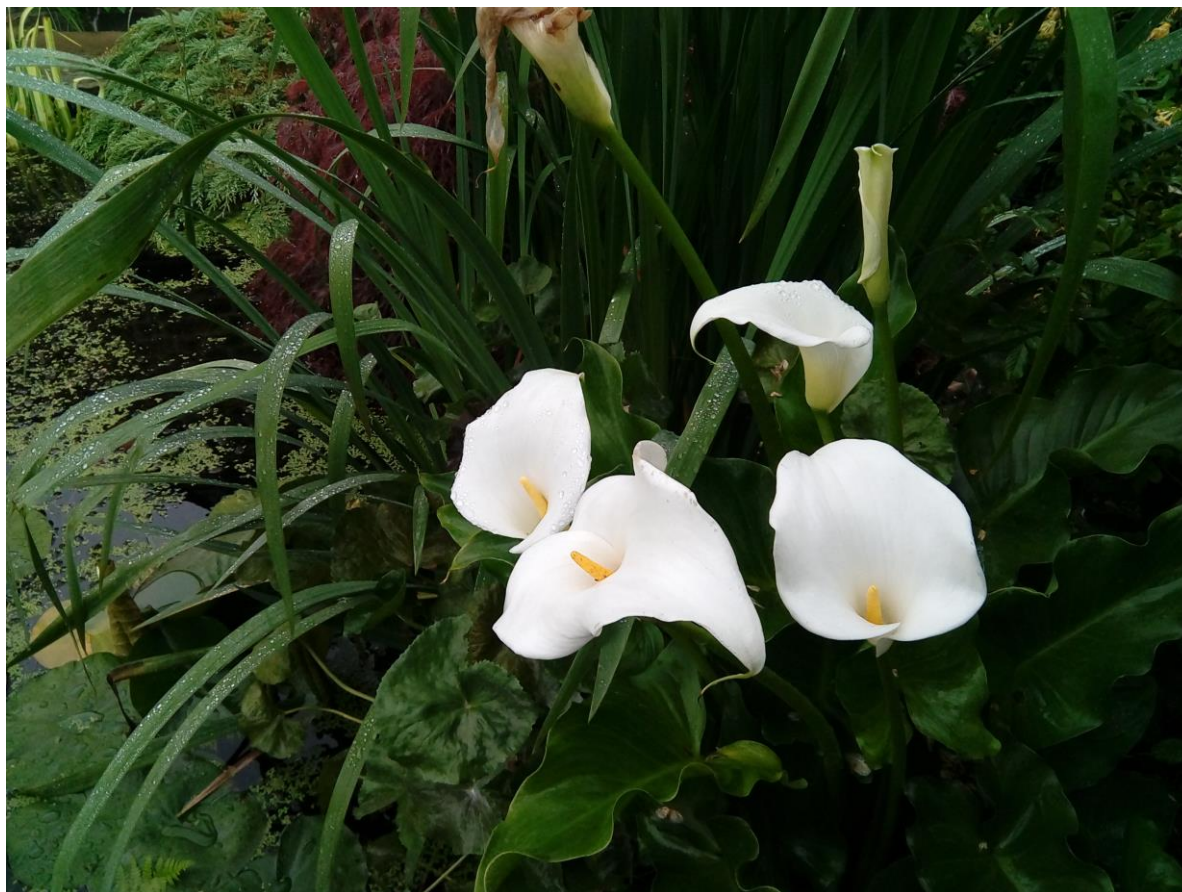
Anemone 'Dainty Swan' 45cm tall with a pink reverse on the petals.

Others in this series are 'Wild Swan', 'Dreaming Swan' and 'Elphin Swan'. All are long flowering and well worth growing.

HPS Conservation Scheme Plant

Janet Boulding sent in this photo of *Zantedeschia* 'Glencoe'. I wish I had checked the list of plants in the scheme as I bought one of these at a Felley Priory plant sale two years ago!

Janet's plant is in a pot standing in the shallow end of their pond, and has been there all winter. It doesn't look any the worst for that, and she doubts that it could be pulled out now! Mine is in a shady border but has still flowered so it seems to be an easy to please plant.



And finally a bit of colour to cheer us up:



Hypericum berries looking bright in the rain.



Hemerocallis 'Mallard'. I bought this at our last plant sale and it is looking lovely just now. I had little success with Hemerocallis in our previous garden but they are doing very well in the new front garden.

That's all from me for this KIT and it's over to Toni again after her break with family. Keep sending in your photos, tips and questions to tonifrascina@outlook.com.

Tricia