

Keeping in Touch, August 2nd 2020

Hello,

Summer's back (well at least for a couple of days) and the pots need watering again. If the photos I've received this week are anything to go by, your gardens are a wealth of colour, despite it being cooler than average throughout June and July.

KITBITS

Committee Meeting

Last Tuesday we were able to have a socially distanced outdoor meeting in Jim Chandler's garden, in spite of the weather – heavy showers and blowing a right hoolie! By cowering under umbrellas and shouting to make ourselves heard we were able to make some decisions. Two I want to mention here.

1. September Meeting and Plant Sale Cancelled

The Dorothy Fox Centre remains closed and the Council can give no date for re-opening it. This leaves us no option but to cancel both the September meeting and the plant sale. Theoretically we could have tried to book the glasshouse on its own, but this would have been subject to us having a full risks assessment for public and members being approved by Council representatives which we were warned would take some time to process. In addition, we would also have been responsible for providing the appropriate PPE. All things considered we couldn't guarantee any of this was achievable.

2. Selling your plants to members by advertising in KIT

Barbara Dygnas has a number of plants she wants to sell for a local foodbank charity. She has already raised £200 selling to neighbours and friends. If you are interested in this, please contact Barbara directly (her email address was in the emailed version of this KIT) and she can give you a list of what she has available. You can pick up from Barbara's house at some mutually convenient time.

If anyone else wants to advertise something similar, drop me an email and I can include in a future KIT tonifrascina@outlook.com (Note, you must consent to having your email address included in the KIT so that members can contact you directly).

Mystery plant

In the last edition, I featured a photo of a mystery plant taken by Linda Headford. Both Jill Gorvett and Jim Chandler identified it as *Reseda luteola*. Jill says it's also known as Weld or Dyer's Rocket and was collected for dyeing cloth yellow. It's a biennial, likes light limey soil and Jill has seen a lovely stand of it high up on Longstone Edge. Jim says that his edition of Clapham, Tutin and Warburg's reference to the *Flora of the British Isles* indicates it is common on disturbed ground, arable land, walls etc especially on calcareous substrata. Kay Keeton suggested it could be *Reseda odorata*. I'll leave it to Linda to compare.

Garden visit

Don and Dot Witton have recently had a few members visit their allotment garden where Don tends his National Collection of Euphorbia. He usually opens for the NGS, but of course hasn't been able to this year. His patch includes much more than euphorbias though, and to share some of the colour, extends an invitation to any member who would like to do a socially distanced visit. A cuppa and a natter are thrown in for free. Please contact Dot or Don to arrange dorothywitton@outlook.com or donshardyeuphorbias@btopenworld.com. Don has lots of lovely plants for sale which he grew for plant fairs (not happening), those below were grown for Felley Priory and include grasses, phlox and erodium amongst others.



Don's Plants for Sale

GARDEN RECOMMENDATIONS

We were due to have a MAD (Meet at Destination) visit earlier in July to Byways, an NGS garden off the Chatsworth road out of Chesterfield. Don, who arranges these visits was curious to see if it lived up to its description. He says it was fantastic. It's not the biggest garden in the world but was stuffed full of summer perennial colour and plenty of seating to sit and just take it in. He was so impressed he immediately rebooked a group visit for next July. I think the photos say it all.





COLOUR IN YOUR GARDENS

Janet Boulding sent in this lovely combo of an unknown Diascia and unknown lavender. They've obviously got on well together for a number of years!



Sue Stockdale's garden was open for the NGS recently. Not sure if this gorgeous pair were strutting their stuff at the time, *Echinacea* 'Southern Bell' and *Veronica longifolia* 'Marietta'.





Veronica longifolia 'Marietta'

Here's a very unusual climber from Ruth Ludford, *Sollya heterophylla* or Climbing Bluebell. She bought it as a very small plant at the NEC last year having never heard of it. Apparently, it's a native of Australia and hardy down to -5.



Kay Keeton reckons it's a great year for hydrangeas. She bought *H. paniculata* 'Wims Red' last year and is predicting it is going to be really good. She saw it at Agatha Christie's home Greenway down in Devon and decided she just had to have it ('well three actually!'). The *H.* 'Strawberry & Cream' was bought from local garden centre.



This erygium comes up every year for Kay, she says it's a really good doer, bee heaven and she always has seed in the autumn if anyone is interested.



I'm sure you'll all recognise *H. arborescens* 'Annabelle', this one is from Barbara Dygnas's garden.



An unknown hydrangea from my own garden, it was one of the few flowering plants I inherited. I have four of them! I love the colour.



A few more odds and sods in flower in my garden; a *Delosperma* something or other (label long gone), some *zantedeschia* which I unknowingly planted by accident. I reused compost to pot on another plant and inadvertently took these along for the ride. But they look rather good, so it's a happy accident. Lastly a *Sedum fimbriata*, with very different leaves from *S. spectabile*, flowers are just about to open. I bought this from one of our members years ago, can't remember who though.





Sedum fimbriata

That's all for this week, here's hoping the sun continues to shine on us (with a little bit of overnight rain perhaps). May your agapanthus, phlox, crocosmia, helenium etc. etc. continue to flower beautifully.....in which case take a photo and share by sending to tonifrascina@outlook.com.

Toni