

Keeping in Touch, March 2021

Hello everyone,

What an awful month February was weather wise. I have one clump of usually beautiful white Hellebore flowers which were just emerging as the snow fell. Once the snow eventually melted, the buds just sat there slightly above soil level, closed and going slightly brown. This week they have decided it's safe to emerge, but they look battered and bruised. A bit like me coming out of lockdown!

We have a packed edition of Keeping In Touch (KIT) this month, including information about some nurseries, a great tip of the month and of course loads of photos from your lovely gardens.

HPS MONTHLY TALKS

Don Witton gave a great talk last Wednesday entitled 'The Creation and Evolution of English Herbaceous Border'. There were 79 'logins', which included a number of couples and 35 visitors from other branches of the HPS.

April's talk is "The Westshores Story" by Gail Summerfield, it's a look behind the scenes of a nursery. Don will send out a link nearer the date.

ONLINE SHOPPING

Unlike garden centres, plant nurseries can't open, but many are opening their doors via the internet.

Millthorpe Nursery (Holmesfield) has a website where you can choose plants and order for collection and payment at the nursery [Millthorpe Nursery - growing since 2016 \(millthorpe-nursery.co.uk\)](http://millthorpe-nursery.co.uk)

Vicki Weston of Westons Salvias in Wales got in touch to share her website. She has been operating online for years, so if you're a fan of salvias, why not take a peek at her website

<https://www.houseandgarden.co.uk/gallery/vicki-westons-savlia-nursery-wales>

TIP

Janet Boulding reckons there is nothing better than 'The Pink Stuff' to clean your labels. A tub costs about £4 and lasts for ages.

PLANT INFO SOURCE

Barbara Dignas emailed me with some information after she attended a talk by Wim Boens on companion plants for snowdrops. One of Wim's passions is erantis and he has written an extensive survey of the genus published by the Scottish Rock Garden Society [International Rock Gardener \(srgc.org.uk\)](http://srgc.org.uk) 29 January 2014 edition. Barbara says that access to the journal (enter International Rock Gardener on your browser) is free of charge and there are lots of interesting articles. The latest (January) edition has another Boens article on Arums, an account of National Trust for Scotland (membership is cheaper than NT Britain) Branklyn Garden in lockdown and a trip with Zdenek Zvolanek, a well know alpine gardener, to the Taurus Mountains in Turkish Anatolia.

SOUTH PENNINE HPS WEBSITE

Tricia Fraser has been going through the 2020 KIT documents and selecting some of the many wonderful photos you sent in so she can use them on our new SPG website. The aim is to have seasonal photos, changing every month or so. Tricia will acknowledge the person who sent in the photo after the name of each plant with the copyright symbol. If any member prefers not to have their plant photo or name included on the site please email Tricia (triciaf2808@gmail.com).

YOUR SPLENDID PHOTOS

I know we all want to leave winter behind us, but I couldn't resist these pics. Jo Owen's topiary dog is wearing a winter coat, and her Hylotelephium 'Matrona' look like some kind of weird winter mushrooms! Jo also has a topiary snail, however she has struggled with the tentacles, they always end up looking like rabbit ears. One of her friends calls it the Snabbit!



Now who is this man of mystery? I bet you can all guess



Galanthus in all their splendour from Janet Bolding's house, and as snapped by Don Witton from the grounds of the abandoned Shireoaks Hall near Worksop.



Don usually visits Hodsock Priory to get his annual snowdrop fix, at Shireoaks he also got winter aconites



A couple of named varieties of Galanthus from Jean Marshall:

'John Grey'





Galanthus 'Blonde Inge'

A fab Hepatica from Julia Reed H. nobilis 'Indigo'. Julia bought this at our 2018 spring plant sale.



Iris reticulata 'Carolina' from Judy Coulson



Iris 'Injad Sherwood' from Irene May (Wilco's finest apparently). These look really good when planted amongst Ophiopogon planescens.



Hellebore 'Emma' from Jean Marshall



Another from Don W., *Euphorbia sikkimensis*, a deciduous species with very attractive emerging foliage. Don reports that the pink midrib persists through to flowering time in July and August



Now for some shrubs. A couple of Hamamelis from Frank Abel (didn't we see Frank earlier??).



Cornus mas from Irene May



Sheila Cook's *Daphne bholua* 'Jacqueline Postill' (you can almost smell that scent from here)



Callipcarpa bodinieri 'Profusion' from Jean Marshall. The berries of Profusion have been there since November.



And finally, a bit of romance from Julia Reed's small garden pond!



That's all for March, don't forget to send your pics, tips and stories to tonifrascina@outlook.com

Toni