

## Keeping in Touch, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2020

Hi everyone,

Hope this finds you all well, I don't know about you but I seem to spend my time doing the three Ws: Weeding, Watering and Waivering about whether I should put my tender stuff out yet. A couple of people have said they had frost damage from last week's cold nights, the leaves on some of my hydrangeas are looking very crispy. But it looks like night-time temperatures are warming up so I reckon we are safe now.

### KITBITS

Tricia sent in a good tip for cleaning up used plant labels. If I've used a permanent marker I usually clean them up with a brillo pad, but you end up with very dry hands. So here's Tricia's tip – use nail varnish remover. I'll definitely try it out.

### YOUR QUERIES ANSWERED

Last time, Elaine Blair send a pic of her *Centaurea hypoleuca* 'John Coutts' and asked why the flower buds seemed to be refusing to open. Don Witton send in a photo of what it WILL look like once it opens. He says the flower buds take an age to open, but once they do, what a fantastic colour.



Hugh Reid sent in a photo of his clematis asking if anyone knew its name. We have two suggestions; *Clematis montana* var. *rubens* 'Tetrase' from Kay Keeton, Kay says this has a lovely perfume. Judy Coulson suggested *Clematis montana* 'Freda'.

Charlotte Swain spotted “these flat things very evenly spaced on our lovely tall acer they are kind of covered in a woolly web and are soft, came away easily n stuck to my finger like glue. What to do?”



Ann Dunn asks “Can anyone tell me the name of this lovely plant?”





Well, Jean Marshall sent me a photo from her nursery recently which I don't think I've used yet.



Snap! Its *Uvularia grandiflora*



## YOUR PHOTOS

Now some highlights from members gardens:

Ann Dunn's tree peony, I think this is *Paeonia delavayi*. I once received a free gift with an order from J Parkers which was supposed to be this plant. Well it was a tree peony, but bright pink! Glad I'm not the only one that loses labels....





Linda Headford's *Rhododendron* '*Lemon Dream*' is looking rather lovely.





Rob Spencer's iris border has turned into a kniphofia border!





Charlotte Swain's *Rhodiola rosea*, commonly known as Roseroot, is on the march.



This is a member of the Crassulacea family, from the Arctic I believe. This family are pretty diverse and include Sempervivum and Echevaria.

Don Witton sent in three photos of 3 white flowering plants, all with unusual black or darkest purple markings.



First is a late flowering *Epimedium acuminatum* growing in a north facing shady spot. It has small dark purple petals, white sepals and very long white spurs. As you can see, the leaves are attractive too.



Second, Don's favourite Erodium, *E. Stephanie* which he says is currently flowering its socks off. He says "two of the white petals have a black blob. Very striking."





And third “an unusual Columbine growing on my allotment. *Aquilegia vulgaris* William Guinness has dark purple sepals and spurs and the white petals have a dark spot as black as the drink of the same name from Ireland.”



Lastly, a pond pic from Janet Lister, she says “Koi Carp bought last year as 2eyes and a stick we have looked after them all winter and now they are 1-3 inches long”



Thanks to all of our contributors, around 40 of our members have sent something in since we started KIT, which is great. However.....that means many of you are keeping your treasures to yourself. Get out your



smart phone, camera or even paints, and share your special specimens and send me [tonifrascina@outlook.com](mailto:tonifrascina@outlook.com), your garden highlights of the moment.

Take care

Toni