

## Keeping in Touch, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2020

Hello everyone,

Hope today's edition finds you all well in your gardens.

### PRINTED COPIES OF SPRING NEWSLETTER

Jim Chandler, editor of the regular biannual newsletter sent a message for you all:

"I hope everyone has now received either by post or hand the April Newsletter. If not please let me know. We attempted to see if it was possible to deliver the newsletter through e-mail but my mail system will not send such a large pdf file and apps to condense files such as 'We Transfer' took six minutes to send one copy and the results for the recipients were sometimes less than perfect. I hope there is no need to deliver the next Newsletter in October through the post but if anyone knows a better method of sending 42.4 Megabyte files to over 100 addresses it would be good to know for forward planning.  
([J.A.Chandler@shu.ac.uk](mailto:J.A.Chandler@shu.ac.uk))"

### NURSERY/GARDEN CENTRE DELIVERIES

Thanks to Rene May and Greta Pearman who contacted me to say Bents Green Nursery are delivering gardening supplies (tel. 01142 304 101)

### PHOTOS

Jim Chandler is taking advantage of the fine weather and isolation at home to get on top of some of the wilder areas in the garden. He sent through a photo of one of two clumps of wild wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) a plant he tried, without success, to introduce into their top garden soon after moving in. It wasn't a success, but to his surprise the plant has decided to introduce itself in its own time and choosing without any help from Jim or Khrys.



Next we've got some wonderful Trillium from Decie Needham. The first is *T. kurabayashii*, which Decie says has gradually been increasing its number of flower heads over time.



Decie also sent through pics of Erythronium and other trilliums which have been flowering in her garden for a while.





The next is a lovely photo from Janet Boulding of a Blackbird's nest complete with 4 eggs.



Unfortunately Mrs Blackbird has built the nest on top of a post rather too close to the ground, so Janet has built a fortress around it to protect it from the neighbour's cat. Did you have to get planning permission for this Janet?





Hugh and Judy Reid sent through a photo of the wax flowers, *Philotheca myoporoides*. They bought it from Hayloft Nurseries last year as a reminder of their tour seeing the wild flowers of Western Australia in September 2018. It has come through its first British winter unscathed. *Philotheca* appears to have a long flowering season as it began about a month ago & the flowers show no sign of fading.



## PESTS

I hate to bang on about Lily Beetles, BUT, I caught one in a pot of tulips today.....the leaves are damaged, do they eat tulips too. Please no, no, no.

## RECYCLING IDEAS

Linda Headford sent through a selection of great ideas for what to do with an old pallet. They are from a Facebook site Jardinieres en palletes which contains too many for me to feature here, here's some of my favourites:











## ANSWERS ON AN EMAIL

Jim's anemone pic got me thinking, if I wanted a plant to introduce itself into my garden, what would it be? Answer, Echinacea. I can grow it in pots, but not in the open ground. A couple of years ago I went to the HPS National Lecture day in Norfolk. Radio Norfolk were there with their gardening show and broadcast a live Q&A with a panel including Alan Gray from East Ruston Old Vicarage. So I asked the 'why can't I grow Echinacea?' question. The answer was, more or less, because you live in Sheffield! Actually it was slightly more nuanced than that; it's a prairie plant which likes to be baked in the summer and frozen in the winter, the ground in Sheffield is generally too wet over winter (certainly true this last winter). The panel suggested that if I could grow them in pots until their crowns were large they might survive in the garden in a well drained spot. So when the pots which housed my 'White Swan' and 'Prairie Splendour' were damaged moving house, I thought I might as well put them in the garden. I'm sure they'll be fine this year, next year will be the true test.

So what would your uninvited but welcome guest plant be? Let me know and we can share the pain!

That's all for today, enjoy your Easter weekend, whatever you do.

## NEXT TIME

More woodland beauties from Don, a parasite from the Reids and perhaps an update on the Blackbird family?

Best wishes

Toni