

## HPS South Pennine Group, Keeping in Touch April 30<sup>th</sup> 2020

Hello again everyone,

I've started composing this edition on Wednesday afternoon WITH THE HEATING ON! Bit of a change from last Wednesday. But April showers have at last arrived, which is welcome.

I've cut down on the number of photos this time around as last edition, Judy had a few emails bounce back as undelivered. This could be for a mix of reasons, including strength of internet signal. With so many people working on line from home I believe internet service providers are struggling to maintain a consistent level of service. Judy kindly cut and pasted the content into word documents which she was able to send successfully to the 'undeliverables' but to save her the faffing about I've tried to be a little more economical with the photography.

If you've sent a photo in and it hasn't been featured yet, it will appear in a forthcoming KIT.

### FRANK'S FUNDRAISING

Many of you know our member Frank Abel, who was in the Sheffield Star today, pictured with his e-bike. He is cycling 30 circuits of Norfolk Park, 26 miles, to raise money for Sheffield Hospitals Charity in memory of his late wife.

South Pennine Hardy Plant Society has donated £100 on behalf of the membership but if you would like to make a separate contribution, you can do so via Frank's Just Giving page, a safe and secure way of contributing, go to <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/frank-abel>. On this page Frank sets out the reasons behind his efforts "the UK's Charities general fundraising has been hit very hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thousands of fundraising events have been cancelled and many charities, particularly smaller ones, are struggling to maintain services because of this huge reduction in income. This impacts all sectors of society from children to the elderly as well as the vital work in areas such as palliative care, serious diseases, mental health, housing support, food supplies and countless others that charities support."

### HORTI RETAIL THERAPY

With garden centres closed, nurseries large and small with on line shops seem to be doing a roaring trade at the moment. Some of the larger concerns such as RHS and Crocus have daily order limits which seem to be surpassed quite early, then they simply close their web site for new orders. Jim Chandler sent news of one useful source of mail order plants which doesn't seem have this restriction, Tortworth Plants (<https://www.tortworthplants.co.uk/>) based in Gloucestershire. He reports that they "sent me two orders only 2 days after they were ordered. The plants are reasonably priced and seem very healthy. They list in stock several varieties of *Erodium*."

Pam Hutchinson recommends this online shop <https://darcyeverest.co.uk> for alpines in particular.

### GARDEN VISIT

We were due to go and see Charlotte Swain's garden on 25<sup>th</sup> April, but of course it was cancelled. So Charlotte has sent us a photo instead. She had done her preparation and says "I followed through with the tasks to make it 'ship shape', so I am now enjoying the absence of piles of wood awaiting sawing, 3/4 full bags of leaves abandoned and have glued back together a favourite terracotta pot. I

have supports in place for the raspberries (a 1st) a remade raised bed and reviewed my cake recipes." She's going to practice these in anticipation of a post lockdown visit. Sounds and looks scrumptious.





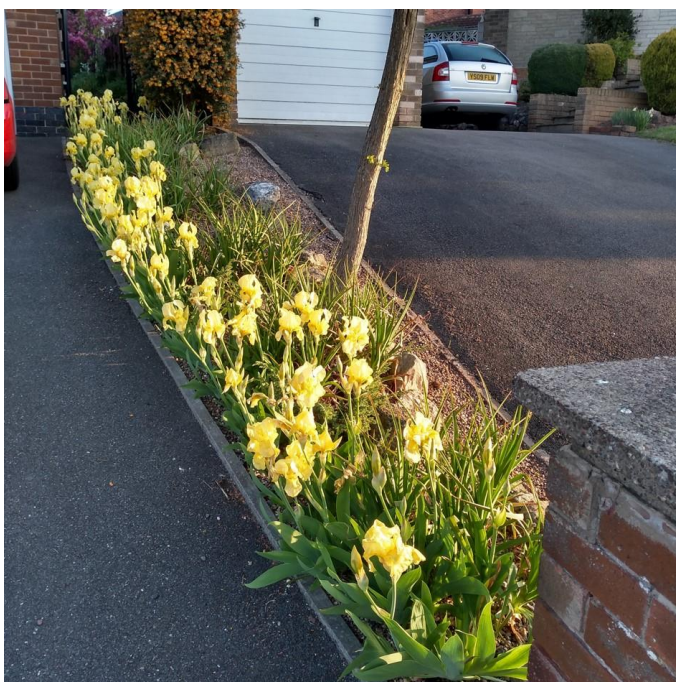
## CONSERVATION SCHEME

Last time I featured *Erysium Ruston Royal*, a one year old plant which I was pleased with. Here's one in its full glory from Judy Coulson's plot. She says it's not an easy one to propagate, anyone any tips?



## OTHER PHOTOS

Rob Spencer sent in this photo of his Iris border. He says "The Iris were here before we moved in. It is a bearded Iris possibly ' Early Light ' as it has cream standards and slightly darker falls with a yellow beard. These are young plants as have only been planted 2/3 years and therefore stems only have 4 to 5 flowers. Mature plants can have 8 to 10 I believe. I would be interested if your audience have alternative suggestions!"





Janet Boulding sent in another Iris pic, this is a short form, name unknown, anyone got any ideas?



I suspect this one needs no introduction, it's (Podyphyllum) Spotty Dotty! another one from Jean's nursery.





David and Angela Andrews sent in a couple of lovely climbers; firstly Akebia which is growing in their garden. David points out that everyone walks under this plant when entering the main entrance to the Dorothy Fox Centre, it's growing around the entrance gate. Its common name is the chocolate vine.



Secondly, Clematis Alpina Tage Lundell





Do you remember some time back we featured an unusual peony from Don Witton *Paeonia tenuifolia*. Well here it is in flower.



Don's also been out wandering the countryside again and sends this uplifting photo of one of our wonderful natives. He says "just up the road near Spinkhill is my favourite Bluebell wood and it's open and it's free! High Wood is between Spinkhill and Barlborough. It's an 8 mile round trip walk from Harthill but hey! there's currently plenty of time." Glorious aren't they!





This is from Tricia Fraser, this variegated white honesty was grown from seed given to her by Barbara Dygnas.



I love growing from seed, especially collected from my own or friends gardens, and of course the HPS seed distribution scheme. You actually never know what you are going to get as nature does its work and produces some interesting hybrids of its own accord.....more of which next time.

#### **NEXT TIME**

Start of the aroid season (including one grown from seed), a couple of plant ident queries, a wonderful auricular, memories of Logan Botanical Garden and anything else I can fit in.

Tomorrow we can give a big Hurray for May – long and hopefully warmer evenings, burgeoning flower power and on the brink of planting out the tender stuff. Enjoy

Toni