

## Keeping in Touch, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020

Hello everyone,

I hope you are keeping well and have been able to enjoy the sunshine over the past couple of days. I've got a few more things to share with you.

### PHOTOS FROM MEMBERS GARDENS

The first two are from Ruth Ludford. Both are associated with a friend, which I always think enhances the pleasure of a plant. The first is a primrose which she took many years ago from a friend's garden in Limerick, now they've spread themselves around.



The second is an unnamed Rhododendron, bought at Lea Gardens 1989 in memory of a friend. Beautiful crimson foliage all year.



Our second contributor is Elaine Blair. Elaine bought this Euphorbia pasturii from Don 3 years ago. Elaine says "He said it would become a monster! I love it for its evergreen beauty all winter and now can't wait for it to burst into bloom. Apparently I can cut it hard back with no ill effects but don't have the heart".



Don, could I order a couple of these please – in my new garden I have a large border area which is currently covered in cardboard and weed suppressant to kill off the ‘grass’ beneath. I think a couple of these would provide some great winter greenery.

Our final photo of this edition of KIT (Keep In Touch) is from Judy Coulson. It’s an unusual *Corylopsis*, given to her by an ex postman who gardens in Chelsea Rd and has many unusual plants. Judy mentioned that this is a genus of nearly 30 species of shrubs in the witch hazel family, Hamamelidaceae. They are native to eastern Asia with the majority of species endemic to China but with some also in Japan, Korea, and the Himalayas.



## HINTS AND TIPS

In the last KIT I shared Jeans observation that squirrels were eating her Hellebore flowers. Angela McCreery got in touch with a good solution. She said use chilli powder as a repellent, it is safe for other wildlife apparently, do not apply on a windy day, reapply after rain and you can get big bags of it in the Asian food section of some supermarkets. Angela discovered this trying to deter whatever was eating her bearded Iris leaves. She says it does work and thinks it keeps the foxes and cats at a distance too suggesting that most wildlife has good scent and hazard detection systems and so just keep their distance.

I have a few more photos which I’ll save for later in the week. In the meantime, if you’ve got something beautiful in your garden, snap it and mail it to [tonifrascina@outlook.com](mailto:tonifrascina@outlook.com) . I’ll try and send a KIT out a couple of times a week.

You can also send in any questions you want to put to the group. I reckon that between our 100 plus members we have more expertise than a GQT panel!

### **PRAISE AND GRUMBLE**

Those footy aficionados amongst you who listen to Radio Sheffield will be familiar with Praise and Grumble. John always listens to it on a Saturday evening. I find it pretty hilarious, with members of the public ringing in to offer praise or grumble about their local team's performance of the day. Suffice to say that to some people, football really is a matter of life and death!.

I don't have a grumble, but do want to praise an Arnold Laver delivery driver. I'm having some raised beds build for my veggie garden and the wood was delivered today (keeping 2m between us and the driver at all times). This chap skilfully manoeuvred his very large wagon up our narrow lane and onto our drive. He used his crane to put the wood exactly where we wanted it and reversed out of our drive and back down the lane with good cheer. I told him how impressed I was with his driving skills and he positively beamed at me.

Keep well and keep your distance!

Best wishes

Toni