

Keeping in Touch, March 27th 2020

What a lovely week weather wise at least. I've been out in the garden most days and been exhausted most nights. I tried out my new toy on Tuesday, a new mower. I needed something hefty but didn't want to buy a petrol mower for a mix of reasons including environmental, cost of annual service, difficulty starting etc. A bit of research suggested that the latest ones powered by lithium ion rechargeable batteries were just as good as the petrol ones. So I took the plunge. Only one word for it – BRILLIANT. Though I think it was a bit of a comical sight watching me master the self-propelled mechanism, if it was on too high it shot off like a rocket (slight exaggeration!).

Some girls like diamonds and pearls, others, lawn mowers and mattocks (my other favourite toy of the moment).

PHOTOS

First, three pics from Tricia Fraser. In the order in which they appear:

Variegated white honesty leaves looking good at the moment. It is planted against the back fence so should brighten up the shade there.

Oxalis 'Ute; is in the greenhouse, alpine bed and Tricia says only ever seems to have one flower at a time!

Rhododendron 'Snow Lady' is low growing and flowers reliably in March.





Next, from Nigel Reeves, he emailed saying "Seeing those lovely Hellebores I just had to show you mine. Bought these as plug plants nearly 5 years ago and this is the first year they have flowered. A long wait but finally worth it."



Then two pics from Sue Stockdale. Many of us are familiar with Sue's garden as she opens for the NGS, and it currently has daffodils popping up all over. She calls it 'Our own corner of Cornwall'. The second photo shows Echium with flower buds on, Echeveria agavoides Ebony, and Aloe polyphylla- starting to spiral in the sun. I am jealous of the Echium, which apparently self seeded itself. Sue says "its not an ideal position for us but it seems quite happy there as it is sheltered near the house. We have others in the garden but none as healthy as that one".



A BIT OF POETRY

Thanks to Ruth Ludford for sharing the following which she thought members might appreciate,.

It was March 2020

The streets were empty, the shops closed, people couldn't get out.

But spring did not know and the flowers began to bloom, the sun shone, the birds sang, the swallows would soon arrive, the sky was blue, the morning arrived early.

It was March 2020

Young people had to study online and find occupations at home, people could no longer go shopping or go to the hairdresser. Soon there would be no more room in hospitals and people continued to get sick.

But spring did not know, the time to go to the garden arrived, the grass greened.

It was March 2020

People have been put in lockdown, to protect grandparents, families and children. No more meetings or meals, or family celebrations.

The fear became real and the days were therefore similar.

But spring did not know, apples, cherry trees and others bloomed, the leaves grew.

People started reading, playing with their families, learning a language, singing on the balcony, inviting neighbours to do the same, being supportive and focusing on other values.

People realised the importance of health, of the suffering of this world that has stopped, of the economy that has plummeted.

But spring did not know, the flowers gave way to the fruit, the birds made their nests, the swallows had arrived.

Then the day of liberation came, people found out on the TV, the virus had lost, people took to the street, and, cried, kissed their neighbours, without masks or gloves. And that's when summer came, because spring did not know. He continued to be there despite everything, despite the virus, fear and death. Because spring did not know, he taught people the power of life.

Everything's gonna be fine, stay home, protect yourself and enjoy life.

HINTS AND TIPS

Tricia Fraser emailed the following:

"I emptied out a pot a few days ago and found it full of vine weevil larvae – no wonder the poor plant looked sad (it was a Heuchera and beyond salvaging)! Anyway we extracted all the larvae and put them into a big plant pot saucer and left them out in the garden. The robins love the larvae and have been coming every day to see if we have any more. There were three lined up on the fence yesterday – I think they regard us as a takeaway! So, if you have a vine weevil problem just leave them out for the robins to enjoy."

That's all for today everyone. Don't worry if you've sent something in but it hasn't been included yet – I will send out everything I receive.

NEXT TIME

Barbara Dygnas shops for essentials (not a loo roll in sight), our treasurer (and resident comedian) shows us what a well manicured lawn looks like and Pam Hutchinson has something unusual to share (I've certainly never heard of it).

Stay well and enjoy spring unfold.

Toni