

Keeping in Touch, May 2021

I have written this introduction at least three times. Each time I read it back it sounded like a total weather whinge. So I'm beginning again, I will be positive! Here goes.....

It doesn't matter what the weather flings at us, our plants still thrive and April was full of early flowering Clematis, primula and blossom as you can see from your photos below. And I spotted my first peony bud this afternoon, White Wings.

There, that wasn't so hard....though I am straining not to type in a sentence about frost, snow, wind and hail damage.....not to mention today's rain!

Before your lovely photos, some information and a couple of queries.

INFORMATION

See our website Programme page for talk details. We are continuing with Zoom talks for now.

Lincolnshire HPS are hoping to hold their annual plant sale on June 12th at Goltho Gardens near Market Rasen. Further information will be posted on their Facebook page and website.

QUERIES

I grew some *Aquilegia* 'Lime Sorbet' from seed last year. I planted out half a dozen plants in various locations and all but one are being eaten. It's not slug damage, something larger (see photo below). Perhaps it read the label and thought Lime Sorbet sounded delicious as other aquilegia and surrounding plants are not affected.

I shared this issue and the photo with Barbara Dygnas who has suffered similar damage to her *Ficaria verna* 'Brazen Hussy'. As several surrounding plants have been trampled, she thinks its badgers (see second photo). Anyone got any ideas as to what is using our gardens to get one of their 5 a day?

Aquilegia 'Lime Sorbet' damage!



Ficaria verna 'Brazen Hussey' damage



Also, Charlotte Swain asks what is the best thing to use to write on plant labels? In my experience, pencil is longest lasting, but for plant sales we ask for everything to be written in black marker pen. When we meet, our HPS shop sells them for £1, they are Edding 140s permanent markers and last at least a season. The writing comes off with nail varnish remover too so the labels can be reused. Anyone any other advice?

YOUR PHOTOS: Clematis, primulas and blossom

Clematis macropetala 'Westleton' strutting its stuff in Jean Gater's garden. Grown in a pot against west facing wall.



C x cartmanii 'Avalanche' (Linda Headford's garden)



C. alpina 'Alba' (also Linda Headford)



From **Don Witton** a selection of primulas. First, Barnhaven Blue Cowichan



P. 'Dark Rosaleen'



P. 'Guinevere' with dark leaves and pale pink flowers



P. belarina 'Valentine'



P. belarina 'Nectarine'



Pear blossom from Janet Boulding's garden. Janet was concerned about frost damage at this point, difficult to protect it all!.



Don Witton advises that as its currently it's not easy to get to Japan to see the annual 'hanami' (cherry blossom festivals); save time, effort and money by taking a stroll down the main street at Kiveton Park. He says 'It's as good as any Japanese display and it's free!'



From Barbara Dygnas's garden, on the left: *Erythronium oregonum* with *Trillium sessile* and *T. albidum* behind, and on the right: *E. revolutum* and a white seedling which might be another *E. oregonum*. Both grown from HPS seed.



Ruth Ludford sent in this photo of her Aloevera saurus, as her granddaughter calls it. It has sprouted a flower stalk, looks orange in colour and is already 29 ins tall. 'Allo Vera!
Fortunately this isn't a carnivorous plant



The temperatures are set to return to normal average next week, so hopefully we'll be able to dodge the showers and enjoy our gardens in some sunshine.