

Keeping in Touch, 1st November 2020

KEW MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

Since 1871 the Kew Mutual Improvement Society has been running an annual lecture season to boost knowledge of plants and fungi. The lectures are not free, but usually no more than £3. More information can be found here <https://www.kew.org/learning/talks-and-lectures/kew-mutual-improvement-society>

GARDEN VISITS

Tricia Fraser found time to visit Chatsworth last week, she took a couple of photos demonstrating a good garden can still sing sweetly in October





PLEA FOR PLANTS

Our member Charlotte Swain emailed me a few weeks ago as follows:

'My direct neighbours, Mhairi and Paul Walker (just along Psalter Lane from Shirley House) are doing something lovely. They have an interesting old house and the garden was stripped back to an unprepossessing grass desert by previous owners. They had the good fortune to meet a previous occupant from way back, who shared plans with them of the original garden. They have a planting plan/plants list and I just wondered if HPS people have any of them, whether they might find it fun to sell cuttings, small plants rather like they do at the plant sales. Me or my neighbours could collect or people could drop them off.'

Here's a sample piece of the plan.

telephium 'Blue Pearl'
ta 'Walkers Low'
emon 'Garner'
'Darcey Bussell'
'Caradonna'

rplant with:
m 'Purple Sensation'
issus 'Thalia'



The list of plants required is below, if you think you could help, please email Charlotte (charlotte1ucyswain@gmail.com) or Mhairi (mgwalker77@yahoo.co.uk) directly to make arrangements.

Salvia Cardonna

Miscanthus sinensis Kleine Fontane

Digitalis Dalmatian White

Anemone Honorine Jobert
Aquilegia Ruby Port
Aster Frikartii Monch
Astrantia Major
Bergenia Bressingham White
Echinacea pallida
Euphorbia Black Pearl
Hylotelephium Blue Pearl
Any culinary /medicinal herbs

PHOTOS FROM YOUR GARDENS

Frank Abel waited for the right light to get these photos of his late September garden. Frank says that *'the first is a reminder of a very interesting evening last season when we were visited by a nerine specialist. Lovely chap and a great salesman. I think quite a few members bought bulbs from him including me. Here's a photo of them in bloom in my patio wall. Unfortunately the name's on a brown paper bag in recycling somewhere!'*

I think the talk was by Steve Hickman last March, just before Lockdown Mark 1.

The second photo shows Canna Durban with Helianthus Lemon Queen, Campsis radicans and firethorn.





Judy Coulson has a splendid show of autumn foliage and a shot of colchicums with cyclamen





Chrysanthemum 'Early Yellow' seems to be popular, Tricia, Janet and Don sent in a pic (Tricia says 'its early and its yellow what more is there to say about it!) Here's Janet's photo.



Don has a few more chrysanths in flower, though his main season ones are still yet to open. Here's C. 'Clara Curtis' and C. 'Posie'.



Don also sent in a pic of *Tricyrtis hirta*. He says *'the Toad Lilly is at its floriferous best in October. I bought this as Tricyrtis hirta but there isn't a lot of difference between this and other named forms.'*



And finally some Halloween pics

Don sent in this scary chap or chapess? Come to think of it, anyone seen Dorothy recently?? Actually it was actually taken at Thorpe Perrow Arboretum a couple of years ago. During half term they usually have a Halloween trail aimed at children and this made Don smile (or scream)!!



Alistair Fraser took this at Calke Abbey on Sunday 25th October. What a grand display of winter gourds and squashes.



I grew two varieties of squash this year, 'Turk's Turban' and 'Uchiki kuri'. I can recommend both, but the Uchiki, as well as being very tasty, are really easy to prepare. They can be peeled with a potato peeler as their outer skin is very thin. They make great soup. Roast them with a bit of red onion, chilli, sweet corn kernels and garlic, pop the roast stuff into a pan and bring to boil with milk and veg stock then whizz with a blender. Serve with a sprinkling of lime juice. Yum.

Janet Boulding isn't apple bobbing this Halloween, but pressing them for juice. This looks like a major operation.



Next month Jim Chandler, Newsletter Editor, will be posting out our regular printed newsletter so I'll wait to pull something seasonal together for a Christmas KIT. Send in your photos of anything of interest in your garden to tonifrascina@outlook.com. It would be interesting to receive things which help you get through the bareness of winter. It could be a bit of garden art, birds in the garden or some plant which has suddenly woken up too early. If you want to write a longer piece, they can be posted to Jim for the spring newsletter (j.a.chandler@shu.ac.uk).

In the meantime, it looks like we are entering Lockdown 2, or will it be Tier 4/5/6? So, keep warm, take care and enjoy whatever the last half of autumn brings.

Toni