

Keeping in Touch, July 3rd 2020

Hello,

Tricia here, standing in for Toni for two weeks, and here we are already in July. I hope it will be a better month weather-wise than June turned out to be, though I was pleased to have rain, but not the thunder, lightning and last weekend's strong winds. It's pretty breezy as I write this so maybe nothing will change!

KITBITS

Greta Pearman has split a black bamboo (*Phyllostachis nigra*) and has three spare chunks. If anyone would like a piece please email Greta on gretapearman@gmail.com.

Judy Reid emailed to say that Toni's mystery plant from last week is a *Hypericum* though she wasn't sure which species - apparently there are about 500 of them. Judy and Hugh have one just like it that came from an NGS garden in Staffordshire and it seems happy in their dry garden. Barbara Dygnas also emailed and suggests it is *H. olympicum*. We also had it in our previous garden where it was a bit too happy and seeded everywhere. Perhaps dry soil keeps it under control!

Judy also said: Regarding the Weigela photo that was posted for identification: I have just found a label in our box of plant labels which, if it was detached from this plant, states it is *Weigela coraeensis* (white flowers deepening to pink & red.) It also states that it came from the Lakeland Horticultural Society which suggests we bought from Holehird on one of our trips to the Lake District. Mystery solved!

Grown from Seed

Jean Houlton says: I like to have a bed of flowers grown from seed with poppies, evening primrose, English marigolds, and mallows in flower at present. How beautiful and colourful Jean's border looks.



I also grow some plants from seed (in this case from the Hardy Geranium group's seed exchange) and a favourite of mine is seed from the dark leaved Geranium pratense (ex 'Victor Reiter' or any named variety of this series). They generally make good garden plants as they are not as tall as most G. pratense cultivars, so fit in easily in a border with the added interest of darker coloured leaves and stems, though not as dark as the parent the seed came from. Here's two photos of some I have grown.



A pale pink/white variety growing here with herbaceous Clematis 'Pangbourne Pink'. I brought this plant from our previous garden as it's the only pale pink I have managed to grow from this seed.



A lovely pale blue flower with darkish leaves. Grown from the 2018 seed exchange seed.

Double flowered Geranium pratense

Whilst we are on hardy geraniums (and who doesn't love them!), also flowering now is *G. pratense* 'Plenum Caeruleum'. An old variety but still my favourite double flowered geranium.



Decie sent in this image of Geranium 'Cloud Nine' – another double flowered pratense which is a good strong plant and flowers well. (Yes, I also have this one!).



Campanula Time

Decie also sent in three Campanula photos: *C.* 'Faichem Lilac', *C.* 'Gloaming' and *C.* 'Buckland'. My apologies if I have the names in the wrong order for the photos as I don't know these plants. Decie says they are the first of the tall campanulas to flower for her and get to about 5ft. *C.* 'Buckland' is a Keith Wiley plant.



C. 'Faichem Lilac'



C. 'Gloaming'



C. 'Buckland'

Barbara Dygnas sent in a photo of her *Morina longifolia*. I have added this to my wants list!



Next we have two grasses from Don's Garden which were looking good at the end of June and will continue for months:



Calamagrostis acutiflora 'Overdam'. This has thin cream and green variegated upright foliage, purple grey flowers and needs no staking at 4ft+. It still looks good in October.



Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'. Don's all-time favourite grass. A clump forming deciduous grass with yellow and green variegated foliage. At around 1ft tall with a lax tumbling habit it is ideal for the front of the border or as Don has it, in a patio pot. It doesn't flower until September but the flowers are insignificant and it is the striking foliage and habit that make it a great garden plant.

Finally roses. So many are flowering now, but here are two. The first is from Barbara Dignas and is 'Maiden's Blush'. It was flowering in her daughter's garden and Barbara describes it as floppy, suckering but deliciously scented!



The second is of 'Goldfinch' which is scrambling over the shed roof in Janet Boulding's garden. It flowers in time for the Gardeners' World Live show at the NEC.



That's all for now, but next week we will have Hostas large and small, a trip to Gunby Hall gardens and other delights that you send in. I will be compiling the next KIT while Toni takes a break, so feel free to email me on triciaf2808@gmail.com.

Thanks, Tricia