

Keeping in Touch, April 22nd 2020

Hello everyone,

Today we have a varied mix of news, info and photos. So far twenty four members have contributed to the KIT email, which is really great, thanks to them all. If you have anything lovely in your garden you would like to share, take a photo and email tonifrascina@outlook.com.

OFFERS & SALES

1. MAY GARDENER'S WORLD MAG – with 2 for 1 garden vouchers and free seeds – if you can't get out to buy one, you can order online at this address <https://magsdirect.co.uk/magazine/gwmay20/>
2. Tricia Fraser got in touch to send a list of hardy geraniums which a geranium group member is selling by mail order. Tricia says 'Sue (Clarke) lives in Wrenbury, Cheshire, has a national collection of Geranium sylvaticum and Geranium renardii and also opens for NGS. As she's quite a few plants ready for open days that are not happening this year, she is selling by mail order. I have just received three plants from her and all are well grown and well packed. Postage was £5. If members want to order any from Sue then please email her (see the top of her list for her email address) and include your full address on your order. My order was posted on Tuesday afternoon and arrived on Saturday. Others who ordered from other parts of the country received their plants before me so it's pot luck how long they take! Sue sends the plants wrapped in a damp J-cloth and in bags so you will need to pot on when they arrive. My three all look fine though. I paid Sue via online banking – if you don't do that then you need to ask her about posting a cheque. Finally Sue lists G. 'Mrs Judith Bradshaw' on her list but I split my own plant this year and have several so you can save postage on that one if you want it (but it will have to wait until we can make unnecessary journeys again!).'
[Plant list attached to email as a word document]
3. Tricia also sent through the following info - Two Wests and Elliott, based in Chesterfield, are working and can deliver stuff for greenhouses, gardens, conservatories etc. I ordered a large aluminium planter (which will be used to grow herbs) from them this week and it was ready to collect on Friday. There is a delay in delivering of around 4 weeks so it's better if you can collect. See www.twowests.co.uk.

VIRTUAL GARDEN VISITS

Don Witton emailed to say 'If you are pining to do some garden visiting and see some seasonal colour try the National Garden Scheme web site www.ngs.org.uk and go to Virtual Garden Tours. They hope you will give a donation as they reckon they are going to lose 80% of their income this year but it's up to you. The gardens keep changing but currently you can wander round Alan Titchmarsh's garden and check out the Tulip Festival at Dunsborough Park Surrey.'

PHOTOS

A couple more anemoholic photos from Jill Gorvett. Anemone ranunculoides from her father-in-law's garden and Anemone nemorosa that's blown in from where she planted the originals, living up to its common name of windflower.



Don Witton sent in this sedge, *Carex elata* Aurea in his seaside area. Don says 'I don't think it's a coastal plant but it looks the part next to the jetty. The black buds are just opening and the variegated foliage ages to yellow (Aurea) with a green edge.'



Last time I featured a couple of Chris Hibberd's early clematis, here are two more; *Clematis macropetala* and *Clematis koreana* 'Broughton Bride'. I used to grow this latter variety, if it likes where it is planted it will flower twice as a double in spring and later in the year as a single flower and in my experience it tolerates quite a lot of shade too.





Of course its tulip time, so we have a selection to feast your eyes on from Tricia Fraser and Janet Boulding respectively. I do love a tulip!



Ruth Ludford and Barbara Dygnas have focused on pulsatilla. Ruth has two alpine pulsatilla that never fail to come out at Easter, no matter how early or late Easter is. She says 'they are in my Geoff Hamilton troughs made at least 30 years ago. A very solid mix! '.





Barbara says 'Lockdown has made me look closer at my garden plants. I noticed that the stigma of a blue *pulsatilla vulgaris* flower is the same colour as the petals with the red a matching colour.'



Hugh and Judy Reid sent in an image of their *Fritillaria Imperialis lutea*, they say 'it loves semi shade below a flowering cherry tree. It is mulched each autumn by the leaf fall'.



Next, a luscious camelia from David and Angela Andrews, *Camellia Japonica Alba Simplex*.



Finally from Paul Forster *Adonis amurensis* with shiny straw-like flowers. Paul says 'Ian has found it to be happiest in a pot, at least it lives! Others have met their demise in the garden.'



NEXT TIME

Zaluzianksia, Brunnera, unidentified short irises and the violas I promised for this edition but couldn't fit in.

Keep enjoying the calm of your garden space, however large it is.

Toni