

Keeping in Touch, September 2021

Attributing photographs

Usually I put the full name of anyone who sends in photographs for KIT, but it has been pointed out that if you do a Google search of your name, any KIT entries which are attributed to you will be found. As not everyone wants to appear on a Google search list, I've decided to attribute photos using first name and initial of surname in future, e.g. ToniF.

TriciaF is going to look through past editions and replace names in the same way. Some of the early KITS will be taken down from the website.

South Pennine Group talks September – December 2021

As we don't know when we can return to normal meetings at the Dorothy Fox Centre, the next three talks will continue to be via Zoom but we are planning for a face to face meeting in December.

- **Wednesday September 1st, 7.30pm:** Zoom talk. Colin Ward of Swines Meadow Farm nursery, [Swinesmeadow Farm Nursery - Rare Plants and Shrubs](#), Market Deeping, near Peterborough will talk on "Shade and Semi-shade plants".
- **Wednesday 6th October, 7.30pm:** Zoom talk. Our 26th anniversary talk is by Adam Pasco who will talk on "The Golden Rules of Gardening" ([Adam Pasco Media](#)). Adam is a journalist, broadcaster and horticultural advisor, having edited BBC Gardeners' World magazine for 22 years.
- **Wednesday 3rd November, 7.30pm:** Zoom talk. We have booked a new (to SPG) speaker for November. Samantha Hopes of Hopes Garden Plants, Halesowen ([Hopes Garden Plants - About Us](#)), will talk on "Hepaticas". Her talk will cover the range of Hepaticas that she came across whilst working with John Massey at Ashwood Nurseries. Maybe one day soon we can plan our coach trip to Ashwood!
- **Wednesday 1st December, 7.30pm:** Our final talk of 2021 and the intention is that this talk will be given in person by Jonathan Moseley as he will be demonstrating to members on how to "Dress the home for Christmas". A talk not to be missed as his creations will be raffled and we plan to find a suitable venue to have the talk in person if the Dorothy Fox centre is still unavailable.

Plant Ident

Hugh and JudyR needed some assistance identifying one of their plants last month (photo copied below as a reminder). Several people suggested a couple of different species of Gaultheria. They did a bit of research and decided it is *G. shallon*. It turns out this species is becoming increasingly problematic in lowland forests in the UK. As once established it can cover the ground fast and exclude native species. See [Plantlife :: Shallon](#) for further details.



Photos

The first three are from JuneS who used seeds she had collected over the year to plant this 'wildflower' meadow. June says it's a difficult south facing slope, but she's obviously made a great job of this. I know June is a great fan of Nigel Dunnet's work which integrates ecology and horticulture to achieve low input but high impact. You can certainly see the influence.



The seeds used include hesperis, poppies, marjoram, marigolds, knapweed, forget me not, lupin, wild red clover, thrift and vetch. For autumn interest there are grasses including Calamagrostis 'Karl Foster' and Stipa gigantea.



TriciaF has a variety of Eucomis on show. She says “The tall ones on the right were bought from Avon bulbs as E. 'Aloha Leia' which was recently awarded an AGM in the RHS trials. All three bulbs have turned out to be E. bicolor, not Aloha Leia! I don't have an ID for the small eucomis on the left so if anyone knows which it is then please let me know.



I bought 3 *Sanguisorba hakusanensis* from J. Parkers website last year. They turned out to be *S. officinale*! A good plant in its own right, but not what I had wanted. I contacted the supplier and they immediately refunded my money.

Some colour from my own garden. Echinacea 'Double Scoop Raspberry'. I bought a pot of this from Loxley Nursery last year for £5.99, split it into 3, planted them in different parts of the garden and waited to see if they would return. I've always struggled to get echinacea to overwinter, but since one of my neighbours has a large clump of *E. purpurea*, I thought give it another go. Two out of three divisions have been successful, hurray.



I grow two white *Phlox paniculata*, 'David' and 'Mount Fujiama'. I think this is the latter, though at about 1.4 m tall, I might be wrong. The white is very intense, particularly just before dusk, lighting up where it is planted.



I have a growing collection of crocosmia, this one is *C. x crocosmiiflora* 'Columbus'. (Note: This *Crocosmia* is the same as one named *C. 'Queen Mary II'*, as TriciaF discovered on buying the latter!)



Finally an *Alstromeria*, not sure what species, but I bought it from Hollies Farm near Bonsall on one of our MAD visits. I don't grow this for the vase, but I was interested to learn that if you do pick *Alstromeria* for floral displays, you should pull the stems like you would pull rhubarb rather than cut them. This ensures further stems are produced.



That's all for this month, if you were planning to send something in but were too late (as I've sent this out earlier than usual), send it in for the October edition to tonifascina@outlook.com

Best wishes
Toni