

## Keeping in Touch, July 19<sup>th</sup> 2020

Hello again,

First, I just want to say thank you to Tricia for producing the last two KITS whilst I took a break and spent a bit of time with my family.

### KITBITS

- **DATE FOR YOUR 2021 DIARY**  
As our trip out to Ashwood Nurseries in May had to be cancelled, Tricia has rebooked for next year, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021. I'm looking forward to it already.
- **NEWS FROM SHEFFIELD BOTANICALS GARDEN**  
The public loos in the gardens are now open from 9-5, with an attendant to ensure full safety measures are in operation.
- **INTERESTING ARTICLE**  
[This](#) is a link to an article based on research into the benefits of allotments on diversity. Worth a read.
- **RUTH MARSH'S MYSTERY PLANT**  
Remember the pelargonium that isn't a pelargonium from last edition? Its *Malva sylvestris* var. *mauritania* 'Zebrina'. This is perennial, but not fully hardy, however it seeds itself easily. Thanks to Dorothy Harriman for the info.

### FELLEY PRIORY

With a lot of gardens opening up again, if you visit one within easy reach of our membership and would recommend a visit, let me know about it and I can publish in a future KIT.

Don and Dot Witton visited Felley Priory Garden recently and sent through a couple of photos of the double herbaceous borders, which Don reckons are worth the admission price alone. There is a well stocked nursery too. Check the opening times on the website as they are slightly unusual and don't forget your Gardener's World 2 for 1 card. (now where did I put mine?)







## GROWING FROM SEED

Barbara Dygnas grows *Lilium formosanum* var. *pricei* from seed, it flowers in a couple of years from sowing. The seed comes up like cress, which is fortunate as apparently it is not long lived plant, but as the second photo shows is well worth the wait.







Elaine Blair sent in a photo of her Paulownia tree she grew from seed some years ago. This spring it was a tree with a strong woody trunk covered in buds then completely killed, or so Elaine thought, by the devastating frosts we had at the end of April. New growth sprang up from the base with huge leaves, so Elaine cut back the old stem. Now it's looking better than it ever has.





## HEMEROCALLIS

Wonderful plants which just keep on giving, their flowers may only last a day, but they flower continuously for ages. The first photo is from Don Witton, H. 'Black Eyed Susan', the second from Janet Boulding, the rather gorgeous H. 'Helen Berlinier'.





## **SALVIA 'HOT LIPS'**

You're probably all familiar with this floosy, but what I didn't know is that the flowers change colour. Don sent in two photos, one from early June, the second from mid July. He says:

'This relatively hardy and popular salvia I've never grown in my garden until 2 summers ago when I saw a rather bedraggled pot bound specimen with no flowers in the 'please save me' bargain shelf at Matlock Garden Centre. I think it was £2. Anyway I potted it on and kept it in a cold greenhouse that winter and planted it out in early spring last year. When it started to flower in early summer all the flowers were red. I thought 'no wonder it was cheap, I've bought a dud!!' The flowers are supposed to be white with lipstick red edges. But all was not lost. I don't know why it happens but after the longest day and certainly by July the flowers morph into the white Hot Lips flowers I know. Of course it's done the same again this year. It doesn't matter how experienced we are, there's always something new we can learn about the plant kingdom.'



## **PICS FROM GREENEND FARM NURSERY**

Jean Marshall sent in the latest batch of things flowering in the nursery, in order they are:

Iris Sibirica 'Silver Edge', Salsify, Thalictrum tuberosum, Potentilla versicolor, Iris ensata, I. ensata 'Lady in Waiting' and Hydrangea paniculata 'Magical Mont Blanc'

















There was a lovely piece on last Friday's Gardener's World about Hydrangea.....I managed to add several to my list of 'wants'!

That's all for this week, next week some early flowering phlox and surely someone will send in a crocosmia? Send to [tonifrascina@outlook.com](mailto:tonifrascina@outlook.com).

Take care

Toni