

Keeping in Touch, June 7th 2020

Hi there,

After a month of summer we're into autumn already. But in this KIT we have amongst other glorious things, a summer inspiration of irises. There doesn't appear to be a collective noun for irises, so I've decided it is 'inspiration'.

IRISES - beautiful but all without names

Rene May sent in this imposter, she bought it as 'Black Prince' from Wilco, which it clearly isn't. Anyone know what it is?



Valerie Greaves sent in two irises. She said 'This lovely blue pond iris came from Audrey Holmes' garden, her son Richard lives there now. The purple one I've had a long time, don't have a name for either.'





Janet Lister has three varieties all enjoying the rain.





OTHER GLORIES

Barbara Dygnas sent in 'a photo of my Arisaema brood. The seed came in the HPS seed exchange Distributors Mix about 10 years ago. They have moved gardens and are now going from strength to

strength. I think they are *Arisaema consanguineum*. If it were *A. ciliata* it would have cilia (hairs) at the mouth. I have not yet got that intimate with this crowd.”
I don't know what Barbara's secret is, I have to grow these in pots otherwise they disappear, and mine are yet to unfurl.



Greta Pearman's *Crinodendron (hookerianum?)* looks stunning, you can see why its called the Chile Lantern Tree.



Tricia Fraser sent in a real curiosity. She says 'the foxglove image came from the Hardy Plant Community Facebook page (I was given permission to share it in our KIT email) and shows something I have never seen before – terminal peloria in a foxglove. More information on this condition can be found here: <https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/weird-and-wonderful-foxgloves> . I think it looks wonderful – like a satellite dish on the tip of the flower stem.'



Tricia also sent in some miniature hostas she planted in a bonsai pot. She says 'the pot was made by my brother-in-law - he makes Bonsai pots for Bonsai enthusiasts (www.bonsaipotsuk.com) and gave us a few pots that were not quite perfect. The idea for using them for miniature hostas came from Sue Procter plants website: <https://sueproctorplants.com/miniature-hostas/>. The three hostas in the pot are: *H. 'Masquerade'* with the striped leaf, *H. Lemon and Lime* on the left and *H. 'Midwest Gold'* on the right. In Summer the leaves of Midwest Gold are more blue than gold. I have just planted this pot up and will see how it does over the summer.' We'll need a progress report later in the year Tricia.



Jean Gater emailed a photo of a fortuitous planting combination. She said 'I have discovered a very lucky combo just now in the garden – wish it had been by design – but sometimes things are better by chance. Here are *Chaerophyllum hirsutum roseum*, *Camassia leichtlinii 'Alba'* and *Allium 'Purple Sensation'* looking, I think, just lovely together.' I agree Jean, a cool combination.



Chris Hibberd has a peony with an identity crisis.



Chris says 'It is (supposedly) 'Pink Hawaiian Coral', but its first flower this year decided to be of cream tones! Presumably from some variety in its heritage.'

Her other photograph is '*Scilla peruviana*. I was introduced to this whist staying at a cottage near to Dunster in Somerset last spring (2019). The owner had a lovely large garden which he was very keen to share with us - when he knew I was a plant lover. This *Scilla* had finished flowering when we were there, so I have been thrilled to see how unusual the flowers are. It does like shaded places and as the other clump I have was in a slightly more open situation, the flowers shrivelled in the relentless sun we had at the time. I'm wondering if this *Scilla* is known to other members of our group.'



Finally from me, another conservation scheme plant, *Zantedeschia aethiopica* 'Glencoe'. This was planted last November, it came out of a 1.5 litre pot, the first leaves looked a bit moth (or slug) eaten but once it started to grow, it left the molluscs in its wake and now looks wonderful. The white really shines out from 20 metres away and there seems to be several other spathes waiting to open up.



CISTUS

Judy Reid was looking to put a name to a cistus last time. Ruth Ludford got in touch to say 'I also have the same cistus from Morrisons. It's prolific and I don't think it was named. I keep a spreadsheet of what,

where and names of plants I buy. Against this entry I have just put 'white'. So will be interested if anyone can name it.'

No offers as yet. But having bought a different cistus from Morrisons last Friday, Cistus 'Sunset' (£2), I was looking it up and came across *Cistus salviifolius*. This could be Judy and Ruth's plant,

Thanks to all of today's contributors and don't forget to send your photos etc. in to, tonifrascina@outlook.com.

Keep well, dry and warm ☺

Toni