# Keeping in Touch, June 27th 2020

Hello,

Hope you all survived the sun, heat, humidity, rain, wind, thunder and lightening etc. I know most people are having trouble remembering what day it is, but the weather seems to have forgotten what season it is!

**INTERESTING BLOG**

Barbara Dygnas sent in this link to a blog on plant identification, particularly roses:
https://susanrushton.net/2014/12/20/identifying-plants-its-not-that-easy/

**SCILLA PERUVIANA**

Another contribution on this lovely plant, from Hugh Reid. He treats it as a high alpine as it originates from the Iberian mountains, using plenty of grit in the compost. Good tip.
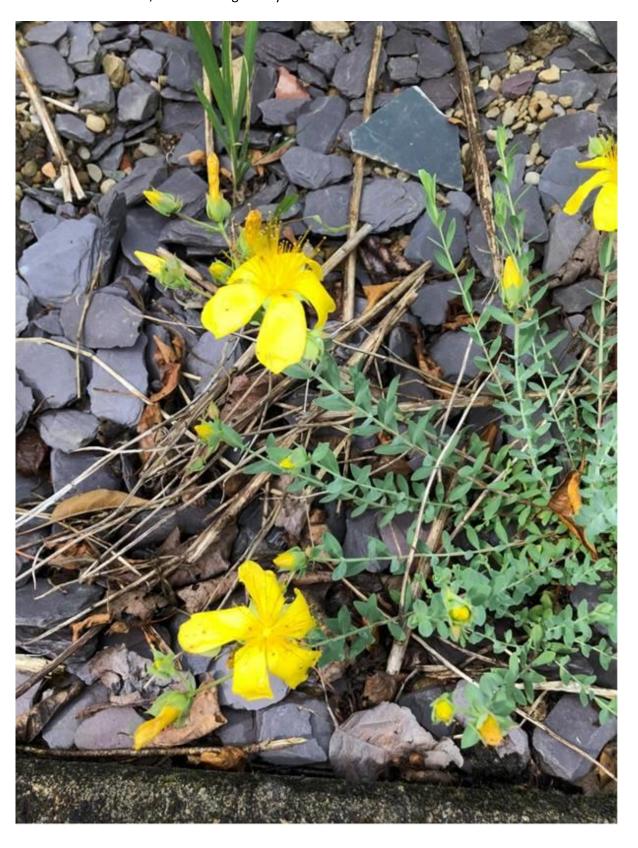
**PLANT IDENT**

Myra Smith send this photo in with the message 'I wonder if you could ask our HPS experts in your next KIT email if they can identify this little plant for me?  I bought it last year.  It's about 2' tall at the moment, with pretty pink flowers and slightly hairy leaves and stems.' I suggested it was a mallow, so Myra did a little more research which lead her to *M. capensis*, another name for Anisodontea. Apparently this was the unfamiliar name on its label.  Common name is Cape Mallow or African Mallow.

This is from a small cutting I put in the garden last autumn. I had a huge clump of it in a very sunny dry spot in the old garden, bees absolutely love it, so much that when it is in full flower, the plant sounds like its humming very loudly! I have no idea what it is, flowers for ages. Anyone know?

Hugh Reid bought this Weigela from the bargain corner at Wentworth garden centre. It has flowered for the first time for 3 weeks. Anyone know which Weigela it is?



## ARISAEMA

Barbara Dygnas has some wonderful Arisaema, this one *A. candidissimum*. Fabulous plant with candy striped spathes, which makes the name easy to remember.

**SUMMER COLOUR**

Kay Keeton sent in this photo of her very impressive clump of *Dactylorhiza fuchsia*. She said 'I was given this orchid many years ago by a keen plantsman.  It has really enjoyed the summer rains!!'

Tricia Fraser sent in this photo of *'Geranium 'Harry'*, bred from a *G. psilostemon* cross by Cyril Foster. He lives in Rothbury and has introduced several geraniums, usually with Rothbury in their name. This one is not widely available yet.' (Shame)



Also a great snap of her front garden. She says 'We were given some 'bee bombs' (small pellets of wild flower seeds) and we have enjoyed some cornfield flowers amongst the perennials we planted. It all adds to the colour and interest. So far we have the most colourful front garden on our estate!'

I'm sure it gives a lot of people pleasure when they walk past, and it has probably inspired someone to plant something colourful in their own garden.
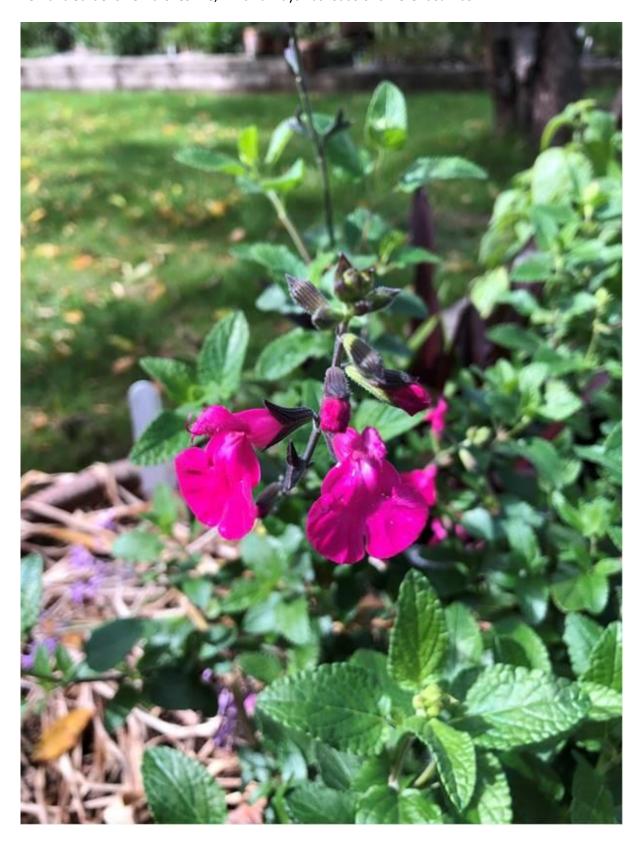
Don Witton's *Knifophia 'Fiery Fred'* is looking tremendous even though it's in an east facing border. I think they love him (or Dot).
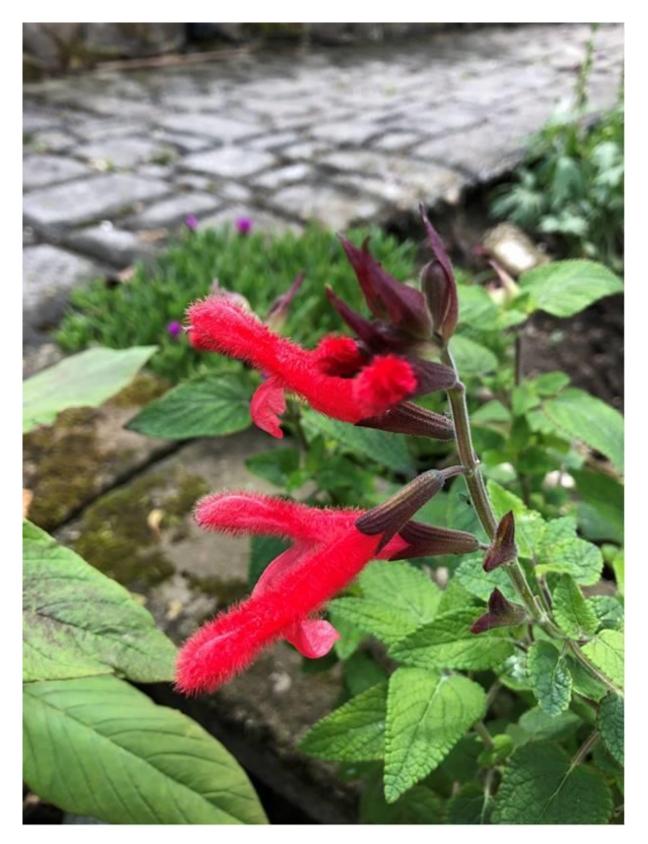


On his allotment, Don has *Campanula glomerata 'Caroline'*, a form of the cluster flowered bellflower where the buds open with delightful pink tips ageing to pale lilac. It's about 18in tall and will take sun or some shade.

Its coming up to Salvia time. I have murdered many a salvia in my quest for something hardy. Here are two which I've found get through the winter. The first is *S. macrophylla 'Cerro Potosi'*, gorgeous colour, very aromatic foliage and is hardy down to -10. The second is *S. fulgens*, according to the RHS is H3 (-5), but I've had it for 4 years. Perhaps a hard winter would see it off. It has hairy red flowers which always amuse me. Both were bought at bought at Dyffryn Fernant Gardens Pembrokeshire, which always has loads of different salvias.

That's all for this week. I'm going to take a couple of weeks off KITting now as I'm going to spend some time with my family from the end of next week. If anyone fancies pulling a KIT together for a couple of weeks, let me know and I can forward photos on to you. In the meantime, keep sending in those photos to tonifrascina@outlook.com

And as Peter Gibbs would say: enjoy your garden whatever the weather



Toni