

## Keeping in Touch, July 2021

At last a KIT in which I don't complain about the weather!

In June I managed to get to the MAD (Meet At Destination) visit to Charlotte C's garden which was looking lovely, the cakes were truly magnificent and the plant charity auction a bit of fund raising fun.

On a more serious note, did you watch the first Gardener's World of July last Friday? Adam Frost did a rather interesting piece on peat free compost and mixing it with other growing media including; grit, sand, perlite, top soil and composted bark as required by the plant you are repotting or the seeds you are sowing. As the government are going to ban peat for amateur use very soon, this is something we've all got to start thinking about. Might be worth us sharing our experiences of the various brands of peat free compost. If you've got any experience of using it, let me [tonifrascina@outlook.com](mailto:tonifrascina@outlook.com) know what you think and I'll try and pull something together for the next biannual newsletter.

Loxley Garden Centre have their summer perennial sale on now. Four for £20, all of which are in 3 or even 4 litre tubs. Great quality plants which could easily split into 4 or 5 plants later in the year.

### PLANT IDENT

Linda H. found some of these popping up in her pots but couldn't for the life of her remember what they were



My guess was some form of *Iris hollandica*, and a bit of research leads me to believe its 'Eye Of The Tiger'. Let me know if you have any other ideas.



## GARDEN VISITS

Don and Dot managed to escape on holiday and sent some photos of Lambrook Manor and RHS Rosemoor. First, an unusual geranium 'theatre' at East Lambrook Manor and a close up of 2 plants in the theatre. G Giuseppe and G Melody.



They also visited RHS Rosemoor and he sent in a pic of a plant he says he can only dream of growing, see next item for a small feature on said plant.



## ARISAEMA

I grew these in pots in my old garden as any I put in the ground disappeared. In a drive to reduce the number of pots I have to water, when I moved gardens I planted the two varieties I had left in open ground. Last edition I mentioned that there was no sign of them. But, look what I discovered about 10 days ago. I believe this is *A. costatum*. It made me so happy!.



Today I found little spears of *A. tortuosum* poking out of the soil in another part of the garden.

Barbara D. grows several *Arisaema*, this is *A. candidissimum*, with its pink candy stripes.



And here is the aforementioned Don's Delight aka *A. ciliatum*, happy at Rosemoor.





If you have any other species in your garden send a photo through to [tonifrascina@outlook.com](mailto:tonifrascina@outlook.com)

#### **YOUR OTHER PHOTOS**

Janet B. has an innovative way of keeping traffic away from her wall and hidden gateway. She thinks it is *Geranium magnificum* and says it has been there many years, seemingly unaffected by snow , salt, and anything else you can throw at it.





Barbara D. has grown some lovely martagon lilies from seed



That woman has so much patience, it must have taken years for them to flower.

Now, a few treasures from our member Jean M's nursery at <http://www.greenendfarmnursery.co.uk>.  
*Iris germanica* 'Royal Touch' (what a fabulous colour)





*Inula orientalis*



*Gladiolus byzantinus*



Must try these – if they grow on Jean's plot near Bradfield, they'll grow anywhere!



An intriguing *Iris sibirica* x *ensata* 'Rikugi Sakura'



And *Dyphillea cymose* – a woodlander grown mainly for its foliage





Finally, from my porch. I've had this for years, it sits quietly in a corner for 11 months and 28 days before it does its thing. The flowers, which are 20cm long trumpets last only two days. No idea what is called, and where it comes from, but I keep it for those two days a year. If you know what it is, please tell me!

