

Keeping in Touch, August 23rd 2020

Hello all,

Some splendid photos for you today, plus a competition! Apologies to anyone who has sent in a photo and it doesn't feature here – I tried to fit them all in but the 'computer says no', 33Mb is the maximum I can send via email. Don't worry, I'll try and fit them in sometime in the future.

KITBITS

- **Crocosmia controversy**

Shelagh Wooliscroft's unnamed crocosmia from a recent edition has had three names suggested, 'Jackanapes', 'Harlequin' and *C. bicolour*. I think looking at the photo and comparing to googled pics, its Harlequin, but unless you've got the flower in front of you I think its really difficult. I've just realised that the plant I labelled *C. 'Okavango'* (from Andrew Ward) is actually *C. 'Columbus'* (syn 'Queen Mary II' ?) and vice versa. Tricia Fraser sent in this photo of her *C. 'Columbus'*, I think the purple buds are the give away sign.



Lost and found?

Don Witton asks if anyone remembers leaving Erigeron 'Sincerity', an HPS conservation plant, in the Dorothy Fox Centre after one of our meetings early this year? He took it home and forgot about it, discovered it months later still in the plastic bag at the back of the nursery looking half dead and so decided to plant it in the conservation area on the allotment to see if it would recover. Well it's made a marvellous recovery as you can see. It's only about 1ft tall with a tumbling habit and very floriferous for its size. So if you asked for and didn't get Erigeron Sincerity let me know and I will dig it up at the back end and pass it on.



- **Online discussion on mulching**

Charlotte Swain suggested that we could start sharing knowledge and wisdom, successes and failures, via google docs. Basically this is setting up a document which we can all access and edit, and contribute to the discussion. She has offered to set things up, instructions for how to add your knowledge and comments will be provided. Charlotte suggests kicking off with the topic of mulching. Once she's set something up, I'll let you know. If it works, we can always add other topics, if you have anything to suggestions send to tonifrascina@outlook.com.

GARDEN VISITS

Tricia Fraser has been hob-nobbing with the Devonshires this week (well she walked past them whilst they were talking to their gardeners!). She and Alistair walked from the top of the kitchen garden along the trout stream which looks good in spring, then dropped down some new paths in to Arcadia area which is the newest part of the garden and has masses of new perennial planting. Vistas have been opened up down onto the maze and the gardens at either end of the maze. Here are a couple of her photos: Geranium 'Lilac Ice' which is a sport form Rozanne and appears to have 'sported' in the cottage garden as both colours can be seen, and the view from arcadia area down to the maze.





Tricia also sent in a *Crococosmia* for identification if anyone can help. It's in the tropical garden at the end of the maze at Chatsworth. It was orange with splashes of red inside the flower.



Don and Dot Witton were off caravanning last week and visited Wollarton Old Hall. And what did he find in the hot garden, a great big clump of *Ligularia dentata* 'Desdemona'. Last time he was bemoaning the fact that you don't see many *Ligularias* these days..... well there's more to come.....



POORLY RHODO

Some time ago I featured Linda Headford's R. 'Lemon Dream' looking lovely. Well unfortunately its turned into a rhododendron nightmare. Anyone know what could be wrong with it? She says it has been suffering leaf-wise for a couple of years with them going brown and dropping off. It flowered profusely again this year but despite re-potting it's not happy and she's cut off 4 dead stems. Any ideas?



PHOTOS FROM YOUR GARDENS

Our cycling fund raiser Frank Abel send me a whole bunch of photos from his garden and asked me to select 2 or 3 for the KIT. What a task, it was very difficult and I'll be sending you more at a later date, pay special attention to the last photo.

My favourite hydrangea, *H. Aspera* (could be var. *sargentiana*)



Sanguisorba to die for



Now, are you paying special attention.....



Barbara Dygnas sent in this photo of the seed pods on *Paeonia mlokosevitchii*. She says there were no seeds and only one flowering stem produced these pods.



Don Witton has his favourite Japanese Anemone. He says its usually at its best in September but looking great in his front garden now is A hupehensis 'Pamina', a good strong pink double flower and is very floriferous. OOH, I like this!



COMPETITON TIME – NAME THAT PERENNIAL

Just for fun, how many plants can you name in the last photo from Frank Abel's garden? Answers to me (tonifrascina@outlook.com). Frank is out, as I type, listing them all for me. Closing date Tuesday 2nd September. That should keep you occupied during the rain showers!

See you next week

Toni