



April 2020: Special Edition 4

Dear Members,

We had a wonderful Easter weekend with plenty of time to get the gardens looking good so as to be able to sit out in the garden, on the terrace, patio or balcony and enjoy the sunshine and colours. The reduced traffic and lack of aeroplanes is allowing us to enjoy the wonderful bird song. I hope you have had a chance to enjoy it and reconnect with the joy of Spring. A note about Bluebells: If you have **English** Bluebells these are a protected species and should not be dug up!!

Thank you for the garden photos. Please continue to share photos and ideas. Thank to Mary for another quiz (she has clearly missed her true vocation). Let me know if you have had garden centre deliveries; ecology ideas for the garden; your favourite plant, or national garden. How are your seeds progressing? We are here to keep you company over the next few weeks of restriction. Contributions to kateawilkinson@hotmail.co.uk

Keep well and safe.

Kate Anthony Wilkinson (Chair)

DWARF FRENCH BEAN FACTS

Seed of *Dwarf French Beans* can be sown outside with no protection from mid-April onwards. They are much more hardy than the Runner Bean, sowings of which must wait at least another month lest they be damaged by late frosts. Whilst there are some climbing varieties of French Bean, most people prefer to grow the Dwarf kinds which need no form of support at all. Some gardeners like to raise their French Beans under glass for planting out later, but direct sowing works just as well, straight into the open ground where they can mature.



Seeds should be sown at a depth of 2 inches allowing 12 inches apart in the row (and 2 feet between rows if more than one row is to be grown) in soil which was previously winter-dug and manured. As a precaution, sow 2 seeds per station, to allow for losses and then to thin to the best plant should both of them germinate together. The crop must be picked regularly, so that the plants will be encouraged to produce more over a longer period, and to avoid them becoming tough or stringy. Their flavour also deteriorates with age. Reliable varieties are *Tendergreen*, *Nassau*, *Masterpiece* and *The Price*. All four can be eaten whilst fresh but are equally good for freezing if you pick too many at once.

Members Gardens :

Beautiful colours of Deryll's Japónica.





EARLY TULIPS

The group known as Early-Flowered Tulips are generally shorter than the later Darwin Hybrids and May flowering Cottage types, but they will produce some spectacular blocks in a riot of colours. The flower heads are very large and appear in mid-April on relatively short stems, making them excellent for incorporating into spring bedding schemes. Look out for them about now and make a note of the names of those which appeal to you so that you can purchase the varieties that you like best when they go on sale between late August and October. It is always a good idea to plan ahead for next year's display whilst this year's are still on flowers (comparisons of different combinations of bedding schemes are made so much easier when they are actually in flower, right in front of you!).

Everyone has their own favourites whether it is the strong reds and yellows, dark purple stripes or the more pastel shades – pink flowering bulbs planted in association with pale blue pansies which will give a very delicate effect.



Double Early Tulips give real value for money. Varieties to look for are: *Mr Van Der Hoef* (Yellow – photo above); *Orange Nassau* (red shades); *Electra* (red); *William Soord* (red and white) and *Peach Blossom* (pink). Whether

planted out in the soil, in bedding schemes or just a few in tubs, troughs and containers, they will be a delight to see.



Thanks to Chris Young for Dwarf Bean and Tulip Facts. More plant facts in the next edition.

QUIZ TIME ANSWERS

Answers to last weeks: "Break the code". Did you spot the six well known gardeners hidden in the code words below? Each letter of the alphabet is represented by one symbol/character which is the same for all the gardeners. Vowels in red and consonants in black. Answers in blue!

1	Christian name) * £ } ^ Surname { / £ & (* £
A	PERCY THROWER
2	Christian name @ * £ { £ % : * Surname > * [^ \$ \$
A	GERTRUDE JEKYLL
3	Christian name ! & = { ^ Surname : & =
A	MONTY DON
4	Christian name " & Surname # \$ & (* £ : * (
A	BOB FLOWERDEW
5	Christian name < \$ < = Surname { + { } / ! < £ ? /
A	ALAN TICHMARSH
6	Christian name } / £ + ? { + = * Surname (< \$ [: * =
A	CHRISTINE WALKDEN



QUIZ TIME:

Find the missing garden tools

Ever lost your trowel in the garden?

Here we've managed to lose twenty garden tools in the grid below. The words can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal and spelt either forwards or backwards.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	R	E	D	E	E	W	E	S	K	D	N	N	S	W	H
2	K	T	R	P	Y	S	P	R	I	N	K	L	E	R	O
3	T	P	M	F	K	R	W	O	P	R	U	A	G	Q	G
4	S	R	E	K	A	R	P	S	P	R	E	W	O	L	B
5	K	P	O	Y	R	B	N	S	R	C	F	N	P	P	H
6	J	X	E	W	L	K	A	I	A	S	T	M	S	O	S
7	S	R	I	S	E	O	H	C	E	W	V	O	D	F	R
8	S	K	P	S	R	L	D	S	L	Q	T	W	I	N	E
9	W	O	O	H	Y	T	F	I	S	P	R	E	B	T	P
10	L	H	T	W	H	E	E	L	B	A	R	R	O	W	P
11	A	V	U	F	D	R	X	S	B	B	P	Y	T	I	O
12	Z	W	E	A	J	W	L	A	K	N	L	K	Y	H	L
13	M	E	P	R	U	N	E	R	E	G	D	E	O	N	G
14	D	S	E	S	G	U	O	Y	S	D	I	Z	R	O	F
15	M	C	O	L	G	F	R	S	E	V	O	L	G	B	N

BLOWER
DIBBLE
EDGER
FORK
GLOVES
HOE
HOSE

LAWNMOWER
LOPPERS
PRUNER
RAKE
SAW
SCISSORS
SPADE

SPRAYER
SPRINKLER
TROWEL
TWINE
WEEDER
WHEELBARROW

MEMBERS GARDENS

Thank you to Jeff for a lovely selection of photos from his garden which you can see overleaf. On my daily walk around Long Ashton I have seen some wonderful trees, shrubs and planting in front gardens, a real variety of interesting things. I particularly love the flowering cherries with their wonderful pink flowers. If you are out walking, swing past Keedwell Church – wonderful blossom there. Next edition I will share with you my photos of the trees I have spotted whilst out and about. In the meantime, enjoy Jeff's garden – and see how many you can identify!

