



## May 2020: Special Edition 7

Dear Members,

**Garden Centres are now opening!** Riverside is open (initially only Thursday – Monday 9-7pm). Almondsbury opens on Saturday 16 May (daily 10am-4pm). Brackenwood was still closed at time of going to press so please check their website. Social distancing will cause queues so patience will be required!

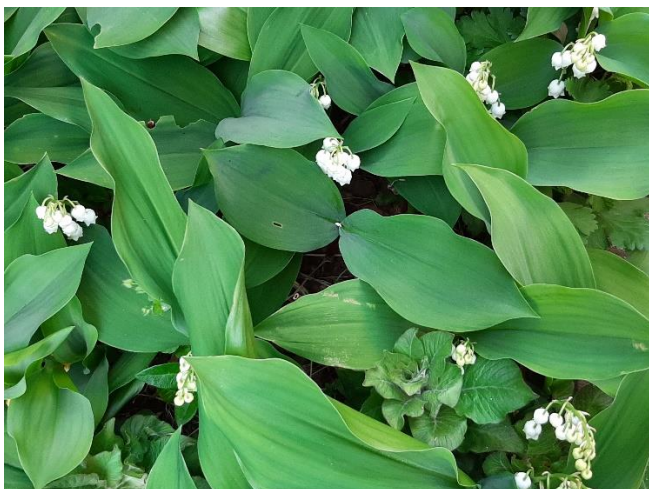
We missed holding the Plant Sale which would have been this weekend. Please share your spare plants and seedlings with neighbours or leave outside your house for others to take and share the joy of gardening. I have some spare tomato seedlings!

We have another quiz this week, the answers to last week's, photos of members gardens and LA trees, some plant facts and a recipe (tomato inspired). Contributions please to [kateawilkinson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kateawilkinson@hotmail.co.uk)

Keep well and safe and enjoy the garden!

**Kate Anthony Wilkinson** (Chair)

## MEMBERS GARDENS



Lovely Lily of the Valley in Mary's garden. Did you know that receiving a sprig of Lily of the Valley on 1 May is meant to bring good luck?

[www.lahortsoc.co.uk](http://www.lahortsoc.co.uk)

## LONG ASHTON GARDEN TREES

While out on my daily walk along to the Post Office for the paper I have noticed the wonderful tree and bushes in front gardens and thought I would share a selection with you. There are some more on the last page of this Newsletter.





## WILDLIFE GARDENING

- Use fallen logs and tree branches to create a log pile for insects to shelter in.
- Install a bug box on a shed wall or in a tree – chose a warm, dry place where the rain cannot get in.
- Encourage hedgehogs by leaving a small gap under your fence for access, and by providing shelter and a shallow bowl of special hedgehog pellets.
- Hang nesting boxes where cats and foxes cannot reach them, to attract small birds like tits and robins.
- Prune shrubs with hips and berries in early spring so that birds can enjoy the fruit over winter.
- Add a source of water for birds, bees and other insects such as a bird bath or a bowl of water on the ground.
- Choose some flowers where the pollen and nectar are easy for insect to reach – such as daisy-shaped flowers like cosmos and single dahlias, or tubular or bell shaped flowers like salvia and foxgloves.
- Leave a pile of wet leaves – it's amazing where toads and frogs can be found.



## GAZPACHO RECIPE

We all love fresh homegrown tomatoes, but as some point in the season seem to have more than we know what to do with – so try making some fresh gazpacho.



- ½ peeled and de-seeded cucumber
- 1 large yellow pepper deseeded
- 1 large red pepper deseeded
- 6 ripe tomatoes
- 2 shallots
- 3 cloves of garlic minced or finely chopped
- 100g/3 ½ oz stale white bread soaked in cold water
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp sherry vinegar
- 2-4 cherry tomatoes and basil to garnish

1. Set aside a small chunk of cucumber and the cherry tomatoes to garnish. Roughly chop all the other vegetables.
2. Using a food processor, blend all the vegetables to a rough puree. Add the garlic, soaked bread, olive oil and sherry vinegar. Blend again until smooth, then season.
3. Transfer the soup to a lidded container and chill.
4. Chop remaining cherry tomatoes and cucumber into small cubes, Serve the Gazpacho in bowls, garnished with the tomato and cucumber.





## CHILLI PEPPERS



Fancy growing something different – try chilli peppers. Chilli peppers can be grown in medium sized pots on a sunny window-sill, in a greenhouse alongside your tomatoes, or outdoors on a bright sheltered patio and they should be ready to harvest from late July onwards. Two favourites for heat and flavour are *Apache* and *Jalapeno*, while *Sweet Banana* brings a spicy sweetness to dishes rather than full-on heat. Chillies can be dried or frozen for later use.



*Pepper Apache* (left): compact plant that produces masses of medium sized, very hot red chillies.

*Pepper Jalapeno* – fiery-hot chilli with plump glossy green fruits that eventually turn red.



*Pepper Sweet Banana* (left) – long yellow, sweetly-spiced chillies that mature over time to orange-red.

## TOP TOMATOES FOR SWEETNESS

There are so many different types of tomatoes, but if you want a really sweet tomato, which are the best to try? Cherry and plum tomato are likely to be the sweetest. Sweetness is measured by the “Brix” rating, a measure of sugar content of products such as wine, honey or juice, or in this case tomatoes. A large tomato may have a Brix rating be between 2.3 – 8.2, with a small tomato between 4.5 – 11.2.

*Rosada* – A baby plum variety. Brix rating 10.5. But this may be difficult to find. A good alternative is a new variety called *Santonina*.

*Floridity* – A mini plum tomato which produces trusses laden with fruit. Resistant to fruit split. Brix rating 9.5.

*Crokini* – Disease resistant cherry tomato with long trusses of scarlet fruit; a new variety.

*Golddwin* – Easy-to-grow cherry tomato with lots of large, firm golden fruit.

*Apero* – Cherry tomato which likes to grow in full sun. Brix rating 9.5.

*Riesling* – Baby plum tomato with very sweet, glossy, grape-sized fruit.

*Gardener’s Delight* – Reliable large cherry tomatoes with a very sweet flavour.

*Tumbling Tom* – Ideal for hanging baskets and pots with lots of tiny red fruits

*Sungold* – Dainty cherry tomato with super-sweet golden fruit. Its high sugar content gives it a Brix rating of 9.3.

*Sakura* – Vigorous and high yielding cherry tomato, which is also resistant to Fusarium wilt. Brix rating 8.8.



## QUIZ TIME - IT'S A WAR OUT THERE IN THE GARDEN

Eight of the Good Guys in the garden have got mixed up with eight of the Bad Guys. In the battle each has been broken into two pieces.

Find their other half and then divide them into two groups, the Good Guys and the Bad Guys.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
FLY	WINTER	FLY	MINER	DRAGON	VINE	BIRD	CENTIPEDE	
GALL	APHID	WING	HOVER	WEEVIL	LADY	INSECT	LILY	
MITE	BROWN	WASP	WOOLLY	LACE	MOTH	SCALE	FLY	
PARASITIC	BLACK	BEETLE	LEAF	BEETLE	DAMSEL	FLY	GROUND	

## LAST WEEK'S QUIZ – Herb Anagrams

Answers:

1	A LEG CAIN = ANGELICA
2	MINES PART = SPEARMINT
3	YEARS OR M = ROSEMARY
4	ROTA GRAN = TARRAGON
5	YEW SLICE TEC = SWEET CICELY
6	REPLAYS = PARSLEY



## MORE LONG ASHTON TREES

