



June 2020: Special Edition 11

Dear Members,

This is our 11th Edition – thank you for your contributions and I hope that you have enjoyed reading the Newsletter each week.

I have seen some wonderful roses this year and I must say even mine have produced large numbers of fragrant blooms. Our members have also produced some super specimens as has Ashton Court Rose Garden.

Another quiz this week (and last week's answers), some more members gardens, beware Japanese Knotweed and a cartoon to make us smile (thanks John!). Contributions to kateawilkinson@hotmail.co.uk

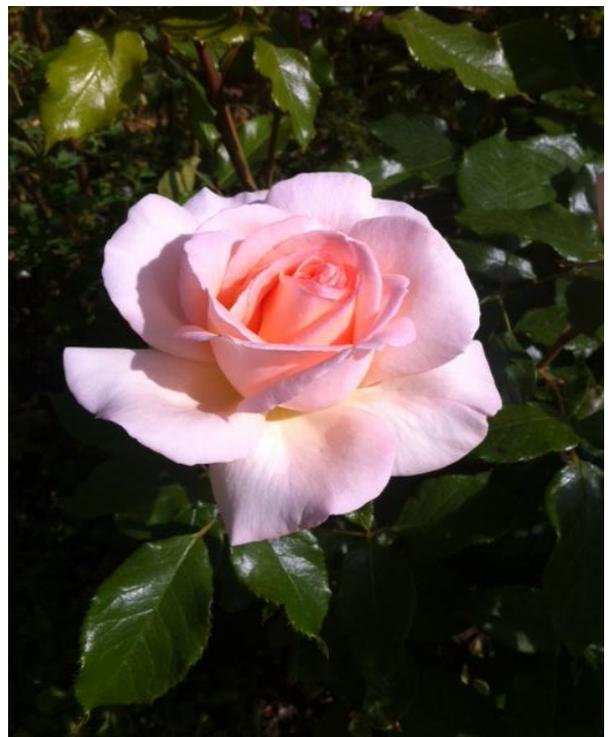
Keep well!

Kate Anthony Wilkinson (Chair)

MEMBERS GARDENS



Some wonderful roses in Angela and David's garden; don't forget the rose classes in the Flower Show!



What's your favourite rose?



PLANT FACTS: FRUIT

The fruit trees displayed their lovely blossom in May (a variety of LA blossom trees were in edition xxx). The earliest to flowers are the Almonds, Cherries, Plums and Peaches, quickly followed by the Pears with the Apples coming last (not all varieties adhere strictly to the pattern, but it serves as a general guide!).

What is certain, however, is that the occurrence of sudden, sharp frosts will greatly harm any fully opened blossom in particular and is capable of harming young flowers and fruitlets at almost any stage.



Every garden is slightly differently situated when it comes to these late spring frosts. The worst affected are often located in the lower-lying areas which was valley bottoms. Such areas are known to gardeners as “frost hollows”. Luckily, frosts were not something we were overly troubled by this year and so hopefully we will have an abundance of fruit later in the season.

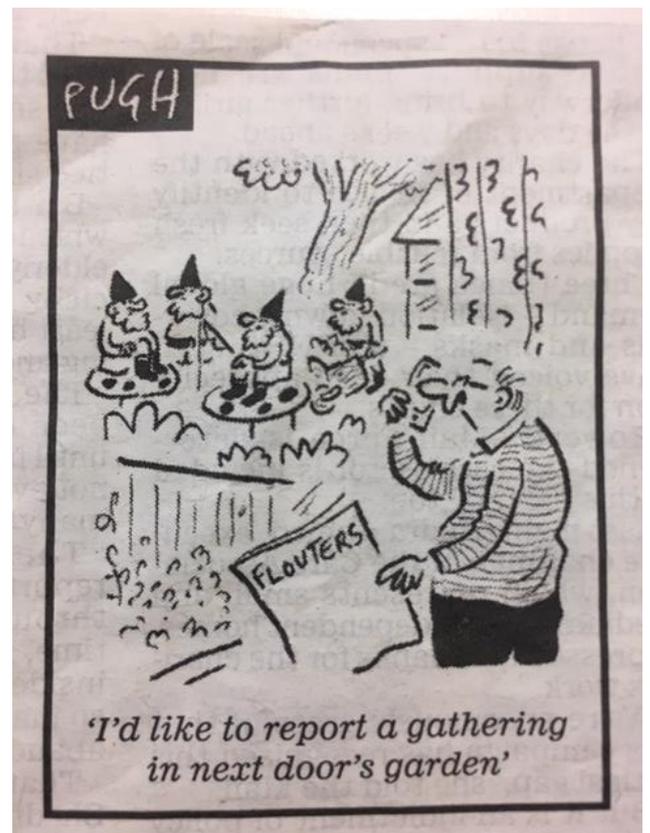
LAST WEEK’S QUIZ : Answers

1. Kew Gardens
2. Bodnant Garden
3. Sissinghurst Castle Garden
4. Tresco Abbey Gardens
5. Beth Chatto’s Garden
6. Stourhead

THIS WEEK’S QUIZ : Floral Books

Below are six books but with the floral word missing.

1	The Name Of The - - - -
2	The Perks Of Being A - - - - - - - - - -
3	The Scarlet - - - - - - - - - -
4	- - - - - - - - - - Wine
5	Snow White and - - - - - Red
6	- - - - - Head Mayzie





PLANT FACTS: Japanese Knotweed

The Bristol Post recently advised that Bristol was a hot-spot in Britain for the destructive plant Japanese Knotweed.

Introduced to Britain in the 1840s as an ornamental plant (*Reynoutria japonica*), the weed now grows rampantly along railway tracks, waterways and in parks and gardens and is notoriously difficult to treat. The fast growing weed can block drains and undermine house foundations, so needs to be taken seriously.



Apparently a company has designed a tool to identify significant locations for knotweed, and Bristol features in the list as one of the worst affected areas in the UK, with 364 infestations of Japanese knotweed being reported within a 4 km radius of the city centre last year. This April that figure has increased by 22 % to 444, making it the top knotweed hot-spot in the South West!

Why Bristol? It could be down to Bristol's rich heritage as a busy port with ships travelling back from Japan commonly returning loaded with ballast to help improve their stability in the water.



This ballast may have been contaminated with Japanese knotweed rhizome, enabling the plant to establish in the Bristol area from where it has spread.



How to spot it: Japanese knotweed has bamboo-like canes which can grow 3m tall and distinctive heart shaped/shovel shaped leaves with a pointed tip which can be up to 20cm long. In the spring, the new red asparagus-like shoots appear with the leaves rolled up (see photo top) and grow rapidly, turning green before developing hollow canes. It has creamy white blooms in late summer (see photo opposite) which are 0.5cm in width and can be up to 10cm in length. It has a zigzag growth pattern and the stems retains some red spotting at the lower ends. The seeds are small,



winged shape, but are sterile as there is no male plant in the UK. During the autumn, the leaves start to turn yellow and wilt (see photo below).



In the winter, the stems become hollow, dark brown and brittle (see photo below).



Japanese knotweed rhizomes are the underground part of the weed and are actually considered to be underground stems. If it is fresh, it will snap easily like snapping a carrot. The outside is dark brown and the inside is orange/yellow in colour (see photo opposite). The Japanese knotweed rhizome system can grow to depths of 2 metres and can extend up to 7

metres horizontally from the plant. It is the knotweed rhizome that spreads the plant by vegetative means. As little as 0.7g of viable rhizome can give rise to a new plant.



Sometimes Hedge Bindweed or Russian Vine (also called Mile a Minute) is mistaken for Japanese Knotweed.

It is difficult to remove but can be treated by specific herbicides or by excavation. You can get free initial help identifying Japanese Knotweed by sending up to 4 photos to www.japaneseknotweed.co.uk.

You do not have to remove Japanese Knotweed from your property, but if you allow it to “escape” into neighbouring property you could be liable. Banks are generally reluctant to lend money to buy a property where there is Japanese Knotweed as it can devalue the property by around 10%, and estate agents are legally obliged to disclose the presence of it (if they are aware!).

So, while you are out watering and tending the beds, check behind the shed and in the dark corners to see what is lurking there ... just in case!