



August 2020: Special Edition 20

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 20th edition! I never thought I could keep this going every week for so long. I hope you are enjoying the variety and that there is something for everyone.

Normally by now we would be in full swing with final arrangements for the Show. Instead this year we will have a “**Virtual Flower Show**” where you can submit photos of your entry in a reduced number of classes for judging. No prizes or cups, just the fun of joining in and keeping the Show alive until next year. Do take part; anyone can enter - [details on the next page](#).

As usual, please feel free to share your photos, comments, stories or cartoons and if you have any feedback on the Newsletter do drop me a line to kateawilkinson@hotmail.co.uk.

Kate Anthony Wilkinson (Chair)

MEMBERS GARDENS

Angela has some wonderful gladioli in her garden. She said she used to have only yellow flowers so during lockdown ordered 60 corns in four different colours.



She is now rewarded with some super specimens. The lilac ones are now over, but the yellow and dusky maroon are looking superb.



Perhaps she took inspiration from our Plant Facts: Gladioli in Newsletter Edition 3 back in April!! There are quite a few impressive specimens around Long Ashton this year.





VIRTUAL FLOWER SHOW

As a bit of fun this year we thought we would have a small but perfectly formed Virtual Flower Show. Anyone can enter any class below – just send a photo of your entry and a select judging team (consisting of Mary Lord and myself) will then decide our favourite in each class. No prizes, cups or certificates, but we will publish the photos of the winning entries in the September Newsletter and all photos entered will be added to our website.

Classes:

1. An unusual shaped vegetable
2. 6 runner/dwarf/French beans (all one type)
3. Longest runner bean (shown next to a ruler and specify length)
4. 3 of your prized vegetables (one type)
5. Plate of 6 tomatoes (any size, one type)
6. Plate of 3 apples (one type)
7. Your prized plate of fruit (one type)
8. Single rose in a vase
9. Single dahlia in a vase
10. Vase of flowers from your garden
11. Indoor plant in a pot
12. Decorated cake
13. Painting (any medium/subject)
14. Something you have made during lockdown
15. Photo of Long Ashton
16. Animal made from produce
17. Decorated paper plate (age 2-5)
18. Bowl of floating flower heads (age 6-8)
19. Lego model (age 9-11)
20. A rainbow – any medium (age 12-15)



Rules:

1. Please send your photo with your name and email address (and for classes 17-20 also age) specifying the class entered to both of: kateawilkinson@hotmail.co.uk and marylord63@gmail.com.
2. Anyone can enter but just one entry per class.
3. All entries to be received by Friday 4 September. Judging will be on Saturday.
4. The Judges' decision is final.
5. Winners will be notified by email.
6. No prizes just the honour of being one of our Virtual Flower Show winners.
7. If you are a winner and do NOT want your name published in the Newsletter alongside your entry, please specify this in your email when you enter.
8. All fruit, vegetables and flowers entered to have been grown in your garden.
9. Children's entries to be their own work.





PLANT FACTS: HEATHERS

In most instances, plant names are already sufficiently difficult for most of us, but the *Heaths* and *Heathers* are worse than most, in that they fall into at least three genera – namely the *Callunas*; the *Daboecias*; and the *Ericas*.



Calluna Vulgaris is the “heather” or “ling” (photo above), native in Britain and occasionally found in the Southern counties, only on packets of lime-free (acid) soil of the heaths and commons. There are very many varieties and cultivars within this single-species genus, mostly flowering from July to November. If your garden had a limey soil, grow these only in containers or in raised beds, filled with an acid or ericaceous compost. Never water with limey tap-water.



The *Daboecias* also hate lime. *Cantabrica* is the *Connemara Heath*, with larger, pitcher-shaped bells or flowers and broader leaves (photo above). It is a very small genus.



The largest and most popular genus are the *Ericas*, also known as “Heaths”. There are hundreds of species and cultivars in this group which can provide colour all the year round if several different ones are chosen. The most usual though must be *Erica Carnea* (photo above) and *Erica Mediterranea* which both tolerate lime very well and provide useful and vital early colour in the garden from December to May.

Available in a variety of reds, pinks and purples, they also come in white and even yellow (*Erica Mediterranea* – photo next page).



Plant on rock gardens and at the front of permanent shrub borders, in association with the smaller spring flowering bulbs.



After flowering all of these plants require a tight “haircut” with strong kitchen scissors to maintain a tidy shape and to prevent them from becoming bare at the centres of the plants. Remove all the recently flowered, dead flower-spikes to encourage new growth to form, ready to flower next season. Therefore, for those of you who grow the winter and spring flowering *Ericas*, the time to trim is – now!

Thanks to Chris Young for this week’s Plant Facts.
www.lahortsoc.co.uk

LAST WEEK’S QUIZ Flowers of the Rainbow

1	Red	Poppy
2	Orange	Marigold
3	Yellow	Sunflower
4	Green	Bells of Ireland
5	Blue	Forget me Not
6	Indigo	Agapanthus Midnight Star
7	Violet	Wisteria

THIS WEEK’S QUIZ What Plant Where?

Match the pairs of plants with the correct conditions.

- Lily of the Valley & Pulmonaria
- Sedum & Lavender
- Hosta & Astilbe
- Azalea & Magnolia
- Viburnum & Hydrangea

1	Acid Soils	
2	Damp/Wet Soils	
3	Dense Shade	
4	Dry Soil/Hot Sunny Sites	
5	Heavy Clay Soil	

**DON'T FORGET..... Your entry
to the 2020 Virtual Flower Show!**