



August 2020: Special Edition 21



Dear Members,

Only a week to go before **our Virtual Flower Show** – Do get involved. It's only a bit of fun, but everyone is welcome to participate. Details on page 2. Results in September!!

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's gladioli are going strong and the wonderful purple ones are now in bloom.



A request from Bill – does anyone know what the plant in the photo above is called?



It grows to about 3 feet tall, dies back in the winter, and thrives in semi-shade. Bill brought it back accidentally from his mum's garden in Yorkshire along with the Japanese anemone that is just managing to flower amongst it. Please email me if you know what the plant is called.

PROPOGATION TIME

Now is the time to think about taking cuttings of fuchsias and pelargoniums for propagation. Snip short lengths from the end of shoots - about 3-5 inches long, although for fuchsias they can be 2 inches long or smaller still for short-jointed plants. Snap or cut off any flowers and buds, with their stalks, flush with the main stem of the cutting leaving a stub, then cut the leaves cleanly away from the bottom half to two thirds of the cutting without leaving stubs.

Recut the base of the stem below where you removed the lowest leaf so there is a leaf joint from where the roots will grow. Most summer cuttings root on their own but to improve their chances, dip the end into a rooting hormone, push them into compost and gently water. Stand the posts on a windowsill with good light (not direct sun). Putting them in a plastic bag to maintain humidity for the first week will help them root. Don't pot them up until they're growing in the Spring.



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 prize 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 you photo with your **name** and **email** address (and for classes 17-20 also age) and **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: LUPINS

The *Lupins* produce their tall, brightly coloured flower spikes in late May and throughout June. Long established for many years are the classic mixed *Russell Lupins* reaching 3 feet tall or so.



Sorter and more compact, is *Lulu Mixed*, producing 10-12 stems per plant, flowering at only 2 feet tall. Easily raised outdoors, seed may be sown April to June, Plant where they are required to bloom, during early Autumn, Making thick fleshy tap-roots, they resent being moved again! Remove dead flower-heads before the seed pods form. The seeds are poisonous, especially if eaten by children.



PLANT FACTS: WALLFLOWERS

Wallflower seed is best sown, direct into the open garden soil, from mid June to early July. In some seasons its necessary to water the seed drills prior to sowing the seed. The traditional tall varieties are still available, but you can also get the modern shorter kinds, such as the *Bedder Series* (10 inches) or the *Prince Series* (8 inches) as being less prone to wind damage.



Once germinated transplant all the seedlings if growing mixtures. If you transplant only the strongest and largest, you will be de-selecting the mixture and perhaps only end up with one or two colours.



T Thanks to Chris Young for this week's Plant Facts.



LAST WEEK'S QUIZ

What Plant Where?

Match the pairs of plants with the correct conditions.

1	Acid Soils	Azalea and Magnolia
2	Damp/Wet Soils	Hosta and Astilbe
3	Dense Shade	Lily of the valley and Pulmonaria
4	Dry Soil/Hot Sunny Sites	Sedum and Lavender
5	Heavy Clay Soils	Viburnum and Hydrangea

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

Cryptic Vegetables

Name the vegetables from the cryptic clues below:

1	A Scandinavian
2	Opposite of bitter and a foot problem
3	A golf term and a small quick cut
4	A taxi and to grow old
5	Somerset town
6	Hit repeatedly with small missiles or gunshot
7	Motor vehicle and decay
8	Fortune telling cards
9	Force liquid to move and relatives
10	Soft, wet, pulpy mass and space that can be occupied

JOBS TO DO

It's harvest time for many crops so catch fruit and vegetables at their best either for eating now or storing over the winter. Onions are ready when the foliage starts to droop over. You can tell if sweetcorn is ripe by squeezing a kernel and milky juice comes out.

Watering and feeding remain very important in spite of the rain we have had recently, especially for pots, containers, greenhouses and hanging baskets.

Plant Autumn flowering bulbs now. Replace any summer bedding plants which have passed their best with winter Violas.



Finish pruning apple trees that fan, cordon or espalier.

Look after ponds, making sure the water levels are topped up, cut back yellow foliage on pond plants and remove blanket weed.

Collect seeds in brown paper bags or envelopes for sowing later and take cuttings from tender perennials for propagating.

Spring cabbage and radishes can be grown now for some winter greens. Enjoy those tomatoes!

DON'T FORGET..... Your entry to the 2020 Virtual Flower Show – closing date 4 September!