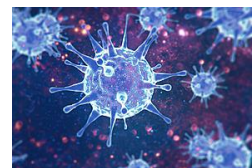


COVID-19 Update



Open Garden – 21st June

Valerie and David Menzies are busy in their garden hoping that they will be able to open on the 21st June at 2 pm. The event is still to be confirmed and will depend on Government advice closer to the time. Watch out for an announcement in the next issue of Snippets

July Indoor Meeting **Cancelled**

Unfortunately, we have decided to cancel the meeting which was scheduled for Friday 17th July. We were looking forward to Andrew Tolman talking about 'Stumperies, ferns and shady friends'. It seems unlikely that we would be allowed to hold an indoor meeting in July and even if some of the restrictions were relaxed, we feel that there might be a reluctance for people to attend.

Virtual Garden Tour 12th June @ 7 pm



We are going to do something new! Martin Ward is preparing a virtual tour of his garden which was going to be an NGS Open Garden in June. This tour will be shown on Zoom and is open to anyone from Hampshire Hardy Plant Group who would like to attend. Zoom video conferencing is very easy to use and is a great way to meet up with people who you may not have seen for several weeks.

On Friday 12th June between 6:30 and 7:0 pm click on [Virtual Tour](#) and enter the password 507716 You may be asked to join with video and internet audio. As additional security please only share these details with people that you know. If you have to type the web address into your browser it is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86991776790>

The tour will start at 7pm and all you have to do is sit back and relax in the comfort of your own home. We do ask that you provide your own refreshments and as you will not have to drive, perhaps a glass of wine.

Full instructions of how to use Zoom will also be posted on the website [Zoom Meetings](#) and if you have any queries or concerns please contact Martin at martin@wardco.co.uk or Tel: 02380614321



Virtual Plant Sales

The May plant sales list is attached to this email. We have also attached the April list again as many plants are still available. Please contact Becky Getgood if you have plants you would like to offer on a future list. Full details on the website. [Virtual Plant Sales](#)

Newsletter

There will be a Summer issue of the Newsletter so please send any contributions to the Editor at martin@wardco.co.uk as soon as possible. We are short of articles for this issue.

Website



Please take a look at the new website – still under development but lots of pictures and information to browse <http://hants-hardy-plants.org.uk/>

Visit Dawn's challenge "Do you have a Zantedeschia with more than 25 open flowers?" [Click here](#) to see this magnificent plant (a flower arranger's dream)

Chairman's Letter

Dear Member

You are now receiving the third edition of 'Snippets' which is a tribute to those members of the Hampshire Group who have contributed to each edition, and also a reflection of the stamina of everyone of us who is enduring one of the greatest tests of human endurance and patience in living memory. But as has been said at times, there are some bright spots particularly the lack of distraction from gardening and the relaxing and health benefits of being outdoors. The weather has also been very kind, though our garden could do with some rain, yet none seems to be coming soon.

My aim for the month is that weeding, planting and watering should be followed by mulching. We have found a number of good products on the market based on shredded wood and which has supplemented our usual mulch of spent hops. Following the hard work and watering with a mulch seems to encourage better and stronger growth, though my first efforts using bark simply provided fun for the local bird population at nesting time.

In the fruit garden rhubarb is ready for picking and gooseberries are swelling well. Beans, peas, lettuce, beetroot and carrots are growing well. We have decided not to share with the pigeons this year so all are protected by enviro fleece which provides frost protection, shade from the sun and speeds up growth. As garden centres re-open it is not too late to make more sowings of vegetables if you have space; and window boxes and troughs on the patio are great for salad crops.



Our Alnwick rose hedge is starting to burst into flower and it promises not just a mass of pink flowers, but it is repeat flowering with a very heady perfume so we are hoping for a warm summer to show it off at its best. Elsewhere a bed of Just Joey roses which came with the house, and must be more than 20 years old, are also blooming and sharing their delicate perfume.

The favourite Weigela I wrote about has now been replaced by a *Philadelphus* 'Belle Etoile' which is bedding down well and will hopefully provide a great display against an unattractive fence. I wonder some times how much less would have been achieved if we were not all confined to our homes. Over to you as a member – why not share your gardening experiences over the past months, then we can all learn from each other celebrating success and commiserating with and learning from not so successful experiences.

Mike Maunder

Plant a Tree for the Pandemic

Linda Ham passed on this interesting correspondence and suggests that perhaps you would like to add your own suggestions for a tree for the pandemic in the next Snippets .

A lady wrote in the Telegraph saying she would like to plant a tree to commemorate this extraordinary time. For the new millennium she grew 30 oak trees from acorns and now has a beautiful avenue in a 10 acre grass field. She said she knows there is 'no such thing as a rainbow tree', but perhaps readers could suggest something suitable for an alkaline soil. I had no idea myself, but sent the letter to Mary Toomey [of Clematis fame] and she says:

'Having given serious thought to a remarkable tree for this extraordinary time in our lifetime - I suggested planting *Ginkgo biloba* commonly called a maidenhair tree. It is an excellent tree for a variety of soils, and can be propagated by seed or cutting. It can reach a height of between 50 and 80 feet and the foliage turns a beautiful saffron yellow in the autumn.

It is one of the wonders of Hiroshima - Ginkgo survived the radioactive smoke when Hiroshima was blasted by the atomic bomb. When the radioactive smoke cleared Ginkgo was found growing just 800 yards from the epicentre of the blast. The aerial parts were gone but new shoots sprouted from the roots. I chose that tree, a native of China, to depict the hope that human beings on this planet earth will combat/conquer the Corona virus & survive for millions of years just like the Ginkgo. It is the only surviving member of ancient plants to have lived on the earth up to 150 million years ago - some record.



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So, hurrah to *Ginkgo biloba* and *Homo sapiens* - celebrate their longevity.'

Mary's letter was published in last Sunday's edition and also there was another letter also published. That reader suggested the rainbow tree, *Eucalyptus deglupta*, commonly known as the rainbow gum.

[It is interesting to note that *Ginkgo biloba* is on the endangered species list as there are only a few stands remaining in the wild]

Hardy Geranium Group (HGG)

Sadly, Geranium Day on 30 May has been cancelled but we will be including a virtual tour on the HGG's Facebook page of the garden we would have visited. You can now join our Facebook group without being a member of the HGG (before the lockdown it was for HGG members only). So please do take a look. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/634752353347749/> Assuming the weather's OK, the virtual tour will be posted on 30 May, otherwise as soon as possible afterwards.

Snippets

Jenny's Garden To Do List for May

- Remove bubble wrap from the greenhouse, clean and disinfect it and the greenhouse.
- Get tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers into the greenhouse before putting into final pots by the end of the month.
- Clear up debris from the recent high winds.
- Tie in fast growing climbers around the garden.
- Acclimatise both young perennials and vegetables during the day, bringing back under protection at night until risk of frosts gone.
- Weeding – is there no let up?? Great for exercise remembering one year's seeds is seven years weeds.
- Plants up containers.
- Regularly check for aphids.
- Feed roses to boost their growth and disease resistance and remove and destroy any stems and leaves including fallen leaves with black spot.
- In the vegetable plot thin out seedlings of directly sown crops such as parsnips and beetroot. Young beetroot leaves are a lovely addition to salads so not wasting thinnings.
- Make regular sowings of vegetables where necessary – there is still time for beans of all varieties, courgettes, squash, beetroot. Consider using fleece to protect against predators including carrot fly.
- Regularly water and feed plants as necessary!