

Keeping in Touch, July 26th 2020

Hello everyone,

Well we are on the verge of August and our gardens are in full swing now, plenty of colour from perennials and annuals alike, so lots of photos to share with you today.

KITBITS

- **Salvia 'Hotlips'**
Judy Reid and Paula Thomas got in touch to describe their experience of the changing colours of Salvia 'Hot Lips' (as featured last week). Judy's observed the same as Don Witton over the past few years, with the flowers being initially red, turning to bicolour red/white later in the season. Paula has been growing Hot Lips for many years now and has always enjoyed its colour changes. She says that apparently it's to do with temperature and other conditions affecting the plant. Climate change again no doubt.
- **Over wintering tender salvias**
Hugh Reid got in touch to offer advice on overwintering salvia in general. Here is his recipe for success:
 1. Buy large plastic pots, cheap from Wilko. This makes them lighter to move around
 2. In December bring them undercover without heat, they cope with dry cold.
 3. Remember to water them, but only infrequently, about 3 times before March.
 4. Put them out when the weather is milder. Use fleece if there is a frost which will destroy the new leaves.
 5. Prune and feed
 6. Enjoy
- **HPS Seed Exchange**
Just a reminder that if you are a seed donor, can you make sure you post your seeds via the Post Office where they will weigh your package and charge the correct amount of postage. The Society wont pay any additional postage charges and so the seed goes uncollected and wasted.
- **Echium World**
Tricia Fraser saw this on the Hardy Plant Community facebook group page from Linda and Ray at Echium World:
It is with a heavy heart that we will be closing The Echium Garden in the walled garden at Thoresby. However our plans for an exciting opportunity to showcase our National Collection of Echium in 2021 are taking shape!

So thanks to all of you that have visited and supported us over the last few years its been our pleasure to host the garden in such a special and spectacular setting! And we hope to catch up with many of you again next year, make more memories and friends through our love of gardening and these amazing plantswatch this space for our news!

Echium plants will be available to pre order from our website from October www.echiumworld.co.uk

They are also advertising a final sale of their plants over the weekend of 1st and 2nd August, 10-3pm bookings only. Email echiumworld@gmail.com to book a slot.

GARDEN VISIT RECOMMENDATIONS

After last weeks suggestion from Don Witton I went off to Felley Priory on Wednesday. Loved the borders, and the bargain bench in the nursery. I came away with 11 plants for £8!

This week's recommendation comes from Hugh and Judy Reid, one of our old favourites, Breezy Knees. They say that pre booking was not required, social distancing was nearer 3 metres than 2 and despite a nearly full over flow carpark queuing was minimal even in the café with outside tables. The cafe is not open Mon & Tues. A must see 20 acre garden and nursery where the prices are very tempting. Some lovely photos to tempt you further!





PHLOX

Decie Needham sent through several photos from her *Phlox paniculata* collection. Decie notes that some of her plants have got mildew this year for the first time. The pink, 'Cecil Hanbury', has been in flower from the end of June. Next is 'Mister Iks', (what Russians call an undercover agent) bred by Elena Konstantinova, and named as it has been as the colour changes constantly. Elena had a Phd in architecture before becoming a phlox breeder, her brother, Alexey Lensky was a military physicist, who died from radiation sickness after helping in the decontamination after Chernobyl. His name lives on in a lovely phlox bred by her. She also bred p.p. Gzel, which is a dead ringer for the blue/white phlox 'Iceland', pictured below. The last photo is 'Blue Evening', which gets up to 5-ft tall.



Phlox 'Cecil Hanbury'



Phlox 'Mr Iks'



Phlox 'Iceland'



Phlox 'Blue Evening'

Janet Boulding has two Phlox from the HPS Conservation Scheme. The first photo is Phlox 'Grey Lady'. This has an AGM and is pictured in the July issue of the RHS magazine, in an article about Norwell Nurseries. Andrew has it for sale, but it is still available from the conservation scheme list.



Phlox 'Grey Lady'

The second photo is of Phlox 'Terry', which has been removed from the conservation scheme, but Janet has lots in pots if anyone wants one. She says they are looking a bit scruffy but reckons it takes a lot to kill this one off!



Phlox 'Terry'

Barbara Dygnas sent in this photo of *Diascia personata* and a pale pink phlox from Felley Priory's rescue section. Can anyone (Decie?) identify it.



MORE PLANT IDENT

Linda Headford spotted this interesting 3 ft specimen on a verge somewhere in Chesterfield. She doesn't think it's a native wildflower. Anyone got any ideas?



Barbara Dygnas asks if anyone recognises this clematis (she suspects it's a species). The flowers are only about 1.5-2 cm long.



OTHER PHOTOS FROM YOUR GARDEN

I asked for a crocosmia and Don Witton sent in his favourite C. 'Paul's Best Yellow'. He has no idea who Paul is but he says it's also Don's best yellow - strong all golden yellow flowers and very floriferous. He likes it better than the other yellow crocosmias he grows which are; George Davidson, Gerbe D'Or and Citronella.



Tricia Fraser sent in this winning combination of Hosta 'Wide Brim' with an Acer behind it. A happy accident that the flower colour goes so well with the acer leaves.



A few pictures from Barbara Dygnas's garden. Lily "Fusion", *Lilium longiflorum* x *pardalinum*, she says it only has one flower.



And a busy bee in her white *Gentiana asclepiadea*



Here's *Thalictrum punctatum* from Decie. She says it has performed very well in dry shade and grows to about 1 ft. tall



That's all for this week, keep sending in your favourite specimens from your garden, recommendations for garden visits and any hints or tips you would like to share to tonifrascina@outlook.com .

Keep well

Toni