



Dear All,

The year just keeps flying by. Already it is July and I find myself writing to you all for another instalment of our mini Newsletter. I find that I am missing Hampton Court Flower Festival this week. However judging by the weather forecast for the next few days it looks as if it would have been a bit of a damp one mid-week!

Flower of the Month Competition - July

Our new Flower of the Month July competition is now open. I am very happy to announce that, a good friend of the Surrey Group, Dr Timothy Walker, has very kindly agreed to judge it for us. So to keep our minds off the fact that we are missing Hampton Court do please get around your house or garden with your camera.

To enter the competition please, send me a picture of a flower, fruit or seed head from your garden, greenhouse or conservatory to brighten up our lives. Please email these to me by clicking this link Surreyph@gmail.com (rather than replying to this email). The closing date for entries is Friday July 24th, so please get snapping. Please make sure that your email includes your name and the name of your plant entry, if known. I shall, once again, compile all the entries I receive and they will be published along with the results on our website [Plant Heritage - Surrey Group](#) . (Click on 'Read more' to view our complete page).

I do so hope that everybody has enjoyed viewing the pictures as much as David and I have enjoyed putting them together to go onto our website. My thanks, once again, to all those that have contributed to this project and congratulations to Beth once again for her absolutely stunning picture of her *Angraecum arachnites* from one of the Plant Heritage National Collections which she holds. National Collection Holder, active member or somebody who is happy just pottering in the garden if you have a plant you are happy with do share, the competition is proving to be a wonderful record of what we are all growing.

Surrey Plant Heritage goes Zoom

It has proved to be a difficult job to organise our little Group through the Covid crisis and as we attempt to finalise our Autumn Newsletter and diary for next year, the Committee and I have been pondering the future. As you are probably aware our meetings in Cobham are due to start again in the second week of September and with them the question of whether it will be safe, and whether it will be legal, for us all to meet up again in the Autumn. Of course without a functioning 'Crystal Ball' none of us know the answer!



I am very much hoping that we will be able to have some sort of meeting in September. If we are forced to hold the meeting by Zoom, it will, unfortunately be without our raffle, plant sale and usual fun. I shall greatly miss our meetings in Cobham if they prove impossible to re-start in September. We are working under the premise that something is better than nothing! I do hope that you all agree.

In order to facilitate any future virtual meetings The Committee agreed that The Surrey Group should pay for its own Zoom account. It is not possible to use the Central Office Account that has been used for the successful series of webinars. This will enable committee meetings and group meetings to be able to continue on the Zoom platform until such time as it is safe enough for us all to meet up again. I have been contacting the speakers that have been booked for the remainder of the year to see if they would be able and willing to join us via Zoom, should it prove necessary. I shall let you all know what has been arranged when we have some concrete plans a little closer to the time.

A Double Act not to be Missed !

Meanwhile, the ever busy Wendy Bentall has teamed up with Virginia Lloyd-Owen to operate some socially distanced Plant Propagation Workshops. They were instigated because of the demand from all the new customers at Wendy's incredibly successful plant drive sale. I was hoping to be able to bring you some dates but they are already fully booked. Since only 5 places are available at a time, through word of mouth, and some cleverly placed (by Wendy) local advertising these Plant Propagation Workshops are much in demand. There is already a long waiting list for the next few dates. So all that remains is a 'Big Hooray' from all of us!



*Left:
Socially distanced
propagation stations
at the ready*



*Right:
Surrey Group Stalwort
and Propagation Guru,
Virginia Lloyd-Owen*



Facebook News

David England has continued his series of photos on our Facebook page, 'A Flower a Day (...keeps the Covid Away)'. All the images are from our own plant collection and they are taken on, or as close as possible to the day they are posted. If you use Facebook, and would like to keep up with what is looking good in the garden, search for 'Surrey Plant Heritage' when you are logged into your Facebook account and send a friend request. We have reached 'A Flower A Day no.91' so there are plenty to catch up with!

David also celebrated his birthday in June by creating a rainbow collage of some of the 'Flower a Day' photos. It was so popular with his Facebook friends, David had a sample printed on a pre-mounted poster (see below). It's a 12" x 12" water and scratch-resistant PVC board and comes with a hanger already attached to the back.

If you would like to order one of the posters, please email David: lavenderday@btinternet.com. The posters will be £30 each including postage and packing and David will donate a minimum of £5 from the sale of each poster to Surrey Group Plant Heritage.



An Evening with Plant Heritage Collection Holders

Our central Office staff have been busy organising yet more talks by Collection Holders, Thursday 9th July 6:30 [Grow for Scent Talk](#) with Jim Marshall and Roger Parsons.

And [Happy Hostas](#) scheduled to take place Thursday 23rd July 6:30. A talk by Mel Collins from Mickfield Hostas and Jonathan Hogarth from Hogarth Hostas.

If you missed any previous talks and would like to 'catch-up' please contact Central Office who I understand have a 'secret' link to the talk which was recorded for posterity and can be viewed again for a small donation.

Plant Fair at Denbies and a Request

The Committee have made the difficult decision to cancel our Plant Fair that was planned for Denbies this year on 16th August. Uncertainty around the official guidance and ensuring the safety for volunteers and public make it too hard to plan for such an event.

Wendy Bentall is planning to re-open her successful drive-side plant sale for Autumn starting at around the same time. She has requested that all those who would normally provide plants for Denbies could provide plants for her sale. Between Wendy Bentall, Claire Davitt and my own drive-side plant sales, The Surrey Group has already raised over £7,000. This is far in excess of what we would normally expect to raise from our plant fairs at Denbies. If you have plants, or would like to grow some plants for these sales, please get in touch either with Wendy directly or through surreyph@gmail.com.

So my very best wishes to you and all your families, I look forward to seeing your entries to our July Competition.

Thank you.

I wish you all Happy Growing,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish underneath the name.

surreyph@gmail.com

Our Facebook Page can be found by searching for 'Surrey Plant Heritage' when you are logged into your Facebook account.

Our website <https://www.plantheritage.org.uk/local-groups/surrey/>

