



Plant
Heritage



Surrey Group Lockdown Newsletter

August 2020

Dear All,

As the sun beats down upon all our gardens (though as I finish this, the rain has come at last!), I have come indoors for some respite from the relentless watering. I have found it hard to keep all the plants irrigated and I'm afraid my runner beans have succumbed to the heat; they have ceased blooming and even some of the bean pods have stopped growing. Watering can become a bit of an obsession but sometimes you just have to accept that some losses are inevitable!

Flower of The Month Competition - August

Our new Flower of the Month August competition is now open. I am happy to announce that this month [Martin Fish](#) has very kindly agreed to judge our competition. Martin is an experienced gardening consultant and media personality featuring on radio and television and is also the Chair of The RHS' Tender Ornamental Plant Committee. He is also a regular judge at flower shows across the country.

To enter the competition please send a picture of a flower, fruit or seed head from your garden, greenhouse or conservatory. 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 August 27th, 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 had wondered whether people would become bored of this competition but the pictures keep coming in and I am told that even those that do not enter enjoy looking at the results. Thank you so much for your support and please keep sending in pictures from your gardens. There maybe only one winner but we all benefit from seeing what is growing in each others' gardens. From the rare and the unusual to the more commonplace, please send in pictures of whatever gives you pleasure in your garden this month.

Our Talks begin Thursday 10th September 2020

Our first talk by Dr. Simon Charlesworth was due to take place in Cobham on Thursday 10th September. Unfortunately, I think it is still not safe for us to physically meet up since we cannot guarantee that we can all be socially distant and safe. In addition, St. Andrew's Church Hall is still closed to groups and cannot say when they will be able to accommodate large groups of people such as ourselves. As a consequence we were planning to conduct the meeting via Zoom. Simon had hoped to be able to join us online but has since discovered, during a test using Zoom, that his internet connection is not fast enough. Many thanks to Simon for his efforts to join us.



In Simon's place, I am pleased to announce that David Hunt has agreed to deliver a talk via Zoom about the National Trust Parks and Gardens. David describes himself as a National Trust Enthusiast, Amateur Photographer, Lecturer and Rambler. He certainly has many lovely pictures on his website and I am sure we can look forward to an entertaining hour in his company.

The talk will explore a wide selection of gardens throughout England and Wales (including several local ones) and covering a long time span in their creation.

This talk will be given via Zoom. An invitation will be sent out to all Surrey Group Members. If you are not a Surrey Group member but would like to join us, the talk is available for free to all Plant Heritage members and for a £4 donation to the Surrey group for non-members. Please contact us at Surreyph@gmail.com for an invitation.

Surrey Dispersed Collection Project

Our National Plant Collections are at the heart of our activities at Plant Heritage. When these collections are held privately the responsibility to care for these collections often falls on the shoulders of just one person. Having a dispersed collection brings with it a number of benefits : -

- 1) The responsibility is shared between the participating members.
- 2) Having multiple locations involved means that we can keep 'backup' plants. Having duplicates of each plant in at least two locations to reduce any concerns or risks to the collection if one plant fails.
- 3) Reducing the problems associated with keeping a mono-culture. The risk of serious loss from pests and disease increases the more plants of one genus that are kept together. If we all keep just a few plants in different locations then the chance that the collection could be seriously impacted by pests and disease are considerably reduced.
- 4) We can all directly help and participate in Plant Heritage's aims of helping to conserve our garden plants.
- 5) It's going to be fun!

We announced our intention to start this project at our AGM in February. Unfortunately the current global health crisis has made meetings to get this project off the ground impossible. However, now the group has purchased a Zoom account we do have the opportunity of coming together to discuss how to proceed and more excitingly what collection we would like to start. Whatever we choose, it will be an easy plant which most, if not all of us, will have a suitable location to grow.



We will not only need people to grow the collection but also people to help with the administration and co-ordination. In addition, we will also require good natured folk to cheer us on! So please do not feel that you are undertaking an onerous horticultural commitment by joining this project. If you have not signed up but would like to get involved then please drop me a line at Surreyph@gmail.com

Social Media News

David E. has continued his series of pictures on our Facebook page, 'A Flower A Day (...keeps the Covid away)'. He has managed to attract over 600 friends for Surrey Plant Heritage worldwide. 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 submit a request to become a friend.

Canna Open Day

I have been in touch with Keith Hayward, the holder of our National Collection of Canna. We organised a visit and helped out with the National Collection at their nurseries last September. Unfortunately their open weekend planned for this year has had to be cancelled. Keith would like to extend a warm welcome to all Plant Heritage members to visit the collection by appointment from 10:00am to 3:00pm any day from now until the end of September. More details on their website <http://www.canna-collection.org.uk/>



Surrey Group Fundraising

Our former Chair and firm supporter Clare Hogan contacted me recently. In her role as Editor of the National Plant Heritage Journal she asked me to supply figures of our fundraising attempts since the lockdown started. My time as National Treasurer helped me realise just how much the Charity relies on income from various Groups' events such as Plant Fairs across the country. This income goes to fund our nationwide endeavour and aspiration to conserve garden plants. As we know, most of these events had to be cancelled. Luckily, just as I finished writing this Newsletter, the results of The Surrey Group's fundraising activities so far have become available and I would like to share them with you;

Wendy Bentall	Plant Donations	£5,725.61
Wendy Bentall/Virginia Lloyd-Owen	Propagation Workshops	£232.00
Claire Davitt	Plant Donations	£1,100.00
Gillian Spencer	Galanthus Donations	£500.00
David Ford/David England	Plant Donations	£1,154.70
		Total: £8,712.31

I am sure you will join me in congratulating all involved, both directly and indirectly, providing plants for the three 'Kerbside Plant Sales'. Many people have been involved in this effort. There are even shady stories of clandestine meetings in car parks where plants were moved from one car boot to another! So a huge 'THANK YOU' to all involved. A special vote of thanks to Wendy, who has raised more than a lion's share of the total at her home in Chobham.

So, on this uplifting note I end this mini-Newsletter. We are busy finalising our main Autumn Newsletter and our Zoom talks commence next month. Therefore, this will be the last of our special Summer Lockdown editions.

My very best wishes to you and all your families, I look forward to seeing your entries in the August competition.



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/>

