



# NEWS SHOOTS

From the FRIENDS of THE BOTANICAL GARDENS SHEFFIELD

## Plant of the Month

Situated amongst the magnolias at the top of the Rose Garden, the feathery plumes and white scented flowers of the Bottlebrush Buckeye, *Aesculus parviflora*, attract bees and butterflies. The species originates from the south-eastern states of the USA. This particular specimen is thought to have been planted by the Curator Harry Hart, in the early 1960s.



Thanks to everyone who helped with this month's News Shoots.

We're keen to include contributions from members. Please send items for future editions or feedback on this one to Jill Thompson on [welding.thompson@gmail.com](mailto:welding.thompson@gmail.com) or write to her at 4 Park Lane, Sheffield S10 2DU.



## Message from our Chair

I'm writing this in a state of euphoric relief! This morning I hosted our inaugural Zoom talk and what a cracker it was. James Hitchmough gave us a charming review of the personal gardens he has created, leading into a fascinating explanation of how he developed his current garden. His artistry lies in weaving an astonishing collection of plants into a rhythmic tapestry, which looks good for the whole year. I've recorded his talk, and the discussion afterwards, and I'll let you know when and how it will be available to view.

A recent chat between the Editorial teams of the Newsletter and News Shoots resulted in the conclusion we shall keep both going. Shoots will continue to provide up-to-the-month news, with an emphasis on responding to your ideas for content. The Newsletter (new name to come) will become a more in-depth publication, with full-length articles on subjects of general horticultural interest. We need editorial team members, in particular anyone with desk-top publishing skills. I'm incredibly fortunate to have a team of such dedicated, supremely efficient and fun people to work with – do come and join us.

Finally, good news for all art lovers - Art in the Gardens is taking place on 5th and 6th September. Tickets will be available from 10th August - for more details see <http://www.welcometosheffield.co.uk/visit/events/art-in-the-gardens>

Warmest wishes,

Jill Thompson

## Membership Fees Reminder

Our subs go up to £20 from September 1st. Please set up new standing orders if you haven't already done so. Any further details or forms are available from Irene May phone 0114 236 9333 irenedeborahmay1949@gmail.com

## Pop-Up Plant Sales

Last month we held the second of our pop-up plant sales, raising almost £600. Thanks to Peter & Trish Kohn and Sue Kohler for supplying the plants; to the Sinclair family, Christine Rose and Anne Brady for manning the stand; and to everyone who came along and bought plants.

The next pop-up plant sale will be hosted by Christine Rose at 145 High Storrs Road on Saturday 15th August between 10.30 and noon. Tea and cake will also be on offer between 11am and 1pm for £5 a head, plus the chance to explore the garden. Please let Christine know if you'd like to stay for tea, so she can suggest time slots to keep numbers within guidelines.

Email fobstalksandtours@gmail.com or phone 07572 052597.



## FOBS Talks Zoom into the Future

The success of James' talk, in the sense that 67 members were able to enjoy it and cope admirably with the technology, means we can now continue our programme for the rest of the year. First, though, I'd like a little feedback. We could continue with our alternate Tuesday morning/Monday evening schedule, but we are not necessarily constrained that way. Instead, would you prefer to have our Zoom talks on the same day at the same time? Let me know. In future I hope to make all online talks available as a free-to-view archive for Friends (with the permission of the speaker).

Our next talk on 25th August at 10:30 will be shared between James and Trish and Peter Kohn. James will be talking about his explorations of the flora of S. Africa; Trish of her and Peter's experiments with these plants in Sheffield. Do come along to the Gardens to see the S. Africa bed in advance. There's much to learn from the display of so many unusual varieties.

## No Cakes During COVID: the New Normal for the NGS

*By Sue and Phil Stockdale*



Should we, shouldn't we? We deliberated and finally decided to open our garden for the NGS in July. We have a south-facing, suburban garden in Millhouses Lane full of clematis, roses and unusual perennials and bulbs, including a collection of *Aeoniums* and *Echeveria*. Visitors booked online, with a maximum of 20 visitors per hour. We were fully booked, despite there being no facilities and no cakes! It was a particularly relaxing and enjoyable afternoon as we didn't have to think about any refreshments, and knew in advance how many visits to expect.

If you are interested in visiting any NGS gardens please check on [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk) as garden owners are able to change the dates from those advertised in the Yellow Book.

## Sheffield's Green Spaces Survey

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Sheffield's green spaces provide many benefits, yet face considerable challenges from public sector funding cuts. Dr Jill Dickinson and Dr James Marson of Sheffield Hallam University have been involved in a programme of multi-disciplinary research leading to the launch of the Public Urban Green Space Group to promote equitable access to good quality green space.

You are invited to contribute your views about the Botanical Gardens as part of the ongoing research through an online survey: [https://shusls.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_77mUIQiUCUDxzdX](https://shusls.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77mUIQiUCUDxzdX)

## Gardens to Visit: Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens

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*By Anne Brady*

Tremenheere Sculpture gardens sit in a stunning valley overlooking St Michaels Mount, Cornwall. Local GPs Neil Armstrong and Jane Martin took over the heavily overgrown site in 1997, tackling woodland, brambles, wild rhododendron and impenetrable swamp. The microclimate allows both exotic and half-hardy plants to flourish, including a notable collection of palm trees, succulents and bamboos, together with tender plants such as cacti and agave.

Interwoven with the exotic plantings is an evolving programme of contemporary artwork by internationally renowned artists. On my visit I saw James Turrell's Aqua Obscura, where you descend metal steps and feel your way through a narrow corridor, then slowly become aware of a spectral monochrome image of branches and foliage projected by a pinhole camera onto the ceiling.



Above: *Aeonium* 'Pomegranate' (bred at Tremenheere nursery)

## Book Review

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This month Rene May is recommending the Derek Jarman exhibition catalogue, *My Garden's Boundaries are the Horizon*.

The story of Derek Jarman's garden at Prospect Cottage, Dungeness, features in a special exhibition at the Garden Museum in London running from 4th July to 20th September.

If you are unable to get along, a good alternative is the catalogue available from the museum website. It's a beautifully produced book, with contributions from Christopher Lloyd and Anna Pavord and lovely photos of Jarman's inspired garden and artworks.

## Volunteers Wanted for 2 Projects

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Our website at [fobssheffield.co.uk](http://fobssheffield.co.uk) is about to undergo a revamp. If you'd like to get involved in reviewing material or commenting on designs, please let Jill Sinclair know on [jillsinclair123@gmail.com](mailto:jillsinclair123@gmail.com). No IT experience is necessary at all - we're looking for members who like writing or have an interest in communication.

The Friends' Seed Sowers: If you are interested in raising perennial plants from seed to sell at the FOBS plant sales, our newly formed group would like to hear from you. Compost and pots will be provided, and advice and support given. We liaise by email and phone and meet periodically. To find out more contact Lindsay on 07765995946 or [fobsseedowers@yahoo.com](mailto:fobsseedowers@yahoo.com).

On front cover: *Romneya coulteri* in the lower lawns border. Photo by Rod Egglestone.



## From Members' Gardens

From top: *Streptocarpus* 'Anwen', 'Harlequin Sapphire', and 'Falling Stars' in Rod & Caroline Egglestone's garden. *Salvia patens* from Brenda Zinober. *Achillea* 'Terracotta' in Sharon Watson's garden. All purchased from a variety of FOBS plant sales.

Send us pictures of plants in your gardens and we will feature some of them next time! Email them to [jillsinclair123@gmail.com](mailto:jillsinclair123@gmail.com)

## Online Gardening

This month we recommend some podcasts (downloadable audio programmes), to keep you entertained. Try **Gastropod**, on food and science, **Cultivating Place** (natural history and gardens), **On the Ledger** (plants indoors and out), **The Dirt** (grow your own) and **Roots, Wings and Other Things** with Jez Rose & Adam Frost.

Programmes can be located by typing the name into google and adding the word 'podcast'. You should be able to play directly from your browser or search and play via apps like Spotify, google podcasts or Apple Podcasts. Happy listening!

## Puzzle Corner

Thanks to member Lyn Armstrong for this month's anagrams, which she tells us are general garden vocabulary, not botanical names:

1. WIN GNAT RACE
2. SPIT ON THE D.G.
3. RUIN A FRUIT TOPE
4. INNER PLEAS
5. MOODIER WREN
6. DROP GINGER NAAN
7. NET GRAND LUPIN
8. P.C. BEAT THE GAVEL
9. URGE PINK FINN
10. MITHER RED GEMS
11. CEMENT S.E. PIER
12. C.I.D CRAB RULE
13. RIGHT PEEVED
14. LONG WINO BOTTLES
15. DIRE SERF BED

### *Brain teaser: the value of flowers*

I have given each letter of the alphabet a different whole-number value from 1 to 26. For example, P=5, I=13, N=7, K=25 and S=20. Using my numbers, I can work out the value of any word by adding up the values of its letters: for example, PINKS is value 70. I have worked out the value of the following flowers ASTER, POLYANTHUS, ROSE, SNAPDRAGON and surprisingly all four have the same value as each other. What is that value?

### *Answers from last time*

#### **Anagrams:**

1. *Ammi majus*
2. *Gerbera*
3. *Rudbeckia*
4. *Echinacea* 'Magnus'
5. *Calendula officinalis*
6. *Pblox paniculata*
7. *Nigella damascena* 'Miss Jekyll'
8. *Hydrangea macrophylla*
9. *Verbascum bombyciferum*
10. *Lavandula* 'Hidcote'