



NEWS SHOOTS

From the FRIENDS of THE **BOTANICAL GARDENS** SHEFFIELD

Plant of the Month

Echium candicans from Madeira, a subshrub in the borage family, is flowering dramatically in the Mediterranean Climate Garden for the first time.

Cylinders of violet-blue flowers stand atop rosettes of grey-green leaves on woody stems. This plant was a gift from the national collection holders, Echium World.



Thanks to everyone who helped with this month's edition. We love to hear what you think of News Shoots, and welcome items and photos for future editions.

Contact Jill Thompson at welding.thompson@gmail.com or write to her at 4 Park Lane, Sheffield S10 2DU.



Message from our Chair

By the time you read this, a number of changes to our routine activities will have taken effect. Our Volunteers are back, hard at work in the Gardens and making up for lost time.

We still can't do some things, and we are all working to find creative ways round. Plant sales are being wonderfully expanded by 'pop-up' sales for this and coming months. Thanks to Christine Rose for the very successful idea. Talks will be starting again, admittedly via Zoom, but at least it's a start. The last talk we had to cancel would have been given by Ken Thompson, so I am most grateful to Ken for the articles he has written for News Shoots about some of his favourite Devon gardens.

I am very sad to report that our summer day trip has to be cancelled. The difficulty was Cottesbrooke, where the owner has been trying hard, but cannot work out a way to let visitors wander safely in a garden designed with 'rooms'.

I am writing this at the height of the heatwave as the perfume from my newly planted roses, headily mixed with the citrus of the Philadelphus, wafts in.

With those scents of a truly English summer come my warmest wishes.

Jill Thompson

Zoom Talks

A reminder that talks are starting up again this month via 'Zoom'. For those unfamiliar with Zoom, news of zoom tutorials to follow.

28th July, 10:30am James Hitchmough - My Sheffield Garden

25th August 10:30am James Hitchmough - S. African Flora followed by Trish Kohn, Growing S. African Plants in Sheffield

Pop-Up Plant Sales

Plant sales in the Gardens are unlikely for the foreseeable future. Dozens of plants raised by our expert propagators, Peter and Trish Kohn, were snapped up at a small pop-up sale hosted by Christine Rose last month. Sales totalled over £400 in two hours. The next sale will be hosted by Jill Sinclair at 25 Dover Road (5 minutes' walk from the Gardens) on Sunday 19 July from 2pm to 4pm. Please note this will be a small, pavement event with a few dozen plants and a single person at a time. You may need to queue and payment is by cash or (we hope!) card. Limited street parking should be available.

Christine plans another sale at 145 High Storrs Road, on Saturday 15th August from 10am. She also hopes to offer bookable tours of her garden and teas for Friends at 11.30 and 1pm.

Below: the plants at Christine's pop-up sale in June.



Developments at the Prairie

By Jill Thompson

Back in October Professor James Hitchmough and a gallant team of students began renovating the 15-year-old Prairie planting. The first priority was weeding out dominant species and now James is selectively 'wiping' undesirables with a smidge of weed killer (see photo below). Planting will start this Autumn. The new plan takes a less rigid approach to place-of-origin in order to achieve a more stable population. Plants will be sourced from perennials in need of division in the Gardens like wood aster, bistorts, bee balms and *Veronicastrum*. Peter and Trish have grown plants from seed which are now close to being ready for planting out. James is supplying *Aruncus* cvs. Hundreds more plants will be bought in as 9-cm plugs. A substantial proportion of the cost will be funded by FOBS. There'll be plenty of opportunities for volunteers to get involved and we hope to attract a new generation of gardeners. What a wonderful collaboration between University of Sheffield, Sheffield Botanical Gardens and the Friends.



Kenwood Community Growers

In the spirit of the Think Global, Act Local campaign, Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation (NESST) has started its first project in the old kitchen garden within the grounds of Kenwood Hall Hotel. The gardens of Kenwood Hall were designed by Robert Marnock but are now very overgrown. With support from Green Party councillor Alison Teal, a determined group of volunteers has worked hard and very fast to clear brambles and bindweed, create beds, build protective frames and plant loads of veg in this forgotten corner. The aim is to donate food to Sharrow Community forum and the group is also planning to enhance the margins around the site for wildlife. Kenwood Hall grounds are open every day for the community to enjoy and you'll find the kitchen garden tucked away behind trees near the archery targets. If you'd like to know more contact sharon.watson301@gmail.com.



Summer Heat

Another Devon garden in our series from Ken Thompson

Coleton Fishacre, built in 1926, is tucked away on the coast between Brixham and Dartmouth. Lady Dorothy and Rupert D'Oyly Carte, of Gilbert and Sullivan and Savoy Hotel fame, spotted the valley leading down to the sea while sailing, and determined to build their home there.

The house (above) was designed by Oswald Milne, a former assistant to Edwin Lutyens, and Lutyens' influence is obvious. The same influence is evident in the rill garden which has Lutyens/Jekyll written all over it. In summer the terraces below the house explode into vibrant colours with an abundance of cannas, dahlias, *Lobelia*, *Crocosmia*, *Kniphofia* and *Dierama*. Wear sunglasses when you visit!

Friends Discount for New Garden History Course

The Gardens Trust (formerly the Garden History Society) ran a special 'Garden History in 10 Objects' day for us at the Gardens just before lockdown.

Now they are organising an eight-week online course, exploring the story of the English garden over the last 500 years. 'A Brief Introduction to Garden History' will explain how and why gardens developed in this country from the mid-15th to the early 20th century. Starting on 6th August, the course will consist of 90-minute sessions every Thursday morning for eight weeks.

As Friends, we are being offered a special deal: if ten of us sign up, the full eight-week course will cost just £30 each. To learn more, please contact Jill Sinclair on jillsinclair123@gmail.com

Membership Matters

A gentle reminder that subscriptions rise to £20 single and £40 for joint membership from the 1st September 2020. We've changed banks to HSBC, so if you pay by standing order you need to send a new mandate to your bank. There's a printed form in the Spring newsletter and it is also available on our website. Please complete and return directly to your bank. If you bank online, you can set up your payment quoting your membership number and name as a reference. Please pay HSBC UK Bank plc for the credit of the Friends of the Botanical Gardens Sheffield, Account number 22052008, sort code 40-41-18. If you have any membership issues please contact the membership secretary Irene May on 0114 236 9333.

Book review

Christine Rose recommends *The Overstory* by Richard Powers. Nature, science and the destruction of trees is at the heart of this eco-novel. The story follows 9 characters with a particular attachment to trees and nature. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction 2019.



On the cover: *Dierama pendulum* in the South African Bed. Above: *Tradescantia* in the Long Border. Both photos by Rod Egglestone.



Plants in Members' Gardens

From the top, *Clematis tangutica* from Jean Dykes, shrubby *Moltkia x intermedia* and *Fremontodendron* 'California Glory' in Harold Smith's garden, and Jane Gosney shares *Lavandula stoechas* (after the rain) amongst *Pelargonium* 'Grandeur Classic White Splash'.

Send us photos of plants from your garden and we'll feature some of them next time! Email jillsinclair123@gmail.com

Online Gardening

Suggestions this month for gardens and gardening on the web, and one garden to visit:

The Gardens Trust is now offering its education programme online, much of it free. As well as the course trailed on page 3, topics range from beastly encounters to the history of plants. See <http://thegardenstrust.org/gardens-trusts-education-goes-online/> for more details.

Fran Halsall, wildlife gardener, tutor and photographer, is offering a great series of gardening and photography classes online (via Zoom) each weekend. To book/ find out more visit Fran's website <https://naturallyfocused.co.uk/> and connect with her Facebook page Wildlife Gardening Sheffield.

The Friends have active Twitter and Instagram accounts, both @fobssheffield, which feature images and news from the Gardens. You can see the posts without needing to sign up, and of course there's our website www.fobssheffield.co.uk.

Starting 13th July is Sheffield Tree Week with a mix of webinars, videos, articles and the launch of the Sheffield street trees strategy. See <https://www.sheffieldtreeweek.co.uk/>.

Alan Clements, owner of Cascades Gardens, Matlock, informs us that the gardens have re-opened every day from 10am. He asks that you telephone on 07967 337404 before visiting. For more details see www.cascadesgardens.com.

Puzzle Corner

Anagrams

Rearrange these letters to find the Latin names of some lovely July flowers:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Jam Am I Sum (2 words) | Trendy umbellifer |
| 2. Grab Ere (1) | South African daisy |
| 3. Bear I Duck (1) | Prairie flower |
| 4. Iguana Chances Me (2) | Used in herbal medicine |
| 5. A Facial Scullion Fiend (2) | One for the pot |
| 6. Cantaloup Lax Hip (2) | Fragrant garden classic |
| 7. A Maniacally Jingled Elks Mess (4) | Annual with showy pods |
| 8. My Arcade A Hall Gryphon (2) | Mutable flowering shrub |
| 9. Barbecue Fobs Crummy Vim (2) | Giant biennial |
| 10. A Vacillated Hound (2) | Fêted Provence scent |

Answers from last time

Brain teaser: Our = 51615 Group = 26155162

Early summer quiz: 1. Rose 2. Eryngium 3. Sweet pea 4. HMS Pinafore 5. Thrift 6. Chicory 7. Rose 8. After flowering 9. Venus flytrap 10. In the pollen grain.