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# **Enjoying Gardens Summer 2020**



## Editor's Musings

Well things haven't got any better have they? In fact as time has passed since our last communication they have got worse. I don't suppose I am being disrespectful to our members to suggest that the overwhelming majority are of an age which would put them in the vulnerable category or even shielded. I know that my wife and I fall into that category and it has been very difficult as I know from experience. However the things that have kept me sane and given us a place to be during this difficult time are the garden, the greenhouse and the allotment. As I type this letter I have picked the first of this year's crop of strawberries and those few berries sliced and cut over the breakfast granola are just so tasty in comparison to what we have been eating. And of course there is the prospect of more abundance to come so let's hope that I continue to blag a delivery slot and get some cream and jam to go alongside the main part of the crop. It has been such a pleasure to sit in the garden and enjoy the plants that have burst into flower in recent weeks. My wife uses this time to point out to me the things which have yet to be done, but I try to convince her that sitting and enjoying is just as important. Watering is becoming difficult. All my water butts are empty and so the house supply is now having to be used. I know not all plants thrive with this water but I am afraid it's just a matter of keeping stuff alive till the rains come as they surely will (remember the floods? and that seems like a lifetime ago now)!!!

For your information I am including an item from the Libraries Service which might be helpful during these difficult time

### Garden Planters and Doggy Tails.

I love the versatility of having seasonal planters; spring bulbs, summer bedding and autumn colours all give the garden a new look and interest with the changing of the seasons. For years in spring, I have planted tall plants, daffodils, alliums and tulips, some of my favourites. Until this year! In March we adopted a Border Collie who likes to jump over the planters, goes through the shrubs instead of around them and has generally caused mayhem wherever she goes! The tall spring plants have all been jumped over, had their heads knocked off by a very waggy tail, stems broken and I have picked up more off the ground than ever before. Clearly having a young bouncy dog has made me re-think the planters and plants at the edges of the borders. Can plant-loving 'mum' and young dog share a garden in harmony? What can I grow that won't get its head knocked off the moment it comes into flower??



I have taken out all the tall spring bulbs and replaced them with low growing herbs. Nikki can jump over these without knocking the heads off as they are currently low mounds of Lemon Balm, Lemon Verbena, Marjoram and Thai Basil. This unexpected mini herb garden has been easier to look after, needs less water and the Lemon Balm is great in a cheeky Gin and Tonic!

Having a re-think has given me a mini herb garden that is pretty, useful and dog friendly, its not something I've planted up before and I am really enjoying this summer. Heather

## VIRTUAL FLOWER SHOW

## POT PLANTS

### FLOWERS

(maximum Pot Size 20 cms)

1. Gladiolus : 1 specimen
2. Dahlia : a vase of 3 of 1 kind
3. Rose : 1 specimen in vase
4. Annuals : 1 vase of 5 of 1 kind
5. Mixed Flowers : 1 vase of not more than 5 stems
6. Best cut flowers from your garden: 1 bloom, stem or spray
7. Sweet Pea: 5 items

1. Cactus or Succulent : 1
2. Fuchsia : 1
3. Begonia, flowering : 1

### GARDENS

1. Hanging Basket
2. Bed of Flowers
3. Bed of Vegetables
4. A garden pot/Container

### VEGETABLES

1. Beans, Runner : 5
2. Beetroot : 3 (tops trimmed to approx. 10 cm)
3. Onions from sets : 3
4. Cucumber : 1
5. Potatoes : 3
6. Tomatoes, other than Cherry type : 3

Photographs to be take between Saturday 25th July and Sunday 2nd August and submitted by 8.00pm on Wednesday 5th August to the WHS email:

westonhortsoc@gmail.com

1st, 2nd and 3rd place Certificates will be awarded fo each category.

## Libraries from home

Our buildings may be temporarily closed but North Somerset libraries still have so much to offer to our communities. Here at Weston Library we are very excited to tell you about the free online resources available from home.

Stuck for something to read?

We have thousands of eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital magazines, newspapers and comics available to download for free. We've recently increased the number of available titles - more than 800 new eBooks and 1400 new audiobooks - so there's now even more choice, with more being added each week! What the papers say... thousands of the world's most popular newspapers and magazines are available for free, including The Guardian, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, Daily Telegraph, The Independent, Observer, Bristol Post, Western Daily Press, and many more. Titles are from the UK and over 100 countries in more than 60 languages. Press Reader is available until October.

Interested in researching your family history? Ancestry library edition is available free to library members from home for a limited period (normally only accessible in the library).

To find more information about all the free online resources and other ways to stay entertained at home, please visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/onlinelibrary](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/onlinelibrary)



### My lockdown allotment



I was lucky to get my allotment at the end of last year, full of couch grass, rubbish and weeds. I slowly started clearing through the rain of January and February - making slow progress, taking boot loads to the tip - by the beginning of March I had cleared a third and I put up 2 raised beds. As lockdown approached, by luck rather than design, I managed get my shed up and fill it with 8 bags of compost and topsoil the day before lockdown. Since then my allotment has been my saviour - I don't have a garden, I live in a flat and being

able to walk down to the plot and keep digging has kept me sane.

Without being able to go to garden centres or the local DIY store, I used what I had in terms of seeds - grew them at home on the kitchen windowsill. I bought another raised bed online - kept digging and clearing and amassed more than 10 large sacks of rubbish. I was at the tip at 6.30am the day it opened!! I am amazed what I have been able to achieve on my own and the plot has provided calm in a storm, quiet moments and camaraderie (at a social distance) and now as much spinach as I can eat! Gardening has certainly helped my well-being during this difficult period. Sarah Ireland



### Committee News

At our last e meeting we agreed a very much cut down schedule for a virtual flower show. All entries must be by photograph and available to post on the society web site. See previous page

**Sue Thomas** has been considering her priorities as a result of this pandemic and she has ultimately decided to put her energies into other aspects of her life. She has been a tireless worker for the Society and she will be much missed. Thank you for all you have done, Sue. Hope to see you at our future meetings as and when...

### Contact points for your Committee

President	Cynthia Filer	Tel 514057
Chairman	John Chapman	Tel 418904
Treasurer	Mr and Ms Wilson	please use email below
Secretary	Sarah Ireland	Tel 07771993784
Membership Secretary	Keith Jackson	Tel 412792
Flower Show	John Chapman	see above
Coach Trips	Heather Tayler, Georgina Heathcote	
Newsletter	Keith Jackson	Tel 412792

### Communicating with the Society:

All emails can be sent to  
**westonhortsoc@gmail.com** which Keith monitors