



**In this Issue**

**Editor's Musings**

**Flower Show**

**Chairman's Message**

**Enjoying Gardens  
Autumn 2020**



## EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Hello Everybody. I had hoped to be able to be the bringer of good news in this issue but it doesn't look as if that's now going to be any time soon. In fact, things seem to be more muddled than ever. We started off with stay at home save lives then .... Who knows? .... I am not sure what it is now and it looks as if different parts of the country have different rules so that doesn't make it any clearer. What it means for our schedule of meetings I can't say just yet. (Sarah's message below now seems definitive and most recent) I just keep on keeping on taking care, using mask and gloves whenever it seems appropriate, taking pleasure in the garden with just the odd trip to Barnard's Castle to check my eyesight.

I would like to pay tribute to everyone who made the Virtual Flower Show a success. The judges and entrants all played a big part in keeping our name in the public eye and we did attract some entrants from outside the Society who perhaps may be encouraged to join in the future. I think it was well worth doing but let's hope we can go real next year. Its' difficult to capture the smell of all that lovely produce in an email.

On the subject of membership my circumstances have become more difficult recently and I no longer feel I can manage to keep the records as they should be so I am relinquishing this role at the end of the year. You may therefore see people with a strange twist in their arms. These are people who have been "spoken to" by one of the heavy mob with a view to taking over after Christmas. This does not exclude anyone from putting themselves forward, we are an open and democratic institution and there are rules for the election of Officers which will be followed.

I will continue to write the magazine with contributions from you all but can do this from wherever I happen to be and I have introduced some changes which I would like to see embedded before I hand the baton on.

Anyone prepared to help young Josh with a few tips can do so via committee member Sue Williams email [suewilliams187@gmail.com](mailto:suewilliams187@gmail.com). We have to be most careful these days.

I had so many contributions this time that I have removed the contacts from the back page temporarily. Just use [westonhortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:westonhortsoc@gmail.com) and I will deal with it

## FUTURE MEETINGS

With the continuing changes in government advice and guidance it's unlikely that we will meet in person for the rest of 2020. The committee has been considering options to continue to engage members from videos to virtual sessions - the Virtual Flower Show was a great success! If you have any ideas or thoughts please do get in touch.

**Sarah Ireland. Secretary**

## SMALL SNIPPETS OF NEWS

**From Peter Gibbs** A booklet about the Clevedon Violet has just been reprinted in association with a presentation about the flower on Clevedon's Festival In The Clouds available via [www.discoverclevedon.co.uk](http://www.discoverclevedon.co.uk) and I was wondering if this might be of interest for your members. Tel: 01275-342211 Mobile: 07808-579086 Email: [peter.gibbs2@sky.com](mailto:peter.gibbs2@sky.com)

**Free Plants! From Ken Blunsden**

I have a lot of black ornamental grass plants to get rid of and I was wondering if your organisation could use them. Free of charge.

Please contact me on [ken.blunsdon@icloud.com](mailto:ken.blunsdon@icloud.com)

## VIRTUAL FLOWER SHOW

### Winners

#### FLOWERS

1. Gladiolus : Keith Jackson
2. Dahlia Steve Ellis
3. Rose : Josh Edwards
4. Annuals : Steve Ellis
5. Mixed Flowers : Sam Ponton
6. Best cut flowers from your garden: Dawn Underwood
7. Sweet Pea: Jane Bird

#### VEGETABLES

1. Beans, Runner : Steve Ellis
2. Beetroot : Steve Ellis
3. Onions from sets : Stephen Humphris
4. Cucumber : Keith Jackson
5. Potatoes : Andrew Humphris
6. Tomatoes, other than Cherry type : Steve Ellis

## POT PLANTS

(Maximum Pot Size 20 cms)

1. Cactus or Succulent : Dawn Underwood
2. Fuchsia : No Entries
3. Begonia, flowering : Steve Foster

#### GARDENS

1. Hanging Basket : Jane Bird
2. Bed of Flowers : Keith Jackson
3. Bed of Vegetables : John Mellish
4. A garden pot/Container : Keith Jackson

A full list of winners can be found on the Society's website together with photographs of the entries.

Thank you so much for everyone who took the trouble to submit an entry. It was lovely to see the results of all your hard work.



## WE ALL LOVE A BARGAIN BUT SOMETIMES IT'S NOT WHAT IT SAYS ON THE TIN

Whenever I go to a garden centre or nursery I always look at the plants which have had their season and are now offered at a huge discount. Perennials are often a good bet as long as the roots look good. After judicious pruning they can be revived for little money and give years of pleasure.

At the end of 2018 committee member Heather bought a tree from Morrisons for a good friend's birthday. The tree was labelled as Pear Doyenne Du Comice, It didn't have many

leaves but the stem and branches were in very good condition and she was hopeful that the tree would mature well. They have watched the tree grow and it has done very well, fruiting this year with a lovely crop of juicy purple .....plums!!!

It was a very pleasant surprise and her friend wasn't disappointed at all.





## FROM OUR CHAIRMAN - JOHN CHAPMAN

Dear Members

Just a few words to keep you informed of the thoughts of the Committee during this period of Covid 19 restrictions.

The Committee meets for our monthly meeting on Zoom, to discuss the business of the Society and we were hoping that as lockdown restrictions were being eased we might possibly be able to return to holding our monthly meetings once again at St Peters church hall before the end of the year. This is clearly not going to happen with the second surge of the virus in recent weeks. We will therefore be planning for activities in 2021 and reviewing the situation at monthly intervals, and keeping you informed.

Changing the subject, I am sure that most of us watch Gardeners World with Monty Don. I always like hearing his jobs for the weekend. His garden is nearly 100 miles North of Weston and is usually about 1 or 2 weeks behind gardens in our area. I can often impress my wife as we watch by telling her all the things on his list I have already done. I am not the tidiest gardener but I have thought that Monty's garden is looking a bit messy and overgrown-looking, maybe because of all the holidays he seems to be having this year.

I have attached a photo of my son's interpretation of one of Monty's tips to remove some of the leaves of a tomato plant to help ripen the fruit. My wife feels sorry for him. I feel sorry for the plant!!



Autumn is the time of the year when there are bargains to be had at many garden centres and supermarkets, particularly perennials, roses, shrubs and pots/containers can all be had at good prices. (See also Heathers story in this issue). It's probably also a good time to make sure you have adequate stocks of potting compost and all the other things gardeners require for a successful spring -pots, labels, seeds. Just think back to spring of this year it may be another difficult period.



## Two Long Serving Committee Members step down

Members of the committee made a socially distanced visit to **Rod and Sue Thomas** to present them with a small token of our appreciation for all the work they have done over the years to support the society. Many Thanks to you both for everything; trips, raffles and of course the huge task of treasurer. Big shoes to fill!

## FUTURE GARDENER

This charming note accompanied an entry for the Flower Show:

My name is Josh. I am 8 years old and I am in Year 4 at Mendip Green Primary School. When it comes to gardening, I just adore helping my absolutely beautiful roses to come to life.

In my garden I have a small yellow rose bush which was planted by Mike, a previous owner in memory of his father. He planted all the roses but he asked us to look after them; so I look after them for him.

We have pink, yellow, red and white roses. My favourite is the red rose. I water the roses and give them plant food. When I went to a garden centre I found there were purple roses as well.

I would really appreciate it if anyone from the Horticultural Society could please help me. I need some good tips to help me grow my amazing roses, the best they can be.