



Hardy Plant Society Northamptonshire Group

NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

As we entered 2020 with Brexit very much filling the news we can hardly have imagined the changes ahead as we began to hear of the coronavirus, happening on the other side of the world, at first said to be more infectious than 'flu but milder. Provided we kept washing our hands and coughing and sneezing into our elbows we, and the NHS, would be all right.

Now it has morphed into a disease that has caused us to retreat into the security of our homes and reject the company of our friends, neighbours and families. We could not have foreseen the change in language, 'unprecedented', 'new normal', and, of course, 'ramping up' which meant anything but, and the changes in our habits as we avoid people in the streets, write off our holiday plans and learn to queue again to shop for food and essentials only.

For many of us with our gardens it has been more comfortable than for those in high-rise accommodation, often with young children to entertain (and educate). The excellent spell of weather, itself possibly the result of the dramatic fall in pollution in the air as we locked-down, can only have made it worse for those cooped up with little open space of their own to enjoy the benefit.

The eruptions of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano caused enormous disruption to air travel across western and northern Europe over an initial period of six days in April 2010. We here in Great Doddington are under the flight path of aircraft from Heathrow though they are many thousands of feet up by the time they pass over. Now once again, as then, we

experience the disappearance of condensation trails to be replaced by clear blue skies. Perhaps surprisingly there is again a noticeable reduction of background noise from aircraft.

Initially after the lockdown was imposed it was rare to see any traffic in the village and with the reduction of movement on the A45 and A509 it seemed eerily quiet which allowed us to enjoy the birdsong. They seemed to be enjoying the unnatural peace and singing out for joy at being able to be heard.

Other things to give thanks for:

- Acts of kindness by neighbours and a greater sense of community
- Brave front-line NHS workers and other carers, both visiting and in care homes
- Shorter A&E waiting times, though dare you go with infection under doubtful control
- Captain Tom
- Supermarket workers providing 'click-and-collect' and deliveries
- Honorary Colonel Tom Moore
- Refuse collectors, especially while the tips were closed
- Captain Sir Thomas Moore
- Postal workers and delivery drivers bringing our online purchases.

And finally, as Captain Sir Tom Moore says:

'Tomorrow will be a **good** day'.

We have just heard of the passing of Vera Lynn at 103 so perhaps she should have the last words:

It will be a **good** day when We'll Meet Again.

---- ooOOOoo ---

2020 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Please note that **all** meetings are cancelled until further notice.

On the assumption that meetings will recommence in September the programme for the remainder of the year is shown below.

All meetings are held at the Moulton Community Centre, Reedings, Sandy Hill Lane, Moulton NN3 7AX commencing at 2pm except for the October meeting which will commence at 2.30pm.

5th September 2020

(Probably Not!) Bring a Friend for Free!

Rob Potterton – ‘A Labour of Love – 50 Years at Potterton Nursery’

3rd October 2020

Please note this meeting will start at 2.30pm

Rosie Hardy – ‘Autumn Flowering Perennials’

7th November 2020

Bob Brown – ‘Light in a Dark Season’

5th December 2020

Jim Almond – ‘The All Year Bulb Garden’

--- ooOOOoo ---

THE DEMISE OF CASH?

or

WHEN DID YOU LAST SPEND A PENNY?

Owing to the lockdown and the lack of opportunity to spend money while shops are closed the last time I touched my personal cash was when I paid for my tea at the HPS meeting on 7th March.

Activity at cash machines was reported to be down by 60% as we were all implored to pay by ‘contactless’ card, the limit for such transactions having been increased to £45.

The operators of the cash machines will be losing revenue and outlets will be withdrawn but, pre-Covid, 20% of the population still relied on cash.

Long term, when we return to ‘normal’, it is likely that the use of cash, and the footfall in the High Street, will not fully recover and continue to fall. Both were in long term decline before Covid and this is only likely to be accelerated.

But how will you pay for your gloves, draw tickets, refreshments and plants at our plant stall? Speakers will most likely have card machines but it is not economic for our Group to have one when we have only nine transaction days each year.

--- ooOOOoo ---

A COVID – DITTY

By kind permission of Elaine Baker of Great Doddington WI

March went out but in Covid came
Everything cancelled at home we must remain
Guidelines for living given daily
By Medics and Politicians on the telly
Who could have foreseen this plague
No one safe and outcome vague?
We hunkered down with wartime spirit
Cancelled normal life as we knew it
What to do? Lots of jobs needing a little
dedication

So much to achieve with no motivation
Gardening, Decorating, exercise to keep
healthy

Nothing to buy, so at least we’ll get wealthy?
We know that it is the right thing to do
But it is not the life we wish to pursue
Be optimistic we will eventually return
To the life we had for which we yearn
Meeting friends and sharing greetings
To once again attend WI meetings?
To laugh together and share our lives
Little things the virus deprives
For our health we must be content
So just relax and be resilient
Life may never be the same
But look forward to when “We meet again”!!

--- ooOOOoo--- ---

CORONAVIRUS TALES

For as long as I can remember my personal paperwork filing system has been a mess, really non-existent. This is in complete contrast to when I was at work where my filing was always perfect. My Hardy Plant accounts papers are neatly filed away but my personal papers occupied every bedroom apart from the one we sleep in – piles all over the beds and on the floor of the bedroom we call the ‘office’, not to mention other papers in wardrobes, loft and garage.

This tale actually starts with Storms Ciara and Dennis last January when I was given an ultimatum to clear the piles of paper from one bedroom. Confined to the house by the bad weather this was the beginning of a task that took me into the ‘lockdown’ as pile after pile of paper was sorted and filed. I say filed - the ‘green bin’ file was filled more than once and there is another huge pile awaiting shredding – but what needs keeping is now filed in folders on three shelves in a cupboard where they should be. For the first time in my life I can find the piece of paper I need!



But it did not stop there as, inspired by the views of people’s bookshelves as they were interviewed on television, attention turned to our own where there were now gaps previously occupied by more piles of paper.

All the books came down and everything was dusted before they were put back in some order. I was also able to bring some books out of the garage where they had been since 1994!



So now we wait for the call from the BBC so we can proudly display our bookshelves to the viewing public. As this is a very unlikely occurrence we shall have to make do with a couple of ‘shelfies’ otherwise no-one will appreciate the fruits of our hard work.



---- oo000oo ---

NGS GARDENS OPEN AGAIN

Some, not all, of the gardens open under the NGS scheme are open again, but:

- you have to book online for a maximum 45-minute visit
- no refreshments!
- no loos!
- no refunds or transfers.

So nothing like the usual relaxed visit with tea and cake (some of us might think that is the only reason to visit). You have to visit the website each week to see which gardens are open on the next weekend. See www.ngs.org.uk

--- oo000oo-- ---

HPS NEWSLETTER

You should by now have received the latest issue of the HPS Newsletter – have you noticed that it looks a lot different to the last one?

It is under new management with the new editor, Mick Dunstan, in charge. Inside is different on two counts; no upcoming events to fill the pages but lots of other news and information instead.

So do have a good look through. It is well worth a read!

--- ooOOOoo-- ---

NEW HPS BOOKLET – BORDER PHLOX

In the latest 'new look' HPS newsletter on page 19 is a piece by the HPS Booklets Editor, our very own Hon Sec, Jan Craig.

There she launches the latest new booklet which is about Border Phlox. This can now be purchased online from the HPS office.

--- ooOOOoo-- ---

REFLECTIONS

In the rush back to the 'new normal' just what parts of the 'old normal' are worth rushing back to?

Did you realise that we were so dependent on India for our pharmaceuticals and that 70% of those ingredients come from China?

Did you ever realise how much you would miss your hairdresser?

PPE was something we read at University, philosophy, politics and economics, but now means something completely different.

After all the bookshelves on view on television – 'A room without books is like a body without a soul' and 'If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need' - Cicero

---ooo000ooo---

BERYL'S GARDEN NEWS

My love of plants through seeds has kept me very busy throughout the lockdown. We have a large garden – all around the house. I have sown and grown different veg – many sorts of lettuce, carrots, beetroot, broad beans, French and runner beans, peas, chard and tomatoes – all varieties. Flowers have been fun – who will grow the tallest sunflower, great-grandchildren or myself.

The Hardy Plant seeds arriving in January have also kept me busy, especially the Distributor's Mix which has produced so many plants. I have no idea of their names so they have been potted on now ready for the garden – but where? It is fun not knowing if they will flower this year.

Evening primroses outside our patio doors between the slabs have given us great pleasure in the evenings, watching them open in their glorious yellow/citrus colour. We have had more birds in the garden and just recently a Jay (on its own) coming for fat balls morning and night. The pigeons beat me to it – they had the gooseberries before I netted them and the blackbirds found a way into the back of the net of my red/blackcurrants. As my bushes are scattered around the garden it really is who gets there first. Now it is time to cut back the Buddleja globose – so thank you to our bin men – they deserve a medal.

Beryl Brett

--- ooOOOoo-- ---

WHAT IS THE POINT?

From an advertisement for 3-layer face masks:

'Single use face masks do not protect against microbial or viral infections'

Isn't that why we are supposed to wear them?

---ooo000ooo---

JAMES' and EMILY's GARDEN STORY

'Gardening is good for the soul. I find it lifts my spirits when times are hard and it is a good antidote to stress during my working career.'

A Brief Garden History

We moved from a London garden measuring only 6m by 7m to Stoke Goldington in December 1997, mainly with the desire to make a garden on a larger scale.



It was a daunting task and a huge leap of faith from a small urban garden of under 45 sq. meters to a rural overgrown field of just under 3 acres full of twitch grass, bindweed, nettles, brambles and dock with over 30 tons of builders' rubble most of which was left here by neighbours.

We converted our house from a barn, formerly a cowshed. The outside level of the barn was 2 to 3 ft. higher filled with layers of concrete facing an upward sloping field to over 15ft high

at the top. There was a danger of flooding after heavy rain, so initially a lot of excavation was carried out near the house to make sure the inside is higher than the outside. We were fortunate to enlist the help and services of our neighbour, who happens to own a JCB and is brilliant at moving earth. The rubble and excavations of the heavy clay were used to create a series of flat level spaces.

Gradually, over many years, with a lot of

backbreaking wheelbarrow work, we gradually transformed these into a series of terraces and lawns, surrounded by deep, wide borders, some cut into the sloping site at different levels. These, along with the lower lawns and terraces and soft planting, help our house sit well within the surrounding landscape.

Our Garden Design and Philosophy

In our opinion a good garden should look timeless, simple and effortless, one of the hardest aims we are trying to achieve. We do not have a garden style as fashion changes so

quickly.

The making of this garden is based on a lot of gardens, nature and natural outstanding landscapes, as well as art and architecture we have seen that have inspired us. Our aim is to try to reinterpret the spirit and essence of all of these inspiring places and ideas, hopefully in a coherent manner in the overall design of the garden.



It is still constantly evolving and changing, as we are still learning and processing ideas into the overall design.

I find that this is one of the joys of gardening as it is a never a finished product, continuing to grow. It is a bit like drawing or sketching, often trying get the correct pencil lines, showing the paper is being worked on over time, it will not be an immaculate finish product but we believe it adds character.

We also believe in gardening ecologically, creating biodiversity, hence the making of a meadows and the woods, recycling where ever possible, and always keen to acquire new knowledge and ideas on best practice on how to achieve this goal.

All the stone in the walls and the open air theatre are collected from the ground, hand

chiselled, and gradually built by us over the years, with the exception of the curved reconstituted coping stones.

Brief Description of the Garden

The concept is based on a reinterpretation of classical landscape design; formal areas near the house and graduating to more naturalistic planting further out and into wilder areas towards the end of the garden.

The garden is designed as an integral part of the house; the living room has the view of the central vista which forms the main axis of the garden.

The main paved courtyard terrace is planted with maples and bamboos merged into the first rectangular lawn with long linear steps to the middle lawn. This is backed by the semi-circular steps of the open air theatre leading to the upper lawns surrounded with deep borders abundantly planted with perennial plants, designed to provide year-long interest.



Here are a series of cross axes in the form of paths both left and right of the main route for one to explore which lead to a series of more intimate spaces for quiet contemplation, some with seats; a scented garden; an immersion garden or a secret garden waiting to be

discovered.

The avenue of hornbeam forms the main visual route of the central vista, this axis ending with a cast-iron tri-ring platform sculpture with a clump of scots pine as backdrop in place of a traditional obelisk. Here you have a choice of a series of informal grass cut paths through the long meadow. You can explore the meadows walking through the meandering paths.



We try to create biodiversity here in order to prolong seasonal interest from late spring to early autumn when the “hay” is cut. It is not a traditional wildflower meadow, because we wanted to reduce energy, cutting a vast expanse of grass early on. Here we experimented with growing non-native, late flowering species to prolong the flowering to the end of September. We encourage plants that look natural and blend in with the long grass and we take out what we feel does not fit on a trial and error basis. After years of reducing the fertility of the soil, and using no chemicals, there is in a healthy colony of orchids. The bee orchids are especially prolific as they seem to like the conditions we created for them.

There are several alternative paths down to the seasonal wildlife pond, usually full of

breeding newts and dragonflies during the early summer. The near-side of the pond is planted with the jungle giants, gunnera, inulas, telekias and giant himalayan cowslips by the water’s edge. The planting at opposite end by the decking over the water provides later seasonal interest from September onwards and usually ends when the frost arrives.



There is a horseshoe shaped wood at the far end of the garden. In March 1999 we celebrated the new millennium by planting 500+ 1ft saplings of native deciduous trees here; we have added more since throughout the garden. We never would have imagined they would have attained the height that they have in our lifetime. It has reached a stage now that we are able to shape and prune to reveal their characters. Now we are delighted that you can walk under the canopy of these trees along a serpentine path through the lower and upper woods. Underneath this the woodland floor is planted with spring and autumn bulbs, woodland perennials and ferns.



It is a delight where these plants have naturalised. It is a joy for us to walk through here in all seasons, great drifts of snowdrops

followed by fritillaries and primroses in spring, woodruff, anemones, sweet rocket and aquilegias, cyclamens in the autumn and winter hellebores and ferns.

What you see in the garden is all hand-made and built by us. It is a very personal as it reflects our thoughts with no professional input. The joy for us both is the journey of making this garden seeing it grow with time and long may we continue.

We started opening our garden through the NGS scheme in 2018, as we would like to support their cause and also we like meeting people who share our interest in gardening.

James and Emily Chua

English Garden were interested in doing an article about the garden, but the meeting was cancelled due to the lockdown. So you read it here first! Ed.

---ooo000ooo---

A QUIZ

Answers on page 11 of the Newsletter. No Prizes! Just for fun!

Flower Quiz

1. On the leg of a young horse?
2. Sweet with a crest
3. In a brass band?
4. Mad in March - before a ringer
5. Always remember me
6. Lifting articles - before an account
7. They seek him here and there!
8. Was this footwear for Miss Blandish?
9. Is this field cute
10. Velocity before good health
11. Can be navy or royal before it tolls
12. Where the ovine minder keeps his money?

Tree Quiz

13. Burnt offering
14. You may visit this on holiday
15. Is there a "war on"
16. O.A.P.
17. Precious metal gets the cane

18. Bonny Prince Charlie's hideout?
19. Very ordinary capital
20. Where to go on a cold and frosty morning!
21. Celt who is lonely
22. Equine piece of furniture - gone to seed?
23. Is this tree ill, with a little extra
24. Unicorn's ray of light

Birds Quiz

25. Ariel Prank
26. Precious metal on the summit
27. Ruler with a rod
28. Irate account
29. Heavenly body is over the heather
30. Comes from Bucks – bob down!
31. A shaver before this account
32. Panting!
33. A seed just born
34. Divide on this hill
35. Evening in a storm
36. Who killed cock robin

---ooo000ooo---

This may not be politically correct but

OLD WIVES' TALES

Bearing in mind the many jobs that a gardener must tackle throughout the year, it can be said that burying the remains of the Christmas pudding under a holly tree will not rank highly on the list.

It could also be claimed that when sowing seeds, few gardeners will wait patiently until a thunderstorm comes along to rush and sow their carrot seeds.

You can however apply good reason to both practices: the first to fertilise and ensure plenty of good berries for the next winter, and the second to prevent carrot fly.

To be fair, much advice can be said to have some beneficial effect or logic somewhere in it, although at times it may be difficult to find.

Even the most fanciful gardener might find it difficult, for instance, to justify burying a left boot into the soil to ensure a good crop of cabbages and for good turnips apparently the right boot.

For those with close neighbours, a few eyebrows may be raised if you follow the Sussex custom of “shouting the pears”, it ensures a good crop but only works with pears. There is no record of what you shout but you should face the tree first thing in the morning just before the blossom appears, then shout as loud as possible.

No one part of the country seems to be better served than any other with such pearls of wisdom.

In the eastern counties, burying dead flies and bees under lavender plants improves their perfume, while in the Midlands rusty nails do the trick.

From Scotland comes a belief that chrysanthemums will flourish better if tied in with ash sticks taken from a hedge rather than canes, Scottish economy?

With greenhouse hygiene in mind, a common practice before touching any plant was for the gardener to wash his/her hands in “water into which two cupsful of good chimney soot had been added”. While this would be a messy operation the thinking behind it was in the right direction.

The same cannot be said of the old tale dealing with hollyhocks.

Perhaps a few wives and husbands may look more closely at the size of these flowers this year if they take literally the saying “the hollyhock grows best where you kiss your neighbour’s wife..... Old or otherwise!

Source “Cottage Flora” and Lore and Myth. Ken Ferguson Amateur Gardening 1978.

Anna

---ooo000ooo---

LET YOUR GARDEN SING

Earlier this year I was invited to help source plants for a musical themed garden. The plants had to be available in the UK.

Working alphabetically, and I am only up to ‘K’, I was heartened to find an *Abies Piccolo* and *Abutilon Flamenco and Tango*, three pages in of the 956-page Plant Finder.

It appears that *Tango*, *Rhapsody in Blue*, *Blue Moon* are popular names that keep cropping up. I continued to find *Peggy Sue*, *Moody Blues*, *Stars and Stripes* as *Agapanthus*. I was beginning to realise that instead of worrying about the lack of available plants I could be more selective having so many to choose from.

So, if you garden and any of these take your fancy

Just a small selection from an exceptionally long list: -

Chrysanthemums, *Dance sensation series*, *Disco club*, *Edelweiss*.

Clematis: *-Jingle Bells*, *Foxtrot*, *Lily the Pink*, *Rhapsody*.

Hydrangea *Fanfare*, *Melody*,

Hosta *Abba Showtime*, *All that Jazz*, *Amazing Grace*, *Atomic Elvis*, *Blue Danube*, *Broadway*, *Calypso*, *Cha cha cha*, *Chantilly lace*, *Dancing Queen*, *Finlandia*.

Irises *Bach Toccata*, *Cajun Rhythm*, *Champagne Waltz*. *Distant Music*, *Good Vibrations*, *Oh Happy Day*, *Pipes of Pan*, *Symphony*, *Syncopation*.

The list goes on, but a real find was a nursery in Surrey who have bred, named and introduced a whole range of irises called *Allegro*, *Aria*, *Cadenza*, *Calypso*, *Cantata*, *Concerto*, *Electro*, *Lyric*, *Melody*, *Pastoral*, *Sonata and Waltz*.

These plants are all verified by the Royal Horticultural Society but out of curiosity I glanced through the American Daylily database

were the names go wild, *Jumping Jack Flash, Doo Wop, When I'm Sixty-Four, Twist and Shout (Beatle fans?) Ta Ra Ra Boom De Ay, Hit the Road Jack plus at least another 150.*

When it comes to names, some plants have better botanical pedigrees, ***Dudleya hendrixii*** was a plant discovered by Mark Dodero who apparently was listening to Hendrix's '*Voodoo child*' when he first saw it growing in the wild in Mexico.

How easily do I get side-tracked?

All the members of Queen (the band) have damselflies named after them, A newly discovered frog was named ***Hyla stingi***, after Sting in 1994, and make of this what you will, ***Jaggermeryx*** is an extinct mammal named after, Yes, you guessed, Mick Jagger.

Then I started thinking of groups and artists with plant references, Black Eyed Peas, Guns and Roses, The Stone Roses.....

Better get back to the plants, music and nature can work hand in hand and it is amazing where an interest in both can lead.

Anna

---ooo000ooo---

A JOKE

Gardener - I have rearranged all my plants into alphabetical order.

Neighbour - I don't know how you found the time.

Gardener - Oh, that's easy – it's next to the sage.

---ooo000ooo---

FROM THE EDITOR'S GARDEN

Our garden is much changed over recent years and is still very much a work-in-rather-slow-progress.

We were originally surrounded on all three sides by conifers with four golden conifers towards the middle and a Christmas tree

planted by the previous owner that had grown taller than the house. These all grew too large despite our efforts to trim them back and the garden became quite claustrophobic. They have now all gone!



They have been replaced with raised beds as the topsoil is very thin. In some places it is not possible to dig a hole to plant a 9cm pot without hitting sticky clay. Also there is a part-raised hexagonal fish pond to hold my late Mother's goldfish. I really wanted a sunken pond but as it is not possible to get a digger into our back garden no-one would dig it for us!



The photograph of the work in progress was taken from the roof of our house (not by me but by our builder when he was replacing a loose ridge tile!).

We now have paths all around the garden so that we can get anywhere in any weather without getting our footwear muddy.

It does look a little better now with more raised beds on the right for vegetables screened by trellis and a seating area in place of the yellow bag. A hexagonal flower bed now occupies the brown space on the left that was previously

occupied by one of the golden conifers.



The 'wooden walls' that were so much in evidence are not so evident now the planting matures.



--- ooOOOoo--- ---

SUBSCRIPTIONS & OTHER PAYMENTS

Please make all cheques payable to 'HPS Northamptonshire Group'. To transfer funds directly use sort code **20-45-77** and account number **60536431**. Please enter the first 5 letters of your surname followed by the 3-digit GROUP membership number in the reference field.

--- ooOOOoo--- ---

YOUR WEBSITE

Have you visited your Group's website recently?

www.hpsnorthants.btck.co.uk

Updates to the programme of meetings, coach trips and other activities will be listed.

--- ooOOOoo--- ---

ANSWERS TO A QUIZ

Flowers

1. Coltsfoot
2. Candytuft
3. Bugle
4. Harebell
5. Forget Me Not
6. Cranesbill
7. Scarlet Pimpernel
8. Slipper Orchid
9. Meadow Sweet
10. Speedwell
11. Bluebell
12. Shepherds Purse.

Trees

13. Ash
14. Beech
15. Rowan
16. Elder
17. Silver Birch
18. Oak
19. London Plane
20. (Round the) Mulberry Bush
21. Scots Pine
22. Horse Chestnut
23. Sycamore
24. Hornbeam.

Birds

25. Skylark
26. Goldcrest
27. Kingfisher
28. Crossbill
29. Starling
30. Aylesbury Duck
31. Razorbill
32. Puffin
33. Nuthatch
34. Partridge
35. Nightingale
36. Sparrow.

--- ooOOOoo--- ---

WE WILL MEET AGAIN! but WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET AGAIN?

It is very difficult to know how things will turn out later this year – will the virus continue to disappear? – will we have a vaccine? - will there be a second wave? – one doom-monger scientist has predicted there will be four waves of infection!

Already the RHS has cancelled all its shows for 2020, including the ones it postponed to September.

Pantomimes, which of course need much planning and preparation before the actual performances at Christmas, are sadly being cancelled.

At the moment the Moulton Community Centre is closed. The centre, and the café, had been given permission by the Government to open on 4th July with the pubs and restaurants.

Then the Government guidance arrived and it quickly became apparent that there was little point in opening with such severe restrictions on use - on number of households and the limits on what activities could be enjoyed – no parties! - no meetings!

Our speakers for September and October have already been in touch to see if we are going ahead with our meetings and there is some discussion, remotely, in your Committee as to the likelihood of them taking place.

As yet there is no date for the Centre to open and also no go-ahead from the Government for a meeting such as ours to take place. This must put our September meeting at some risk.

When the Government has lifted restrictions sufficiently for the Centre to open and for meetings like ours to be held we would have to see what was arranged by the Centre re movements of people, room capacity, etc. If you all want to come to the meeting we may

have to control numbers! It would probably have to be members only or any visitors would have to give their full contact details in case of any 'tracking and tracing' being required. What PPE is required? Would we be handling any cash for plant and glove sales, raffle and refreshments? Indeed, would we have any refreshments?

The main question is, of course, if we go ahead with a meeting is **"Will You Be There"?**

Please indicate, by replying to the email that delivered this newsletter, how you feel about attending a meeting in September or October. Are you keen to be there or is it 'Christmas perhaps', 2021 or 'not in any circumstances until there is a vaccine'?

Maggie and I have been 'staying at home' since 13th March, ten days before Boris told us to. I recently took my car in for servicing. Dropping the car off was not a problem but collecting it was something else as it was the first time I had been 'in' anywhere with other people for four months! Queueing at 2 metres seemed quite close. So the idea of being in a meeting of 75+ like we have had in the past is very challenging! – but it would be good to see you all again - even peeking over a face mask!

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY NORTHAMPTONSHIRE GROUP

OFFICERS, POSTHOLDERS & COMMITTEE

CHAIR:	Anna Smith	01455 552646
VICE-CHAIR:	Vacant	
HON. SECRETARY:	Jan Craig	01604 740401
HON. TREASURER:	Peter Ryder	01933 279003
MEMBERSHIP SEC'Y:	Judith Roan	01604 645359
PROGRAMME SEC'Y:	Kate Brown	01604 706248
N'LETTER EDITOR:	Peter Ryder	01933 279003
COMMITTEE:	Beryl Brett James Chua	
PLANT FAIR CO-ORDINATOR:	Jan Craig	