

Hill Rise Allotment Association

St. Ives [Cambridgeshire] Gardening Club

Newsletter

May 2023

Hi Everyone, when will spring really arrive? Seeds sown in April last year germinated in a matter of days, this year the same varieties of Veggies, including my Squash Kuchi Kuri have take what seems an age. Even Runner Beans have been sluggish in my glasshouse to the point I am having to do a second sowing.

On the topic of veggies, a number of us visited Trevor and Dawn at Cranbrook a couple of weeks back when we were introduced to some new varieties of Tomatoes many of which are not currently in the general marketplace. Trevor also did a quick walk up to the polytunnels to see how many of his bedding plants were reacting to the new peat free compost he promoted at our previous visit in March.

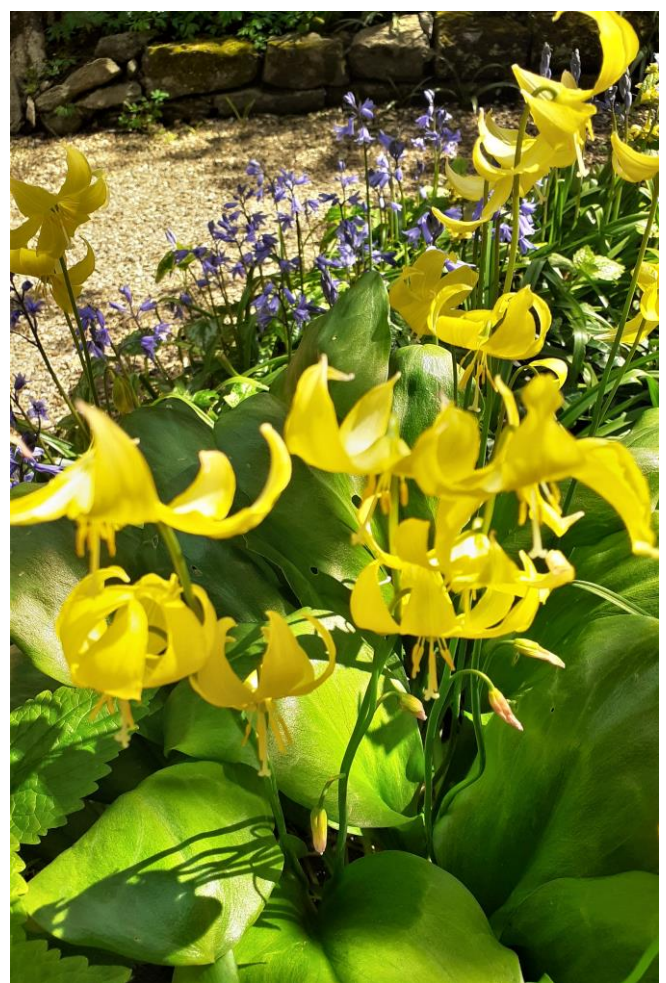


Members of the GC and others intently listening to Trevor outlining the importance of watering at specific times of the day, especially during periods of cold nights.



Trevor in full flow comparing how different plant groups have reacted to the peat free compost he is trialling, in the foreground his Sempleflore Begonias, which appear to be doing okay .

Jo and I recently visited Peckover House in Wisbech. The last time we were there was some 20 years ago (shame on you I hear you say. A definite jewel, with a myriad of interesting trees and plants including a fabulous Glasshouse (dare I say Orangery) which was full of citrus aromas to the point of almost being overpowering. They have a magnificent array of Tulips and though they will be passing over quite soon, there is a potentially fabulous rose garden to be enjoyed in June. The Ginkgo biloba planted in 1789 is quite special. Although refreshments are basic, the Red Lion Pub is just 100 yards down the road, and though from the outside does appear inviting the food on offer was excellent.



Clockwise The House Frontage clothed in Wisteria (*Wisteria japonica*); Pasque Flowers, *Pulsatilla vulgaris* (Eastern Pasque Flower); The Paper Handkerchief or Paper Tissue Tree (*Davidia involucrata*); *Erythronium* 'Pagoda' (Dog's Tooth Violet)

Our next Meeting is on Wednesday 17th May when we will be given an illustrated talk by Dr Tim Wreghitt titled ***Making a Stand for Chelsea Flower Show***, in which he will describe 10 years of preparing educational displays at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show on Medicinal Plants on behalf of the Royal College of Pathologists.

The refreshment team is Linda Croucher and Linda Rogers. The raffle will require an additional volunteer to help Marjorie Carrier. We may also require a couple more prizes any left over will be carried for to the September meeting.

We have an extra meeting this year on the evening of June 21st. This provides an opportunity to hold a Gardener's Question time or to discuss any specific garden issue which may be currently topical. One suggestion has been to spend a little of the evening discussing 'Growing Plants in Pots' as there are a few members who only have a small patch of garden and pot culture is potentially a good alternative for them. If you have any other suggestions or a Question let me know by Friday 19th May in order I may put a power point presentation together for that evening.

Our trip to the two Norfolk Gardens on the 2nd July has just 6 places now going spare thanks to Viv's endeavours. I shall be writing to everyone, who has booked/made reservations for the trip, during the 3rd week of May with individual invoices and methods of payment.

I received this a couple of weeks ago from John Roper, of the Danesbury Fernery, who gave us a talk last year. I told him I would include it in our May Newsletter.

Dear Supporter

I am writing to let you know that the Danesbury Fernery has been invited to open as part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS) on Thursday 8th and Saturday 10th June 2023 from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. We regard this as a great achievement since we started recovering and restoring it from its abandoned state in September 2015.

For details of Opening Times and Access please go to <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/44329/danesbury-fernery>.

We hope very much that you will be able to support the NGS Charities by attending on one of the days. If the weather has been dry the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (site owners) have kindly agreed to open the Fernery Field to ease local car parking.

You will know that we have given Talks to many Societies and Groups over the past few years, and we will be very happy to present a follow-up Talk to your members if you will contact us at info@danburyfernery.org.uk. But in the meantime, if you are able to come on the NGS days, please make yourself known to the Danesbury volunteers on site when you arrive, so that we can give you a special welcome. With best wishes, John Roper, President Friends of Danesbury Fernery

That's about all for this Month, hopefully temperatures will start to rise, the sun will shine and our gardens will begin to recover from the ravages of last winter.

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