



Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

Hello everyone

I hope this letter finds you and your friends and loved ones keeping safe and well in these strange times.

It seems a lot longer than 4 weeks since I last wrote and was agonising over whether to cancel the March meeting or not. Things have moved on rapidly since then, life has been put on hold and lots of decisions have been taken out of our hands.

However, nothing has stopped Nature! Plants are bursting into life, birds are busy nesting and now the clocks have changed the evenings are getting lighter. We have had a long stretch now of lovely sunny weather after the rain and gloom of winter and we are so lucky to be living in Milford and not in an inner city high rise. We are fantastically supported by the volunteer groups in the village and have access to lovely walks for our daily exercise. I do hope those members who live outside the village are also receiving the same level of support.

I'm sure that we will all end up with immaculate gardens! I have never had so much time to spend on mine and I'm hoping to get some of those back burner jobs done like painting trellis and oiling seats.

I have started saving water, keeping a bucket in my sink for when I need to run the tap, as well as using my water butts. Parts of my garden are like concrete already with this dry spell.

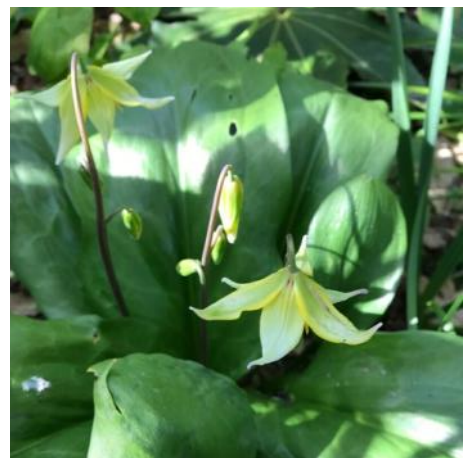
I need to split some of my hostas and horror of horrors, found vine weevils in one pot so that will have to be discarded. The snails already have had a nibble at my miniature hostas so I am trying the David Domoney tip of using crushed egg shells – rinse them out and then microwave for 2 minutes. I'll let you know if it works.

I am still potting up splits and my *Erigeron* daisies, which have self-seeded everywhere. Even though the Plant Fair has had to be cancelled, I suggest we all do the same. You can always put them in different places round the garden, give them to your neighbours, or

April 2020

Monthly Meetings

All meetings have been cancelled until further notice....



Erythronium pagoda



Miniature hosta with eggshells in place, you can see the chomped leaf!

Club meetings are normally held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at **Milford Community Centre**, unless otherwise stated. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. Refreshments available from 7pm.

Email: milfordgardeners@gmail.com

Website: www.milfordgardenersclub.co.uk

keep them for a future date when we may all be able to get together again.....hoping it's not TOO long.

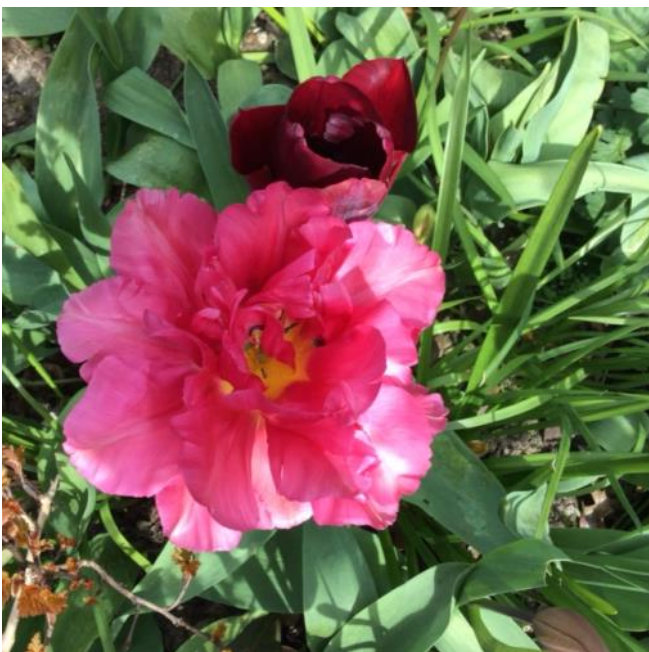
I'm sowing some seeds this year. I don't normally do this as I never seem to have the time to keep a proper eye on them in the early stages, so fingers crossed. I'm going to use some of the free packets of seeds which were brought in to the last meeting. Seems nobody took any so they came home with me!

I'm thrilled that the aeoniums that I took as 2 inch stem cuttings from a very leggy plant bought at the plant fair, have not only survived the winter but are looking fab! Looking forward to planting them out when it's a bit warmer.



Aeoniums grown from stem cuttings

The major plant growers are still doing online business and as long as the postmen keep going with deliveries we can still access plants and plugs. Shallowmead and Bashley Plant Centre are also doing local deliveries.



Peony-flowered tulips

So please stay safe all of you. Say a quiet thank you every day, for all that we have down here in this lovely part of the country and for ALL of the people working to help and support us, not just locally but nationwide.

And, not quite "Strictly..." but

Keep Gardening!

Sue Crabb – Chair

If you would like to share what is going on in your garden that would be a great way for members to stay connected. Send photos with a caption to milfordgardeners@gmail.com and Clare will put them on the website gallery so that we can all see them. I currently have some fabulous peony flowered tulips out and about 5 pots waiting in the wings.



All from my garden