Hello everyone

December 2020

Well here we are, less than two weeks from Christmas Day and nearly at the end of a year that could have been dreamed up in a sci-fi novel! This time last year, no-one in the UK had even heard of Covid, it's a good job we can't see into the future. It seems to have been with us for such a long time and it's hard to accept that a year down the line it is still impacting on our daily lives.

It hasn't quite been all bad: the Club started the year with the hugely entertaining David Domoney of TV fame who gave us a fantastic talk; some members sold plants from their gates and raised money for good causes; the Google Group proved a great way of swapping plants and obtaining garden needs; we had fabulous weather for a long period of time in the summer and a short window of opportunity between the lockdowns to do things away from home. We've had time to reflect on the things that really matter in our lives, but I can hear you grumbling in the background, "What about the last couple of months?"

Yes, the weather has been grotty and we are all getting fed up with being stuck inside with few opportunities to see friends. We're still not quite sure how Xmas is going to work out but I try to take the view that it's no good worrying about things we have no control over. What will be, will be and we have sometimes have no choice but to go along with it. From the title words of a George Harrison album, "All things must pass".

My best advice for this time of year is to listen to nice music, eat good food, get outdoors if you can and watch good TV and **turn off the News**!!!

We are planning for a plant fair next year on May 15th but this can only be provisional for the moment, as the Parish Council will have to take guidance from Central Government as to whether the Green can be used for public gatherings at that time, so fingers crossed.

I do miss seeing you all. I run into various members in and around the Village, but I do wonder how some of you are doing. I hope all of you remain safe and healthy over the Xmas period and I sincerely hope that none of you will be "home alone".

In a week's time we will have passed the shortest day. Yippee! By mid-January we will see a tangible change in evening light and with it will come the stirrings of desire to get out and garden, sow seeds and think about the year ahead. Let's hope that the plans for mass

Monthly Meetings

All meetings have been cancelled until further notice….

Snowdrops at Kingston Lacey last January—something to look forward to.

vaccination go ahead as planned and that we start to see some real reasons for hope that things are changing for the good.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and look forward to a time in 2021 when we can all meet again in person.

Sue Crabb – Chair

PS. I am including a couple of pictures from January last year, as well as a small selection from members' gardens submitted for the website, and two fiendish quizzes. Well, it wouldn't be Xmas without them!

Tree Peony - *Yvette Frost*

Clematis Mrs N Thompson - *Judith Holliday*

Rose - *Val and Mike Newell*

Canna lillies - *Jean Robinson*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

QUIZ 1. Identify some well known gardens plants.

Time allowed: 25 minutes

www.opengardens.co.uk/quiz/

Answers in next month's newsletter, or if you can't wait click here

Gardening Dingbats

Beano, Bunty, Top Gear, Rupert, Blue Peter	ants ants ants ants ants ants ants ants ants ants MAIN	ROBS RED
1	2	3
DING	IV	llayawn
4	5	6
~~OTICS~~	digging digging	sythia sythia sythia sythia
7	8	9
BRIDS,BRIDS,BRIDS	scented	~~Harold Wilson~~ ~~Paddy Ashdown~~ ~~Margaret Thatcher~~ ~~Nick Clegg~~ ~~Tony Blair~~
10	11	12
BAGS BAGS BAGS BAGS BAGS	3.45 pm	plantsborder rump
13	14	15
GARRETTOPDEN	HERB SALAD	beds beds beds
16	17	18

Answers in next month's newsletter of if you can't wait, visit
https://www.kensdingbats.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/GARDEN1A.pdf