



GLASSHOUSES GARDEN GROUP

at The Royal Edinburgh Hospital

Summer 2020

Artlink

WELCOME!

This is our new look bi-monthly circular from Artlink, focusing on the at-home activities of our wonderful garden group as they tend to their own horticultural projects. For this circular we'll be joined by Neil, somewhat of a veteran volunteer at the Glasshouses. We're all adjusting to spending a lot more time at home these days, so it's fascinating to see what you're all able to grow!

GLASSHOUSES GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

NEIL

LOVE MY GROWING SPACE

Here's a wee garden update; I'm at my partner's and will be balcony gardening during the week. It needs a bit of a spring clean.



Gardening on a balcony
with Neil



LOVE EXPERIMENTAL GARDENING



Seeds from Higgledy Garden

I have a few seeds to plant with my partner's 9 year old. We're going to do an experiment from a book I read:

- Take two trays of compost
- Plant seeds in each tray
- Water trays/seeds
- Talk lovingly each day to one tray of seeds telling them "I love you", "I can't wait to see you grow," "You're going to be such a healthy plant" etc.

The experiment will prove two things:

- Plants respond to **love**
- We can **change the world** with our thoughts and actions

Don't say anything to the other tray of seeds and compare what happens over a few weeks/month of sharing the love.

LOVE POTS



What is coming up in your pots Neil?

There are self seeding poppies from last year and potatoes from last year!

And one lupin looks like it made it through the winter, though I don't fancy the others chances...



LOVE WILLOW

Meanwhile, on the other side of Edinburgh Neil has been busy creating (means something different in Glasgow) a goddess in his garden using willow from the Glasshouses. He has also installed his bird boxes.

Please can we have a goddess twin in the Glasshouses garden?

Feast your eyes on his magical green space.



LOVE MY GROWING SPACE



Looking out over Karina’s back garden at sunrise.



In the front garden a *Pieris japonica* ‘Flaming Silver’, tinged red; the best it has ever been.



LOVE QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS



Currently I’m waiting to see if it produces flowers, but it’s crowding a few of my good plants and its jacket is on a shoogly peg!

Neil

Answers in an email please!



Looks prehistoric and poisonous maybe?

Does anyone know anything about this plant that’s in a friend of mine’s garden?

Neil

- Chinese cabbage of some sort? *James*
- I think it is spinach that has bolted! *Valerie*
- Pak choi? *Anne*

Any other guesses? Again, answers in an email please!

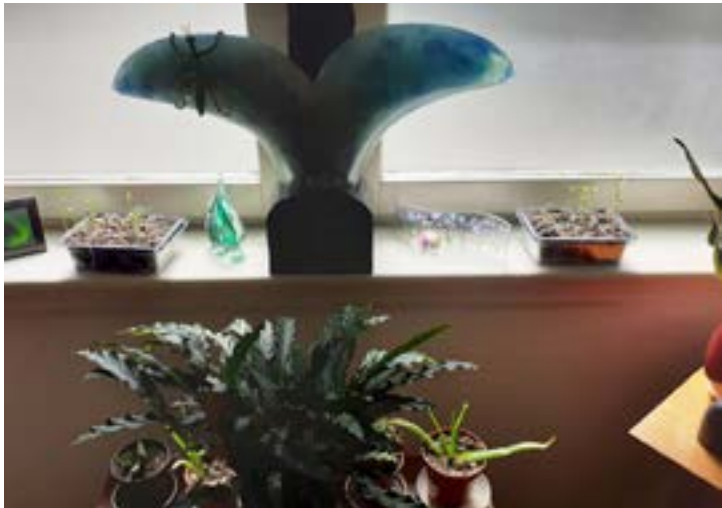
LOVE MY HOUSE PLANTS



Sue and Karina’s plant collection extends into their living space. Online there are some claims to the benefits of house plants. What do you get out of keeping plants inside your house?

Benefits of having Indoor Plants to Make You Feel Better

- **Breathe In The Fresh Air.** The indoor plant absorbs the bad air and carbon dioxide-producing oxygen eventually. They also increase the levels of oxygen inside the house.
- **Plants Reduce Noise Pollution.** The main reason of noise pollution inside the flats is the busy roads nearby. This can also affect your sleep.
- **Improve Your Productivity With Indoor Plants.** According to a study, the efficiency of workers and students get better in the presence of plants.



LOVE MY HOUSE PLANTS



Fiona’s geranium is poised ready to go in or out according to the Scottish weather; very welcoming Fiona!

LOVE INDOOR GARDENING PROJECTS

Chris shared a pictured of his indoor gardening project. Notice the mass of paper pots he has made with that paper pot making tool he brought in to Glasshouses gardening workshop one day for us to try.

Should we invest in one or two? Does anyone have any newspapers to make them with?



UNLOVED



With the arrival of some rain so too come the slugs and snails. James's tip is to use copper tape to prevent them climbing into your plant pots for their dinner. Copper tape – expensive, but simple and effective.

Docken

I removed this dock from round my pond; almost got it in a oner. It felt like an achievement as I have been watching it grow over several growing seasons.

Dock, *Rumex crispus*, appears in the garden in large spreading groups, and is characterised by coarse, battered leaves. It spreads via seed produced by tiny brownish-green flowers, which appear in abundance in summer and are loved by seed-eating birds.

While gardeners are less fond of this plant, it is useful to soothe the sting of a nettle when rubbed on the skin.



LOVE BLOOM LOVE COLOUR



From Karina’s garden comes this beauty; a spectacular show of flowers on this acer.



From Anne’s allotment chives, aquilegia, white Jacob’s Ladder and Ragged Robin are attracting bees *en masse*.

LOVE EDIBLE PLANTS & ALLOTMENTS



A tray of climbing beans, sweet corn, courgette and broad beans making their way to Anne’s allotment in Glasgow. Winter lettuce on the right is already supplying Anne with enough salad leaf for herself and a friend round the corner. Her first early potatoes have survived the frost and are doing well after some heavy rain at the weekend. Unfortunately, her strawberries were hit by a late frost and many flowers have developed a black centre and will have to be removed! Some of you might enjoy this man shed on another person’s plot.



LOVE QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS

Growing over the fence from the neighbours garden into Karina's garden is this tree shrub laden with large purple blossom. Karina would like to know what this plant is.

Apparently it came with the house and the neighbours don't know what it is either; do you know what it is?



“Had to look it up ... Never seen or heard of it before. Blue potato bush (*Lycianthes ratonneti*)”- James

Chris sent this picture in; you decide?



From Karina - How to Propagate

Take semi hardwood cutting in late summer; place four or so around the edge of a pot, use gritty compost. May order a plant online.

LOVE MAGGIE'S BOTANICAL ART

Thank you Maggie for sending in some of your recent drawings of plants in your garden.



A Daisy Chain



The Money Tree



The Rose



The Thistle

WHAT IS KILLING VAL'S HEDGE?

Frost, woolly aphids or mankind?



LOVE HEDGES



The Meikleour Beech Hedge/s (European Beech = *Fagus sylvatica*), located near Meikleour, Perth and Kinross, Scotland, was planted in the autumn of 1745 by Jean Mercer and her husband, Robert Murray Nairne on the Marquess of Lansdowne's Meikleour estate. It is said the hedge grows towards the heavens because the men who planted it were killed at the Battle of Culloden. The hedge lies alongside the A93 Perth - Blairgowrie Road, and can be viewed by visitors all year round.

The hedge is noted in the Guinness World Records as the tallest and longest hedge on earth, reaching 30 metres (100 ft) in height and 530 metres (1/3 mile) in length. It is usually trimmed once every ten years, although the most recent trim, which took place in late 2019, was the first in almost 20 years.

LOVE GARDEN TIPS AND TRICKS



Remember last time James was protecting his tender Dahlia cuttings from slugs with copper tape? Well, while his back was turned, this happened.



LOVE BERRIES



VARIETIES OF THORNLESS BLACKBERRY

Compact growers – *Loch Ness*, earlier fruiting *Waldo*, and to a lesser extent, *Loch Tay* are good conservative growers that are happy with a spacing of 4' - 6'. *Loch Ness* and *Waldo* may also be grown as self-supporting if need be as the stems are shorter and almost shrubby.

Intermediate growers

My own preference is for *Merton Thornless*. It's an oldie but the flavour ranks amongst the finest of all and it remains a good yielder.

The very early *Helen* and late ripening *Chester* are also highly recommended; these newer varieties crop very heavily and the quality of the berries is superb.

More vigorous varieties – *Smoothstem* and *Thornfree* have a good deal of vigour and excellent cropping potential so if you can afford a good 10' - 12' run then these will make a very productive addition to your fruit garden. *Adrienne*

LOVE FLOWERS



“After 3 years waiting for them to bloom these Irises are just incredible!”

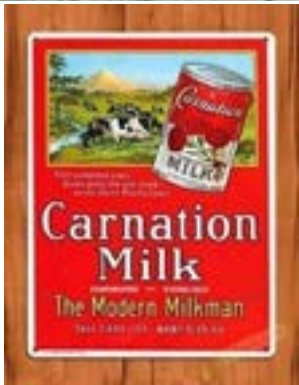
Neil

LOVE VEGETABLES



LOVE STAYING IN TOUCH

Weekly Zoom meetings take place at 1pm on Thursdays. They are fun and light hearted and been the focus of this circular. Some conversntions veer onto strange unexpected topics and I would like to give you my personal take on the chat! Val was having trouble getting eggs at Sainsbury's to which Neil's advice was...



Send in your ideas, news, questions, artwork and photographs to anne@artlinkedinburgh.co.uk

LOVE MAGGIE'S BOTANICAL ART



Christmas Rose



Bluebells



The Marigold



The Daffodil

THE GLASSHOUSES **NEED YOU!**

The Glasshouses are missing you and are in need of some TLC. In the short time I had there last Thursday I took some photographs of the outdoor spaces. The vegetable patches looked particularly wild! The roses however are in full bloom and looking great! The orchard was a mixed bag but check out the plum tree. Hopefully we will be able to get back we in there in some form to harvest them in August. *Anne*







LOVE FLOWER ARRANGING



LOVE THE GLASSHOUSES

