

# NEWSLETTER 52 OCTOBER 2021

**EDITOR'S THOUGHTS** : September ebbed and with it the warmth of the sun diminished. For those of us that grow vegetables and fruit, we celebrated the squashes grown and mourned the lack of apples and beans this year. Curse those late frosts again. The lucky ones may be about to harvest sweetcorn, and divide their rhubarb for larger future crops. Let's face it, we have not had a bountiful harvest from our shameful summer weather this year.

But rather than grieve what could have been and that which is lost (so many slugs this summer), look forwards with hopeful anticipation to the snowdrops, crocus and daffodils that will gingerly poke their heads up next Spring....if you plant them, and in case you had forgotten October is THE month for spring-flowering bulb planting. No-one can deny the joy of seeing tulips and alliums emerging and boldly splashing their hues everywhere they appear.

Let's ignore the herbaceous perennials that will soon need a tidy up and the inevitable tree leaf collection phase. Instead potter around the garden greedily collecting the silver penny heads of honesty and the fat seeds from marigolds to store in envelopes for Spring planting, tomorrows hope: When the colour of Autumn will be a distant memory and we crave its return in Summer, you can push the seeds gently into some warmer earth and will them on to grow. So, as the wasps prepare to hibernate (higher risk of getting stung now) and the leaves lose their lush green chlorophyll and the reds, golds and ambers are revealed, cherish them while they last.

Inevitably, the pigeons are eating the pyracantha berries again ! *Patricia Boddington (Editor)*



## Notes from the Chairman

Well we have come to the end of our gardening club year and its time for the committee to knuckle down and get next year sorted. We finished with a flourish after a difficult time for all. Firstly, we have Trevor to thank for running the Autumn show, which the judges were particularly impressed by. ( cup winners are listed below ) This was closely followed by our final event of the year: the AGM, preceded by Paul Patton's thoroughly enjoyable and informative talk on what goes into getting a designer's Chelsea dream realised. Our thanks to Catherine for getting this talk for us after all the Covid cancellations. The AGM appeal for new committee members resulted in some great additions to our team and we look forward to their company at our meetings. We sadly had to say goodbye to Peter Herring, who has now, after trying for two years, managed to retire from the committee.

*Christine Cox (Chair and Secretary)*

## Topical Tips

\*Dahlias can be left in the ground until the first frost to get the tubers growing as large as possible. They go black but one frost does not harm them. I lift mine because the critters get them otherwise and I found some buckets for £1 in a big well known DIY store. (OK they're orange but they do the job!) First, I turn the tubers upside down for a couple of weeks to drain any moisture out and then I turn them up the right way and cover with spent compost, which I keep mostly dry.

\* I'm always looking for a non -wasteful way to put foliage into my baskets and pots. I was introduced to a pink and white Tradescantia when Trevor brought a whole tray of them to the plant stall. Since then, I have been rooting them in water and using in baskets. They really work very well, although they do fill half the basket by the end of the summer. I also use golden Creeping Jenny and then overwinter the plants in a big pot out of sight in the garden *Christine Cox*,



**GERANIUM AMETHYST WITH  
TRADESCANTIA**

**FUCHSIA PINK  
ELEPHANT WITH  
CREEPING JENNY**



**GERANIUM FLAIR WITH TRADESCANTIA  
AND CREEPING JENNY**

### Show Cup Winners

A full report on the show and some tips for future shows will be posted on the website by the show secretary in due course.

<b>The Farnham Cup</b>	Margaret Ashwell	<b>Gordon Austin Cup</b>	Jill Long
<b>Miss Farnham Cup</b>	Margaret Ashwell	<b>Hugh Chandler Cup</b>	Jill Long
<b>Banksian Medal</b>	Margaret Ashwell	<b>Hickmott Cup</b>	Jill Long
<b>Grindling Cup</b>	Margaret Ashwell	<b>Jack Simmons Cup</b>	Jill Long
<b>George Baker Salver</b>	Darren Ashwell-Symes	<b>Moss Silver Rake</b>	Peter Long
<b>Dennis Amy Spoon</b>	Rosemary Pullen		

**NOTE;**

Because we did not have a Spring Show, due to COVID restrictions, not all the cups were awarded this year.