**Lytchett Minster and Upton Gardening Club.**

**May 2020 Newsletter**

[www.lmugc.org.uk](http://www.lmugc.org.uk/)



Congratulations to all of you who have managed to stay isolated, help others, be a key worker, or helped in any other way during this pandemic. Those of us lucky enough to have gardens or green spaces nearby have derived huge benefits from having time to watch nature unfold in the Spring, observe and listen to wildlife and to breathe cleaner air thanks to fewer polluting vehicles and planes. Here is part of an article from the RHS magazine this month:- ‘When outdoors, our bodies are in a more restorative mode, and stress levels are lower, simply due to the sight of green, the sound of the birds and the wind in our hair, and that leads to the production of higher levels of telomerase. This enzyme has a particular action, helping to regenerate and protect DNA, to prevent premature ageing and keep our bones, skin and blood in good condition.’ So, keep thinking of the positive benefits of this time!

If, despite your best efforts, your garden is not looking perfect, and the blackbirds have eaten your seeds, (like mine!) take heart from William Robinson, a Victorian horticulturalist who pioneered more natural gardening, stating, ’Gardening should be based on the eternal laws of nature.’ He called this style of gardening ‘Cultivated Nature.’ Enjoy the positives of this time, support local businesses when you can and let’s hope we can all meet again soon. Keep safe and well.

We cancelled our Spring Plant Sale, which should have been this Saturday, and some members have managed to sell their plants to neighbours etc. Well done all of you!

Mike Houchen has grown the following plants in preparation the sale. Mike always has brilliant plants, and knows all about them, so it would be good if we can support him and the club in purchasing a few! He has sent a list but says, ‘Members are welcome to visit my garden to see what else I have to offer as well as purchase these.’ Obviously, phone 1st and he’ll tell you the house number, (in Sandy Lane,) and open the side gate, keeping the 2 metres distancing.’ Tel 01202 622873. These are the amount of plants he has, not the price! That’s negotiable with him, but he’d rather see them go to a good home than to the compost bin! Mike is ok to take cash but please have some change ready if possible.

Annuals, from seed sown this year;        4” pots

               Salvias, ’Deep Ocean’                                       4

               Evening Primrose, ‘Sunset Boulevard’          4

               Aquilegia, (yellow or pink ??)                         6

Day Lilies,  ‘Anzac’  (red)          7” & 5.5” (deep)         5

               ‘Golden Bells’ ?               7”  pots                    5

Bergenia                                         7”  pots                     8

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Tritonia Crocata, ‘Tangerine’          4” pots                  8

Fuchsia, (small flowered, name lost !)    4” pots        3

Tulbaghia Violacea ‘Silver Lace’               5” pots        2

Libertia  ‘Bronze Baby’                            4” pots          3

Arabis (White Rock)                 9”x3” trays                   5

Saxifrage,  ‘London Pride’                      4” pots           9

Verbena Bonariensis                    Vars.  Sizes              3

Veronica Gentianoides                                                 2

Campanula Persicifolia  (white or blue)  vars.          3

Aquatics;    Iris Ensata, Large flowered, Japanese,

      white or blue,  9”x9” square aquatic pots          5

If anyone else still has thing to sell, please let me know. If you wish me to deliver a plant from Mikes list to you, I can arrange that, just phone me on the usual number.

**Programme for 2020**

We hope to resume meetings in July but please check the website for the latest information. I’ll keep you updated by email if possible.

Thursday July 23rd – The History of Bournemouth Gardens – Chris Evans

August – no meeting, but we hope for a Garden Party!

Thursday September 24th – Travels with a Camera – Mike Read

Thursday October 22nd – Birds of Poole Harbour – Paul Merton

Thursday November 26th – AGM

**(All meetings are at Upton Community Centre at 7.30pm)**



Best wishes, Tessa. Tel 01202 625953

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