



Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Get togethers and chatting with friends is on pause

A touch of ennui has set in. I have failed to transform ANY room in the house. I have failed to do a 1000-piece jigsaw. I have failed to learn Dutch. My seed growing has failed. The Teak oil has run out. My veg box contained 4 types of cabbage, 5 onions, 2 sorts of carrots and a wrinkly courgette (cue my own version of Ready Steady Cook) and I only came second in the family sweepstake of the Virtual Grand National.

How are you all?

I have been thinking of you and doing a newsletter seems far more fun. So forgive me for taking up more of your time with unsolicited mail.

NOTES and NEWS FROM THE SHED



With parents having to do a lot of home schooling I have dipped into some of the e-newsletters the DGT used to send out to schools with tips and suggestions for school gardening clubs in case they inspire the next generation.



A carrot top forest, A spring lamb – growing cress on damp cotton wool and cress egg heads. The trouble is – no cress seeds, do you think it would work with anything else?

GARDEN WRITERS AND THEIR SUBJECTS

This one is about **Ellen Willmott**:

She had a collection of more than 600 different species and hybrid daffodils in her walled gardens at Warley and, as far back as the turn of the century, is reputed to have made the head of the gardens fix trip wires around the daffodils in the fields, which would set off air guns to frighten anyone hoping secretly to pick some.

Stephen Switzer – 1715

wrote on women in the garden

When men are observ'd to busie themselves in this diverting and useful employ, 'tis no more than it is from them expected; but when by the fair and tender Sex it has something in it that looks supernatural, something so much above the trifling amusement of that species of Rational Beings, that is apt to fill the Mind of the Virtuous with Admiration.

And from Gertrude Jekyll

A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.

There has been a big campaign to save **Derek Jarman's garden, Prospect Cottage**, at Dungeness and the Arts Fund successfully raised the £3.5 million needed recently.



It is one of my favourite gardens, very bleak, set as it is on the shingle but with a wonderful combination of plants and objects washed up on the beach.



The garden design style is postmodern and highly context-sensitive - a complete rejection of modernist design theory. He disliked the sterility of modernism; he despised its lack of interest in poetry, allusion and stories; . Jarman's small circles of flint reminded him of standing stones and dolmens. He remarked that 'Paradise haunts gardens, and some gardens are paradises. Mine is one of them. Others are like bad children, spoilt by their parents, over-watered and covered with noxious chemicals.' The poem on the black timber wall of Derek Jarman's cottage is from John Donne's poem *The Sun Rising* and reads:

*Busy old fool, unruly Sun,
Why dost thou thus,
Through windows, and through curtains, call on us ?
Must to thy motions lovers' seasons run ?
Saucy pedantic wretch, go chide
Late school-boys and sour prentices,
Go tell court-huntsmen that the king will ride,
Call country ants to harvest offices ;
Love, all alike, no season knows nor clime,
Nor hours, days, months, which are the rags of time.
In that the world's contracted thus ;*

*Thine age asks ease, and since thy duties be
To warm the world, that's done in warming us.
Shine here to us, and thou art everywhere ;
This bed thy center is, these walls thy sphere*

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THE GARDENS TRUST BLOG

Are you following this blog by the Gardens Trust? It is excellent! Every Saturday morning a new blog hits the screens

<https://thegardenstrust.blog/2020/04/04/dickensian-gardens/#more-152726>

And don't forget if you're self-isolating you don't have to wait for Saturday mornings to read something new about garden history. There are another 323 posts covering all sorts of topics for you to read over breakfast [or at any other time!] just check out what's available under Topics on the top menu bar – or take pot luck and choose a month from the archive column on the right and see what pops up!

A gentle quiz for you...

Colour clues

What colour is a plant with the following Latin botanical descriptions

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. <i>Lutea</i> | a. Pale pink |
| 2. <i>Carneus</i> | b. White |
| 3. <i>Caeruleae</i> | c. Yellow |
| 4. <i>Sanguinea</i> | d. Scarlet |
| 5. <i>Argenteus</i> | e. Blood red |
| 6. <i>Viridis</i> | f. Blue |
| 7. <i>Alba</i> | g. Silver |
| 8. <i>Coccineus</i> | h. Green |

It's been a good time to dip into books, this is from *The Garden in Poetry and Prose*

From Selborne April 1793

The air smells very sweet and salubrious. Men dig their hop gardens, and sow spring corn Dug some of the quarters in the garden, and sowed onions, parsnips, radishes and lettuces. Planted more beans in the meadow. Many flies are out basking in the sun.

Gilbert White (1720 – 1793)

A glimpse from the War years: The Government issued information about how we can enjoy holidays at home. Aah - just what we need now, although Janie Oliver is doing sterling work.



FINALLY

Quiet please!
Kindly don't impede my concentration,
I am sitting in the garden
thinking thoughts of propagation,
Of sowing and of nurturing,
the fruits my work will bear,
And the place won't know what's hit it...
Once I get up from my chair.

Pam Ayres



I do hope you are all keeping well, and that it won't be too long before we can get out and visit gardens again. But until then

.....Perhaps **you** could write a description of a favourite garden with some photos? It would be so good for us to be able to travel digitally to see some beautiful gardens. We look forward to hearing from you. Do post on our Facebook page.

GOOD GARDENING!