

# Newsletter

APRIL 2020 Number 518

SADLY THERE WILL BE NO MEETINGS THIS MONTH AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Due to the current situation and along with guidelines from the AGS all shows, events and meetings are cancelled to comply with Government rules and regulations.

We hope to keep a newsletter going to inform you of any updates or changes, therefore I would like some photo's or short articles about how you are fairing during this crisis. We do have a face-book page, search google for face-book then search for AGS Essex Group and apply to join, you will then be invited in.

Some members may remember from National Shows Lee Martin, who sadly passed away recently. He won many Farrer Medals and there is a write up about him on the AGS website in one of Jon Evan's Plant Photo diaries, with many photos of his award winning plants.

We have all had our normal lives interrupted and curtailed. Hopefully everyone got enough pots and compost etc in before the shut down. Although the garden centres are closed you can still get an awful lot of goods online. Make use of the time you now have to have close look at those plants that are quite not doing as well as you would like. Perhaps its time to divide them, or can you take cuttings, safe in the thought that the plant will not make the show table this year . If you are trying to bulk up sempervivum etc now is the time to spread them out and give room for the offsets. I will be making use of my extra time by taking as many cuttings as possible from my *Leptospermum* and *Correas*, and will have time to make sure that I have taken enough cuttings of all the saxifrage varieties I need for the shows for the years ahead. It is easy to over propagate one variety and miss one out. Many a time I have had twenty plus of one and none of another and have ended up buying some in. Yesterday I set 60 cuttings Saxifrage Tumbling Water, I may have some spare!

So its a time to reassess, take cuttings and plan for the future. If a plant is not doing well is it time to give the space to another plant. I often look at my plants and decide on the spot if it is ever going to make the show bench, and if not can it be used for cuttings, often they end up in the compost. But the space will soon be taken with a worthwhile plant that you previously did not have room for.

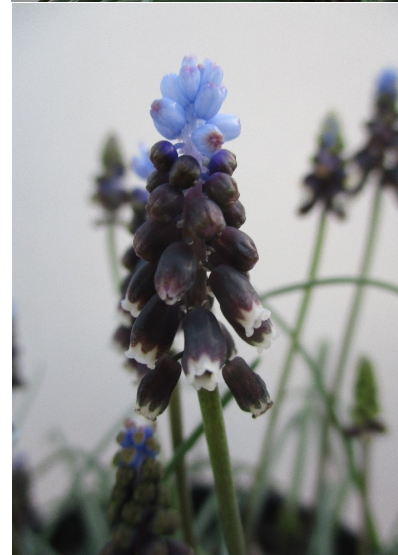
And when your done, wash your hands !! Mike.



*Muscari kerkis* AS54744

Seed collected in Greece: Samos, Mt Karvouni, 2 NW of Profitis Ilias at 1000mts by Arne Strid for Gothenburg Bot. Gdns.

Restricted to the Eastern Aegean Islands and only named in 1984. The lower fertile flowers are deep indigo (black grape/damson) sharply contrasted by the white teeth. Topped by a set of sterile flowers which are pale blue / turquoise. Flowers to around 3" tall. Easy to grow in a standard JI/gritty compost. Seed sown 20/12/2015 Ray Drew



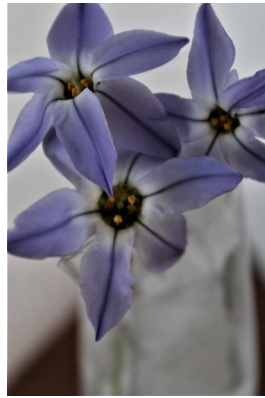
*Rosularia serpentina*

Grown by Mike, outside in full sun, started life 6 years ago and is a regular winner at the shows.





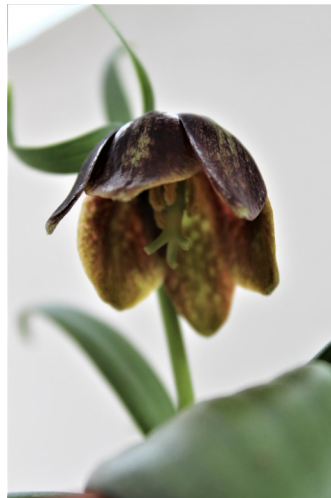
Ipheion Alberto Castilio is taking over the front garden but at least it cuts out the weeds. I have Wisley Blue (top) and Charlotte Bishop in pots, that way I can keep them under control. Every year I pull out loads of Muscarl but still it keeps coming back.



Epimedium sp. in one of my raised borders. This was originally planted by Di, and this year is the best it has ever flowered.



Fritillarias.  
Elwesii, left.  
Davisii, right.  
Grown in clay long toms in gritty compost in a cold greenhouse but put outside for 2 or 3 months in summer and watered when I remember. Re-potted every couple of years,



A much travelled Trillium. Trillium kurabayashii I think. It was originally planted at Rivenhall and when we moved to Little Baddow Rod and Sue dug it up (plus other plants) and it was then in a Tesco carrier bag for 2 months. It was planted in a semi shaded woodland bed, it didn't turn a hair, increased in size and sometimes had seedlings around it. When I moved to Sudbury I was going to leave it behind but Rod insisted on digging it up and put it in a pot. Rod has been caring for it for the last 6 months, obviously very well as its flowered like mad this year. Now I have to find a place for it somewhere in my new garden.

Ruth.



Does anyone know what this beautiful little Tulip is.



Mikes Saxifraga cuttings

Chairman	Secretary	Show Secretary	Editor
Rod Willett	Ruth Jones	Mike Sullivan	Paul Nice
'Ashtree Cottage'	5 Balljngdon Gardens	92 Hanging Hill Lane	162 Parklands
22, The Street	Sudbury	Hutton	Rochford
Little Waltham	Suffolk	CM13 2HS	SS4 1SY
CM3 3NS	CO10 2BA	01277 203481	01702 540443
01245 360396	01787 310546	<a href="mailto:m.sullivan1103@gmail.com">m.sullivan1103@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:paul.nice42@gmail.com">paul.nice42@gmail.com</a>
	<a href="mailto:arjones678@gmail.com">arjones678@gmail.com</a>		