



NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Dear Members,

By now we ought to have started our autumn meetings, but at the moment it seems quite likely that it may be some months before we can meet together. In the meantime, the Society will try to continue to provide members with some virtual gardening support and entertainment!

Well done to all who entered our **virtual Show**, especially the winners, and thank you particularly to those who got in touch saying how much they enjoyed it. (It is still available online if you missed it, or would like to look at it again.) Other societies have done something similar, but not all with such excellent results; one of our judges, who is involved with the organisation of the Cheltenham Horticultural Society's virtual Show, was particularly impressed with our online presentation (and we've checked out their Show, and ours was indeed much better!). All credit to Jan Evans, who masterminded and delivered the whole online operation. Now that we have our Google Drive folders, where the Show resides, we may well use them again for another competition or two – Christmas wreaths, perhaps?! Look out for the next newsletter for details.

In the meantime, we thought some of you might like to amuse yourselves with a **quiz**, attached with this newsletter. This is just for your own entertainment; there are no prizes, and no need to send us your answers (we will send you the answers with the next newsletter). To fit with the troubled times that we are living through, the quiz is about all sorts of **Troubles in the Garden**; by no means all the answers require much gardening knowledge, so whatever your level of horticultural expertise, curl up with a cup of tea (or something stronger) and have a go!

Of course it's that time of year when seed catalogues are published and gardeners choose what they are going to grow next year. Whether you are an old hand or a lockdown newbie at seed-sowing, don't forget that membership of the Society gets you a **generous discount from Dobies Seeds** (not to be confused with Dobbies Garden Centre). Their 50% discount on seeds – they have a wide range, including heritage varieties and some organic seeds – and 15% discount on other products is an excellent saving; a packet of seeds is relatively cheap, but the cost does mount up if you're growing a few different varieties! We normally distribute catalogues at our autumn meetings, but obviously this isn't possible this year; a few copies will be left out in the Brimpsfield phone box and Birdlip bus shelter for you to collect, or contact me if you'd like one (francesellery@btinternet.com). Alternatively, just go to www.dobies.co.uk and order online, using **code GD1222G for your discount**; the code remains valid until around the end of August 2021 and can be used multiple times until then. Very many thanks to Mike and Julie Fisher, who have acted as our 'seed coordinators' for many years and are now bowing out of that role.

If you find yourselves having to buy larger packs of seeds, or seed potatoes, onion sets etc, than you can handle, let me know and we'll see if we can set up a **sharing scheme** – at least one member is seeking a partner for onions and potatoes.

Our future programme may be uncertain, but 2021 is the **Society's 50th anniversary** and it would be nice to mark it in some way; let us know of any ideas you may have for this!

Happy gardening!
Frances Ellery