

# Hucknall Flower Arranging Group

www.hfag.org July 2020

**W**elcome to our second **Lockdown Newsletter**. We trust that this finds you in good spirits and despite not having our meetings you are finding some solace & enjoyment from what has been a luxuriant spring & summer.

We hope that soon we will be able to bring you news of future meetings, fingers crossed!



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**F**lowers, plants and gardens have been a large part of my life since early teens. My first big experience, while still at school, was taking over an allotment. It didn't go down well with one particular allotment holder whose plot I would have to go through to reach mine. He couldn't believe I could do it without damaging his produce, but we were all good friends in the end.

Some 15 years later I moved into my own house with a large garden, I still kept on the allotment and my mother's large garden. It was a brand new house, but there were no readymade gardens in those days. It took me a year to actually get to the bottom of my plot as it was overgrown with wild roses and horrendous brambles that still come through now from the gardens below. The land had been an old orchard, the builders had felled the trees but left large pieces of tree trunks and roots all over. The trunks provided garden seats for a number of years. I have been so happy to have my garden in the past few months, it's like venturing into a peaceful stress free world, as I know many of you will have found.

I have had a **Strelitzia** for a number of years which usually flowers around Christmas, but I had a bonus this year when it flowered again in lockdown. I also have a Bougainvillea which I bought at the first Gardeners' World Live in 1991 and was told by the stall holder that it would not be an easy plant to keep flowering, but it has hardly ever been out of colour. In very cold winters it will lose all its foliage but when cut back it all starts again in spring.



What would we do without flowers?

## Chris Singleton

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I live in a corner plot bungalow, have a large garden back & front, with lots of shrubs, ferns, grasses, hostas, heucheras & rose bushes.

My love of flowers came from my Mum who loved roses and also our Chair Lady, Hazel Abbott, who many years ago taught a group of ladies flower arranging, and I have enjoyed doing this ever since. **Sandra Hutchinson**



**We would welcome** your contributions to the next newsletter, so send your scribblings/photos to: Janice McEwen at [janice\\_mcewen17@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janice_mcewen17@yahoo.co.uk) or 17, Babbacombe Way Hucknall NG15 6NW

For those of you who aren't aware, my mum was one of the group of friends who set up the Hucknall Flower Arranging Group in 1976. She asked me if I would like to go along to the first demonstration in 1977, I did, and I was 'hooked'!! 2-3 years later I became the Treasurer and all these years later you all still trust me with your money.

My husband was intrigued by orchids and a couple of years after we got married, he decided that he would like to have a go at growing them. Not long afterwards he built a greenhouse which was rapidly filled with a variety of species (the family 'Orchidaceae' is the largest family of flowering plants in the world). Our love of flowers meant that a lot of our spare time was spent with 'floral' friends visiting beautiful gardens, flower shows and orchid shows. We were so lucky to have had such a joint passion; my flower arranging skills definitely exceeded (and still do!) my ability to grow orchids though – apart from the usual Phalaenopsis which grow on window sills happily!!

Sadly Richard passed away in 2011 but I continue with his passion for orchids as I love them too and still go to lots of orchid shows with friends from the East Midlands Orchid Society (of which I am also the Treasurer!!). A friend from the society, who had hundreds of plants of the species Masdevallia, made a cross of 2 of his plants, named it Richard Tongue and has registered it with the RHS. Sadly Masdevallias can't survive on window sills, so I never took one!!

My house is a 'floral delight' – well to me it is ha ha!! I have a box of beautiful mixed flowers delivered every week, plus I have a lot of house plants, including quite a few orchids. They have certainly all raised my spirits while I was 'shielding' for 12 weeks, which has not been easy!! Stay safe everyone, Sue x



**Masdevallia Falcata 'Donna'**

### "Silly" Herbs & Spices

E.g. Ali Baba's opening line? (6 letters) Sesame

1. 100 Roman bee homes? (6)
2. "Faulty" Brush? (5)
3. Young Hebrew?(7)
4. Soap & hesitation? (9)
5. Kevin Nolan's initials? (7)

6. If your brother has a son he is a nephew to you, but if he has a daughter she is ....? (5)
7. Glasgow kiss little Margaret ?(6)
8. Stab the money factory? (9)
9. Proops or Derby County mascot? (8)
10. Painful 12th letter of alphabet? (6)
11. Once a sailor I ? (6)

Answers in next newsletter