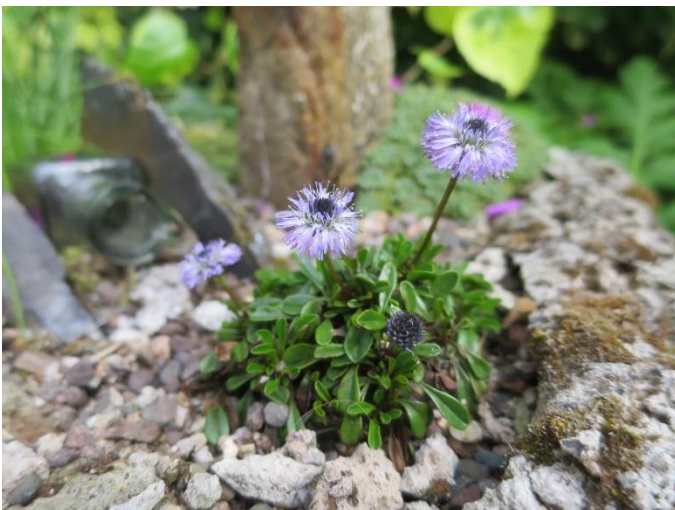


Welcome to the East Sutherland Garden Group June newsletter. Hope this finds you all well and that you are not neglecting your gardens now that you can see your families again and get back to the golf course! After a glorious May the weather this month turned cold and dreich then warm and dreich – with the added delight of midges for some of us. But, as always, there is something to look at in the garden to lift the spirits whatever the weather.



From Peter & Sally we have the rockery with stipa, thrift and bugle on the left and Koelreuteria paniculata (Pride of India) on the right. Below are Geranium palmatum with Crambe cordifolia, Narcissus bulbocodium and 'can't remember'!



I remember asking about the Geranium palmatum on Peter & Sally's open day last year. Although from the Canaries, it seeds freely round their garden and comes up every year.



From Jill's garden there is a lovely bright flowered heuchera, white Geranium sanguineum Album and a bright splash of red from a lupin she got at Sara's charity opening last year. Her Iris White Swirl has grown really tall this year and the yellow cistus is Paunatum. Jill is surprised that a yellow cistus has coped with a Scottish winter.



Alison has commented that it has been a fantastic year for her hawthorn below – mine too and the blossom seems to have lasted longer than usual. She says of the middle picture "Who said I couldn't grow crinodendron on top of an east facing hill in Sutherland?" The spotty leaved plant hiding its little flowers is Podophyllum 'Spotty Dotty' bought on an outing to the Scottish Garden Show with Denise.





Plenty of colour in Alison's rose bed, before the roses, and she loves the odd shape of the allium which she understands is caused by it drooping in frost, then recovering.

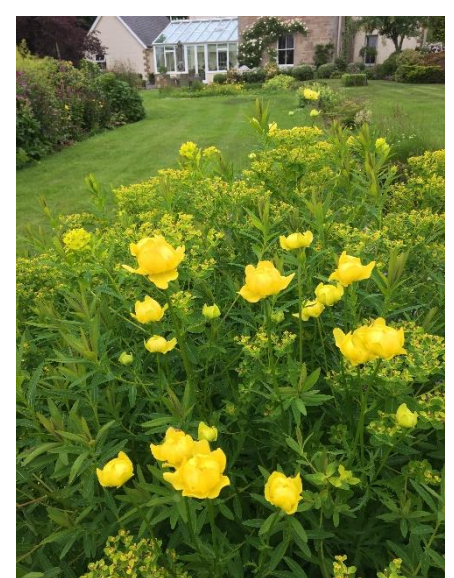


Alison is hoping to still have her charity open garden day – if not on the original date in July then later, so please pot up any spare plants for her plant stall. We will let you know details when the date is confirmed.

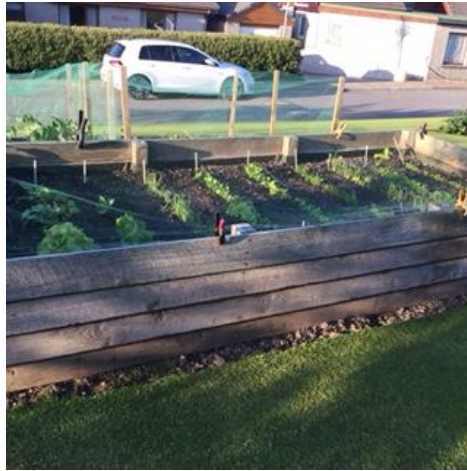
Denise's rockery is still full of colour



She thinks the poppy below is Pattys Plum. Then there's a great big thalictrum and yellow trollius with euphorbia.



Moira sent pictures of her sister's veg garden in Orkney. What an incredibly neat and well protected veg patch. I bet all the neighbours are jealous.



Lots of lovely pictures from Sheila. The white rose with the amazing red thorns is *Rosa omeiensis pteracantha*. Others include Albertine , Madame Alfred Carriere & Rose de Rescht



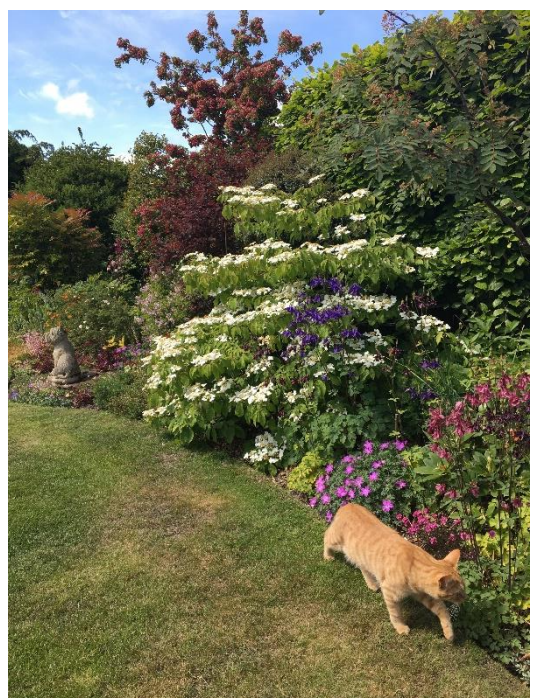


Sheila commented that the aquilegia have been good and not blown flat this year. That may have changed today!



I love Sheila's tattie bogle – for protecting her redcurrants. Hope it works.

Two pictures from Trish – a delicately coloured iris and very neat and colourful looking border – being appreciated by the cat.

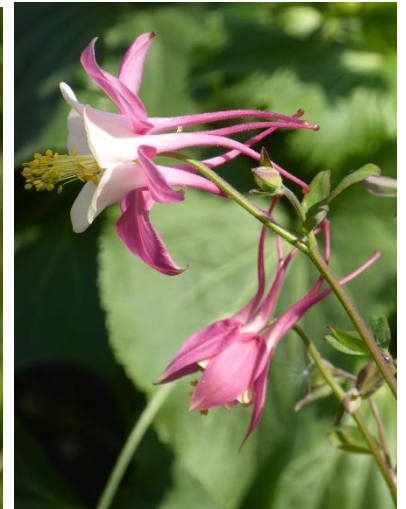




In my own garden there has been a good display of irises by the pond. The white ones are just in front of me where I sit with my glass of wine after a hard day in the garden, so I spend a long time looking at them! I have been fascinated watching which insects visit – the large bumblebees step on the ‘lip’ and crawl in, smaller bees don’t even try, and day flying moths access the nectar from the side. Bees visit time and time again – which has made me wonder how often an iris replenishes its nectar. Anyone know?



The aquilegias are also looking good with two new varieties from seed. I had previously stuck with just purple ones so now I wonder what strange colours I will get when they cross. Pink probably.



My purple meconopsis has been flowering continuously for over a month now. I’m looking forward to sowing seeds from it soon and making new plants.



Please send photos for next month’s newsletter by 20 July. I’m being optimistic thinking it may be the last one and we will be able to get together in August. We’ll see! Take care everyone, and happy gardening. Fay

July 2020

Welcome to the last of the East Sutherland Garden Group lockdown newsletters. The last one because we can now get out and about and see real flowers rather than pictures. I hope you been visiting the gardens of friends and family and seeing the results of all their hard work during lockdown. It will be interesting to see how many novice gardeners keep up their new hobby.

Some pictures from Alison to encourage you to visit Skelbo House – open by arrangement any Sunday (use the special e-mail skelbohousegarden@gmail.com to contact Alison) She says that colour has been slow to come – no doubt due to all that cold weather earlier this month. The roses are smelling divine – and there's all this time to do the deadheading!

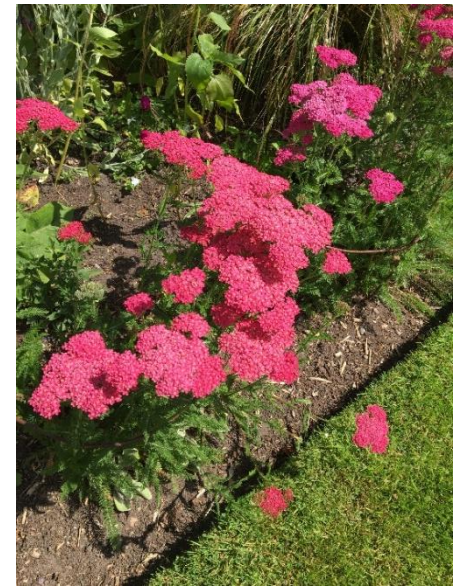


The old rose above has never been great, she says, but this year is putting on a good show, framed by the yellow clematis behind growing through an old hawthorn. The hollyhocks have gone berserk reaching 10-12 feet tall and just beginning to flower. Some pretty gladioli in a pot and a productive veg patch which must win the prize for the best view while toiling at the soil!

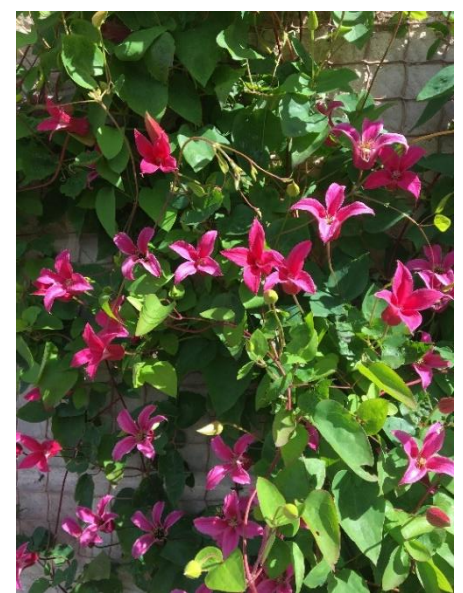
I look forward to seeing it all soon.



Denise sent the following photos. A few people have commented on the intense blue of the eryngiums this year.



The middle pic is of a perennial osteospermum that just keeps on flowering. She says that the lovely deep pink achillea reverts to a mucky white after a few seasons.



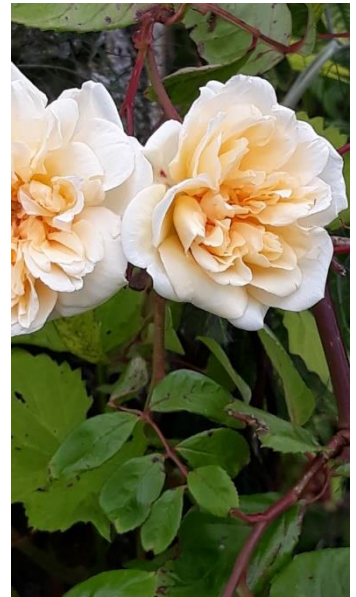
Her tender salvia Amistad above has been flowering for ages. The middle pic is aralia, campanula and thalictrum. Last pic is of Clematis Princess Diana – I think many of us bought that one at a continental market in Dornoch many years ago. Has anyone ever had any luck propagating it? Denise hasn't – I ask because mine has died this year!



Jill's Sweet Williams are putting on a colourful show above. The rose is Compassion.

Sheila's garden is full of roses – she did give me a list of names but I know nothing about roses, so I attempted to match the correct name using Google! There's only one I'm reasonably sure of – Rosa mundi on the right.

The purple ones below could be Tuscany Superb, William Lobb and Charles de Mills – but not necessarily in that order.



Those of you who know your roses will recognise some of the above. Sheila says they are all really easy from pencil thick cuttings in Sept. I think we definitely need a trip to Sheila's next year.

The 4 below are also from Sheila and include the *Lilium Formosanum* var. *Pricei* at the end which she is growing in a trough as it has a huge flower on a short stem. Although it has a beautiful perfume she is not sure if she likes it.



Sara has sent lots of pictures taken in her garden from the spring until now. I have selected some below.





The kitchen garden is looking great – but what is this vegetable on the left which Sara forgot to eat and has flowered? She will maybe give a prize for the first correct answer!

In my own garden a lot of hollow stems plants have been suffering from sclerotinia fungal infection. I blamed the lack of social distancing between my overcrowded plants until I saw some on a self seeded valerian at the edge of the lawn which had no other plants near it. So now I blame the weather – and probably in the past I have put diseased material on the compost heap! Many things are looking good – in particular the delphiniums and eryngiums whose cool blues can be appreciated on cloudy days.



The penstemon on the left has taken years to bulk up but is now looking great.

On the right is *Hordeum jubatum* which I saw in Sally & Peter's last year and actually remembered to make a note to buy seed. I love watching fields of barley blow in the breeze so now I have my own tiny patch to watch. It deservedly joins my top favourite annuals - cerinthe and poppy.



Hope you have all enjoyed the newsletters and look forward to seeing you in a garden somewhere.
Fay

