



Members' Newsletter – October, 2020

Welcome to the October edition of the Blofield & District Gardening Club Newsletter.

We are very grateful to Sue Brown for her very interesting article on the gardens she has visited this year as part of the National Gardens Scheme – a real inspiration for us all. Otherwise I regret no-one locally has sent anything in for this newsletter, though a friend in Lincolnshire had sent me something which I feel will be of interest to members too.

If you would like to see a newsletter in November, then do please send me something – anything really! We received no offers for the October competition - “A stem of autumn foliage”.

The November competition title was to be : **“A small floral decoration for the Christmas table”** so please think about preparing something, photographing it, and sending it to the address below by Saturday, 14th November. Thank you.

Blofieldgardeningclub@outlook.com

Impressed??



I bought a plant from a Village Open Garden plant sale last year, managed to over winter it, took some cuttings this spring, then left it outside this summer. Now look what I've got! Looking up on line, I think it is Brugmansia Angel Trumpet. The flowers only appeared in late September, which feels odd. Must think it is still in Central or South America and it is now spring! (Sue Rowe)

“Brugmansia are heavy feeders and require quite a bit of water. Good brugmansia plant care will result in a small tree decorated with dangling trumpet-shaped flowers. Caring for brugmansia outdoors requires warm temperatures and a sunny location with protection from midday sun. Brugmansia are divided into two groups that are genetically and regionally different. The warm group prefers warmer, sunny locations while the cool group flowers best in cooler temperatures. Both groups produce massive, woody stemmed plants with alternate toothed leaves, up to 12 inches long. The gigantic blooms are pendant and may be white, pink, yellow, orange, green or red with single, double or even triple petals. The flowers are very showy and often bear an attractive scent.”

National Garden Scheme Visits in the Summer of Covid19 – Sue Brown

One of the things I look forward to each year late winter/early spring is picking up a copy of the Norfolk Yellow Book published by the National Garden Scheme. Then I savour its contents and pencil in my diary details of gardens I hope to visit that year. Each year I actually only visit two gardens, at most. But hope springs eternal as it did in early 2020 and then came lockdown.

It looked very unlikely that I would even visit a couple of gardens in 2020 but I had reckoned without the determination of the NGS and those who open their gardens for this very worthwhile cause. As soon as a few gardens started to open, mostly because they were large enough, I suspect, to take visitors safely, I developed a new routine. Every Monday morning just after 8.30 am I checked the NGS website to see which gardens were opening in the coming week. Bookings for timed arrivals had to be made online but apart from that and obeying a few simple rules to keep everyone safe the visits were much as ever, except for the very sad but understandable lack of tea and cake. My husband was particularly upset about that!

In all we visited 5 different gardens, one twice and none had we seen before. I thought that members might enjoy a few photos of each garden and maybe then could add one or two names to their own list for next summer.

The first on 14 June was a visit to Heggatt Hall in Horstead-with-Stanninghall which is a beautiful listed 17th Century Manor House (not open).





In late June we went to Walcott House at Walcott Green. The garden is 12 acres in total, of which over an acre is formal garden. Major restoration work is taking place of the beautiful 19th Century farm buildings behind the house.



In mid July on a gloriously warm day we visited Black Horse Cottage in Hickling, which is located right next door to The Greyhound pub where people seemed to have gone for lunch first and then back to enjoy the teas which were at a special rate for NGS visitors. This garden boasted a large array of hydrangeas and mature trees.



The following week we made the first of two visits to Acre Meadow at Bradwell which opened for the NGS for the first time this year. It is a small garden by NGS standards so only open to 10 visitors at a time but, boy, what a treat, especially for those who love exotic looking planting schemes. And why two visits? We decided to return in early September after talking to Keith Knights, the owner, who advised that it would be at its peak then and it certainly was. The first 3 photos were taken in Mid July, the rest on the second visit.





The secret of growing the enormous cannas? Apparently a ready supply of well-rotted horse muck which was just next door.

Our final visit in mid September was to High House Gardens, Blackmoor Row, Shipdham which is a 3 acre true plantsman's garden where there was a very large selection of plants for sale but I resisted.





Visiting these gardens has been a real highlight of this strange year and I look forward to more to enjoy next year. Thank you to all those who so generously open their gardens, many year after year.
Sue Brown



OK so I like flashy flowers! I purchased several Hymenocallis Festalis bulbs (aka Spider Lily or Peruvian Daffodil) from the Plant Sale near Bungay in August and am very pleased with the beautiful flowers they produced. Now I've just got to find somewhere safe to keep them over the winter ...

Sue Rowe

Extracts from a newsletter from Norfolk Master Composters – which is a partnership between [Garden Organic](#) and [Norfolk County Council](#).

Think it's time to hibernate?

Well there's still plenty of things to be getting on with in the garden to prepare for next year and look after wildlife. [Garden Organic list five things](#) to be done in the autumn, including starting a leafmould heap.

Bargain bins still available

Norfolk County Council is continuing to offer subsidised compost bins at reduced prices through [GetComposting.com](#). A 220 L black compost bin costs £10, with a 2nd bin of the same size for £5. A Bokashi bin twin-pack starter kit is £15. (There is a £6 delivery charge on each order).

Message from friend Liz in Lincolnshire



Autumn is the usual time of year for a variety of fungi to be discovered lurking in the garden, and this seemingly endless rain has encouraged quite a profusion to suddenly appear on the lawn.

This is an example of the well-known Scotch Bonnet, or Fairy Ring Champignon which is more usually found in meadows or at the edges of woodland, but usually amongst the grass.

In colour it is quite a pale fawn, but sometimes it becomes a light reddish-brown. The cap is bell-shaped with a slight central bump, which is actually quite pronounced in the photograph.

Marasmius Oreades is obviously quite successful as it is to be found not only in Europe, but also North, South & Central America, North Africa, North Asia, Australia & New Zealand – not to mention my own back garden where it is growing in the grass which covers the root-system of a rather vigorous conifer which was felled last year.

That's all folks! If there is anything you would like to send in to amuse / educate your fellow members, please do so – e-mail: blofieldgardeningclub@outlook.com

Your committee hopes that you are keeping safe, fit and well – and getting those spring bulbs planted!