

Sedlescombe and District Garden Society

Newsletter No. 68 – September (1) 2020

Chris Hone's next article

Last year I had the great pleasure of inviting Sedlescombe friends to the house for drinks. The invitation read:

“10.30pm to 12 midnight to meet

“The Queen of the Night”.

I am sorry it is such short notice.”

There are many “Queens of the Nights”, many of them belonging to the genus *Cereus* but this one is *Phyllocactus Oxypetalum*” It is a larger version of the Phyllocactus which I wrote about in my last article. This is an Asiatic species and can grow very large. There is a plant in the Chatsworth greenhouse which is as big as a house with a trunk to boot. It must be over a hundred years old. Mine is only a couple of years old and it has already started to take over the landing, but why the invitation? This plant only really flowers when it is dark, its perfume pervades the house and by dawn, the flowers have drooped not to be seen for another year. This is the time to toast the plant with a gin and tonic and say “Hallo your Majesty” see you next year!

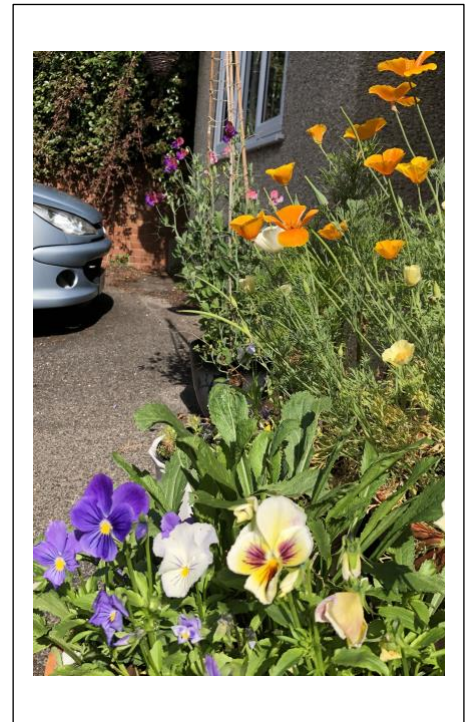


Answer to crossword No.3

H	A	R	V	E	S	T	E	R	S		E	L	M	S	
E	O	X		A	O	C	A		H						
A	S	C	O	T		M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	
D	K	R		P	E	E	E	E							
	A	P	I	A	R	I	S	T		M	I	X	U	P	
E	L				N	T	A							I	
Q	U	A	H	A	N	G		E	S	T	A	T	E	S	
U	N	B						I	H					H	
E	X	T	O	R	T	S		M	I	S	D	E	A	L	
S		A						M	E			Q		Y	
T	W	I	G	S		A	C	A	N	T	H	U	S	S	
R	N	I				R	N			H	E			A	
I	N	N	O	V	A	T	E	D		I	D	E	A	L	
A	E	E								L	E	R	N	A	
N	O	R	M			H	Y	B	R	I	D	I	S	E	R

Think you don't have the space?

Don't worry if your garden is small. This effect of an English country garden is all with pots in a city location. It is the front of a house in Bristol



Keep your sense of fun

It will make you feel better

Kent Street Nurseries

It was the end of an era in Sedlescombe, when our lovely local nursery closed its doors in May. Douglas and Dorothy Downey have been part of Sedlescombe Village life since the 1950's, raising plants as the seasons came round. Douglas, although growing everything possible, specialised in geraniums and pelargoniums.

He was at one time Chairman of the Garden Society when it was called a Horticultural Society and Chairman of the Sedlescombe Societies which ran the Village Fetes and the Flower Show on the Sports Field each year. Sadly, Douglas died in 1988 and since then Dorothy with daughter Heather and son-in-law Peter have carried on growing exceptional plants and caring for the nursery. Now it is time for their retirement – may they all enjoy it.

Did you know? Kent Street Nursery have provided the plants, soil and liners for the baskets on the Village Green sign for more than 25 years – the geraniums this year are a real credit to the plants they have grown over the years. Dorothy's son Bernard will still carry on his lawnmower repair business from the nursery.

Margaret Hudson

"A couple of months ago you printed a photo from me of a deer in Blowey's Field, opposite my lounge. Here's an update, showing how the corn and antlers have grown..."

Chris Stovold



What to do in September

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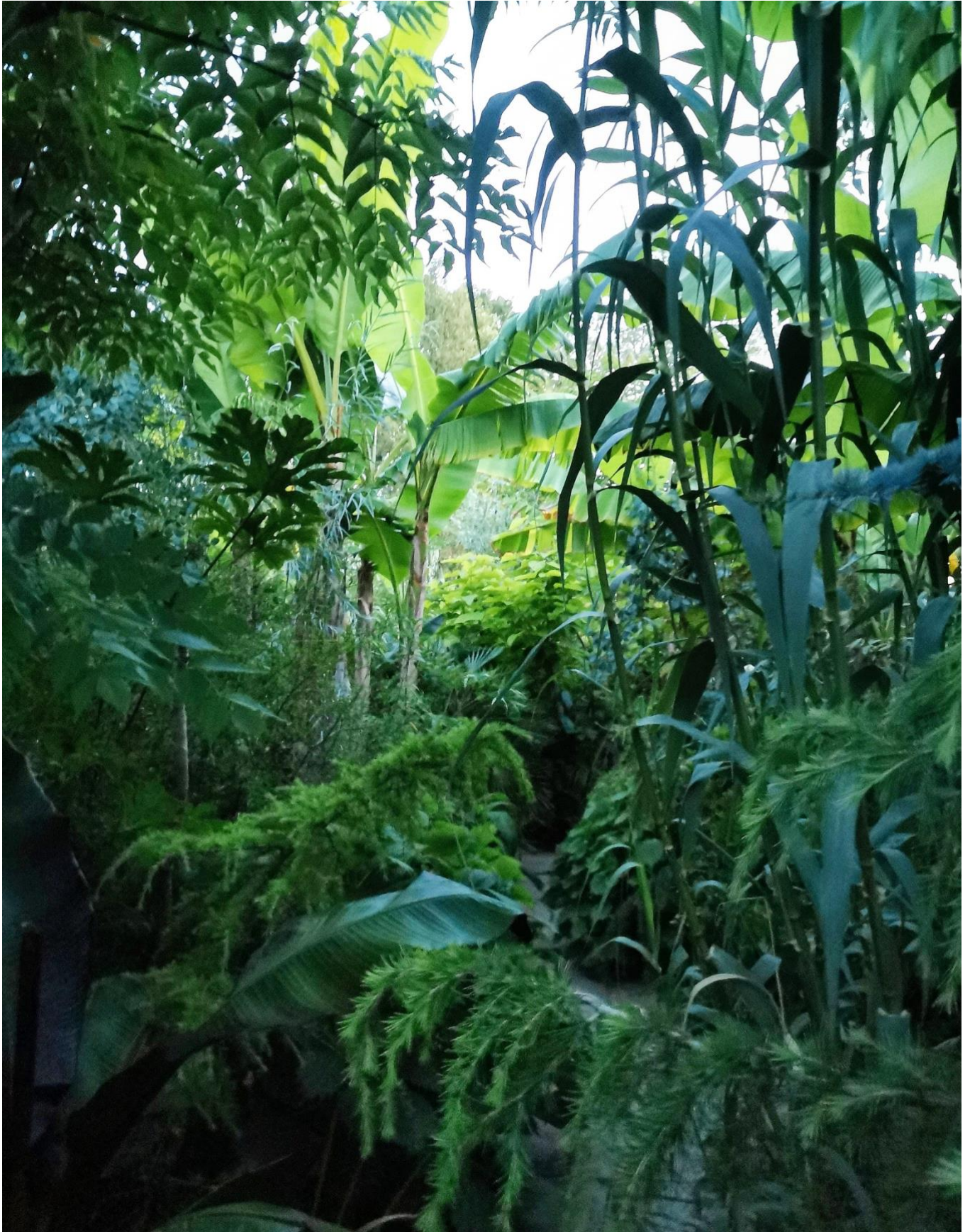


1. Begin autumn lawn care by scarifying, aerating compacted areas, top dressing and re-seeding bare patches.
2. If you don't have space to over winter tender or large plants, take semi-ripe cuttings and grow on a sunny windowsill.
3. As the temperature is dropping, water greenhouses in the morning as the cooler nights might encourage fungal problems such as grey mould.
4. If you have rosemary beetle on your rosemary or lavender, pick it off to stop them and their larvae munching their way through the foliage during warm spells during the winter.
5. Harvest and store apples and pears. Fruit should twist off easily and then be placed in a single layer without touching, however this takes up a lot of room and many people prefer to wrap the fruit and then store in several layers. Now is the time to use biological controls of codling moth caterpillars on apple and pear trees.
6. Sow winter greens – mustard leaf, pak choi, mizuna and lambs lettuce under cover for late autumn and winter harvests.
7. Catch rain for watering camellias and rhododendrons- they love it. Now is the time for pond maintenance as the breeding season is over and amphibians have not yet gone into hibernation. Start making a bug hotel.

Dixter Tricks

An online lecture by Fergus Garrett

Hosted on Zoom



Wednesday 9th September, 7.30pm (UK time)
&
Saturday 12th September, 9.00am (UK time)

In his fifth Online Lecture in the series, Fergus will look at the garden as it is now, discussing the borders and the work schedule.

Now in many ways is the start of the gardening year, preparing for next season by taking cuttings, collecting seed, making plans and ordering bulbs. Fergus will discuss the Exotic Garden this year, also the process of meadow cutting, strewing hay and managing Hay Rattle. Fergus will provide insight into his staking techniques as well as editing in the borders and how best to use a notebook. He will link his talk to the layered planting series showing how the borders have changed. The talk will be full of interesting facts and practical hints to make your gardening life easier.

Saturday's lecture is a repeat of Wednesday at a time more convenient for people in Australasia and Japan.

A recording of the lecture and slide list will be sent to all those who book so it can be watched again or for those that are unable to attend the live event.

For more information and to book visit:

www.greatdixtershop.co.uk

OUR LECTURES ON-DEMAND

Fergus' previous lectures can be [rented on-demand here](#) including
[Integrating Annuals and Biennials into your Borders](#)