

Sedlescombe and District Garden Society

Newsletter No. 70 – October 2020

This is the next instalment from Chris Hone

The Five Brethren

Here is a riddle. I wonder who initially discovered it but it is obviously folk lore and has been adapted in the fullness of time. In fact one can see these traits on numerous roses. I enclose a photograph of the rose *Handel*.

*Quinque sumus fratres, et eodem tempore nati
Sunt duo barbati, duo sunt barba absque creati.
Unus et e quinque non est barbatus utrinque.*



On a summer's day, in sultry weather, Five brethren were born together.
Two had beards and two had none, And the other had but half a one.

The five brothers are, in short, the five sepals of *Rosa canina* and the other dog roses. Two of the five are completely outside the others and have appendages or beard along both edges; two with plain unappendaged edges are completely overlapped along the edges by other sepals; the fifth has one edge appendaged its other edge plain, in other words it has only half a beard.

Five brethren there are born at once of their mother,
Two bearded, two bare, The fifth neither one nor the other
But to each of his brethren half brother.

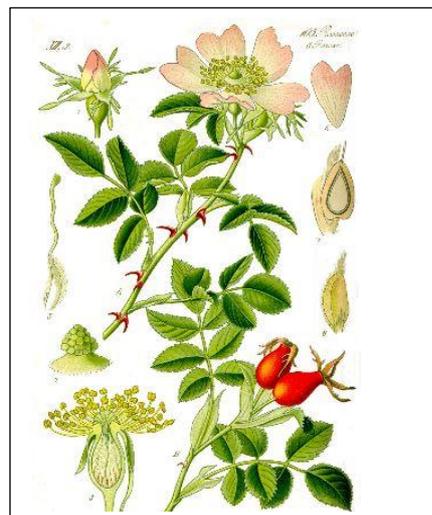
Of the five brothers at the same time born two from our birthday ever beards have worn
on other two none ever has appeared while the fifth brother wears but half a beard

Five brothers all equal in age, Two bearded and equally wise,
Two beardless and equally sage, One bearded though one half in size.

Five brothers we, all in one moment reared; Two of us bearded, two without a beard;
Our fifth on one cheek only wears the beard

Five brethren of one birth are we All in a little family
Two have beards, and two have none And only half a beard has one.

We are five brothers at the same time born, Two of us have beards; by two no beards are worn,
While one, lest he should give his brothers pain, Hath one side bearded and the other plain.



Something to test your knowledge – Answer to last time's poser

1/ A Jersey Tiger Moth

2/ The caterpillar of an Elephant Hawk Moth

Tips on Dahlias

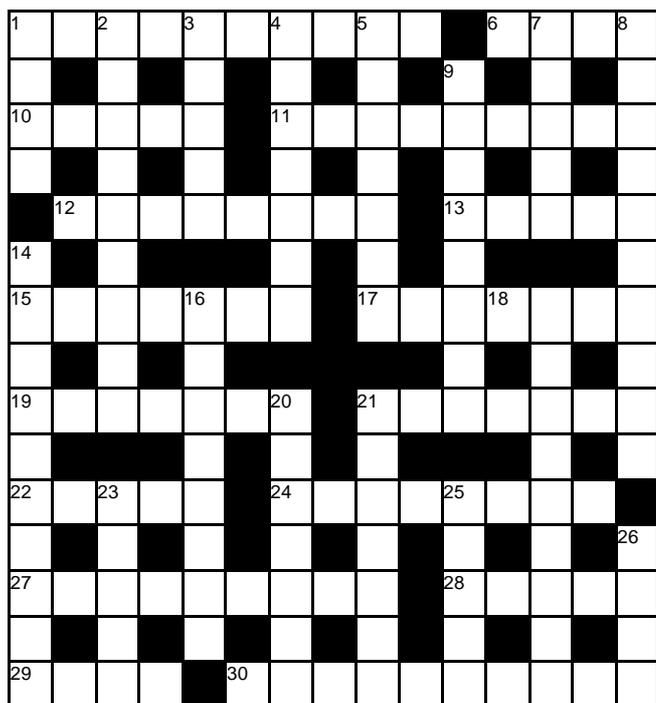
Dahlias are normally lifted after the first frosts have turned the foliage brown, usually November. I am including this article from Chris Stovold now when the dahlias are still blooming so members will have time to prepare the labels.

Always make a note of the colour, height, and type of each of your dahlias before you lift them, and tie a label accordingly to the stems. That way, you will know which one goes where in springtime, and also, if they've produced bumper tubers and you divide them, you'll know which colours will suit best where within your borders. On the other hand, if you leave them in the ground, put plant labels in the ground beside them with the same information. This also helps locate exactly where they are and avoids possible overplanting in early spring.

From the Editor

Over this summer I have collected a large number of photos, some recent from members gardens and some archive photos of interest. There are far too many to put into Newsletters, not least because of the extra cost of printing the copies we need to. I intend over the next few weeks to put them together and ask Dave Brabants to put them on our web site, where everyone with internet access can view them. If you have any objection to any of your photos being used in this way please let me know. And, if you have any more to add, please send them to me as soon as possible.

Crossword No. 4 Answer next time



Across

- 1 Dwarf birch (6, 4)
- 6 As you were (4)
- 10 Thin sound by the pond (5)
- 11 Does it protect a circular garden? (9)
- 12 Queen of the compost? (4, 4)
- 13 Admit (3, 2)
- 15 Vegetation (7)
- 17 Removes silt by endless chains (7)
- 19 Leaning on a roll (7)
- 21 Exclusive get-together of doves? (7)
- 22 A crop of dried coconut (5)
- 24 A pangolin (8)
- 27 Like a bird of prey (9)
- 28 None-so-pretty as London's flower? (5)
- 29 Parasitic zygote unsuited to moving boulder! (4)
- 30 Sows seeds on the air (10)

Down

- 1 Dogwood? (4)
- 2 Results of lexicography (9)
- 3 Where a car may be put aside (3, 2)
- 4 Rear train (7)
- 5 Maybe the tyres for ice (7)
- 7 Watt the carpenter's saw? (5)
- 8 One who should not be there (10)
- 9 To cover with woods (8)
- 14 Meadow rue genus (10)
- 16 Film cartoonist (8)
- 18 A1 garden's plants (9)
- 20 Grass man (7)
- 21 Indian bean tree (7)
- 23 Belonging to Pan? (5)
- 25 *Lavandula latifolia* or fish jelly (5)
- 26 Where plants rest? (4)



What to do in October (1)



1. This month is right for moving and planting trees and shrubs. Soil needs to be moist and will allow roots to establish before the colder weather sets in.
2. Remove saucers from under outdoor pots and raise containers of the ground to keep roots free from standing water. Alpine troughs will benefit from being out of direct rain – against a wall or even under cover.
3. Check on greenhouse temperatures if you are using your greenhouse over autumn/winter, a minimum of 7 degrees C (45 F) is needed for tender bedding plants.
4. Regularly rake leaves from lawns to give them light and air. Also clear leaves regularly from ponds before they decay.
5. Remove any figs on trees, leaving only figs that are pea-sized or smaller – these may ripen next year.
6. Harvest maincrop potatoes, apples, pears and grapes. When potato foliage turns yellow cut and remove it, after 10 days, lift potatoes and allow to dry before storing.
7. Collect deciduous leaves to make leaf mould that can be used as a mulch, soil conditioner or potting compost ingredient. Place damp leaves in old compost bags or bin bags, seal, pierce holes down the side and leave for 12 to 18 months.
8. Turn your compost heap to speed up decomposition. Doing this early in the month will reduce the risk of disturbing torpid reptiles and hibernating hedgehogs (if you are lucky enough to have any).