

# Sedlescombe and District Garden Society

## Newsletter No. 57 – April 2020

It is with sadness that I have to report the death of Derrick Westgate. Pat and Derrick were a formidable team and were in regular demand for judging at society shows over many years. My condolences go to Pat who gave me a great deal of help as to what to look for in show entries and how to make sure entries are laid out properly for judging – Editor and Show Secretary.



These lovely dwarf tomatoes, Yellow Canary and Vilma, were grown by John Tunstall. We hope next year to have seeds available for the Yellow Canary for members to try. If we do, we will add them to the schedule as an entry for Autumn 2021



And speaking of seed, which I hope you will collect from your plants this year and pass to Reg Glew or Rod, the RHS has advice for seed saving. This may be helpful for those wishing to contribute to our seed bank or even to save seed for your own gardens. Most seeds are saved from late summer to late autumn. RHS tips include the following:

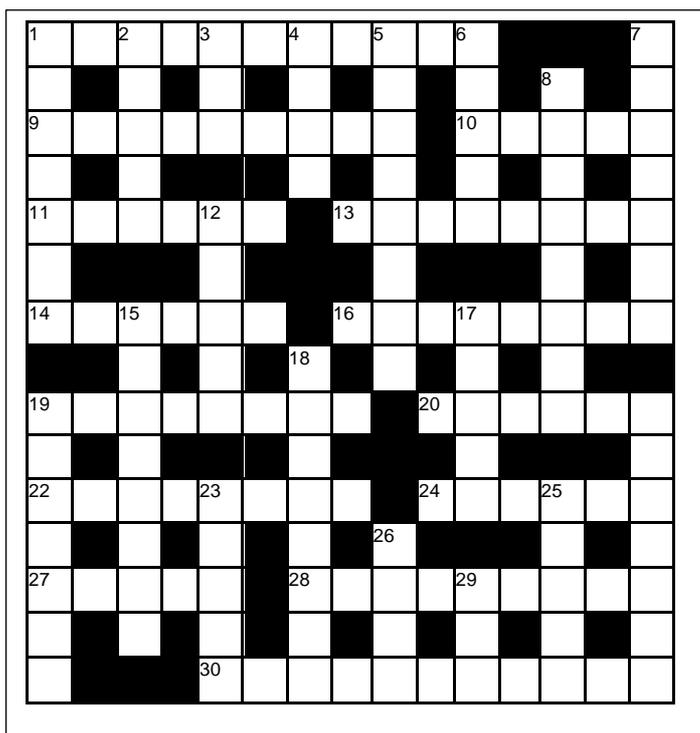
- Collect seed when seed heads appear to be ripening. This is often indicated by a colour change from green to brown, black or red but must be before they open and shed their contents but please note that immature seeds will not germinate.
- [Anemone nemorosa](#), calendula and *Ranunculus* are exceptions and should be collected when well-developed but immature and green.
- Try to avoid F1 hybrids as grown plants will not be the same as the parent plant.
- Save seed from healthy looking plants.
- Collect on a dry day to avoid fungal rot on seeds.
- Collect seeds directly from the plant into paper bags or into trays lined with newspaper if you can.
- If seeds are in pods or capsules dry them in a warm dry place until seeds are released. However, unripe pods will not ripen once picked.
- If they don't open when dry, gently crush pods and capsules to release the seed.
- Separate seeds from the chaff – the remains of the seed capsule. Use a tea strainer for small seeds or garden sieves for larger seeds, blowing away the chaff.
- As a rough guide, seed is set about two months after flowering.
- Double flowers tend not to seed
- Herbs are good for seed collecting and don't forget vegetables. Set aside one leek, onion or other veg and let it go to seed over the winter.
- Label with name and date to avoid confusion later.
- **Storing Seeds** Hellebores seeds are best sown immediately after collection as they become dormant with drying. However, for many species, sowing is best delayed until a more suitable time of the year, such as autumn or spring, so the harvested seed will need to be safely stored. Storing is also required if surplus seed has been collected. Here's how:
  1. Place dry seed in labelled paper packets or envelopes in an airtight container preferably with some desiccant to remove excess moisture. Suitable materials include calcium chloride (sold in DIY stores for use in dehumidifiers) or silica gel.
  2. Excess humidity or warmth can cause seed to deteriorate or die from fungal disease or rotting.
  3. Store in a refrigerator at 5°C (41°F) until required. Most seed will remain viable in this way for many years.

Don't be too disappointed if some of your saved seed doesn't germinate. Seed producing is hard work for plants and some years they either simply have a rest or are affected by weather or produce non-viable seeds. There is more information on the RHS website



I still have a few cotton plants left. If you would like one or two please ring or e-mail me and I will make arrangements with you to leave them safely outside my house for you to collect. I can't deliver I'm afraid.

Brenda Page 01424 870455 and e-mail [brendampage@icloud.com](mailto:brendampage@icloud.com).



**Across**

- 1 English emblem like a vegetable (7-4)
- 9, 10 House and garden near Tonbridge (9, 5)
- 11 Study of morals (6)
- 13 Fruit from single carpel (8)
- 14 Potter's clay box for firing pots (6)
- 16 Fruit training method (8)
- 19 Almanac (8)
- 20 Bird florally associated with a pint (6)
- 22 Bovine sort of tuft of hair (4, 4)
- 24 Weed to irritate (6)
- 27 Sprinkles with pepper (5)
- 28 Big headed helianthus (9)
- 30 The African violet (11)

**Down**

- 1 Conifer associated with death (7)
- 2 Grapes get-together? (5)
- 3 Tree with pinnate leaf form (3)
- 4 Walls and corn share these (4)
- 5 Not in but property may be upmarket shed (8)
- 6 Dismiss (5)
- 7 Winnie's girlfriend? (3-4)
- 8 Little grebe (8)
- 12 One tenth of a furlong (5)
- 15 Nuts about oak trees - insect responsible (4, 4)
- 17 Sky blue (5)
- 18 Mostly spring flowering bulbs (8)
- 19 Chirping insects (7)
- 21 Daisy bush (7)
- 23 Endures (5)
- 25 Thrown in a ring (5)
- 26 Tied up weed? (4)
- 29 Part of ones pleasure is a meadow (3)

Crossword No 1 Answers in Newsletter 58



Pauline and Colin Raymond had their first picking of asparagus on Easter Sunday and look forward to regular pickings over the next couple of months. Rhubarb, too, for pies and crumbles. Lovely.

On another note, when buying bedding and hanging basket plants, don't be tempted into putting them outside just yet. The night's are not warm enough and there is likely to be a frost in the early hours, (you could get up at 2 or 3 o'clock to check this out!) even if there is no sign of it in the mornings. Also, delay putting tomato plants outside until, ideally, the beginning of June. However, if you have a warm greenhouse they can be planted in that much earlier.