



dawlish-gardensociety.uk

# Dawlish Garden Society

## Newsletter April 2021

### Spring Plant Sale

**Saturday 15th May - 9.00—13.00 or until we have sold out!! At the Strand Centre**

Come and buy your flower, fruit and vegetable plants, we will have annuals and perennials and of course a large selection of tomatoes and basil this year.

If you have any spare plants or good quality garden sundries that you would like us to sell then drop them off at the Strand Centre between 18.00—18.30 on the Friday evening, or contact us directly.

Looking forward to seeing you there—*it will be cash only, so bring plenty with you, and a bag to take them home in.*

If your health means that you are unable to come down to the Strand we have compiled a short plant list and are happy to send it to you and deliver any plants you may wish to buy.

### Society Meetings

We anticipate our next scheduled meeting with Elizabeth Holman taking about **Glorious Roses on May 27th** going ahead, we will know details of any restrictions following the May 17th decisions, and let everyone know.

Unfortunately Janice Hindley is unable to speak to us in June and we are unable to hire our normal meeting room at the Manor House on June 24th. Therefore, we will be having this meeting on July 1st instead, with a changed talk, so please update your programme.

*July 1st, 7pm at the Manor House, the twice postponed—'The Hidden History of Dawlish Garden Society by Suzanne Jones.*

For enquires contact: Chair, June Cassidy on 439076  
or Secretary Suzanne Jones on 889184

Keep up to date with our web-site [dawlish-gardensociety.uk](http://dawlish-gardensociety.uk)

### Virtual Chelsea

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show returns virtually on May 18th—23rd, with top tips from nursery exhibitors, conversations with designers and celebrity gardeners and plenty of plants and shopping opportunities. See all about it at

[rhs.org.uk/virtualchelsea](https://rhs.org.uk/virtualchelsea)

The actual show will be held this year in September, the first time in its 108year history that it has not been an early summer show. All the other RHS shows are currently planned to go ahead with out local one at Rosemoor August 13th—15th.

### The Sand Crocus

The Sand Crocus, *Romulea columnae*, is only found near Polruan in Cornwall, in the Channel Islands and nearer to home on Dawlish Warren.



The Warren is a national nature reserve and there is a wonderful variety of flowers to be found there. Look out in May for the Changing forget-me-not, see below. It is small and low growing so you have to keep your eyes peeled.



Other plants you might look out for in May are the English Bluebell, Foxgloves, the first of the wild Roses, Honeysuckle, the Hottentot Fig on the sea cliffs, the Southern Marsh Orchid on the Warren and Navelwort everywhere.

## Meet the Committee—this month Roger Kohl

I am a relatively new member only joining in 2015, having retired to Dawlish from Harrow in North West London having worked in Central London most of my working life.

I was welcomed by the then Chair Meg and Treasurer Dick and have enjoyed all the various speakers talking on a wide range of topics. I helped out with the plant sale and won a first for my bread at the Flower Show, at this point I decided to join the committee and was duly elected in 2016 and have been actively involved ever since, growing from seed 100+ tomato plants, nearer 200 this year, (see photo) for the plant sales. I was also on the Chris Beardshaw planning sub-committee.

The flower show is the highlight of the year and being on the committee you realise how much work goes into producing a seamless show thanks to all the volunteers and my fellow committee members with whom I enjoy working. Selling raffle tickets with catch phrases as “£1.00 a strip or 4 for a fiver” or “I’ve only got winning tickets left hurry while stocks last”.

I’m looking forward to the restarting of our committee meetings with our first post Covid meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Many thanks must go to Jenny for organising our speakers, Sue for arranging the Flower Show, Dick for keeping the books in order, Suzanne for the minutes and newsletters and June for keeping the committee in order.

Hoping to see you all soon, Roger Kohl



## Going Potting Crazy

**Sowing seeds:** Seeds contain their own nutrients so they will germinate successfully in low nutrient material, with good drainage, there should not be any big lumps, firmed down, and the mix is kept moist.

**Potting on:** Seedlings and young plants need excellent drainage and a little more nutrient, not too much, or they become leggy without finding their own strength.

**Cuttings** These need excellent drainage, so their ends don't rot and fine-textured medium to help the roots establish. Try half sharp sand and compost. Insert cuttings gently into holes already made in the mix, and firm gently around them. Keep the mix moist. Top with grit to prevent moisture loss.

**Planting herbs:** Sage, thyme, basil and marjoram all need well-drained soil. It is the wet, not the cold, that will kill their roots.

**Large containers:** Plants growing for a long time in pots need a good source of slow-release nutrients throughout the growing seasons. It is good to feed the plant at certain times, such as blooming and fruiting.

### The ideal growing medium for containers should:

- Provide the correct nutrients for the plant.
- Retain moisture but drain well.
- Retain air yet hold plant roots firmly.
- Be uniform in consistency, e.g., no large lumps, etc.
- Be free from pest, disease and weed seeds.

### It should not:

- Reduce in volume, leaving pots, trays and containers half empty.
- 'Slump', becoming compact and airless.
- Become drained of nutrients very quickly or be too rich for young seedlings