

Pett Village Garden Club's Journal of the Pandemic Months



Me, myself and I at Camber.
Vivien Ford

Covid 19 might have been lurking in a community somewhere since November 2020. By January 2020 we watched the news alarmed by the dystopian pictures, coming out of Wuhan, China, of medics in full protective clothing but we still hoped it would fade away. By the end of the month cases were confirmed in countries all over the world. The first instances were discovered in the UK and their contacts traced. We carried on with our lives.

Throughout February we watched as worldwide cases increased and Hubei Province implemented 'hard quarantine'. Borders began to shut, events were cancelled, travel restricted. On March 11 the WHO declared the outbreak to be a pandemic. By Tuesday March 24 The UK was placed in lockdown.

Some of us in the Village garden club had been self isolating for longer. Some because they had returned from trips abroad. Ian and I because we had developed a persistent cough we could not shake off. We missed the February meeting because of it and then everything was shut down.

So what better time to launch a project in the spirit of connectivity and of our shared love of gardens. We asked garden club members to share photos - triumphs and disasters. Anything from early blossom, a cherished bloom, or a favourite tree, to the weeds that had successfully multiplied over winter and had invaded their best beds!

A garden view or a view from a garden; a misty morning; raindrops on leaves; perhaps someone was lucky enough to have a slowworm on their compost heap; bees; butterflies; birds; those pesky rabbits, all were photogenic. Seedlings in greenhouses; a tidy shed; a row of pots; a chaotic corner; a favourite implement; even pests and diseases, all could be snapped and shared.

With an accompanying sentence or two - which could be a question - we hoped to compile a fascinating journal. This is the result.

Sandy Andrews



27/03/2020

My first contribution to the visual collective diary. The bees love this and the perfume is glorious but it's trying to take over the garden! You can't see it on the photo, but it's growing along the terrace wall and draping itself over the pots on the terrace. I can't bring myself to cut it back yet.

Libby Rothwell



27/03/2020

Spot the Snakes Head fritillary trying to survive the wet winter invasion of wild garlic and celandine. I was digging out the garlic to throw it away but it is easy to wash, to chop up the leaves and to freeze them for later. I'm not usually so domestic!

Sandy Andrews



27/03/2020

Photo at last! Of *Stephanotis grandiflora*.

Mike Marsh



28/03/2020

Thought this picture of a lovely little green frog I found in my garden whilst weeding would be appropriate. Don't see many frogs here, usually toads and this frog is such a lovely colour.

Gill Buttle



28/03/2020

My magnolia *Stellata* is flowering well and still has buds, promising more to come, despite the browning effects of the chill north wind, and fills its part of the garden with an intense fragrance.

Sandy Andrews



28/03/2020

Self isolated on 17/03/2020 due to cough.

Vivien Ford



28/03/2020

Primroses fading but these little beauties taking their place.

Vivien Ford



28/03/2020

First Bluebells.

Vivien Ford



28/03/2020

Plum blossom. Wondering if I'll still be in isolation when I get to eat the plums.

Vivien Ford



28/03/2020

Trying to paint the fence behind the magnolia Stellata.

Vivien Ford



28/03/2020

Spring flowers in my front garden.

Carol Gleeson



28/03/2020

Spring flowers in my front garden.

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28/03/2020

Camellia in my front garden.

Carol Gleeson



28/03/2020

Spring flowers in my front garden.

Carol Gleeson



28/03/2020

Veg plot warming up.

Philippa Strickland



28/03/2020

Asparagus popping through.

Philippa Strickland