

# Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2020 Number 525

As I'm sure you all realise there is no hope of restarting our meetings at Rawreth in the near future. However as you will have seen from Paul's communications we are lucky to be able to join with Bedford and Mid Anglia groups for " virtual " lectures on Zoom. I joined the one last month, on cyclamen, and was a bit surprised to find that it worked well. Not as good as meeting in person of course but better than nothing. (The next one is Wednesday 18th I believe). The Main AGS are also organising Zoom talks. I also saw that RHS is planning a Chelsea show next year.

Your committee hasn't been able to meet but we have been in touch by email.

It's possible, unfortunately, that we may not be able to have our AGM in person. The alternative choices are either having an on-line meeting, or delaying it until later in the year. It would be useful to know how many of you could "attend" an online meeting. Perhaps you could let me ( or Paul?) know.

In meantime, best wishes for an unusual but I hope Happy Christmas, to you all.

Ruth.

This will be the last newsletter for this year. I aim to start again in January with hopefully some better news but I cant do this without your help. I need articles and photos of your plants, don't leave it to the one or two who do send me bits and have enabled me to keep this n/l going.  
Paul.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE  
Have the best Christmas as you possibly can  
and I hope the New Year turns out better  
than this one for you all.



PAUL

A couple of weeks ago the Mid Anglia group organised a socially distanced visit to Fullers Mill Garden. Some of you may remember it from Bulb Sales. It was a sunny day, quite warm and the garden looked lovely. A few pictures of the beautiful garden plus Sternbergias, Galanthus Regina-Olgae, and Crocus growing in the grass.



*Crocus pulchellus* vs *kotschyanus*.

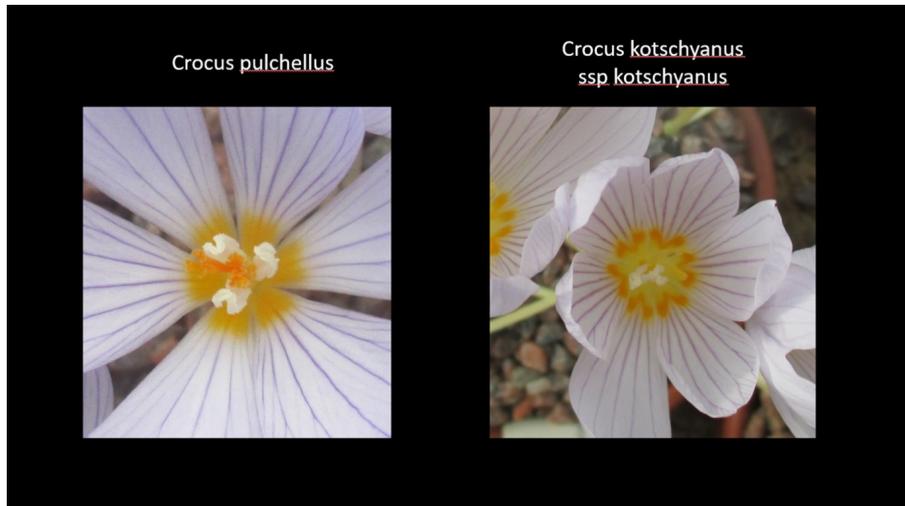
Now is the time of year when the autumn crocus should be at their best: this year is a notable exception, with just about everything being ridiculously early. Two crocus that are doing fairly well for me are *Crocus pulchellus* and *Crocus kotschyanus*. Its not always easy to tell these two apart when they are in flower\*, especially from a distance. Both flower without leaves, have a bluish colouration with deeper bluish/grey stripes and have a yellow centre with white anthers and yellow/orange style branches. You have to look quite closely at the central yellow area of the flower to see the difference. *C. pulchellus* has, for the most part, a solid, one-shade of yellow centre, whereas *C. kotschyanus* has, what can be best described as a two-shaded yellow/orange centre with a 'flying bird' or chevron marking on each segment. I have shown two quite distinct forms of both plants, in reality the differences aren't always this easy to see.

\* Much easier when you can see the corms. *C. pulchellus* has obvious rings around the base of the corm, whereas *C. kotschyanus* has none.



Some of my Lilies that have been good again this year. *L. Henryii*, top left, *L. Lancifolium flore pleno*, top right, *L. Casablanca*, bottom.

The Algerian Iris, *I. Unguicularis*, left, growing under a Silver Birch, flowers for me every year all through the winter. Ed.



On a sad note, Mrs Platford, a long standing member of the Group passed away recently, our condolences go out to her husband and family.

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Rod Willett	Ruth Jones	Mike Sullivan	Paul Nice
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CM3 3NS	CO10 2BA	01277 203481	01702 540443
01245 360396	01787 310546	<a href="mailto:m.sullivan1103@gmail.com">m.sullivan1103@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:paul.nice42@gmail.com">paul.nice42@gmail.com</a>
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