



Issue 12  
8th June

## *FOVG Valley Gardens Watch during the Covid19 restrictions*

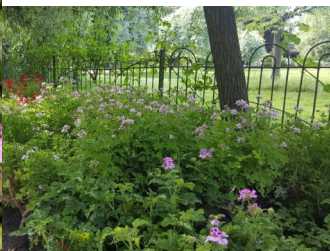


*This Week* : We are noticing the effects of lovely weather and the easing of lockdown rules. More people are enjoying the gardens, picnicking, sun bathing and playing games. We have decided to ease up too, having reached issue 12 the next issue will not be until July. Thank you for all your support and all the input.

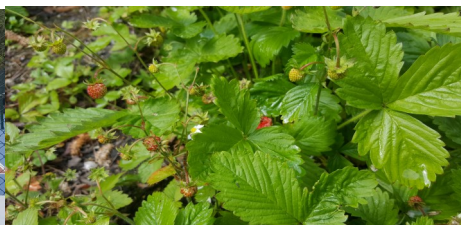
Our Banner this week is a lovely photo from Jane Blayne of her 'English Country Garden' thank you Jane. Summer is fast approaching, the Dahlia border is in, and our photos this week reflect the annual planting frenzy for Simon and his team every June. Unfortunately the Volunteers cannot help with knocking out this season; We miss it.



*The Pelargonium Border* : This has just been planted by Paula and her assistant with plants which are kept from one season to the next up at the nursery. Chosen for their leaves which have beautiful marking and are scented as much as for the flowers. Blocks of plants interspersed with wigwams of sweet peas to give us a good display right through the season.



*Anyone for Tennis?* As the courts are now available to book it is good to hear the sound of balls on racquets again even if we can't watch Wimbledon this year. An essential part of the festival is the Strawberries; There are Alpine strawberries in the sensory garden near the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room to represent taste which are just ripening . Another reminder that one of the symptoms of Covid 19 is a loss of taste and how dull food would be if we lost that sense.





## *Special Trees Identified in the Souvenir Guide Nos 1—4*

### **1. Tree of Heaven *Ailanthus altissima***

*Ailanthus* is a fast growing tree which can reach 55ft in 25 years. A tree with a very mixed pedigree, native to China and brought to the West in the 1740's, and used extensively as a street tree despite its foul smell. Roots, leaves and bark are used in Chinese medicine; and it is also a food plant for the Chinese Silk Moth. It has the ability to clone itself through suckers which are resistant to all controls, so has become an unwanted invasive species in Europe and North America.

Called the Tree of Hell by some gardeners!

### **2. Tibetan Cherry *Prunus serrula tibetica***

*Prunus serrula* is a species of cherry native to China, and is used as an ornamental tree in many parts of the world for its striking coppery-red bark.

### **3 Weeping Beech *Fagus sylvatica aurea pendula*.**

This is a graceful ornamental tree which colours well in the autumn like the native Beech. As it matures the trunk will be completely concealed by

branches reaching the floor which could begin to take root.

### **4. Weeping Golden Cypress *Cupressus saligna aurea***

The weeping cypress is described as a stylish tree and much sought after by nursery catalogues today, our specimen is fully mature and drapes its fragrant foliage across the Elgar Walk just before the duck pond.

Cypress wood is very durable and the doors of St Peter's in Rome are made of it; it was believed to be the wood from which Noah's Ark was built.

