



This month in the garden

THE Gardeners Club write: July is the time to enjoy your garden.

Fruit

Strawberries will need to be checked over and picked as necessary. Replenish the straw if the weather has ruined the existing straw, especially if there is a good crop of new fruit coming through. Lift vigorous runners and place into pots. Once they have rooted separate from the parent plant.

Plants that have successfully cropped over the last three years may well need to be replaced. It's not worth trying to get them cropping for too many years as the vigour goes resulting in crop reduction and lower disease resistance.

During July, apples and pears that have made good new growth will need the new shoots reduced back by at least half. Selective picking of smaller or diseased applets will ensure a better crop later on in the year. Cordon, Espalier and fan-trained fruit will need all the new growth reduced to retain the size of trees and to develop the fruiting spurs – leave about 4 or 5 buds per shoot.

The extra light given to the fruit will help to ripen and develop the existing fruit on the tree. If there appears to be a lot of fruit this year, don't be afraid to thin out the

crop. More crop will undoubtedly mean inferior quality and less new growth for next year.

Vegetables

Pick courgettes before they grow too large. You can plant late cropping potatoes. Remove tomato side shoots, make sure they are regularly fed and watered. Runner beans should be picked before they get too large and tough, do not let them seed.

To find out more about the Gardeners Club, get advice and receive regular newsletters, go to www.gardeners-club.co.uk.

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OPINION

Masking the truth: logic out the window

I HAVE read last week's Mid-Devon Advertiser and refer to words relevant to the Covid-19 virus (C19). I note the two pages – 22 and 23, 'produced in Association with the UK Government'.

I assume this does not include the 'devolved administrations'. This includes a happy 'NHS Clinical Contact Case-worker' (CCCs), pony tailed and a mother of two children.

Although she had just finished a three-year training as a dental hygienist there was no job in that sphere.

I can easily imagine the large amount of dental disease which is deteriorating as dental surgeries stay shut and become bankrupt. Just as the absence of all planned operations will mount to a projected waiting list by December of 10 million persons, starting at the record level of four million before the 'pandemic' was declared by the dodgy WHO in March.

The salary offered to these 'CCCs' is £28,000 I learn from a keen doctor relative.

I also learn that some have waited for a call that never happens. Not a bad reward for listening for the 'phone whilst thinning out the lettuce seedlings!

Compare say with the TDC bin men who run from empty to the next full bin. But do consider reader what the mechanisms are, and the knock ons. It was all meant to be piloted in the Isle of Wight, but was to be rolled out nationally before this 'pilot study' was analysed and as usual, someone, perhaps of jumpy character and susceptible to the wall to wall propaganda, thinks he is ill with C19.

He is hot and sweaty, and has a cough but then he has been 'vaping' in order to withdraw from vicious addiction to nicotine. He presses his app he has conscientiously downloaded onto his gismo or contacts the .gov website as instructed.

He names the three persons he talked to in the local, each of whom had noted down their time of entering this haven, their name, address and telephone number.

But wait, what about that oft quoted Data Protection Act! That requires the holder of the information to hold it securely in a safe or similar (see footnote). Or does a smart Alec who wants to enlarge his data base of dutiful citizens take a snap of the lengthening list on his cell 'phone'? Anyway, two of the men who joined his round of drinks have just got back to work and are in debt. They will just be able to pay this month's mortgage or rent as long as those customers pay in disappearing cash. Now they are named as 'contacts' and have to 'self-isolate' for two weeks.

Meanwhile, Alec submits

IN MY VIEW



DOCTOR
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himself to the unproven value of Reverse Transcriptase RiboNucleic Acid testing conducted by outfits like Serco (see second footnote).

Some readers will know the latter was the 'outsourced' multinational company running out of hours GP services in Cornwall. The service was inadequate and this 'service' company fiddled the figures to hide its negligence. No one will be surprised that it has continued to be employed by HMG, nor that HMG has spent and wasted more than £12 million with two IT companies on the contact tracing app. And what if Alec instead declared his impending death from C19 having sneezed in Asda with a hundred other customers?

It is evident to this doctor and surgeon that money is no object when it comes to instilling fear about this virus which is often referred to as 'novel'. In fact antibody tests here and abroad show that some had gathered immunity last year, and in other words, some herd immunity was already happening.

This is surely one reason for the original title – The 2019/2020 Corona Virus Bill! Drafting and other lawyers would have been crawling over this vast pot pourri of mixed advice and law for some months before it was nodded through by our well paid MPs and peers (£300-plus for a day's attendance) in 48 hours. It is so novel that a laboratory in the US had applied for a patent on C19 in 2007.

About a month ago there were five pages of C19 stuff in this paper and in the 'Independent' my wife Sue was reading. Having fought like hell with others for the life of our vital community hospitals, but failed, I am angry to see such profligacy when inflated costs of the latter were recited by the ciphers in the Clinical Commissioning Group.

So I asked my MP, Mr Mel Stride, about 10 days ago how much HMG has spent on C19 'information'. I assumed it had been in all national and local newspapers. It was also being broadcast on what goes for the broadcast medias.

As chairman of the Treasury Select Committee I guessed he would be back with an answer in a few days. I hope to post it on my web site – search <david halpin>.

Mr Stride has asked the Department of Health for an answer.

And the waste goes on. In the Western Morning News last Saturday there was a full colour page of inanity. A young man at a hairdresser's with a cloak, and of course with a beard and 'tache'. Being on lock down there is more time to shape it all. He looks cheerful but quizzical. It is headed HM Government and has the little lion and unicorn either side of the crown.

In Wild West font – Welcome Back – in smaller font - 'to fresh haircuts'. And then 'Enjoy Summer (on friendly slant and with curlicews) SAFELY. In small font 'Go to gov.uk/enjoy-summer-safely.' They do take us for mugs, along with our income and VAT and National Insurance.

Finally I note that Mr Don Frampton of Keyberry Park is happy to go on donning mask and gloves for months to come in the face of this 'crisis'.

He finishes with 'Everything to gain... nothing to lose.'

Ignore the escalating bankruptcies, the increased domestic strains leading to violence, the lost feeling in many dear children etc etc.

If, during a usual winter flu season I had to go, as I did, for a specialist opinion at the world renowned Hammersmith Hospital in March, and I was wearing a mask and gloves, other passengers on the Japanese built train to Paddington, and on the tube to Hammersmith, would be calling the guard and he or she the British Transport police.

The fact is that the frail elderly can die as a result of viruses affecting the respiratory tract. But over aeons of time, most humans and animals have survived through having competent immune systems.

FOOTNOTES

1. Know that HMG has given access to about 50 million personal medical records to Palantir in the USA, as many feared would happen. These would be useful when assessing risk and thus premiums when persons in desperation with pain and disability from OA in the hip or hips say, seek private medical insurance.

2. We have the world renowned Central Reference Laboratory at Colindale for dealing with bacteria and viruses. I knew of it when studying at St Mary's Hospital 1958 to 1964. It has been sidelined by HMG/NHS in favour of the Serco's.

● David Halpin MB BS
FRCS is a retired orthopaedic and trauma surgeon, who worked at Torbay Hospital, and the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Exeter – bulldozed in 1994 – with its 'four modern theatres and 120 beds, along with its great expertise'.