**Barbara’s Blog July 2020**

Another month of “shielding” has flown by, but rather more tamely than the previous month. The only exciting incident was delivery of a new flexible hose.  How easily are we pleased in these “unusual and challenging times!!”?

These days I find a standard hose is too heavy to drag down the garden and even worse is trying to get the wretched thing (which has a life of its own) back on the reel.  So these flexible hoses are a godsend.  My previous 15 m one bought from Lidl had lasted nearly 3 years so thought I would replace it with one that would reach the bottom of the garden.  Well it arrived, a pretty blue colour to match the house and a lot of the woodwork in the garden.  Unfortunately I was informed the fittings did not match the outside tap, no problem.  A spanking new brass fitment to take TWO hoses was duly ordered and fitted.  As you all know it’s been very dry during June so off I went to water the whole garden.  After 45 minutes I had done half the garden – wonderful – and THEN IT BURST just at the point I was standing – Oh woe is me, my second shower of the day, a lot of rude language and half a garden to finish watering using a watering can.  Over this past weekend I watched a You Tube video on all the complaints received on this particular brand.  Wish I’d seen it earlier…………

The 1066 Virtual Bridge Club is ticking along nicely – the EBU has stated that Bridge Clubs should not open yet as social distancing etc cannot be maintained, so my offer to help anyone who wants to have a go but is a bit nervous about it still stands.

Things are gradually getting slightly more normal – my vet is now offering routine appointments so one cat has had his belated yearly vaccination, one more has an appointment booked so only two more to go.  I do hope my dentist will be open for business soon for my next appointment.  I’ve given up on the hairdressing front, but I am now reminded as to why I’ve kept my hair short for the past 20 years.

I have some spare Christmas Box seedlings (Sarcococca confusa – well what else would it be?) that are looking for new homes.  These are evergreen shrubs that eventually get to about 4 feet high.  They are also grow quite happily in a shady or semi-shady spot.   It flowers from November to February and whilst the flowers are pretty insignificant the scent is amazing – 3 or 4 sprigs will  scent the whole room.  If anyone would like some please phone me to arrange collection.

Vicky Penfold has now completed all her treatments and whilst the tumour hasn’t shrunk it also hasn’t grown.  I spoke to her very recently, she is feeling well and had just got back from watering her son’s allotment which I was delighted to hear.  The stent that was put in place is doing its job and she is able to eat normally.  I know you will join with me in wishing her all the very best.

I have diligently listened or read through all the directives coming out of Downing Street over the past couple of weeks and the phrase “Whack-a-mole” definitely brought a smile to my face.  It reminded me of a gardener I used to know who was a typical Sussex man born and bred with a very broad Sussex accent.  His method of dealing with moles who were despoiling lawns was to find the most recent mole hill, thrust the barrel of his shotgun into it and pull the trigger!!! Please don’t try this at home………………… I do have a delightful photograph of three of our cats all sitting around a new mole hill waiting to pounce at the first sign of activity.  It was the first time I’d ever seen a group of domestic cats hunting in unison.  Yes, they did catch the mole and yes, they did dump it indoors for Muggins to rescue and return to a hopefully safe environment so it could continue spoiling my lawn.

All of you out there please do let me have your news and any interesting gossip for the next blog and any amusing articles, photos etc.