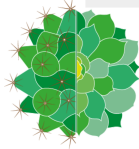




Hello, and welcome to edition two of The Plant Ledger. I've been visiting family in Canada since the launch, but now I am back, reinvigorated and ready to get my hands in the soil! Hope you enjoy this newsletter - do hit reply to tell me what you think!



Instagram killed the societies?



When I give talks to groups of gardeners, I am usually the youngest person in the room, and I'm not too far off celebrating half a century. This is a problem: plant societies have been the lifeblood of horticulture for many decades, but many are now struggling with falling numbers and an ageing membership. In-person meetings - verboten during the pandemic - are back but attendance figures are often low.

Why? Younger growers may have work or domestic commitments that stop them going to gatherings: for instance, I'm a member of the [British Cactus and Succulent Society](#), but have never made it to a branch meeting because I have other priorities on a Friday night (mostly getting my podcast [On The Ledge](#) published). Social media surely also plays a major part: why would you need to go to a meeting when you can watch reels and YouTube, join Reddit discussions, [Twitter chats](#) and Zoom talks? Or so the logic goes.

And yet if there is one thing the pandemic has taught us, it's that human connection is absolutely vital for our wellbeing. Plant societies possess an enormous wealth of expertise, just waiting for you to tap into, and they are some of the most friendly and welcoming plant folks you'll find: and many societies are harnessing social media to engage with members, too. Seed schemes give you access to hard-to-find propagation material, and there are all manner of other benefits to enjoy, including talks, sales, events and journals.

So, please consider joining a plant society. They need you, and you need them. The logos shown above are from the [British Cactus and Succulent Society](#), the [European Aroid Society](#), [The Orchid Society of Great Britain](#), and the [British Pteridological Society](#). Check out my [list of the houseplant-related societies](#) I am aware of, and [let me know](#) if there are any societies missing from that page.

Jane's planty week: [wondering if I should up my edible houseplant game?](#) | [relishing another Reddit houseplant drama](#) | [wishing I had an overgrown Norfolk Island pine](#) | [BRB, just need to check my plants aren't fake](#)

Classifieds - [find out more about advertising here](#)

- [Spring Clean Sale at GrowTropicals starts 7pm tonight](#) --- More than 400 plants including Anthurium, Philodendron, Begonia and more, discounted 25-75% - this is a great opportunity to pick up your wishlist plant at an affordable price.
- [The Garden Room](#) --- Specialist houseplant and terrarium store in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Plants, pots and planters, terrariums, botanical accessories and gifts.
- [Get 15% off Rare Houseplants at North Tropics](#) --- including all of your favourite rare aroids from Philodendron, Anthurium, Monstera and more! Use code **SPRING15** for 15% off your entire order.
- [What to do to avoid plant pest infestations - six easy tips](#) --- A few simple things you can do to reduce the likelihood of your plants suffering a pest infestation from [Ladybird Plantcare](#), the biological control experts.

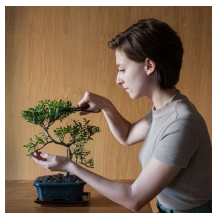
Cabinet resurrie IKEA's popular [Muisso cabinet](#) is being discontinued, so if you want one as an indoor greenhouse you may need to scour eBay or Facebook marketplace for a secondhand model. It has always flummoxed me that IKEA don't seem to promote or capitalise on this particular planty hack. For instance, they are running [a whole series of houseplant events this month](#) and yet nowhere in the blurb do they mention greenhouse cabinets. Perhaps it's too niche? I published a [Q&A](#) with IKEA's Anna Liakh back in 2017 but an update would be timely. If you work at IKEA, [get in touch!](#) Check out my On The Ledge podcast episode on greenhouse cabinets [here](#).

You're Wellcome: I can't wait to visit the new [Rooted Beings](#) exhibition at the Wellcome Trust in London, on now: it's "a meditative reflection on the world of plants and fungi" and includes artworks as well as botanical archive material from Wellcome Collection and Kew Gardens. [Admission is free.](#)

Bradford shop closes: I was sad to read that houseplant shop [Plant One On Me](#) in Bradford is closing on April 16 (pre-booked events will go ahead). Owner Ursula Sutcliffe noted in a post on [Instagram](#) that rising costs are to blame. Sadly, I suspect this won't be the last casualty of the current economic climate.

She done already had her *Streptocarpus*: I am irked that a plant being widely sold in the UK has been labelled with completely the wrong name. *Streptocarpus* 'Pretty Turtle' is actually a *Primulina dryas* cultivar. Streps are from Africa, Primulina from China and Vietnam: they are both members of the Gesneriad family, but inhabit very different branches of the Gesneriad family tree. I know this family of plants are not as well known as, say, the aroids, but there is no excuse for this error. Grrrr.

Gis' a job: There are [four positions](#) going at online houseplant seller [Beards and Daisies](#), including social media manager and PR coordinator.



Featured follow

Unlike the houseplant realm, the world of bonsai is dominated by men. Raffaella Warren-Barbieri - [@bonsai_rafi](#) on Instagram - is out to change that with her informative and delightful posts, stories and reels. She is one of my absolute favourite people on Insta. You can hear me interview Raffaella in [episode 199](#) of my podcast On The Ledge. Photograph: Peter Warren.

Events

April 8: Gardener and podcaster Ben Dark of [The Garden Log](#) will be talking about his new book *The Grove* at the Garden Museum in **London** at 7pm. [Tickets are £15](#) (£10 members and students).

April 9: Boutique plant shop Conservatory Archives in **London** hosts a variegated Monstera propagation workshop on at its shop in Middleton Mews (N7 9LT) from 11am-1pm. [Tickets are £78](#) including your own Monstera cutting to take home.

April 9: Learn the art and science of terrarium making in a workshop by bespoke terrarium and living art business Ome at Fancy Plants in **Bristol**. Everything provided. 11am-1pm, [tickets £75](#).

April 16 and 17: I'm excited about the [pop-up plant sale](#) by [Spicesotic Plants](#) and [Eucagenera Plants](#) at Townley Hall, Fulbourn, **Cambridgeshire**, 10am to 4pm.

Hello! I'm [Jane Perrone](#), host of houseplant podcast [On The Ledge](#), and a freelance journalist specialising in plants. My book [Legends of the Leaf](#) is available for preorder now.

What do you think of The Plant Ledger edition #2? Get in touch by replying to this email or hitting the mail button below.

The Plant Ledger is produced by me, with email marketing nous from [@scottishplantdad](#).

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