

It's a Gardener's World!

SPIOTA have been busy – dressing up the town's plant pots, the roundabouts & the 'WELCOME TO STOKESLEY' flower beds. One of the plants they have used in profusion is the Geranium.

Geraniums are easy-care abundant bloomers whose bright flowers will blossom from spring until autumn. An ever-popular bedding plant that is both easy to grow and maintain, Geraniums come in a variety of colours, shapes and sizes - as well as hardy varieties too! They can fill beds and borders and even climb and trail around walls and fences. These flowers are ideal for adding colour and scent to window boxes, hanging baskets and container gardens.



For me, the mention of geraniums conjures up images of bright red blooms against rich green foliage adorning window boxes and porch railings & takes me to the islands of Greece & the Mediterranean. The striking colours of the flowers against the backcloth of white-washed walls & the turquoise blue-green of the sea are so eye-catching.

Are you looking forward to a summer holiday? You may feel that after all the stress of the past months, you are in desperate need of some recreation & relaxation. 'Rest for the weary'! Travel companies say holiday bookings have "exploded" after the government announced current restrictions will be eased. Ministers said from 6 July, blanket restrictions on non-essential overseas travel will be relaxed in the UK. Holidaymakers will be allowed to travel to certain European countries without having to spend 14 days in quarantine upon their return. And for those preferring a 'Stay-cation' it is now possible to take a holiday in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and in England from Saturday, following the relaxation of lockdown rules. Holidays in Wales look likely to be allowed from the middle of July.

But there will be BIG changes – precautions put in place to maintain health & safety, effective social distancing, hygiene & cleanliness, avoiding the use of shared facilities, & so on.

Pleasure itself is neither good nor bad. Obviously just because something brings you pleasure doesn't mean it's a good thing. In the same way, pleasure itself is not bad. God made a lot of things in this world to bring us pleasure. He wants us to enjoy this world & experience a lot of pleasure. But He also wants us to keep the right perspective on those pleasures & how important they are to us. So as pubs & restaurants re-open their doors this weekend, enjoy the 'pleasure' but enjoy it with caution.

Psalms 16 v11 'You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.'