

View from The Southwood Garden August 2018

It's amazing what you see when you look ...



Late summer colour

The long narrow bed at the top of the steps was planted too late in the season to weather the heatwave well. However after several long soakings and a couple of downpours, the bee friendly border has started to bloom. I read somewhere that you shouldn't feel that all areas of your garden have to perform all of the time. Instead, like a jazz ensemble, each participant takes their turn in the spotlight.

Signs of spring in August

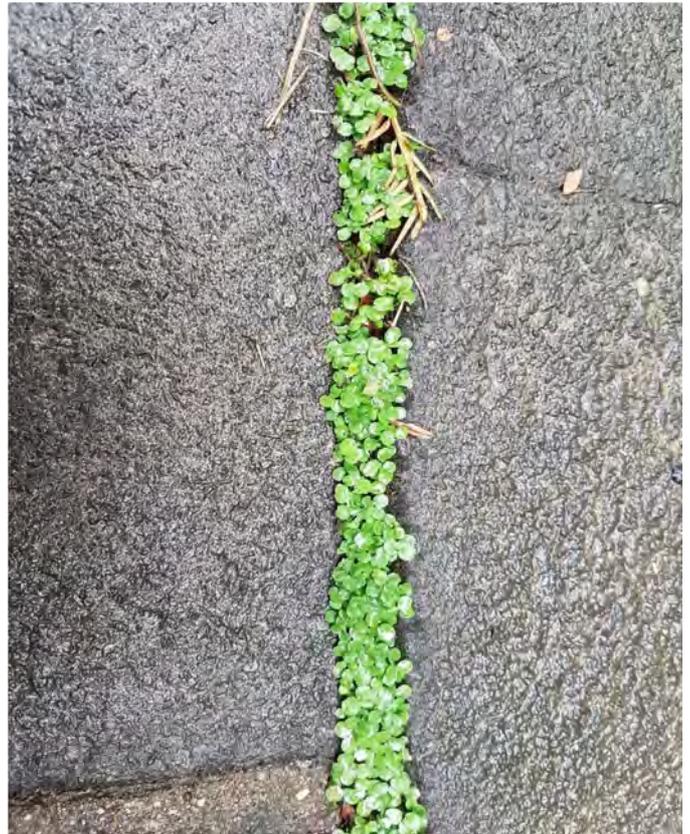


By the end of August a garden can feel like it is in decline. In fact, if you look closely, you can see signs of new life. Above left shows a new shoot of *Bergenia ciliata* poking up from the soil. I'm hoping its hairy leaves will deter the vine weevil beetle which attacks its smooth skinned cousin, *Bergenia cordifolia* better known as Elephant Ears. Above right shows the plump buds on the *Rhododendron 'Christmas Cheer'* - these will open in late winter. This month our tree surgeon pruned the mulberry tree. When he had finished, he pointed out next year's leaf buds already forming.



New Emily Young sculptures being installed in the garden.

Pavement propagators



This photo shows a line of what I think (and hope) are white dead nettle seedlings pushing up between a gap in the paving at the end of the garden. I will let them develop their secondary leaves before transplanting them into pots where they will stay until big enough to plant out into the beds. The Southwood Garden has enjoyed a year of relative calm which has allowed plants to self-seed. Other seedlings I have spotted in the cracks include: Giant Bellflower, hardy geranium, feverfew and fringed cups. This has made me think that paving cracks could be used as improvised propagators as they protect baby plants from heat and wind and retain water as it runs off from watering the pots.

In the table below I've listed all the plants in colour in August. I've indicated whether they are about to flower (▲) or are in flower (●).

Plants in flower (as of 31 August 2018)		
<i>Weigela florida</i>		●
<i>Campanula latifolia</i>	Giant Bellflower	●
<i>Salvia microphylla</i> 'Lutea Cerise Form'		●
<i>Crococsmia</i> 'Star of the East'	Montbretia	●
<i>Cuphea viscosissima</i>	Blue waxweed	●
<i>Anemone x hybrida</i> 'September Charm'	Japanese anemone	●
<i>Lamium</i> 'Alba'	White Dead nettle	●
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Feverfew	●
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> 'Limelight'		●
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>		●
<i>Sedum spectabile</i> 'Brilliant'	Ice plant	●
<i>Aster divaricatus</i>	White wood aster	●
<i>Geranium nodosum</i>		●
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>		●
<i>Heuchera</i>		●

Catherine Tidnam, gardener at St James's Piccadilly