

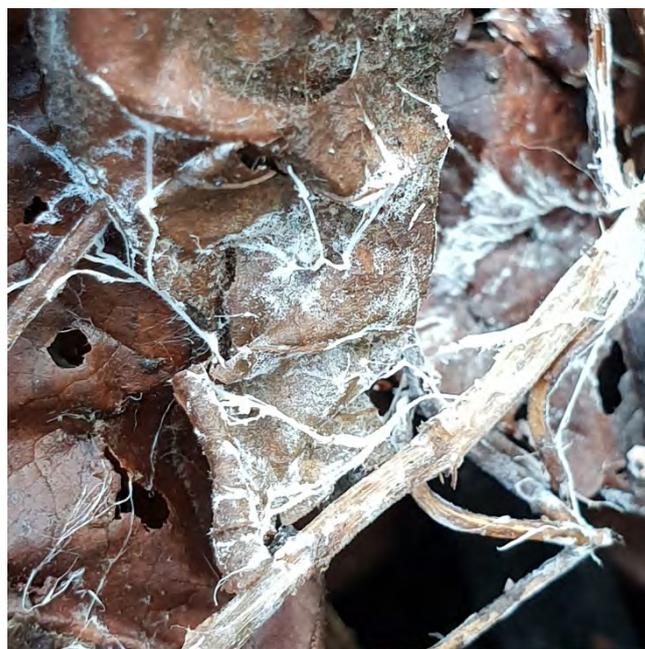
View from The Southwood Garden February 2019

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



Do not disturb

Increasingly the benefits of minimising disturbance in your garden, are being recognised. This means not digging over the soil, not endless moving plants, not removing all plant debris. The photo below shows an intricate network of mycorrhizal fungi under some fallen leaves – this is also found just below the soil surface. These white strands are tiny elongated tubes of fungus which live in a mutually beneficial relationship (or community) with plants. They not only break down waste plant material but also provide the plant with nutrients and water in exchange for taking some of the plant's sugars. Mycorrhiza translates as 'fungus-root' and they extend the surface area of the roots. Digging the soil over breaks up this network and takes time to restore.



Taking stock of spring bulbs

It's easy to forget where you planted your spring bulbs and what impact they made, when they have all disappeared for the summer. Take photos, make notes and put a label in the ground where they were so you can refer back to them when you order new bulbs for planting in the autumn. The daffodils above are *Narcissus 'W.P. Milner'* – a neat and compact variety which look good at the front of the border.



A photo of the garden in February 2018 when temperatures dropped to minus 4°C. This year, the garden hit 19°C – a difference of 23 degrees!

Catherine Tidnam, gardener at St James's Piccadilly

*Absence and presence: Emily Young's sculptures have gone. The blooms of *Camellia x williamsii 'Donation'* have arrived.*

Plants in flower (as of 28th February 2019)

<i>Camellia x williamsii 'Donation'</i>		●
<i>Crocus tommasinianus</i>		●
<i>Cyclamen coum</i>		●
<i>Epimedium x versicolour 'Sulphureum'</i>		●
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>		●
<i>Helleborus x ericsmithii</i>		●
<i>Helleborus orientalis</i>	Lenten rose	●
<i>Narcissus 'Ice Follies'</i>	Daffodil	●
<i>Narcissus 'W.P. Milner.'</i>	Daffodil	●
<i>Narcissus 'Tete a Tete'</i>	Daffodil	●
<i>Narcissus 'Jetfire'</i>	Periwinkle	●
<i>Vinca difformis</i>	Periwinkle	●
<i>Vinca major</i>	Periwinkle	●
<i>Vinca minor 'Bowles Variety'</i>	Periwinkle	●
<i>Viburnum tinus 'Eve Price'</i>		●
<i>Viola odorata</i>	English violet	●
<i>Weigela florida 'Variegata'</i>		●