

View from The Southwood Garden July 2018

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



The value of non-native plants

The courtyard planters have been planted with pollinator friendly flowers - Alstroemeria 'Summer Snow' and A. 'Summer Paradise and Summer Sky' set off by several types of cosmos including the lemon yellow, Cosmos bipinnatus 'Xanthos'. One benefit of non-native plants is that they extend the season of nectar availability by either providing food early in the season, January and February, or late in the year. Last year these alstroemerias (Peruvian lilies), flowered until November. The photos show the Early Bumblebee (*Bombus Pratorum*) feeding on both our non-native Peruvian lily and the native Nettle-leaved bellflower (*Campanula trachelium*).

Tree shedding

The photo shows a piece of bark which has sprung off the trunk of one of the London planes in our garden. During the hot weather the rate at which these trees are shedding bark has increased significantly. No one seems sure exactly what the purpose of this exfoliation is - to shed the tree of pollution, to allow the trunk to expand, to increase photosynthesis along the trunk and branches, to get rid of climbers and other organisms using the tree for food or support?



National flying ant day

One day in the first week of July I noticed large ants everywhere on the site. The next time I visited they had gone. They are the same ants we have in the garden all year round but grow in size and produce wings in order to fly away in search of ants from other



colonies to mate with. This happens all over the country in July, sometimes on a single day. Virgin queens mate with males and then land to create a new colony.

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



Plants in flower (as of 31 May 2018)		
Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight'		▲
Lilium orientalis	Oriental lily	▲
Crocsmia 'Star of the East'	Montbretia	▲
Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears', H. 'Patriot'	Plantain lily	▲
Zantedeschia 'Mango'	Calla lily	●
Zantedeschia aethiopica	Arum lily	●
Cosmos bipinnatus 'Xanthos', C. 'Carmine'		●
Alstroemeria 'Summer Snow' and A. 'Summer Paradise and Summer Sky'	Peruvian lilies	●
Clematis 'Venosa Violacea', C. Comtesse de Bouchard'		●
Acanthus mollis	<i>Bear's' breeches</i>	●
Sorbaria sorbifolia 'Sem'		●
Fuchsia		●
Salvia microphylla 'Lutea Cerise Form'		●
Magnolia × soulangeana	Saucer magnolia	●
Escallonia hybrid 'Golden Carpet'		●
Jasminum 'Clotted Cream'	Jasmine	●
Weigela		●
Rosa 'Shropshire Lad', R. Graham Thomas', R. Erfurt, R. Wild Edric'	Rose - various	●
Lamium album	White Dead nettle	●
Melissa officinalis	Lemon balm	●
Nepeta racemosa 'Walker's Low'	Cat nip	●
Clematis 'Alba Luxurians'		▼
Geranium nodosum	Knotted cranesbill	▼
Campanula trachelium	Nettle leaved flower	▼
Astrantia 'Roma'		▼
Tanacetum parthenium	Feverfew	▼
Trachelospermum jasminoides	Star Jasmine	▼