

View from The Southwood Garden July 2019

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



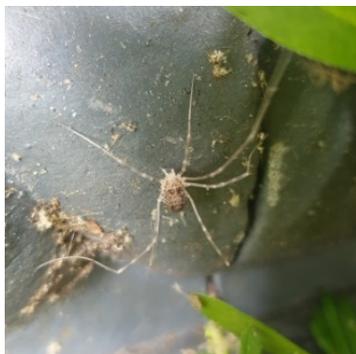
Bee-loving, late summer plants for pots

Several visitors, as well as congregation members, have asked me what the vivid blue flower is in the pots in the courtyard. It is *Anagallis moneii* 'Sky Lover', grown as an annual and one of the strongest and most vibrant blue flowers you can get. Their habit is a bit messy and by start of July they had overwhelmed the other plants in the pot, including the lavender (*Lavendula angustifolia* 'Hidcote' which particularly suffered.



In honour of St James's Day I added a splash of red in the form of two Cone flowers – *Echinacea* 'Salsa Red' and *E. 'Tomato Soup'* and *Calibrochoea* 'Superbells Red.' I tentatively cut back some of the straggly stems of the *Anagallis* to encourage fresh growth unsure whether it had time to

regrow at this point in the season. I also trimmed the Mexican fleabane (*Erigeron karvinkianus*). I wasn't sure if the mix of plants would work but within a couple of weeks the cohobitees had gelled and the *Anagallis* was throwing up fresh shoots. All are good for bees.



Not a spider but a harvestman

Although related, the difference between a harvestman and a spider is that they only have one body part, not two, only two eyes and not six or eight and they do not produce silk or venom. The Common Harvestman (*Phalangium opilio*)

seen in this photo, with its characteristic spindly legs, can be seen at any time of the year. They are found in a range of habitats – in leaf litter, vegetation and grass.

Harvestmen feed on smaller invertebrates which they catch using hooks on the ends of their legs. According to the RSPB site, they can eat snails and worms and they protect themselves by secreting a foul-smelling fluid.

Catherine Tidnam, gardener at St James's Piccadilly



Grass moth arrives at St James's

I spotted this grass moth (possibly a *Chrysoteuchia culmella*) on and around the pots in the courtyard and in the lawn. This summer, because of the dry weather, I reduced the number of times a week I cut the grass. This was to conserve the moisture in the grass and keep it long to protect its roots from the sun.



Not only has the grass remained a vivid green throughout the summer but a bonus has been that grass moths, whose caterpillars live on different grasses, at the base of the stem, have set up home.

Moths, unlike butterflies, are usually subdued in colour in order to blend in with their surroundings. They have long antennae with no club on the end. Moths tend to have stout, furry bodies (notice the hairy palps or snout in the photo above) which conserve heat during their nighttime flights. Moths find their food and mates through smell. Unlike butterflies, which hold their wings above their backs when resting, moths keep their wings by their side.

Woodworm in living wood

This photo shows evidence of woodworm burrowing into a dead part of the trunk of the *Acer negundo* (Box Elder) in the far NW corner of the garden. The fresh debris caught on the spider's web suggests the activity is



recent. A tree can survive this type of attack as the damage appears to be in the heartwood whereas the living part of a trunk are the cells just below the bark.

Plants in flower during July 2019

<i>Anagallis moneii</i> 'Sky Lover'	Blue pimpernel
<i>Alstroemeria</i> 'Summer Sky', A. 'Summer Snow'	Peruvian lily
<i>Astrantia major</i> 'Roma'	Masterwort
<i>Calibrachoa</i> 'Superbells Red'	
<i>Cephalaria gigantea</i>	Giant scabious
<i>Erigeron karvinkianus</i>	Mexican fleabane
<i>Echinacea</i> 'Tomato Sauce', E. 'Salsa Red'	Cone Flower
<i>Geranium nodosum</i> , G. <i>phaeum</i>	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St John's wort
<i>Lavendula angustifolia</i> 'Hidcote'	Lavender
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Heavenly bamboo
<i>Rosa</i> 'Graham Thomas', R. 'Erfurt' (Hybrid musk) R. 'Shropshire Lad'	Rose
<i>Salvia microphylla</i> 'Lutea Cerise Form'	
<i>Tiarella</i> 'Crows Feather'	Foam flower
<i>Weigela</i> 'Florida Variegata'	
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i> , Z. <i>aethiopica</i> 'Green Goddess'	Arum lily, Calla lily