

View from The Southwood Garden May 2019

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



Earlier than expected, *Allium atropurpureum* and *A. Multibulbosum* (*Nigrum*) bloom in the narrow bed in the main garden.



Why some plants grow out of nooks and crannies
It is difficult to establish a plant in a small crack but if a seed finds its way there, it can adapt to its surroundings. In fact paving cracks and stone walls can keep the roots of plants cool and relatively moist. These gaps can act as channels for any rain that falls or water draining from nearby pots. They also provide shelter from the wind.



A mystery appearance
This aquilegia has appeared from nowhere. A couple of years ago I planted the pure white *Aquilegia vulgaris* 'Munstead- White' but this specimen is clearly not that. Aquilegias are known for both self seeding and interbreeding freely. The only way of keeping the white variety pure is to fastidiously deadhead and so remove the seed altogether. Aquilegias like our rich, freely draining soil but suffer from powdery mildew later in the season. However, the mildew doesn't stop them returning the following year.

Catherine Tidnam, gardener at St James's Piccadilly

Bird box shows signs of occupation

Although I haven't spotted the inhabitants, the nesting box installed on the Jermyn Street trellis is full of moss and leaves, suggesting something has moved in. The open fronted bird box was put up a couple of years' ago for robins and wrens. These species like to roost at a low level (below 2 metres) and be protected by vegetation. Bird boxes are best placed out of direct sunlight – often on a north or east facing wall.



Plants in flower during May 2019	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> 'Munstead White'	Columbine
<i>Arum italicum</i> subsp. <i>italicum</i> 'Marmoratum'	Cuckoo pint, Lords and Ladies
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i> 'Jack Frost'	Siberian bugloss
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily of the Valley
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> f. <i>albiflora</i>	White foxglove
<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i> 'White Ness'	
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet woodruff
<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking iris
<i>Lamium</i> 'Album'	White dead-nettle
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Great woodrush
<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	Sweet cicely
<i>Nepeta x faassenii</i> 'Six Hills Giant'	Catmint 'Six Hills Giant'
<i>Omphalodes cappadocica</i> 'Cherry Ingram'	Navel cherrywort
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Diabolo'	Ninebark 'Diabolo'
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i> 'Nanum'	Japanese pittosporum, Australian laurel
<i>Rosa</i> 'Shropshire Lad', <i>R. Graham Thomas</i> , <i>R. 'Erfurt'</i> (Hybrid musk)	
<i>Salvia microphylla</i> 'Lutea Cerise Form'	
<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	Fringe cups
<i>Tiarella</i> 'Crows Feather'	
<i>Viburnum. plicatum</i> 'Pink Beauty'	
<i>Vinca major</i> , <i>V. major</i> 'Variegata', <i>V. minor</i> 'Gertrude Jekyll', <i>V. minor</i> 'Bowles Variety'	Periwinkle
<i>Weigela</i> 'Florida Variegata'	