

View from The Southwood Garden September 2018

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



Just add water ...

We introduced a containerised pond and two bog gardens, because the addition of a water feature to a garden has a positive impact on biodiversity. However small it is, it can attract additional wildlife, for example, frogs and dragonflies. We have selected plant species which are happy in partial shade including a number of native species such as water forget-me-not and marsh marigold. Despite adding hornwort – a plant which oxygenates the water, the pond is clouding over whilst the bog gardens remain crystal clear – something to investigate!

A change in the season brings out the fungi



Fungi are present in the garden all year round but in autumn when conditions are often moist and warm, they become more visible. I was surprised to see what I think is a Shaggy Ink Cap, *Coprinus comatus* (above right) in the exceptionally dry bed along Piccadilly. On the lawn, under its protective fleece, I saw what looked like a Pleated Ink Cap, *Parasola plicatilis* (above left). *Note: is notoriously difficult to identify fungi.*



Blue waxweed reappears after 2 year absence

It is easy to mistake this flower, *Cuphea viscosissima*, for the salvia behind it in the same bed but *Cuphea*, also known as Blue waxweed, is a bluer pink. Unlike the salvia it is an annual which I grew from seed a couple of years' ago. It

was nowhere to be seen last summer but reappeared this month. I first came across it at Margery Fish's East Lambrook garden, Somerset - I was taken by its velvety magenta petals. A member of the loosestrife family, it flowers for months from mid-summer onwards.



The Emily Young's sculptures look even more alluring in the dark with a cool beam of light bringing them out of the shadows.

Abnormal growth on euonymous



When I first saw this growth I thought it was a bit of rubbish left in one of the planters. It was the size of a walnut. Then I realised it was attached to the stem of *Euonymus fortunei* 'Silver Queen.' It is a crown gall, *Agrobacterium*

tumefaciens, caused by bacteria entering the plant through a wound in its stems or roots. The soil borne pathogen provokes the plant tissue to grow in a distorted fashion disrupting the movement of water and nutrients around the plant. The gall cannot be treated but it can be removed and destroyed. The bacteria is infectious so any equipment used has to be sterilised.

Plants in flower (as of 30 September 2018)

<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>		●
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> 'Limelight'		●
Fuchsia		●
Rosa 'Shropshire Lad', R. Wild Edric'	Rose - various	●
<i>Geranium nodosum</i>		●
Anemone x hybrida 'Honorine Jobert'	Japanese anemone	●
<i>Cuphea viscosissima</i>	Blue waxweed	●
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>		●
Alstroemeria 'Summer Snow' and A. 'Summer Paradise and Summer Sky'	Peruvian or Chilean lily, also known as lily of the Incas.	●
<i>Aster divaricatus</i>	White wood aster	●
<i>Crococsmia</i> 'Star of the East'	Montbretia	●
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead nettle	●
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Feverfew	●
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> 'Tangerine'	Shrubby cinquefoil	●

Catherine Tidnam, gardener at St James's Piccadilly