

Garden diary number eight.

Wildlife and wildflowers start off this garden diary again with photos from an enjoyable trip to Bempton RSPB reserve recently. The social distancing was well observed and there was a takeaway snack service and toilets open. This site has the only mainland gannetry in the UK and is shown in the first photo. There is a camera trained on this area but due to the Covid restrictions it was not possible to view the screen showing the images. There were many chicks to be seen through binoculars but it is sad to see the amount of fishing rope and other human waste used on the nests. The second photo shows a pair of young gannets with others dotted around the cliff. There is also a puffin and guillemot above and below the main pair if you look closely. The seabirds will be flying away soon so any visits to see them should be taken sooner rather than later. I am not a keen bird watcher but think we are very lucky to have this world class site on our doorstep.



I am sure most members will have visited Bempton at some point and will be aware of the surrounding area. It is well managed, has not been over developed and has many good walks and car parking facilities. The lower right photograph is taken above Flamborough cliffs looking back to Bempton reserve and shows the dramatic landscape. The wildflowers are present everywhere and the blue patch is harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*). It is present in great numbers in this area but despite several attempts in my garden I have had no success with it. This area is still enjoyable to visit in winter when it is quiet and the mist adds extra drama to the atmosphere. The lower left photo is a pyramidal orchid shown against a background of birdsfoot trefoil and other yellow flowers.



More photos from Trevor Wright, first shows a six spotted burnet moth on top of a *Geranium nomosum*. These are common on some nature reserves but it is the first time these have appeared in his garden. Next photo is *Hemerocallis moonlight masquerade*.



Lower left photo shows *Kniphofia* Timothy with *Eryngium bougattii* Oxford blue in the background. A lovely combination of both colour and form and both plants setting each other off to good effect. The lower right photo is *Roscoea* Harvington imperial, a stunning flower with delicate markings.



A few plants from Ian and Georgina's garden in July.

Ian has been trying to grow the biggest *Favratia zoysii* in the world and it must be fairly close. He gave a talk on zoom to the AGS which will be repeated on the AGS Facebook page and on the AGS website about growing it and its unusual reproductive system. The picture on the right shows it in a 33cm pot with a smaller plant in an 18cm pot by the side to give a more accurate impression of the size.



We also managed to flower *Notholirion macrophyllum*, which we grew from AGS seed that we planted many years ago. The Northern Marsh Orchids on our back lawn are now looking a bit dishevelled. We have dug out the hybrid orchids and moved them to our front garden to try and stop too much hybridisation.



The *Physoplexis comosa* put on a good show before the sun nearly killed it, and we are constantly removing slugs from *Campanula carpatica* 'Blue Pearl' that appear to love eating the flowers. Finally, *Daphne mezereum* has produced us lots of berries to plant at the end of the year.



Many thanks to Ian and Georgina for the last article. Julie and I had a visit to their garden over the weekend and spent a couple of enjoyable hours being shown around. It certainly highlighted why they both are very successful exhibitors at AGS shows.



Above Left shows Celandine and *anemone* growing together. Above right is the choice *Glaucidium palmatum* commonly known as the Japanese woodland poppy. Lower left is *Saxifraga* Allendale elite, these three were sent in by Sheena Vigors.



Photo above is *Dierama pulcherimum* in full flower. This was stopping visitors in their tracks it was so good and some were even taking seeds. The left two are *Watsonia* hybrids. I have some growing on from the AGS seed bank and would be delighted if they are as good as these! These last three were taken by me at Bodnant Gardens recently.