

Garden diary number nine.

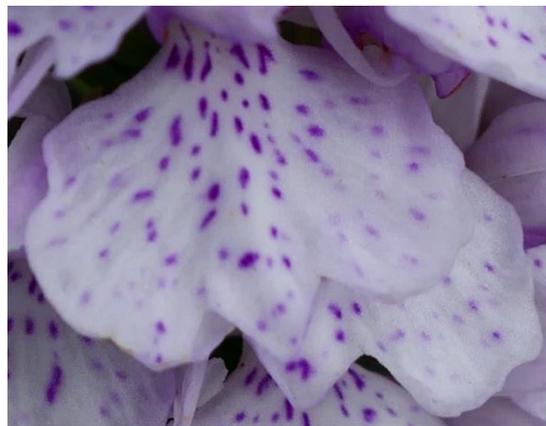


We had a few days in Anglesey recently and visited various sites. This has the largest UK area of fens outside East Anglia and a huge area of dune habitats . The fens are mainly alkaline but have areas of acid flushes resulting in a wide variety of plants and animals. The tiger moth on the left was found by a friend and has a striking red colour when the wings are open which can just be seen. The sites have large areas of boardwalk which gives easy access as well as keeping the environment safe. Whilst they are well managed they are still very natural. The wild welsh ponies are left to wander and they keep the grass to a good level. They disturb the ground leaving bare patches which allow plants to seed around freely.



The plant above right is the round leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and was common in acid parts of the fen.

Whilst most of the orchids were over we saw the pair of heath spotted orchids (*Dactylorhiza maculata*) which were at their peak. The second photo shows a close up of the beautiful marked flowers.



Julie and I visited Trevor Wright's garden last weekend to swap plants and also to have a look around. As expected there were a lot of interesting plants all well laid out and many were clearly labelled. Although many of the summer plants were going over there was still much to look at. Trevor said there was an extensive collection of snowdrops which I was invited to go see in the spring. I always like to see other people's garden and always come away learning something. The *Bletilla* below is a good example, I have never managed to get this plant established but learnt how Trevor grows it well. I also came away with a nice specimen to try at home. Like all good gardens it would take a number of visits over the seasons to see everything. Below are more photos from his garden.



Above is *Bletilla striata albobstriata* happily growing in full sun next to a wall. Right photo shows good use of a broken pot to house *Jovibarba* "angel wings" along with a number of *Sempervivums*.



Above left is *Jovibarba heuffelii* 'Pink Skies' with *var kopaonikensis*. The right photo is of *Gladiolus flanaganii*. This is a choice species from Drakensberg, South Africa bearing 2" red flowers in late summer. If given well drained situation in full sun it is happy outside all year.

Some nice photos from Anne Wright on this and the next page. Obviously known as a top grower and plant breeder Anne also has a lovely garden alongside her nursery as seen here.



General view of garden above. Right - *Euonymus planipes* contrasting with *Crocosmias*.



Acis autumnalis



Gentian asclepiada



Townsendia sp growing on tuffa.



Dianthus sp also growing on tuffa.



Two from Rosemary Cox's garden, above is *Merendera montana* basking in the sun. The right photo is *Colchicum longifolium* at its peak. The backlighting shows off the delicate markings and the second bud can be seen emerging. Both plants being set off nicely against the scree.



The next offering will be the autumn newsletter which normally goes out at the end of August. We have decided to carry on after this with more of the diaries due to the meetings not going ahead for the foreseeable future. The alpine season is already beginning with cyclamen and others starting to appear so we hope to mainly feature this group of plants again. Please send in any photos or items for either to my email address. I can easily put together a page from a few notes and photos so don't be put off contributing anything.

Regards Charlie Philpotts. Email address – charlie.philpotts@btinternet.com