WELCOME TO BLOG NUMBER 20

SPRING SEEMS TO HAVE SPRUNG VERY SUDDENLY ONLY ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO WE WERE COVERED IN SNOW AND FOR FELIXSTOWE QUITE COLD. WE ARE SO FORTUNATE TO BE BESIDE THE SEA KEEPING THE WINTER TEMPERATURES SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN FURTHER INLAND.

THIS SPELL OF WARM WEATHER HAS BROUGHT OUT LOTS OF FLOWERS, FOR US TO ENJOY, BUT JUST TO REMIND US WHAT IT WAS LIKE A FEW DAYS AGO.

FELIXSTOWE garden CLUB

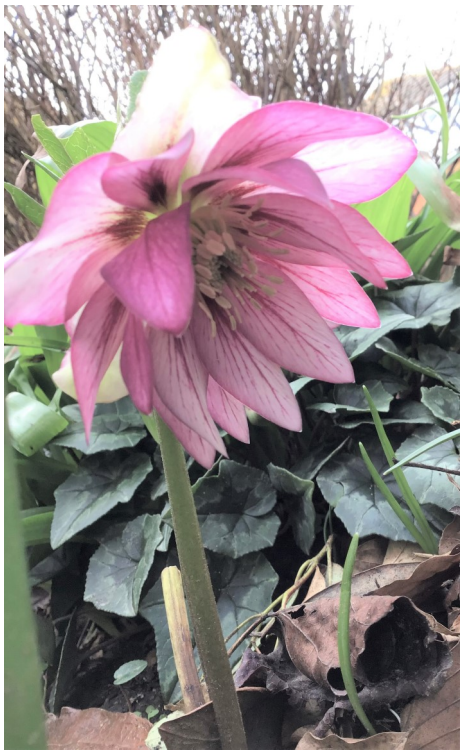
JEREMY

A PROMISE OF THINGS TO COME.

THE FIRST NARCISSUS OF THE YEAR FOR US, IT NORMALLY STARTS TO FLOWER IN LATE NOVEMBER BUT IS LATE THIS YEAR.

NEARLY ALL NARCISSUS COME FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA, THIS ONE;-NARCISSUS ROMIEUXII, IS NATIVE TO MOROCCO. THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES OF NARCISSUS SIMILAR TO THIS ONE. PARTICULARLY BEAUTIFUL IS A PURE WHITE ONE N. CANTABRICUS, WHICH GROWS IN WOODLAND IN SOUTHERN SPAIN. WITH A BIT OF LUCK WE MAY HAVE ONE IN FLOWER A BIT LATER

HELLEBORES ARE SUCH GOOD VALUE EARLY IN THE YEAR, ABLE TO STAND UP TO WHATEVER THE WEATHER THROWS AT THEM . THEY SEED AROUND FREELY WITH US, THE DOUBLE BELOW LEFT IS A SEEDLING THAT POPPED UP ALONGSIDE THE DRIVE. IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT THOUGH TO SEE THEIR FLOWERS WHICH TEND TO HANG DOWN, BUT ON THE BOTTOM LEFT WE HAVE A VERY NICE ONE WHICH ALWAYS HOLD ITS HEAD UP



SOME SLIGHTLY UNUSUAL PLANTS NOW - THESE ARE CORYDALIS, AND ALTHOUGH WE HAVE QUITE A NUMBER OF SPECIES GROWING WILD IN THE UK, IN CENTRAL ASIA SOME ARE REALLY SPECTACULAR AT THE TOP IS C. POPOVII, AND AT BOTTOM LEFT C. DYPHYLLA. BOTTOM RIGHT IS C. SHANGINII WHICH WE SAW GROWING IN KAZAKHSTAN. HOWEVER, THEY ARE DEFINITELY NOT GARDEN PLANTS THEY ARE VERY FUSSY , AND IF YOU GIVE THEM WATER AT THE WRONG TIME THEY PROMPTLY ROT AND DIE!

TWO MORE EXOTICS, ON THE LEFT ASPHODELUS ACAULIS, SUPPOSEDLY TENDER, BUT DOES SURVIVE OUTSIDE HERE, BUT IT FLOWERS BETTER IN A COLD GREENHOUSE, AND ON THE RIGHT TECOPHILEA LEICHTLINII - A BULB FROM SOUTH AMERICA NOW SADLY EXTINCT IN THE WILD

CAMELLIAS SEEM TO DO VERY WELL IN OUR SOIL, SO WE MUST BE SLIGHTLY ACID, BUT TO MAKE SURE THEY DO DO WELL, ANGELA DOES GIVE THEM A DOSE OF SEQUES-TRENE EVERY YEAR. THIS ONE WAS HERE WHEN WE CAME SO WE DON'T KNOW ITS VARIETY. IT DOES HOWEVER SUFFER FROM SQUIRRELS EATING THE FLOWER BUDS.

SOME PICTURES NOW FROM SOME OF OUR MEMBERS FIRST

SUZANNE'S

CLEMATIS "FRECKLES" AND CLEMATIS "JINGLE BELLS"

MORE HELLEBORES,

H. FOETIDUS RIGHT,

AND H. ORIENTALIS LEFT

SARCOCOCCA LEFT WHICH SOME PEOPLE THINK SMELLS WONDERFUL I AM REMINDED OF SMELLY CATS!

AN EARLY PRIMROSE RIGHT

JUST TO REMIND US THAT SUMMER WILL BE WITH US VERY SOON, FRANCIS MCALLAN SENT THESE PICTURES OF BRUGMANNSIA GROWING IN HIS GARDEN THEY ARE DEFINITELY TENDER AND WILL NEED TO BE INDOORS OVER WINTER. THEY ARE ALSO NARCOTIC!

A BLOG IN EARLY SPRING WOULD NOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT SOME SNOWDROPS, IN THE IMAGE BELOW IS JUST A SMALL SELECTION THAT WE HAVE ACQUIRED OVER THE YEARS. MOST HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO US BY FRIENDS OR GROWN FROM SEED. WE HAVE ALWAYS RESISTED THE TEMPTATION TO SPEND A FORTUNE ON A SINGLE BULB, BUT THE TINIEST VARIATION WILL MAKE A TRUE GALANTHOPHILE GO INTO RAPTURES OF EXCITEMENT.
MOST DIFFERENT NAMED VARIETIES OF SNOWDROPS FOR SALE NOWADAYS HAVE BEEN CLONED FROM A SINGLE BULB SO UNLESS THERE IS A GENETIC MUTATION, THEY WILL BE IDENTICAL . HOWEVER, IN THE WILD, THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A WIDE RANGE OF GENETIC VARIATION;-WE HAVE SEEN ON A MOUNTAINSIDE IN TURKEY A NATURAL POPULATION OF GALANTHUS ELWESII, AND NO TWO FLOWERS WERE ALIKE! THERE ARE FORTUNES TO BE MADE HOWEVER IF YOU CAN FIND A FLOWER WITH A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE.

GALANTHUS LAGODECHIANUS
GROWN FROM SEED

GALANTHUS WORONOWII
NOTICE THE BRIGHT GREEN
LEAVES AND QUITE BULBOUS
PETALS

CROCUS ARE REALLY OPENING UP NOW IN THE WARM WEATHER

IRIS UNGUICULARIS, THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DARK FORM THAT PATTI PECK GAVE US SOME YEARS AGO AND HAS REALLY THRIVED UNDER A HOT SOUTH FACING WALL. INTERESTING HOW THE COLOUR CHANGES DEPENDING ON HOW THE SUNLIGHT SHINES

THANKS PATTI

ERANTHIS DON’T SEEM TO THRIVE TERRIBLY WELL IN OUR GARDEN;- IN OUR PREVIOUS GARDEN THEY SEEDED EVERYWHERE AND MADE A WONDERFUL SHOW, THIS ONE IS “GUINEA GOLD”

THIS PLANT IS SUCH GOOD VALUE, IT HAS LOVELY SILVERY FOLIAGE, ITS BUDS THROUGH THE WINTER LOOK LIKE BEETLES HIBERNATING, AND THEN THEY OPEN INTO PURE WHITE DAISIES THAT FLOWER ALL SUMMER LONG. IT SEEMS VERY DIFFICULT TO STRIKE FROM CUTTINGS THOUGH.

IN THE WINTER, SCENTS IN THE GARDEN ARE VERY IMPORTANT, WITCH HAZEL IS WONDERFUL, AS IS MAHONIA BUT NOTHING CAN COMPARE WITH DAHNE BHOLUA ‘JACQUELINE POSTILL’ BELOW. ALL THREE ARE GROWING ALONGSIDE THE DRIVE AND THE SCENT IS ALMOST OVERPOWERING

ONE OF THE THINGS WE ALL KNOW IS THAT BULB FAMILIES ARE CHARACTERISED BY HAVING THEIR FLOWERS ARRANGED IN GROUPS OF THREE. 3 OR 6 PETALS, STAMENS ETC

UNFORTUNATELY THE BULB BELOW BREAKS THE RULES, IT IS AN IPHEON SELLOWIANUM FROM SOUTH AMERICA. AS YOU CAN SEE IT HAS ITS FLOWERS GROUPED IN FOURS. I BELIEVE IT IS THE ONLY ONE THAT IS LIKE IT, AN ODDITY!

BUT A REALLY BRIGHT YELLOW TO CHEER UP SPRING

TWO OF ANGELA’S ORCHIDS, A CYMBIDIUM ON THE RIGHT, AND BELOW DENDROBIUM KINGIANUM GROWING NICELY ON OUR BATHROOM WINDOWSILL

FINALLY, I WAS VERY FLATTERED TO BE PRESENTED WITH THIS BANKSIAN MEDAL WHICH YOUR COMMITTEE DECIDED I HAD DESERVED FOR TRYING TO KEEP YOU ENTERTAINED WITH THESE BLOGS DURING THESE AWFUL LOCKDOWN MONTHS.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED