WELCOME TO BLOG NUMBER 11

WELL OUR HOPES ROSE OVER THE WEEKEND THAT SOME RAIN WAS FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, WHAT HAPPENS, I LOOK AT THE BBC WEATHER SITE THIS MORNING AND THE PROMISED RAIN HAS DISAPPEARED. WE SEEM TO BE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WATERING, THE WATER BUTTS ARE RUNNING DRY, AND I HATE TO THINK WHAT OUR WATER BILL WILL BE LIKE, AND AS FOR UP AT THE ALLOTMENT, THE TOWN COUNCIL ARE ALREADY GRUMBLING ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF WATER THAT IS BEING USED. IT IS AMAZING ISN’T IT HOW WITH ALL THE NON STOP RAIN WE WERE GETTING IN THE EARLY PART OF THE YEAR, NOW THE GROUND IS AS DRY AS A BONE.

A REAL MIXED BAG IN THIS BLOG, SOME FROM OUR GARDEN, SOME MORE WILD FLOWERS, SOME FROM THE ALLOTMENT AND SOME FROM MEMBER’S GARDENS.

SORRY IT’S A BIT LATE THIS WEEK, STRANGELY ENOUGH, I’VE BEEN QUITE BUSY!!!

JEREMY
THIS BEAUTIFUL ROSE COMES FROM DI ELMES’ GARDEN, IT WAS GIVEN TO HER BY A GOOD FRIEND CALLED HILDA SO ALTHOUGH DI THINKS ITS PROPER NAME IS PERLE D’OR, SHE ALWAYS CALLS IT HILDA’S ROSE.

WE TOO HAD A LOVELY WHITE CLIMBING ROSE OUTSIDE OUR BEDROOM WINDOW IN OUR PREVIOUS HOUSE AND THAT TO US WAS “CHARLIE’S ROSE “

IF YOU ARE A GARDENER AND HAVE A PLANT GROWN FROM A CUTTING GIVEN TO YOU BY AN OLD FRIEND, WHENEVER IT FLOWERS, YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE HAPPY MEMORIES OF THEM, EVEN WHEN THEY ARE NO LONGER WITH US
VAL HADDRELL’S GARDEN IS NOW COMING INTO FLOWER

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME BELOW, THE ONE ABOVE IS UNNAMED BUT ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL, PERHAPS RAY CAN NAME IT, THEN A BEAUTIFUL IRIS. THANKS VAL
WE HAD A WALK OVER LANDGUARD COMMON THE OTHER DAY, AND THESE WERE ALL GROWING IN THE SHINGLE, IT IS AMAZING HOW SOME PLANTS HAVE BECOME ADAPTED TO LIVING IN WHAT TO US SEEM VERY HARSH CONDITIONS.

VIPER’S BUGLOSS; AN ECHIUM. THE INDIVIDUAL FLOWERS ARE WELL WORTH A CLOSE LOOK THEY HAVE COLOURFUL STAMENS AND THE PETALS VARY FROM PINK TO BRIGHT BLUE.

THE YELLOW HORNED POPPY GROWING IN PURE SANDY SHINGLE. THE FLOWERS ARE FAIRLY SPECTACULAR, AND ARE FOLLOWED BY 6 INCH LONG SEED PODS, ONE OF WHICH YOU CAN SEE JUST BEGINNING TO DEVELOP

LANDGUARD IS AN INTERESTING PLACE TO GO FOR A WALK, ALWAYS LOTS OF BIRDS ABOUT ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE MIGRATING, AND SOME VERY RARE PLANTS TOO. IT IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW PLACES IN BRITAIN WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE STINKING GOOSE FOOT! IT SMELLS OF ROTTEN FISH
PICTURES FROM THE ALLOTMENT

THE SPRING CABBAGES HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THE EARLY RAIN

RUNNER BEANS ARE FLOWERING ALREADY, AND CELERIAC, SWEET CORN AND ONIONS ARE COMING ON NICELY, PEAS ARE PODDING UP WELL AND WE HAD OUR FIRST FEW STRAWBERRIES ON SATURDAY
THIS ALSTROEMERIA IS KNOWN AS INDIAN SUMMER, A REALLY GOOD PLANT, IT FLOWERS FOR A LONG PERIOD & HAS DARK REDDISH FOLIAGE

THIS SHRUB IS SOLANUM LACINIATUM, IT IS VERY QUICK GROWING, EASILY GETTING TO 4 FT HIGH IN TWO YEARS. THE FLOWERS ARE PURPLE RATHER THAN BLUE. IT SEEDS ITSELF ALL OVER THE GARDEN FROM ORANGEY RED FRUITS IN THE AUTUMN BUT THE SEEDLINGS ARE EASILY WEEDED OUT
CORNFLOWERS ARE ONE OF ANGELA’S FAVOURITES, WHAT A SHAME WE DON’T SEE THEM GROWING AS WILD FLOWERS IN CORNFIELDS ANYMORE. THE STRUCTURE OF THE FLOWERS IS VERY INTERESTING AND IT IS WORTH TAKING A MOMENT OR TWO TO LOOK AT THEM CLOSELY, THE CENTRE BOSS OF STAMENS IS SURROUNDED BY A RING OF STIGMAS AND A RING OF STERILE FLORETS, ALL MOUNTED ON TOP OF THE DEVELOPING SEED CAPSULE WHICH IS BEAUTIFULLY PATTERNED AND HAIRY

INDIDIVIDUAL FLORET ABOVE, AND HAIRY SEED CAPSULE ON THE RIGHT ——-BOTANY LESSON OVER
NIGELLA OR LOVE-IN-A-MIST IS ANOTHER FLOWER WORTH A CLOSER LOOK I THINK IT LOOKS AS IF IT WAS DESIGNED BY A COMMITTEE!

REMEMBER THOSE PULSATILLAS SOME 8 WEEKS AGO, NOW THEY ARE SHOWING THEIR LOVELY FROTHY SEEDHEADS, AND ON THE RIGHT MECONOPSIS CAMBRICA. I HAVE TRIED FOR YEARS TO GROW THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE HIMALAYAN ONES BUT WE LIVE IN TOO DRY A CLIMATE, THIS YELLOW ONE HOWEVER IS VERY EASY, AND SEEDS AROUND HAPPILY
The geranium beside our backdoor was bought from Lidl last year and has been outside all winter, and having seen Ray’s hanging basket demo, we bought some and you can see the result. This pure white foxglove glows in a shady border.
NOW FOR SOME MORE ODDITIES

WE ALL GROW THE BIG HERBACEOUS PENSTEMONS LIKE SOUR GRAPES ETC. BUT THIS ONE IS AN ALPINE ONE WITH NICE RED FLOWERS - PENSTEMON PINIFOLIUS

THIS IS A REALLY EXOTIC LOOKING ARUM, ARUM DIOSCORIDIS. VERY SIMILAR TO OUR NATIVE BRITISH CUCKOO PINT BUT THIS ONE COMES FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN IT IS A REAL STINKER AND SMELLS VERY STRONGLY OF ROTTEN MEAT