HASN’T IT BEEN HOT AND DRY, AND ALTHOUGH A LOT OF PLACES HAVE HAD THUNDERSTORMS, HERE RIGHT ON THE COAST, THEY ALL SEEM TO MISS US. THE OTHER EVENING WE WERE TREATED TO A MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF LIGHTNING ALL AROUND, BUT NO RAIN FOR US. FORTUNATELY WE HAVE HAD A LITTLE BIT OF RAIN THIS WEEK, BUT IT HAS QUICKLY EVAPORATED AND WE ARE NOW BACK TO DAILY WATERING. IT HAS BEEN SO DRY THAT A LOT OF THE SHRUBS IN OUR GARDEN ARE GIVING UP THE GHOST. WE HAVE A LOVELY JAPANESE MAPLE, WHICH LOOKS LIKE IT IS GOING TO TURN UP ITS TOES, AND A SOPHORA IN OUR FRONT GARDEN WHICH IS LOOKING MORIBUND. PERHAPS WE WILL HAVE TO FOLLOW BETH CHATTO’S ADVICE AND JUST CONCENTRATE ON MEDITERRANEAN PLANTS.

THE ONE BRIGHT SPOT IS THAT BULBS WILL HAVE RELISHED THE HOT SUMMER, AND ALREADY AFTER THE LITTLE DROP OF RAIN WE DID HAVE THEY ARE BEGINNING TO FLOWER MOST OF THE PLANTS THIS TIME ARE LOVERS OF HOT AND DRY CONDITIONS

JEREMY
OUTSIDE OUR BACK DOOR IN A VERY HOT SUNNY SPOT RELISHING
THE SUNSHINE THIS YEAR,

A CLOSE RELATIVE OF THOSE TENDER HIPPEASTRUMS THAT LOOK
SPECTACULAR INDOORS IN THE SPRING, THIS IS AMARYLLIS
BELLADONNA, A HARDY BULB, CERTAINLY HERE IN FELIXSTOWE, AND
YOU CAN SEE A LOVELY PATCH OF THEM GROWING AMONGST THE
ROCKS ON THE CLIFF ALONGSIDE THE PROM., BETWEEN THE END OF
MAYBUSH LANE AND JACOB’S LADDER. THEY HAVE AN UNUSUAL
SCENT TOO;-BUBBLE GUM!

TWO MORE SUN WORSHIPPERS, ON THE LEFT, BOUGAINVILLAEA,
AND AEONIUM SCHWARTSKOPF
HABRANTHUS ARE A GROUP OF BULBS COMING FROM SOUTH AMERICA YOU THINK YOU HAVE LOST THEM BECAUSE AFTER THEY SHOW A FEW LEAVES IN LATE AUTUMN AND WINTER THEY VANISH. THEN AT THE END OF SUMMER UP POP THESES LOVELY FLOWERS

ON THE LEFT IS HABRANTHUS ANDERSONII, AND ON THE RIGHT H. MARTINEZII THEY SET SEED VERY READILY, DOTTING THEMSELVES ABOUT IN DRY SUNNY PLACES. ALTHOUGH THE FLOWERS DON’T LAST VERY LONG, FLOWERS KEEP APPEARING OVER A LONG PERIOD
AN UNUSUAL SPECIES GLADIOLUS, THIS ONE IS G. PAPILIO OR THE BUTTERFLY GLADIOLUS. IT IS A VERY VARIABLE SPECIES, NOT REALLY A GARDEN PLANT THOUGH, EACH STEM IS ABOUT 3 FOOT LONG AND THEY FLAP ABOUT IN THE SLIGHTEST BREEZE. THE PHOTO DOESN’T DO IT JUSTICE, THE MARKINGS INSIDE ARE BEAUTIFUL.

EUCOMIS, EITHER E. BICOLOR OR COMOSA, AGAIN LIKING THE HOT WEATHER, THOUGH THEY WOULD PREFER IT TO BE A BIT WETTER THAN RECENTLY. THEY ARE VERY USEFUL PLANTS AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.
CAMPSIS RADICANS SCRAMBLING OVER OUR FRONT WALL, IT SHOULD NOW KEEP ON FLOWERING FOR SOME WEEKS IT HAS TAKEN A LONG TIME TO GET GOING BUT NOW LOOKS REALLY GREAT. ANOTHER PLANT ON THE RIGHT THAT LOOKS GOOD FOR MONTHS ON END STIPA GIGANTEA, IT SENDS UP ITS GRASSY FLOWER HEADS IN THE SPRING, AND SO LONG AS WE DON’T HAVE ANY REALLY STRONG WINDS, THEY STILL LOOK GRACEFUL MONTHS LATER.

I SPOKE TOO SON ABOUT THE WIND!

ANOTHER GOOD PLANT FOR LATE SUMMER IS RUSSIAN SAGE, IT DOESN’T KNOW WHEN TO STOP THOUGH SENDING OUT UNDERGROUND RUNNERS SO IT NEEDS TO BE CHOPPED BACK BELOW GROUND LEVEL IN THE WINTER
A REALLY DARK AGAPANTHUS WHICH ANGELA BOUGHT LAST YEAR AT HYDE HALL. STILL IN ITS POT WAITING FOR AUTUMN PLANTING.

THIS IS ZAUSCHNERIA CALIFORNICA. A VIBRANT RED AND ALTHOUGH LATE TO FLOWER WILL NOW KEEP GOING TILL OCTOBER
EVEN IF FLOWERS AREN’T QUITE AS PROLIFIC AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR WE CAN REALLY ENJOY THE BOUNTY OF OUR VEGETABLES. A DELICIOUS TRAY BAKE OF ONIONS, COURGETTES, TOMATOES, PEPPERS AND FRESH HERBS ALL HOME GROWN OF COURSE

AND HOW ABOUT THESE FOR TWO BEAUTIFUL SWEETCORN, ARE YOU SALIVATING YET? JUST IMAGINE SLATHERED IN BUTTER WITH SOME SALT AND BLACK PEPPER. WE LIVE LIKE KINGS AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR ALL FOR FREE BUT WITH A FAIR BIT OF HARD WORK TOO
SOME WONDERFUL DAHLIAS FROM SALLY GALLANT
ALSO FROM SALLY, BUT I’M NOT SURE THAT IT IS FROM HER GARDEN. LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER CAMPsis RADICANS AND A MUCH DARKER SHADE OF RED THAN OURS

RICHARD SHAW IS JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF HIS RED HOT PokERS MUCH BIGGER AND BETTER THAN OURS
AND FINALLY, SOMETHING REALLY EXOTIC, IT IS LAPAGERIA ROSEA, ALL THE WAY FROM CENTRAL CHILE, IT HAS THESE BEAUTIFUL WAXY PENDANT

ANGELA’S ARTWORK IS PROGRESSING NICELY AT LEAST SHE IS BECOMING A LITTLE MORE MODEST.

ANOTHER WORK IN PROGRESS, THIS POT OF BULBS IN MY GREENHOUSE HAS JUST HAD A SOAKING; NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT BUT WAIT AND SEE FOR A WEEK OR TWO
WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES THIS IS WHERE WE WERE THIS TIME LAST YEAR STAYING IN THE DORDOGNE IN A DELIGHTFUL HOUSE ABOUT TO ENJOY A BARBECUE.

THE GOOD TIMES WILL RETURN AGAIN