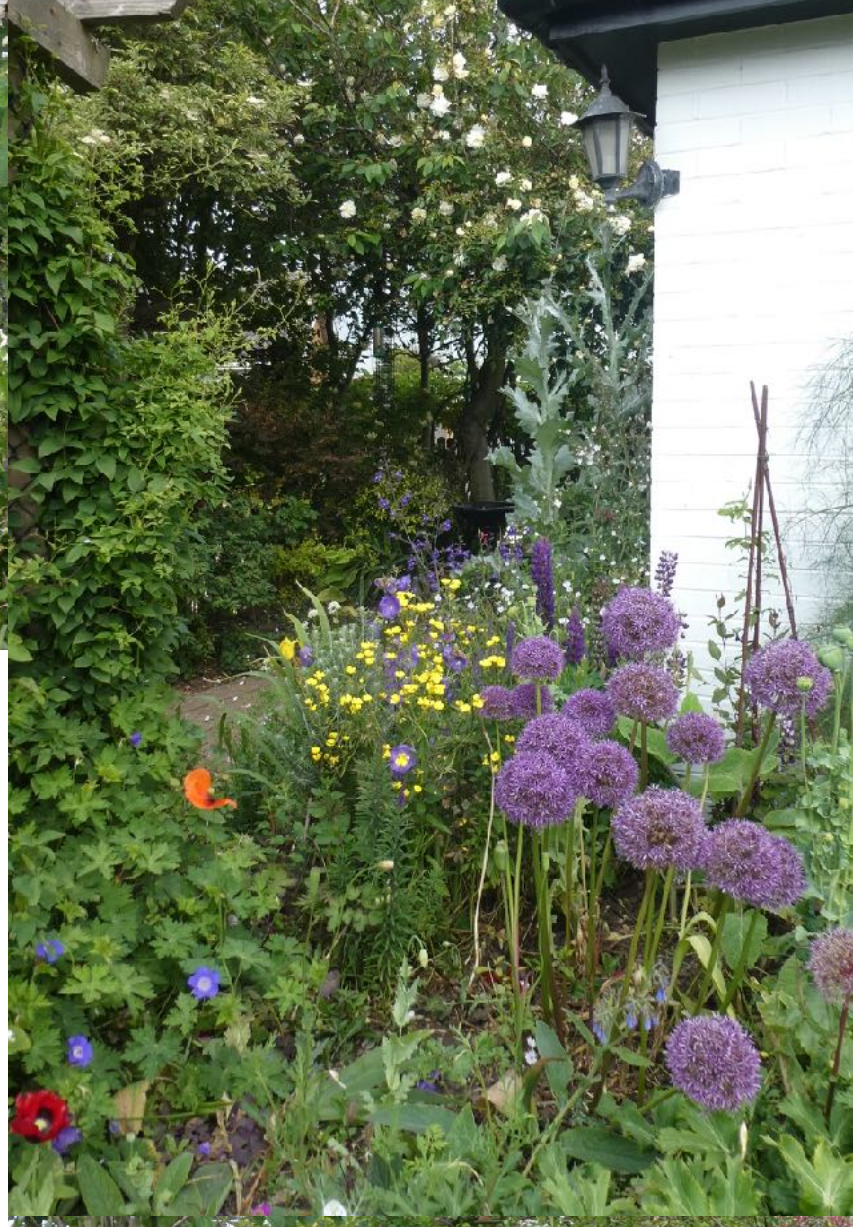




The Garden in June
Marigold Cottage





Roses





I have at last count 40 climbing and bush roses around the garden, they were almost all in flower by the first few days in June, and the overall effect is so colourful, and the scent in places is stunning. My all time favourite would have to be deep pink Gertrude Jekyll for looks, scent and repeat flowering all summer long. Buff Beauty and Masquerade put on a wonderful show on the back pergola supported by Mme Gregorie Stachlan, Paul's Scarlet and Felicite.





On the front of the house the show starts with Banksiae lutea, but Graham Thomas is another delight all summer long, as is Pink perpetue. More good scent comes from Compassion in the courtyard, and a small pompom whose name I have never known. Most roses have clematis growing through them as supporting acts for times when they are not in flower.





Hostas and ferns

For a number of years I have not been happy with my hosta bed which is in a north facing shady border by the house. I brightened it up with a border of different astrantias, which have thrived, but the hostas dwindled.

Sparked by a gift of a marble dresser top, I have potted up a selection of around 12 different hostas and created a raised display in two borders, and am in the process of planting new ferns in the old hosta bed as a birthday gift from a friend. I am looking forward to the new effect, and hopefully enjoying my hostas again.



Stars of the borders

Plants which are beginning to shine in several borders include salvias. I am particularly fond of the spectacular *Salvia sclarea* which makes a large statement with its foliage and blowsy flowers. The peonies are in full bloom, one of my favourites for its heavenly scent is 'Duchesse de Nemours'.





The penstemon are starting to flower, and 'Heavenly Blue' is one of the first to flower and with a spreading habit and complementary colour to the other blues just now from veronicas, campanulas and nepeta. I have a surprise return of Anchusa 'Loddon Royalist' - I used to have six, and that is a true blue. The cardoon is already stately with three large flower stalks, which usually signifies there will be a strong wind! For scent the Philadelphus various and honeysuckles join in with the roses.





Colours to contrast

I am particularly fond of bronze foliage plants contrasting with gold, and having been noticing and replanting some of these together around the garden. Examples are *Sambucus* 'Black Beauty' near to *Philadelphus coronaria* and *Humulus* 'Aurea', then at a lower level I have *Dicentra spectabile* 'Goldheart' with *Actea simplex* (dark leaved forms various) and *Spirea japonica* 'Gold Mound'. I would include *Persicaria* 'Red Dragon' and *Euonymus fortunei* 'Emerald 'n Gold'. Other combinations include *Cotinus* 'Grace' and *Cotinus* 'Golden Spirit', *Pittosporum* 'Tom Thumb' with *Lonicera* 'Baggeson's Gold', and there are more examples.



Kitchen garden





June has seen the last of the asparagus, purple sprouting broccoli and Swiss chard – all have been very productive this year. We are still harvesting rhubarb, and have already three lots of broad beans from last autumn's sowing. The cucumbers are ready for picking enough for one a day, and the courgettes are forming. We think the first early potatoes will be ready to test around the 24th June. In the greenhouse the Chinese beans and tomatoes are already showing fruit, and the sweet corn, have now been planted out. Salad crops are also doing well and being picked on a daily basis, and the beans and peas are looking good. After such a dry May, we are grateful for some welcome rain this month. I have planted sweet peas at the bottom of the kitchen garden, and should soon be able to start picking them.





Produce



Tassie and Momo



Our two best friends have increasingly been resembling woolly monsters as they missed out on their three-monthly groom just at the beginning of lockdown. They both enjoy going in the sea and going down rabbit holes, and we were so grateful to see the return of their groomer equipped with all the appropriate PPE, but will we recognise our dogs?





Shorn dogs!



See you Next
Month at
Marigold