

## My New Garden

### Jaclin Surman

Last year I wrote about my new garden, the 86 paving slabs I'd lifted, the curved path I'd made and the planting. The garden measures 25ft x 16ft - take away 11ft for the shed etc. at one end and the seating area at the other and I think that makes about 22 square yards that are planted, and it looks beautiful.

The rose arch has 'Graham Thomas' and 'Margarita of Sweden' over it and there are four trees: *Amelanchier*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Prunus autumnalis* and *Buddleia alternifolia*. I can't see the shed any more; it's nicely hidden by *Cotoneaster lacteus* as is most of the fencing by assorted *Hedera*, *Jasminum nudiflorum* and various *Lonicera*. *L. halliana* is doing well but a couple of others have mildew. *Clematis cirrhosa* is rampaging along the fence and the silly thing is flowering now. The *Lonicera fragrantissima* was lovely through the winter - Bob Brown mentioned that one variety doesn't completely lose its leaves in winter - I wish I'd known that before I bought it because the leaves do tend to hide the flowers. The *Digitalis* have been lovely - there are about a dozen but did they take a battering when we had those gales - the wind comes across the top of the garden, hits the house and rushes back like surf, pushing all the tall plants over.

The ground is completely covered - in spring the 'Jetfire' daffodils, my favourite, lasted for ages and at last I managed to grow *N. poeticus* - for several years I've bought bulbs that weren't what the label said.

Now there is an assortment of geraniums, purple and white (can't remember the names), and 'Anne Folkard' which is lovely but a bit of a thug. Then there's *Knautia*, another thug but I do like it. The *Nepeta* has fallen over *Rosa* 'Gertrude Jekyll' which she doesn't like but I'll remedy that later when it's cooler. The *Aquilegias* were gorgeous this year but one grew and grew and then I realised it was *Thalictrum* - it must be over 6ft. The *Hemerocallis* are beginning to bloom but I think the *Agapanthus* may not because they are hidden by *Anemone hepheensis*. Another of my favourites is *Heuchera* - so many colours and so good tempered.

Some years ago I bought three bare rooted 'Mischief' roses from Frome market - three for £5! I brought one with me when I moved from Wiltshire and it's doing well. I also have 'Queen Elizabeth', 'Climbing Swan Lake' and 'St Cecilia'. *Calamagrostis*, *Miscanthus*, *Pennisetum* and *Stipa gigantea* are all doing well - the oat grass looks so pretty in the evening sun. Then there's the Dill and Fennel that shouldn't be grown together but I do and a pretty lime green mint and *Monarda*. The *Sisyrinchium striatum* didn't get battered in the gales like they did last year. Soon the *Crocasmia* will flower and the tall anemones and then the *Schizostylis* which go on for ages (they've been renamed to something I can't remember). The *Ajuga* bordering the path have now lost the bright blue flowers but the pink and grey foliage looks good.

I thought I'd lost my *Brunnera* with the silver leaves but it reappeared as did a huge fern that went from Gloucestershire to Wiltshire with me and back again. I fancy it's a tad cooler outside so I'll find the secateurs and try and rescue Gertrude and the *Agapanthus*.