

Country Notes for February 2015

As I write this in mid-January it is still incredibly mild. Although we have had some cold snaps it has generally been a mild winter so far - and I wonder whether the rest of February will continue in the same way. I have just come in from a couple of hours working in my garden - and again - although it has been a very windy day, it was not all cold. It is amazing how many flowers there still are in my garden. My rosemary is still in full flower and there are two flowers on one of my roses! The flocks of winter thrushes flying over kept reminding that it is still winter, and the blue tits couldn't wait for me to go back indoors so that they could continue to feed on the peanuts and sunflower seeds on the bird table!

Looking around my garden it was so encouraging to see that my snowdrops were already showing signs of white in their tiny buds, and no doubt by the time you read this they will be in full flower. Looking at my crocuses they won't be far behind either.

February can often be the coldest month of the year with sharp frosts and heavy snowfalls. It is so encouraging though, to see the first signs that spring is now not too far away as we walk around our gardens. Before we know it we will be revelling in the flowers and vegetables in our gardens once again. It is wonderful that in Hollingbourne we have so many beautiful gardens to brighten our village up and make it the beautiful place that it is. I often enjoy a sneaky peep over a hedge or fence as I walk or cycle around the village to see what people are growing in their gardens! We have lots of truly talented gardeners in our village!

Let's hope that our Garden Society, which has been around for so many years, can continue to survive, to encourage our gardeners to keep our village beautiful and give us opportunities to compete against each other in the three annual shows.

Andrew Snowdon