

2020 Vision





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In January we could never have imagined the effect the virus Covid 19 would have on our lives. The year was spent in various forms of lockdown. By the year end a vaccine has been found and is started to be rolled out.... but over 80,000 people in the UK are dead.

.... in November a big ray of sunshine arrived into our world. Ada Minette Hodges was born. Our first grandchild.







Weekend with R and Cso we go walking in Winchester... a grand day out.







Walking with Jim in the morning, great photo session in the afternoon, meet up with K at the Albion then a magic photo session on the bus on the way back to Waterloo.... What a great day!

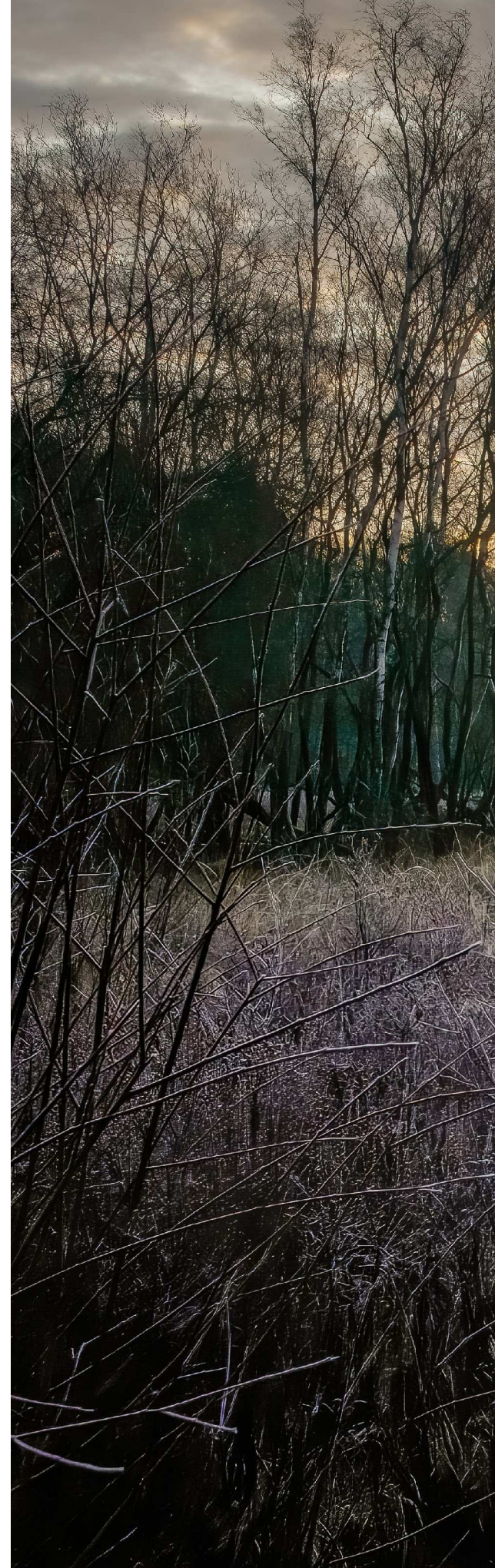








I have a go at some sunrise photography at Fleet Pond







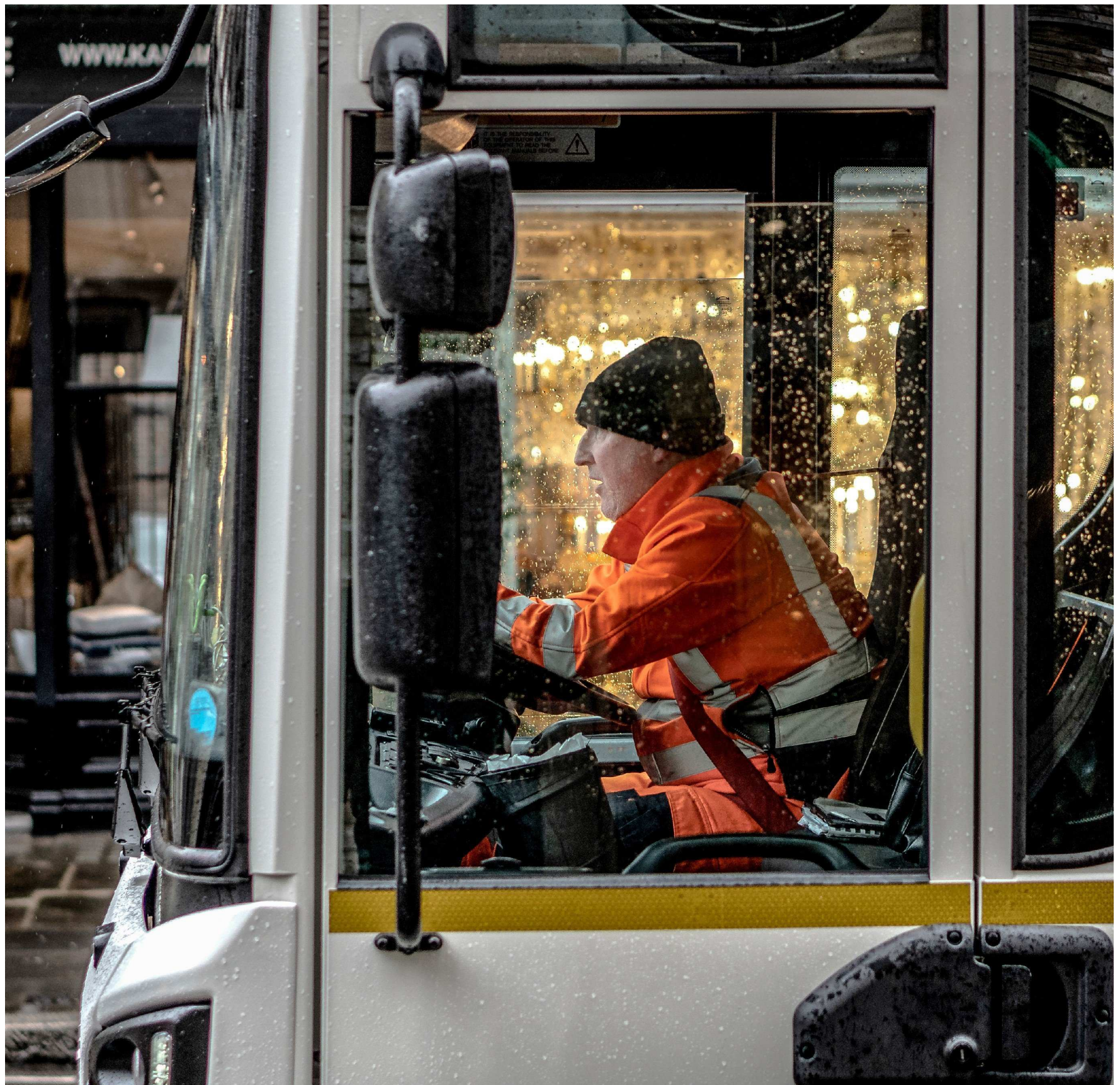
Rob invites me for my 70th birthday evening out (a bit delayed!)..... which was great, very memorable and special. To make a day of it I completed one of my favourite walks up the Kings road from Putney to Waterloo. Part of the fun was the rain... it was OK I had full waterproofs on.

Little did I know the croissant I had in the poncy Chelsea coffee shop would be the last for a long time.











Above: Joy was busy; it was a grand day so I did a recce for my U3A walk in August. Like the one I did last year but the other way around

Right & next pages; We are volunteered to look after Hannah the Hound for a long weekend so we did some visits around the area near Hackney Wick.











While Ian and Mary are in Sri Lanka we use their house for 5 days. It was generally very wet and windy, you can't have it great all the time.



Above: After all the rain Dave H and I meet up for a Sunday walk near Dorking. It had stopped raining but the ground was very wet.

Right: We visit Wisley ... I try focus stacking followed the next day by a walk at New Arlesford and the Watercress fields.





Last year I volunteer to make Robert and Caroline a table for their TV..... To cut a long story very short I made it at The Men's Shed. I learnt a lot and had some fun.

Before R and C go away for Rob's birthday we go for a walk with Caroline and afterwards I install the boxes into the table... a bit snug, but I am very pleased with the result.





The inevitability of the Covid 19 outbreak was staring to be felt. I had some time ago arranged to meet Lee in London. Glad we went ahead as it was a great day with fantastic weather. We walked from the festival hall to Canary Wharf and back. The only tourists were from Eastern Europe.... all very strange.















The dreaded lurgy is on its way... we practice self-isolation. And walk locally to Caesars camp



We celebrate Robs birthday...perhaps unwisely and against government and K's advice. The next day the law is changed we have to self-isolate. We ponder even when we get to the other side; life will not be the same for anyone for some time. The picture of Rob and Caroline waving goodbye is the start of this dramatic change.

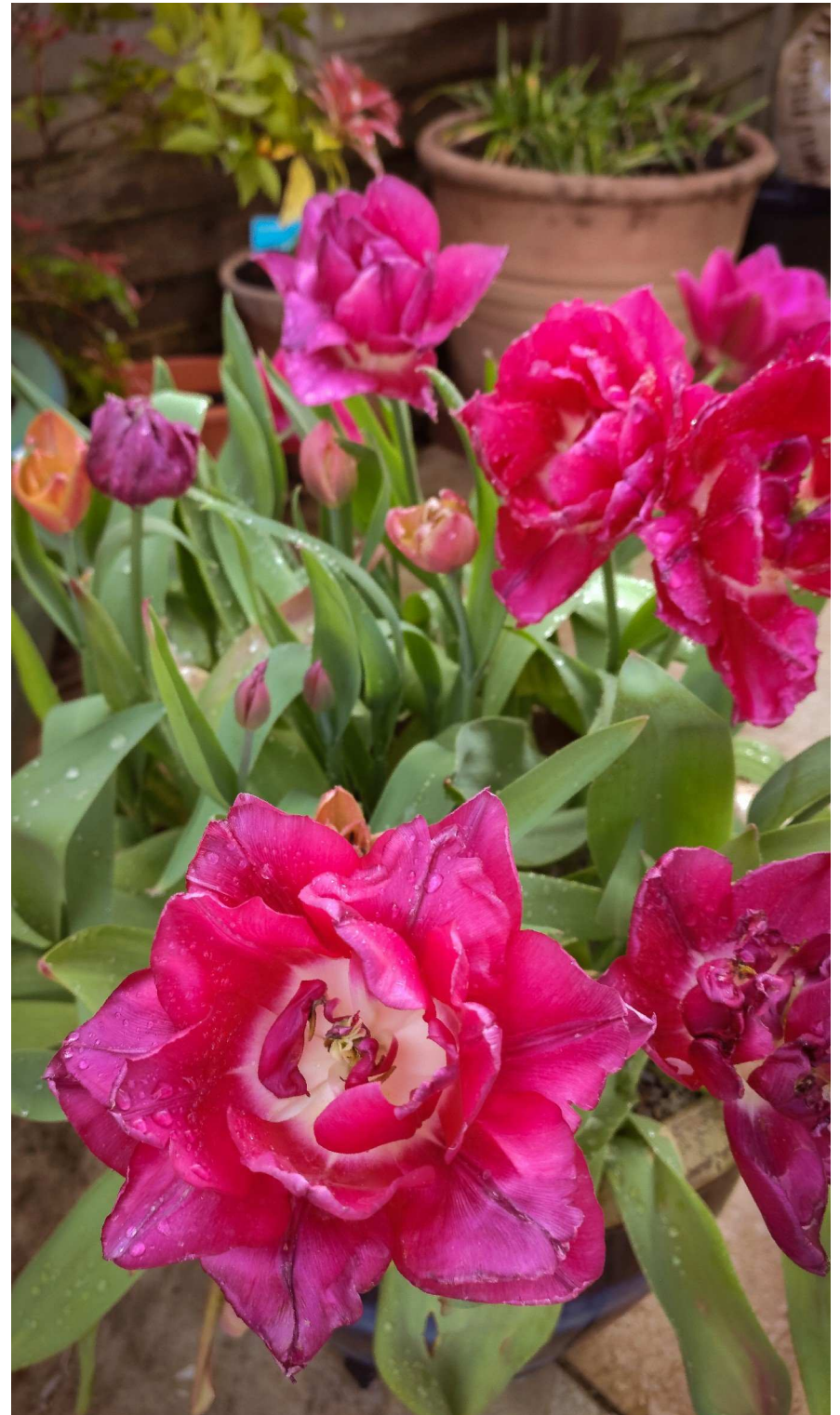
Right: I practice focus stacking after being fascinated by the shadow from our garden furniture....the weather for the lock down is amazing for the first eight or nine weeks.





We can't go to Redfield's for Saturday scone day (it's closed anyway) but Joy very kindly makes me some cherry scones on our first Saturday lockdown.

Getting into flower photography, the tulips take over from the daffs.





I get a macro lens. ... The lockdown gives me the opportunity to try a new type of photography.







Peonies!





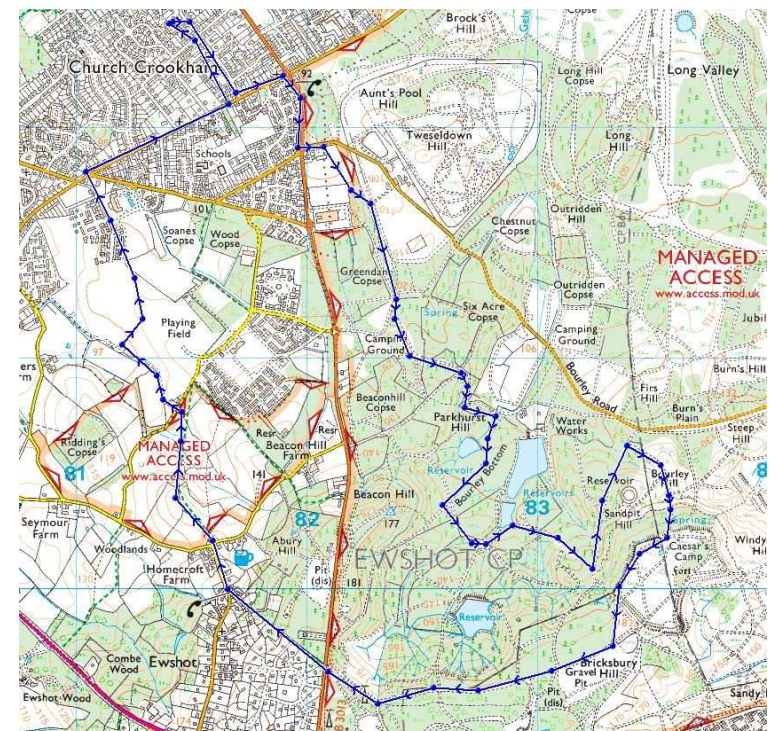
Above: Night sky as dawn breaks with satellites moving overhead.





I am concerned that I am not doing any walking over 3 miles.... Will I still be capable of longer distance when all this kafuffle is over?

So I set out and complete 7 miles without too much effort. If I can do 7 miles, 10 should be no problem???





They are Celandine apparently.....who knew?







This Page: The rain is on its way so I grab this picture of Joy's Clematis before the days of wet arrive.

Right: The last dying tulip







Above In Borley Woods at the end of my Sunday 7mile walk.

Right: A walk near Crondall looking south towards the South Downs









The locks down restrictions ease a little. We are able to go as far as we like in a day, as long as we return home in the evening. One controlling factor is availability of toilets as cafes, pubs etc. are shut. Luckily Winchester town council have opened theirs.

Above: St. Catherine's Hill....A four mile walk in Winchester with picnic lunch on a hot day.

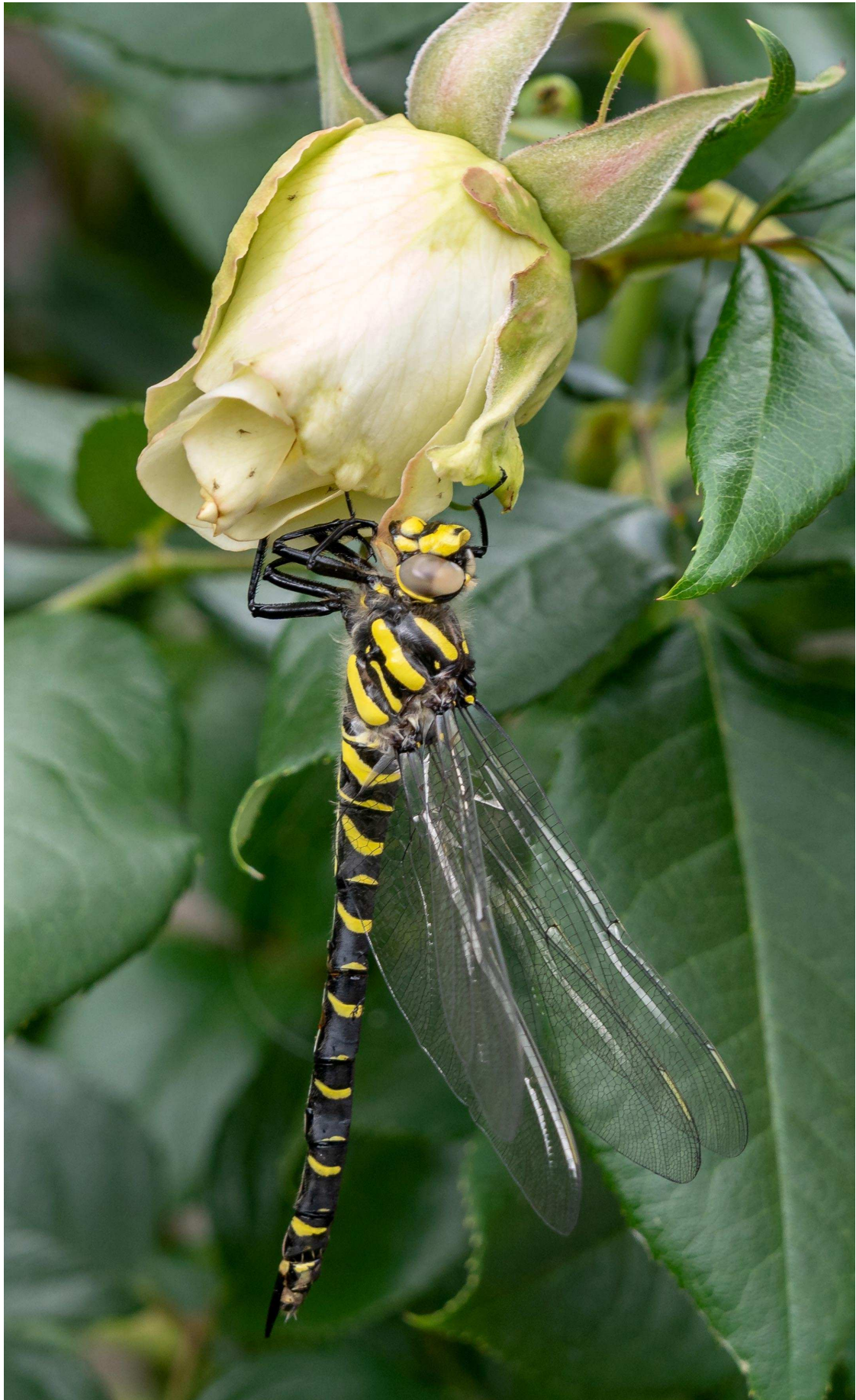
Right: Sheep at Tundry pond.

Over Left: Joy finds a Dragon fly on a rose.

Over Right: Birthday flowers from Linda P to Joy













Visit to Petworth...café closed for lockdown so picnic and a walk with rain showers.



I am given a fire pit for my birthday!



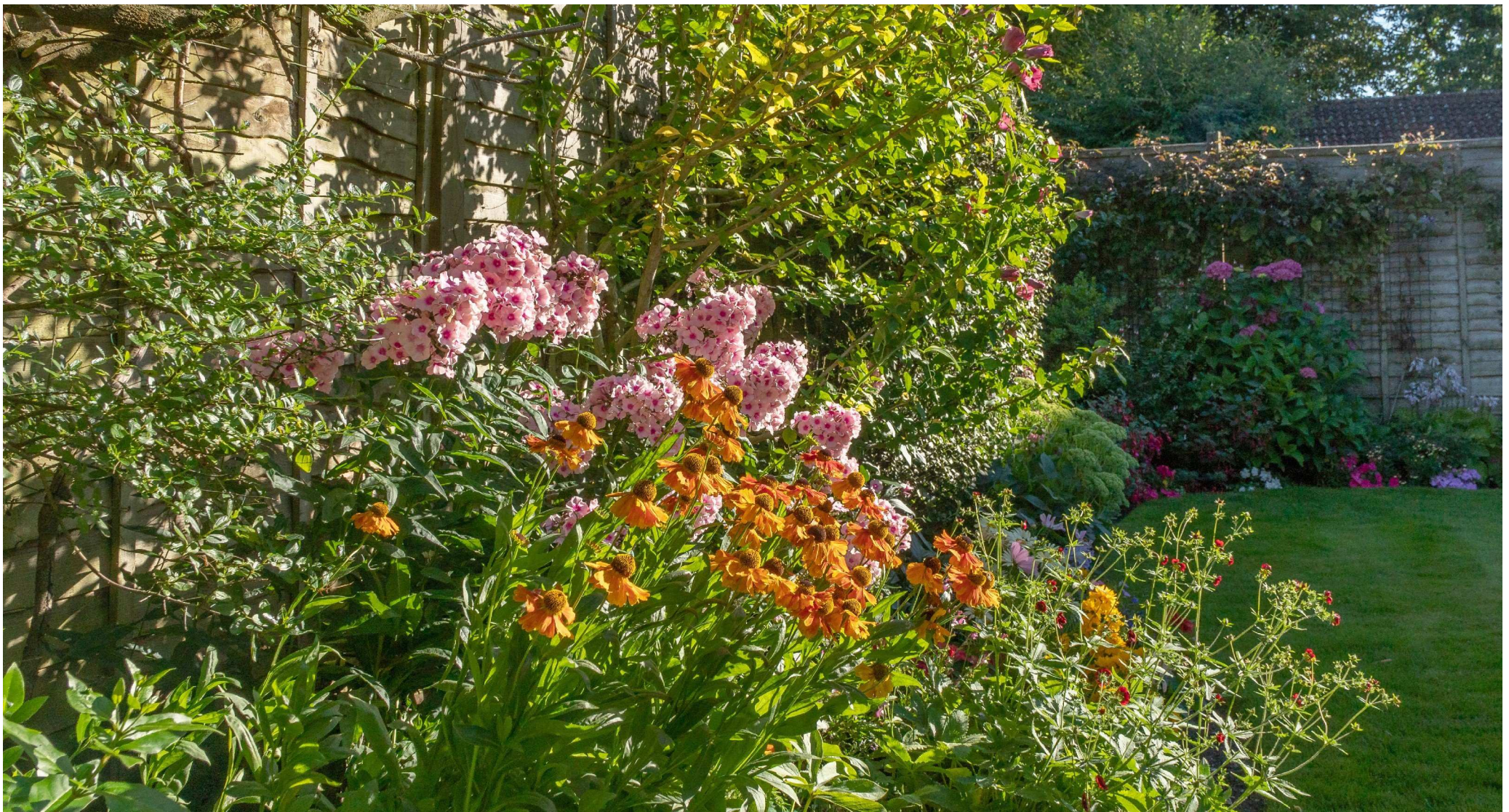


Great weather, scenery and walk.... 8 miles on the South Downs









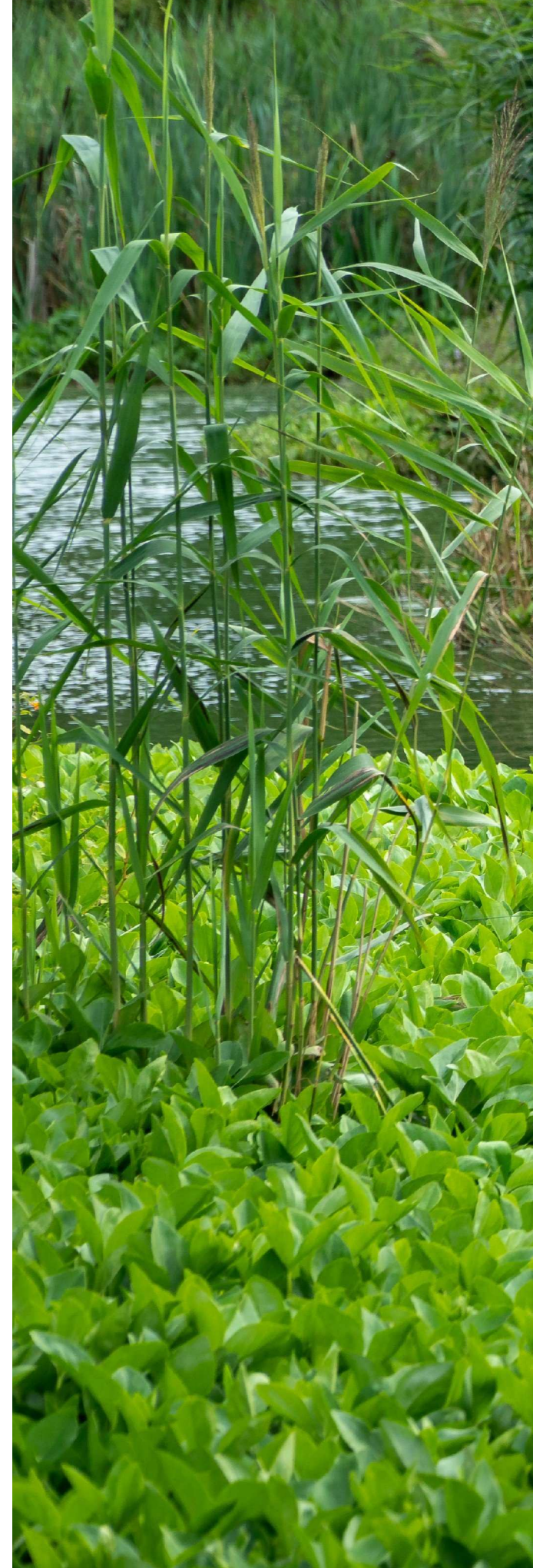
One of my favourite places and times....Sitting in the evening sun admiring Joy's garden, drinking a big Croft Particular Amontillado Sherry with Joy by my side, baseball caps on heads to keep out the low sun, feeling happy and pleasantly philosophical. Heaven.





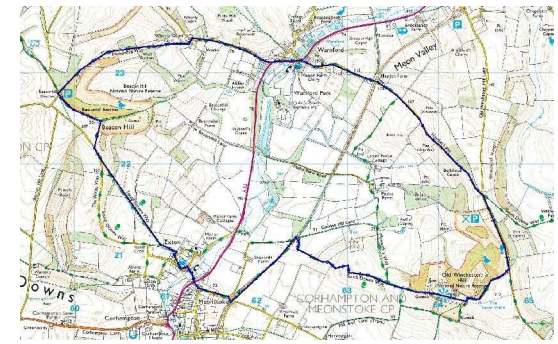


Right: Swan's in Fleet Pond.





A great nine mile walk on the South Downs. Great weather, fantastic scenery and coffee/ tea outside two pubs.









A sweet pea grows wild amongst Joys other bushes, lovely, but out of place. It is plucked from its perch and now delights us on the kitchen window sill.







Walking on Watership Down... no rabbits just some horse riders on the gallops

Right: Protecting her young, at Greywell Mill





Our Holiday for the year in this lockdown world... two weeks at Ian and Mary's 'gaf' in Torbay. We had a great time.... Good to have a change in scenery.













Left: It is November and Joy rescues the last surviving flowers from the garden.

Above: A visit to K&J and walk to collect my car in Stratford.



On the 19th November 2020 Ada Minette Hodges was born. How good can it getin the middle of the Covid misery arrives a potential bundle of fun. Happy parents and happy grandparents.

Welcome Ada Minette.

A good way to end this year book.... hopefully more fun next year and playtime with Ada Minette + our family and friends!





But.....The Covid infection rate is increasing, it looks like a bleak winter.

I wonder if I will take many pictures in 2021, besides Ada Minette?



