

25/05/2020

More insects (yawn?). A very pretty hoverfly. You would have thought that she would have found a better flower for the photo shoot. Female - you can tell by the space between the eyes and the point at the other end - but she doesn't have a common name. Just in case you are interested, the scientific name is *Sphaerophoria scripta*. Hoverflies, of course are important pollinators, and if you want another reason to like them, their larvae feed on aphids. ...

Alan Kenworthy

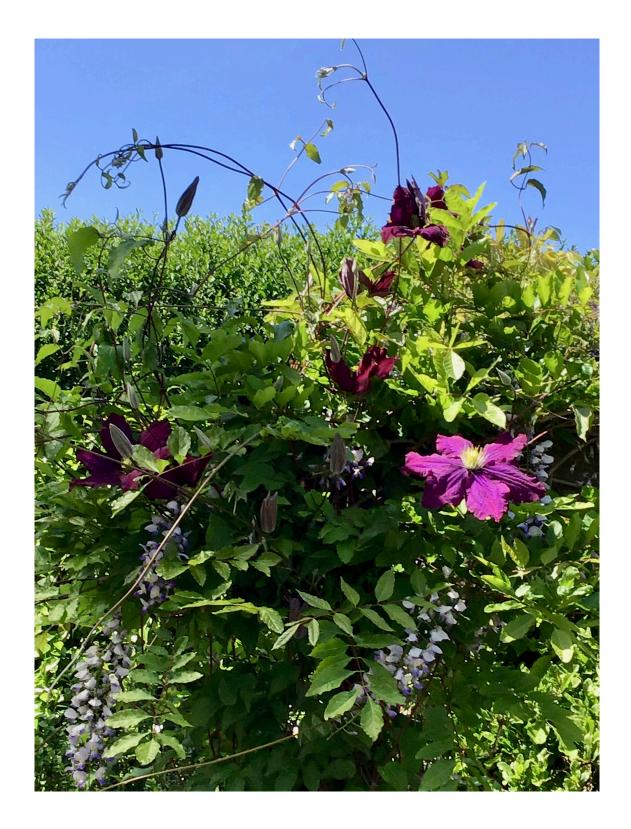


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... The more robust and stockier chap is a solitary bee. He is a wool carder bee (Anthidium manicatum). Females of the species will appreciate it if you grow lamb's ear (Stachys byzantina) because they collect the hairs from the leaves and use them to seal up their brood cells. The males hover nearby while she does that to make sure no other male gets in on the act.

Cheers.

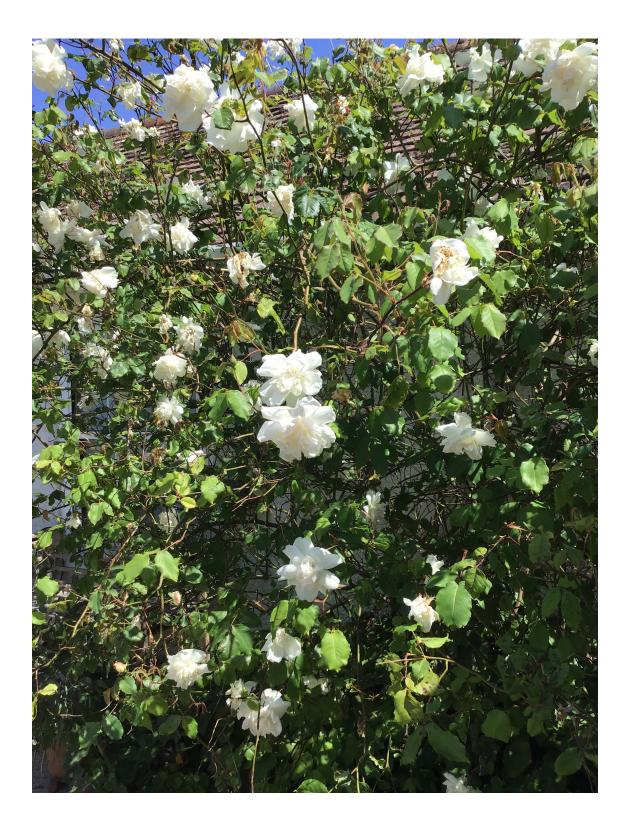
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A scramble of violet wisteria and purple clematis on one side,...

Sandy and Ian Andrews



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...and Rosa Mme Alfred Carrière on the other. On this warm still(ish) day the scent from both the wisteria and the rose fills our small courtyard.

Sandy and Ian Andrews