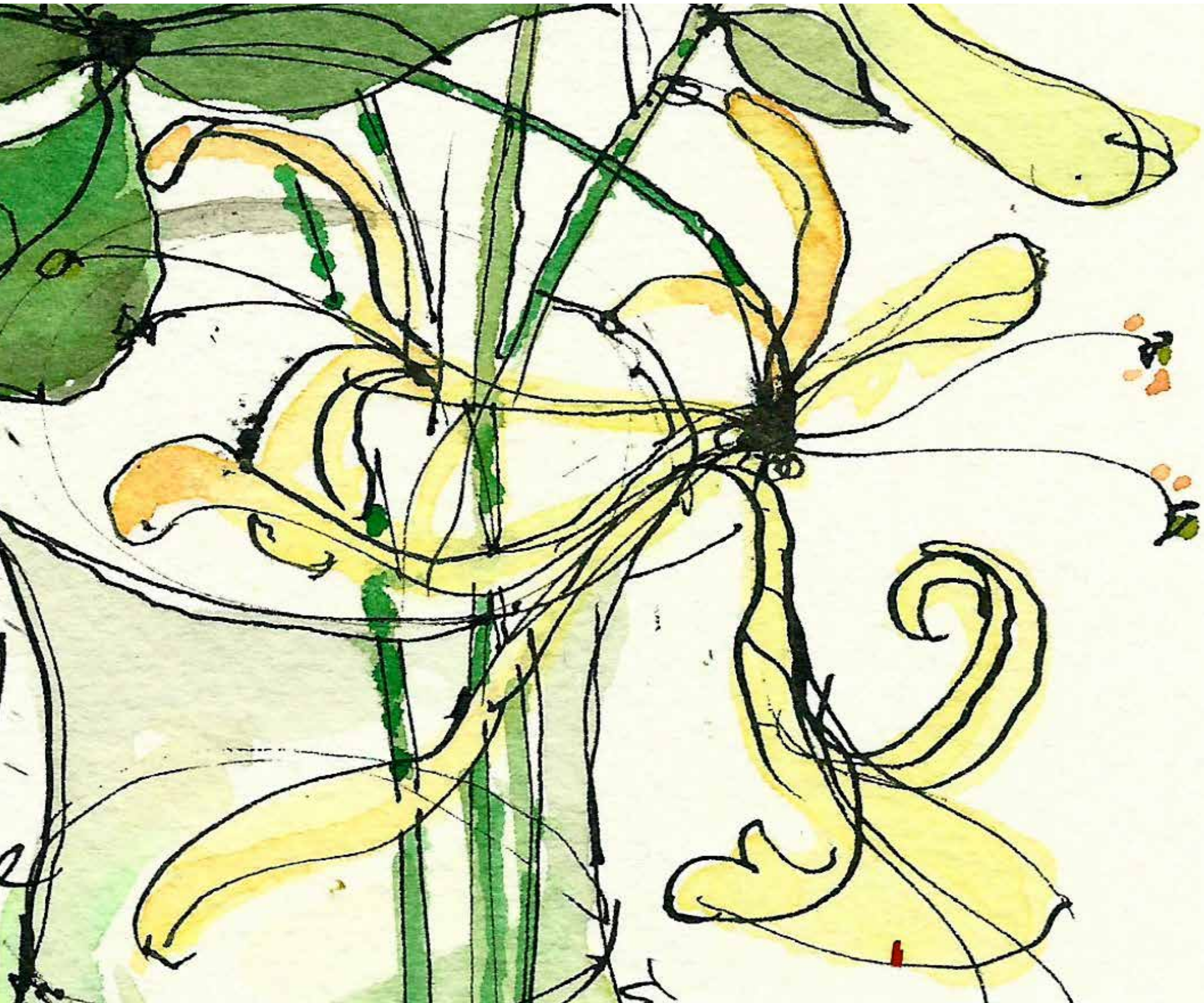


Flower Power



Flower power



Four years ago the gardening bug bit my wife, Sian. She set about remodelling the garden to bring forth crops of vegetables and masses of flowers. Soon after she took over an allotment, five minutes up the road from our garden.

All she grows is the inspiration, and in almost every case, the subject for these drawings.



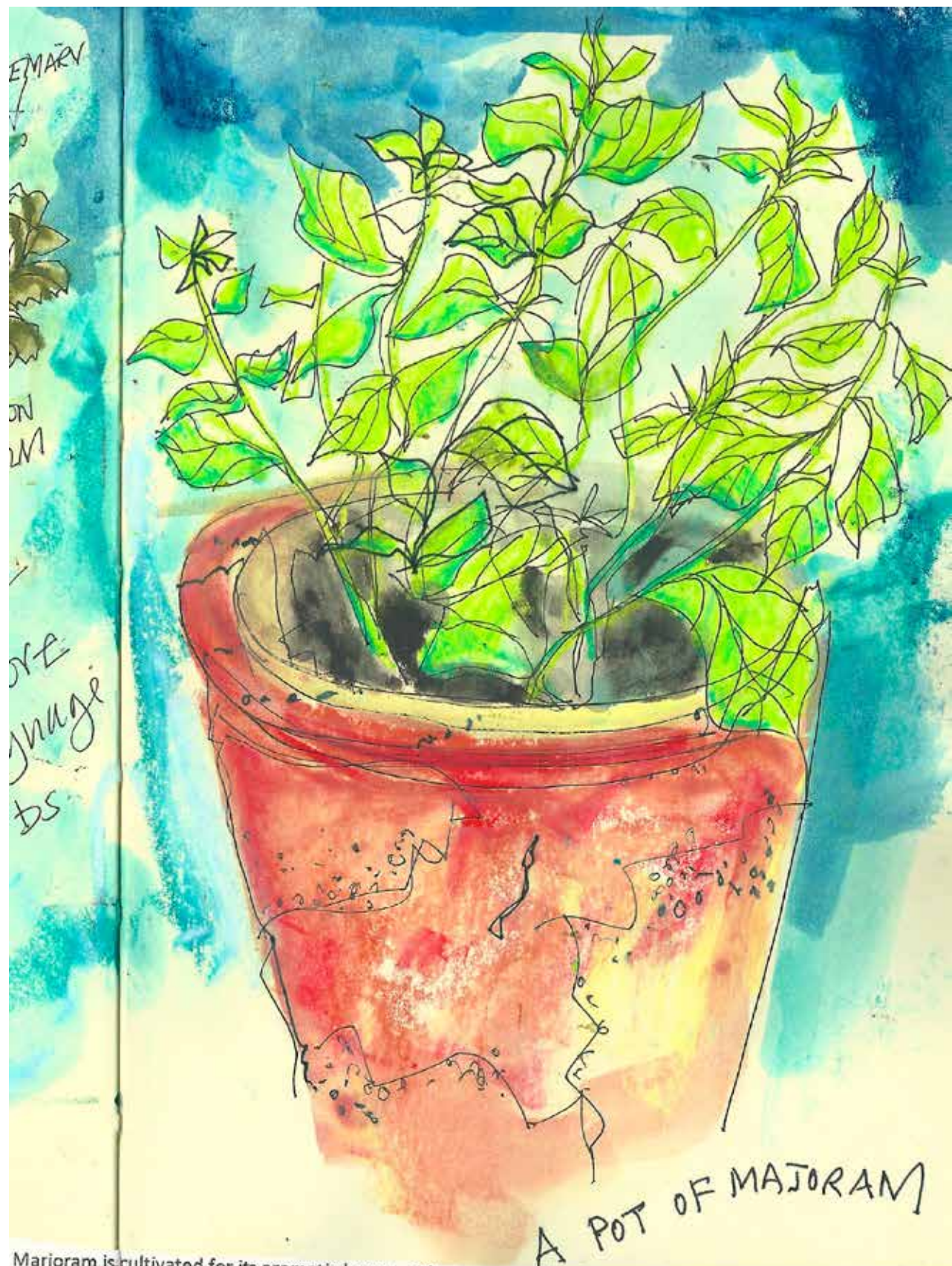
Everywhere along the roadsides near our home grows Red Campion, call so although the flower is pink. The crushed seeds of this plant been used to treat snakebites although we have few snakes in England that bite.



Many Allium species are grown as ornamentals. And related to these fancy onions here are garden onions, leeks, and distant cousins garlic and chives.

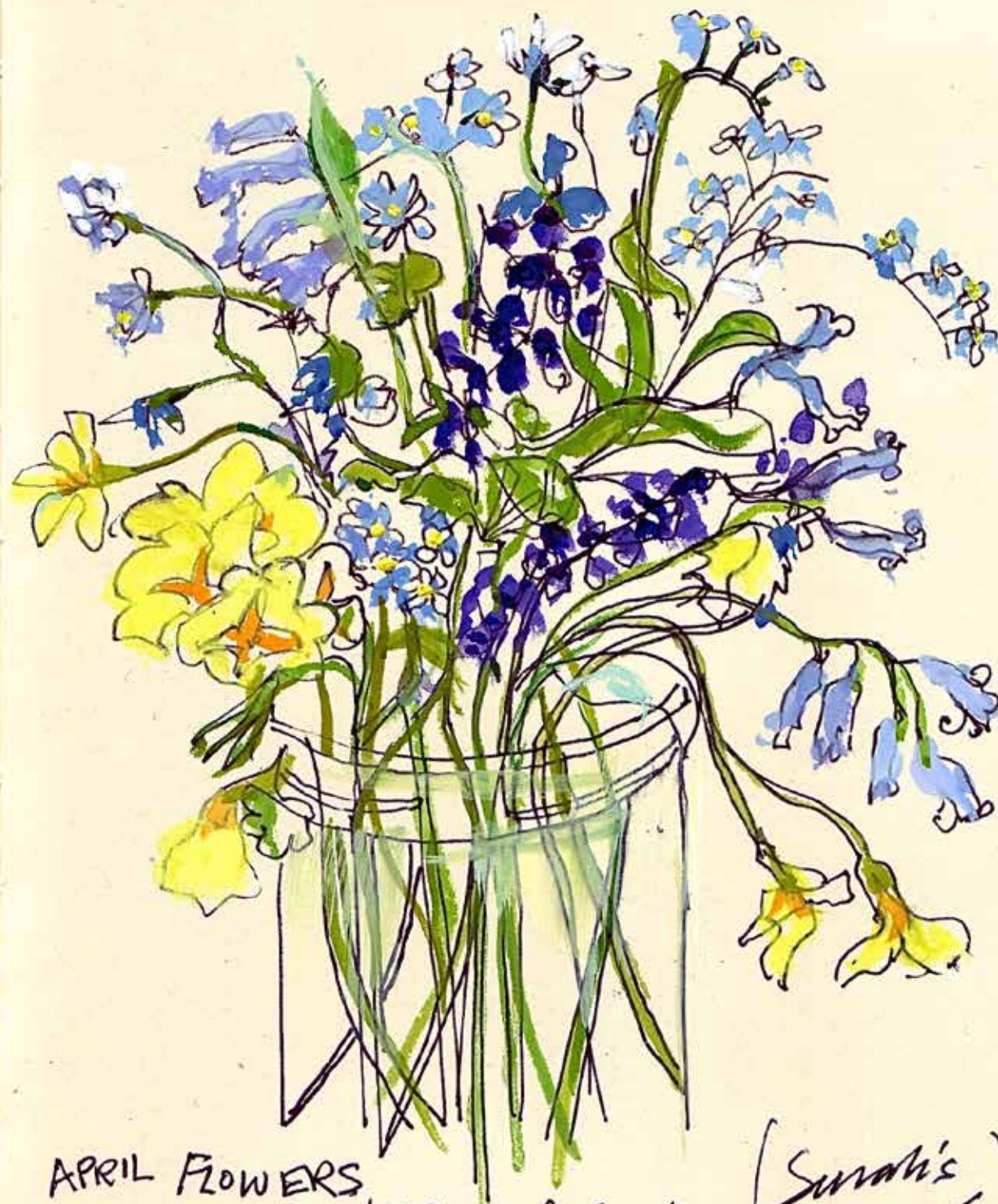


Anemones give colour throughout the seasons from early spring into autumn. It is an excellent cut flower and will give you around nine whole days of vase life when cared for well.



Marjoram is cultivated for its aromatic leaves, either green or dry, for culinary purposes; the tops are cut as the plants begin to flower and are dried slowly in the shade. It is often used in herb combinations such as herbes de Provence and za'atar. The flowering leaves and tops of marjoram are steam-distilled to produce an essential oil that is yellowish in color (darkening to brown as it ages). It has many chemical components, some of which are borneol, camphor and pinene.

Marjoram is native to Cyprus and southern Turkey. The Greeks and Romans saw it as a symbol of happiness.



APRIL FLOWERS
from the hedgerow and
the garden

(Sarah's
Posey)

18 APR 2014

Nature calls

Strangely, every year between mid-April and mid-May,
Our roadsides are strewn with lovely
flowers.

Primroses and showing off in our
woodlands, great carpets of bluebells.
Forget-me-nots nestle everywhere,
And also, lots of Sheep's Parsley
shows and Alkanet,
Our friend Sarah J picks just a few
from the woodland floor,
And spices her posey's with flowers
from her garden.



In Poland and Germany, chives are served with quark cheese. Chives are one of the fines herbes of French cuisine, which also include tarragon, chervil, or parsley



The common foxglove biennial plant is often grown as an ornamental plant due to its vivid flowers. Around these parts, they are plentiful on roadsides and the edge of woodland, fields and meadows.



Honeysuckle

Fair flower, that dost so comely grow,
Hid in this silent, dull retreat,
Untouched thy honied blossoms
blow,
Unseen thy little branches greet:
No roving foot shall crush thee here,
No busy hand provoke a tear.

Philip Freneau American Poet 1785



Lovely lupins bring forth super beans: In Portugal and Spain, Lupin beans are popularly consumed with beer. In Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Israel, salted and chilled lupini beans are called termos and are served as part of an aperitif or a snack.



Right outside the office in Milan where I was working, every Wednesday morning, there is a street market in the Via G Borsi Milano.

The stalls were just packing up as we ventured out at lunchtime to take a look.

Luca, my local colleague, escorted us up and down the thoroughfare explaining what was what.

Luca introduced me to some excellent salami and fabulous hard cheese for the pasta. The best advice was on olives from Puglia.

Eccellente! Grazie Luca!



Petunias are annuals indigenous to Argentina. Today they are available in single and double blooms, ruffled or smooth petals, striped, veined or solid colours. Take your pick!



In April and May, The Chilterns is a Flower Show of some 300 square miles.

On the downlands, we have grasses and an abundance of herbs: horseshoe vetch, rockrose and dwarf thistle as well as rare plants like Bastard toadflax and Chalk Milkwort.

In fields there is Eyebright, Wild strawberry and the rare Candytuft, and where grazing is less intense Sheep's fescue and broad-leaved herbs including rockrose, Purging flax, Salad Burnet, Dropwort, Ploughman's Spikenard, clustered bellflower and wild thyme.

Look carefully for Chiltern Gentian with its bright purple petals, prettiest of the gentians and rarest in the UK. And along our lanes and hedge banks often support species such as spindle, dogwood, wild privet, hazel and field maple.

The language of flowers is the language of our landscape in the Chilterns.



When they grow sunflowers tilt during the day to face the sun, but stop once they begin blooming. This tracking of the sun in young sunflower heads is called heliotropism. (By the time they are mature, sunflowers face east.)



marjoram

Siân sweet

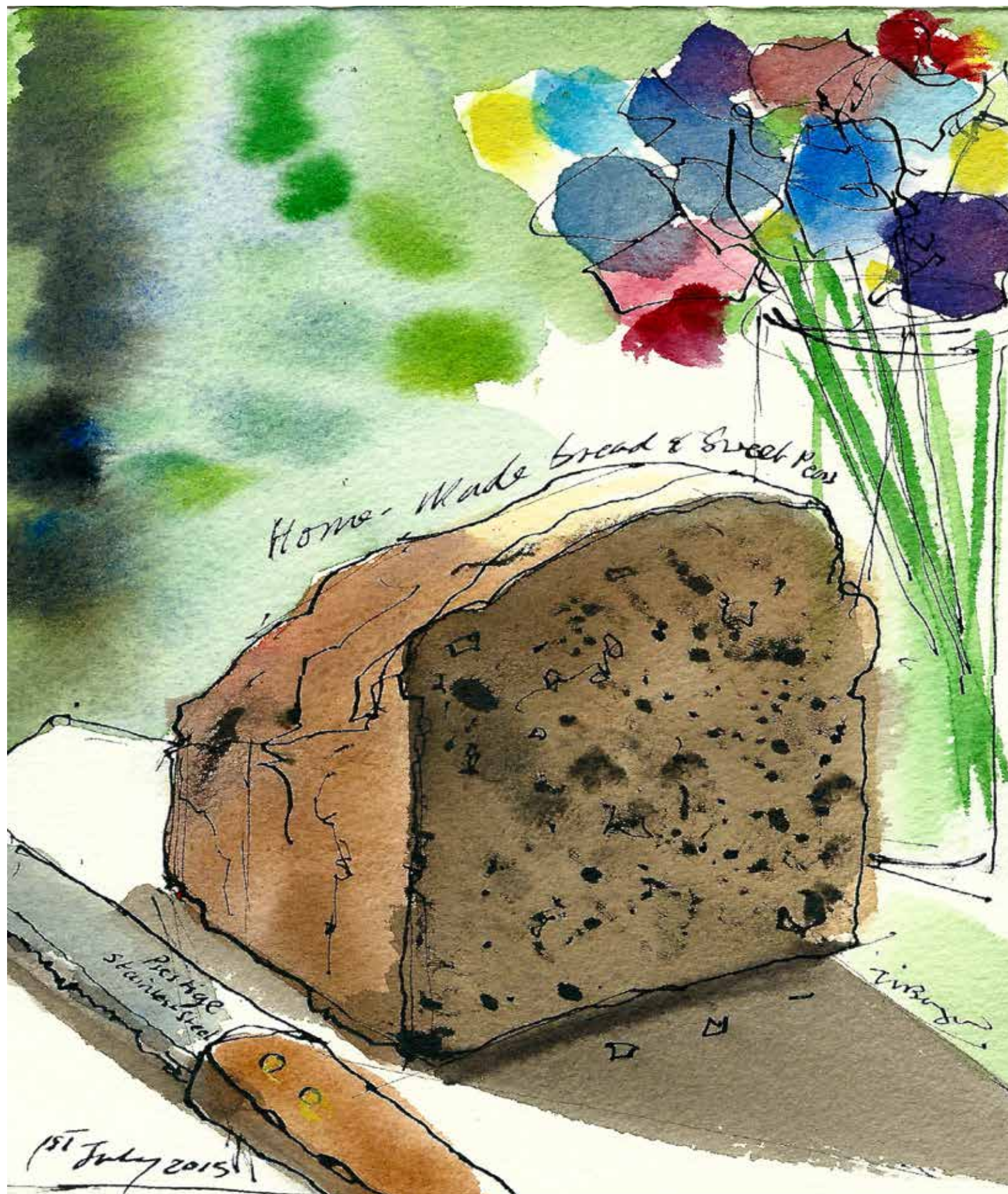
peas



and côte du Rhône

21:35

17th July 2014



It was a Scottish nurseryman Henry Eckford (1823–1905) who crossbred and developed the sweet pea, turning it from a rather insignificant if sweetly scented flower into a floral sensation of the late Victorian era. It remains so today, especially in our garden and on Sian's allotment!



Tarragon is one of the four fines herbes of French cooking. It is particularly suitable for chicken, fish and egg dishes. Tarragon is the main flavouring component of Béarnaise sauce. Fresh, lightly bruised sprigs of tarragon can be steeped in vinegar to produce your supply of tarragon vinegar. Tarragon is used to flavour a popular carbonated soft drink in Armenia and Azerbaijan.



The Zinnia - This is a recent discovery for us. Zinnias flower profusely through to November. In a controversial announcement in January this year NASA stated that a zinnia, which had blossomed on the International Space Station, was the first flower ever grown outside the Earth's biosphere.



Lonicera periclymenum

Honeysuckles are also valued as garden plants, for their ability to cover walls and outbuildings and provide that intense fragrance. Keep their roots in the shade, and their flowering tops in sunlight.



Jasmine

Widely cultivated for its flowers, Jasmine is enjoyed in the garden, as a houseplant, and as cut flowers. In southern and Southeast Asia women wear jasmine flowers in their hair.

Lavandula officinalis



Lavender blue, dilly, dilly
Lavender green
If you were king, dilly, dilly
You'd need a queen

Who told me so?
Dilly, dilly
Who told me so?
I told myself, dilly, dilly
I told me so.



Rosemary

According to legend, Rosemary was draped around Aphrodite when she rose from the sea, born of Uranus's semen. The Virgin Mary is said to have spread her blue cloak over a white-blossomed rosemary bush when she was resting, and the flowers turned blue. The shrub then became known as the "Rose of Mary".



Wisteria

Accounts tell wisteria has been known to live up to 100 years and even older. There is, it appears, a 1200-year-old wisteria tree in Japan. It's long-life bestows the symbolic meaning of immortality and longevity to this attractive shrub. It adorns doorways and pergolas all over the world.

I hope you enjoyed this small book.

You can find others on my website using this link

<http://www.timbaynesart.co.uk/free-stuff.html>

If you have an idea for a mini book of my drawings, please email me on tim@timbaynes.co.uk: It may be a favourite place you have visited, chances are I might have been there too and made drawings so we can create a mini book!

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