

Photographic Portfolio:

EARLY SPRING FLOWERS

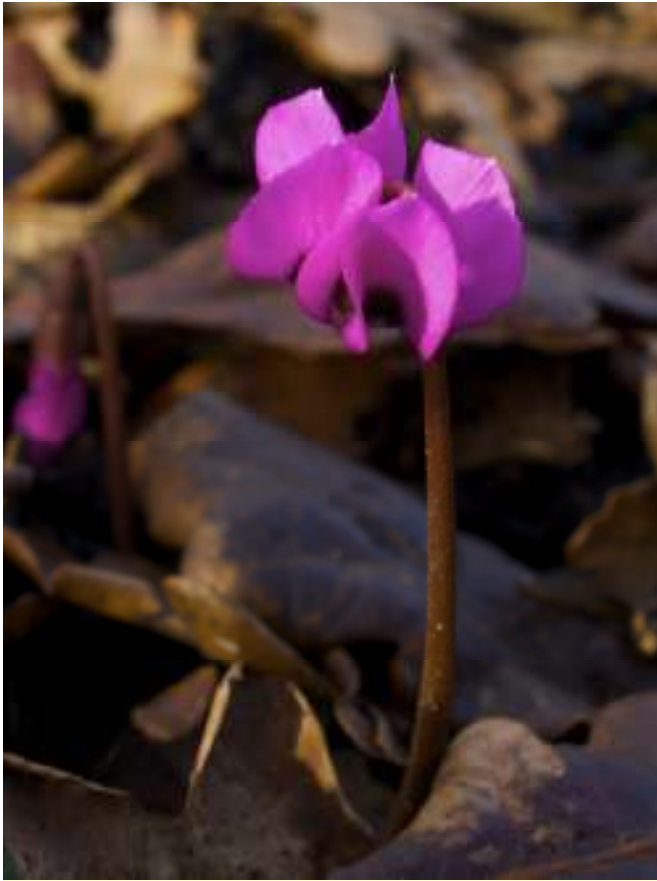
by photographer Miriam Heppell

The extremely cold temperatures of late winter and early spring have not deterred those plants and flowers that began pushing their way through the hard, frozen ground in December and January. Photographing them however was a challenge. Cameras do not function well in cold weather and mine spent a great deal of time fastened beneath my coat to keep the batteries and electrical components functioning. Plant photography usually entails sitting or even lying on the ground, so thermals and fingerless gloves are a necessary part of my kit.



Helleborus x hybridus

This 'summer' colour of this Hellebore was a little incongruous in January. I much prefer the subdued 'orientalis' but it certainly made a bright and cheery spot in the garden



Cyclamen coum

The bright exotic flowers of Cyclamen that appear in December and January always amaze me. How can such delicate plants be hardy? This flamboyant specimen was growing alongside the snowdrops in a cultivated woodland garden

Crocus 'Snow Bunting'

These tiny sculptured flowers, naturalized in the grass were photographed in strong sunshine so were fully open exposing their yellow throat and orange stigmas



Galanthus nivalis Snowdrop

These valiant Snowdrops were photographed in the last week of January in a woodland garden. I use natural light to photograph growing plants and I reflected winter sunlight to create a halo around the delicate hanging heads. A little ray of hope at the end of a long winter.



Anemone blanda

I had only seen white and blue varieties of this plant before but the purple daisy like flowers set around a yellow centre is possibly 'Ingramii'. The dense, bright flowers looked particularly lovely in a stone planter grown with yellow crocus.

***Eranthis hymalis* ~ Winter Aconite**

The golden brilliance of a large expanse of Aconites spread beneath a tree in February mimicking a pool of sunlight announced spring is on its way.

