

# "THE CREVICE"

In memory of Eswyn

Newsletter of  
The Alpine & Rock Garden Special Interest Group of the  
Qualicum Beach Garden Club

Issue # 13

November 2012

## From the Editor:

1. First, my apologies for making a mistake in last month's Eswyn Garden at Nanoose report. The lovely photos were by Elaine Bohm, while June Strandberg wrote the report. The report on Daphne ? 'Lawerence Crocker' was also by Elaine. Thank you Elaine and please keep on writing.

2. In search of new ideas and information for "The Crevice", I have been getting in touch with botanic gardens with alpine collections.

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, I received the following:

"Now as winter is arriving here in the north I find the time to write back to you.

On behalf of **Tromsø Arctic-Alpine Botanic Garden**, I'm pleased to receive your e-mail, and that the 'Qualicum Beach Garden Club Alpine & Rock Garden Special Interest Group' would like to follow our work in the botanic garden. Tromsø Arctic-Alpine botanic garden is still a young and small botanic garden. Through the years contact with fond laymen has been important to the development of our garden, and I would be happy if you add my name to your list of contact persons. My colleagues Martin Hajman (gardener) and Professor Arve Elvebakk are at present on vacation, and I will forward your newsletter to them. In general it will be difficult to write during our outdoor season, but during the winter we will be able to send you small summaries of the growing season.

Best Regards,

Kristian Nyvoll

Gardener, Tromsø Arctic-Alpine Botanic Garden, Tromsø Museum - University of Tromsø"

NB: Kristian is a member of "The Saxifrage Society" and a past editor of their journal. Tromsø Arctic-Alpine Botanic Garden is the northernmost botanic garden in the world, situated above the Arctic Circle in Norway. Thanks to the effects of the Gulf Stream, they are able to grow plants one wouldn't expect at that latitude. But that is for Kristian to explain sometime.

If you can't wait to learn more, check out:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctic-alpine\\_Botanic\\_Garden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctic-alpine_Botanic_Garden)

<http://www.nordnorge.com/EN-nord-troms/?News=53>

[www.humanflowerproject.com/.../a\\_botanic\\_garden\\_at\\_the\\_top\\_of\\_t...](http://www.humanflowerproject.com/.../a_botanic_garden_at_the_top_of_t...)

<http://www.theworld.org/2011/07/the-worlds-northernmost-botanical-garden/>

- a video tour of parts of the garden with Prof. Arve Elvebakk

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/odderikgarcia/sets/72157606404769627/>

## **TRIP TO THE U.K.**



### **SISSINGHURST CASTLE**

**by Shirley Finstad,  
with photos by Shirley Finstad & June Strandberg**

On a sultry May 27<sup>th</sup> our garden tour group visited this lovely castle and gardens, dating back to late 16<sup>th</sup> century, transformed by the affluent Baker family who built the tower and a magnificent Renaissance courtyard house with no less than 38 fireplaces and a vaulted gallery 120 ft. long.

Sissinghurst had been used as a prison camp for over 1000 captured French sailors during the Seven Years War (1756-1763), a poor house in 1796. It saw several owners between that time up until 1932 when Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicolson moved there, (the place was quite run down), living in the remains of the old courtyard house. At that time the farm produced wheat, beef, pork, eggs and hops and they quickly added to the 400 acre estate with the elegance of the classical lines favoured by Harold and the romanticism of Vita's flamboyant use and profusion of colour and planting. Harold's keenness for geometry was reflected in the design and planting of long beds of tulips, fritillaries and hyacinths marked out by an avenue of pleached limes.

There are several garden 'rooms' each very different in their planting scheme, colour and scent:

WHITE GARDEN- in June - Drooping branches of white magnolia over pergolas, arbours, white iris and white Japanese anemones.

COTTAGE GARDEN - Warm reds and golds bringing a riot of colour in late summer and autumn. Purple border and many cottage perennials.

ROSE GARDEN - Walled rose garden with tumble of roses and honeysuckle, figs and vines.



The Tower



The White Garden

After roaming around these 'rooms' around the castle grounds, I took a break from the hot sun and sat on a cool retaining wall from which I looked up at the Tower, 78 steps to the top, only small groups were allowed up at a time as the stairs were narrow and winding making it difficult to pass by someone descending. I decided to try the ascent taking my time on the narrow steps. Part way up is Vita's personal study; few persons were allowed to enter her private space where she wrote poetry and her famous Observer column "In your Garden".



The view from the top was spectacular, more than made up for my huffing and puffing!, showing different garden views, large vegetable garden (the produce from this is used in their Granary restaurant), meadows, orchard and lakes and moat partially bordering the orchard.





We visited at the right time for many perennials, magnolias, roses were in bloom.  
I didn't have time to walk along the moat (portion left from the original house).

# St. MICHAEL'S MOUNT, LAND'S END, BARBARA HEPWORTH'S AND St. IVES.

by June Strandberg,  
with photos by June Strandberg & Louise Cotterill

We went to all these on the same day, it was the only day we did not visit a big garden.



The Castle and Harbour



The Ferry with mainland behind

St. Michael's Mount is connected to mainland Cornwall by a man-made causeway of granite setts. At high tide this causeway is underwater and small ferry boats are used. Our group arrived at high tide so we all had an interesting little ferry ride across - I think it was about 8 to a boat at a cost of just over \$3 per person each way. The island has had a checkered history. It is now owned by the National Trust. The St Aubyn family who owned it have got a 999 years lease to still live there.

According to legend Cormoran the giant once lived on the island. He used to come across to the mainland and snatch cows and sheep from the fields. A local boy, Jack, went to the island one night and dug a deep pit half way up the mount. Early the next morning Jack blew on his horn to wake the giant who came running down the hill, was blinded by the sun and fell into the pit. That was the end of the giant. The pit is safely boarded over and can be seen as you walk up to the castle. His heart is embedded in the path for all to see.



The Giant's Heart



The island is thought to be connected with the tin trade from about 350BC. Around 1070 it was granted to the Benedictine monks and a chapel was built atop the granite crag. It was considered a holy place and was a pilgrimage destination. It has been involved in many wars and sieges hence the battlements and fortifications. It was bought by the St Aubyn family in 1660.

We landed in the harbour and walked past houses, there are 30 or so people who live on this island. Past a few shops and up a steep path - past the safely covered pit and past the giant's heart and there, right at the top were more wildflowers! We looked at the battlements, the church and round the castle but the part I like the best was looking out from the castle over a wonderful garden full of flowers. It is built on a steep slope and has many terraces. There was one man with a helper, taking professional looking photos but no other person. I found out later that the garden is not always open to the public due to wear and tear.



The Gardens



Marazion from St. Michael's Mount



Louise Cotterill taking in the view

Going down was easier and we went straight to the café and I think it was cream tea again! We did think of trying to get to the gardens but did not really have the energy or the time for another steep climb! After a ferry ride back to the bus it was on to St Ives.



St. Ives

A very picturesque town with a beautiful beach - lots of fishing boats and tourists and very narrow streets. Barbara Hepworth's studio is in the town and we paid her a visit - many of her own sculptures are scattered around her very nice small garden.



Barbara Hepworth Garden



Then on to Land's End which is rather commercialized but the surrounds are wonderful. The Lizard Lighthouse and so many rocks, big cliffs, the Atlantic Ocean sending in large waves and the sound and smell of the sea! All this while all around us cropped grass full of wild flowers and local fauna. How I would have loved to be walking that coast path which passed by and disappeared winding off into the distance.



Heading to Land's End

A different kind of day but we saw some interesting places and I enjoyed it.



The pink flower is Sea Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), the purple is *Jasione montana*



Note on *Jasione montana* aka Sheep's Bit Scabious: It is common over most of Europe usually in dry rocky places but it has got out of control in Eastern North America and is rampant along highways and hydro lines. They want to put it on the banned list.

## USEFUL LINKS

<http://arrowsmithfca.ca/sherrymitchell/> - Sherry Mitchell - This QB artist does very precise and beautiful watercolours and prints, including some native alpines. Check out the website. (thanks to Carol Chilton of the Native Plant SIG for this link)

For **BC Native Plants**, Margot Moser of the Native Plant SIG recommends:  
E-Flora BC, Electronic Atlas of the Flora of BC:

<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora/>

## NON-SIG EVENTS TO NOTE



### **Minter Returns**

Brian Minter makes a return visit to Qualicum Beach on Wed. Jan. 9, 2013, speaking to Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society at the QB Civic Centre. His subject Taking Your Garden to the Next Level is a whole new program. Plant sale begins at 7 pm, speech at 7:30 sharp. Non-members are welcome; cost \$5 at the door.

## OCTOBER NEWS from ESWYN'S ALPINE & ROCK GARDEN

**Submitted by Elaine Bohm**

**with thanks to Karen Unruh**

**for keeping me straight on when to italicize botanical names.**

Roy Elliott said "There is no plant more beloved of rock gardeners, no flower of such intensity of colour, nor so nostalgic to the lover of mountains, as the *Gentian*." We are told *Gentians* were one of Eswyn's favorite flowers, so it is fitting to have her plants thriving in her namesake garden. The following three species flowered again this year with the most recent being the *Gentiana sino-ornata* in late October.



*Gentiana acaulis*, Images: Elaine Bohm

The name '*acaulis*' means stemless. *Acaulis* is also used as a group name covering a number of gentians with very short stems in which the flowers appear to sit directly on the mat of leaves. Its large, trumpet-shaped flowers are held close to the mat of lanceolate (narrow and tapering to a point) or elliptic leaves, on a short stem that elongates in fruit. The glorious, deep blue flowers can reach up to 7 cm long and have green spots in the throat (where the petal tube widens). The five pointed corolla lobes (petals) are 6-9 mm long and are separated by small triangular lobe-like plicae (folds).

*Gentiana acaulis* grows naturally in acidic soils but will tolerate mildly alkaline conditions. It is best grown in an exposed position in full sun, firmly planted in soil that does not dry out completely. It is often stated that *G. acaulis* can be shy to flower. Where this proves the case, planting in different locations is worth a try, in order to find a place where the plant is happy. The normal flowering period is from March to May but the odd flower can appear throughout the summer and well into autumn. Established plants will form a dense carpet of leaves and regular division may be needed to keep them flowering.

The tendency for *G. acaulis* to produce stolons (a horizontal shoot at or just below the soil surface) and runners ensures a good supply of material for cuttings. From midsummer onwards, rosettes of leaves with a short portion of stem can be removed and potted in a free-draining cuttings mix. Propagation from seed sown in autumn is also straightforward, as long as the seed is fresh.

--Above information on *Gentiana acaulis* was derived from [www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org)

Roy Elliott said the odds are about four to one against success in growing *Gentiana acaulis* so it is my good fortune to have them flourishing in a sunny spot in my garden. Three small plants purchased in 2011 at the Knox United Church plant sale have now multiplied into a mass of 20-30 plants via runners. Each tiny plant appeared to have a good root system so hopefully they will be ready for the spring plant sale.



## *Gentiana sino-ornata*



Image: Terry Lyster



Image: June Stranberg

Many gentians are notoriously fickle plants, difficult to cultivate and in some cases reluctant to flower. However *Gentiana sino-ornata* is not only one of the easiest and most reliable, but also one of the loveliest with spectacular 5cm (2in) bright blue trumpet-shaped flowers. These appear in early and mid-autumn, protruding on very short 8 cm stalks from the mat of almost mossy textured light green foliage. Lime free soil is essential for this desirable rock garden plant and they prefer partial shade.

--Information on *Gentiana sino-ornata* derived from [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

***Gentiana ssp.*** - This mystery *Gentiana* came from Eswyn's homestead and appears similar to the *Gentiana septemfida*. Eswyn may have shared cuttings or seeds so if anyone can identify please contact June Stranberg. The plant is approximately 15-30 cm tall and 35 cm wide and the leaves were ovate and clusters of mid-blue trumpet shaped flowers appear in mid-summer. The flowers were very attractive to bees this summer.



Images: Elaine Bohm



**LATE UPDATE** on the *Gentiana* ssp. -

Elaine Bohm has found a tag that probably belongs to this mystery plant:

"*Gentiana tibetica*, green - white to blue tubular flowers that squeeze together on 2 ft stems. QiA Jiao origin: Himalayas, Tibet"

Editor: I probably did donate this plant a couple of years ago. I have the green-white form in my garden, while this is the blue form. This blue one is doing ever so much better than mine.

**FLOWERING INTO THE FALL at THE ESWYN GARDEN**

photos from Elaine Bohm



*Cerastastigma plumbaginoides*



*Erigeron karvinskianus*

**October 15<sup>th</sup> WEEDING & PLANTING SESSION**

photos from June Strandberg



*Hamamelis intermedia* 'Diane'  
a new shrub just planted



a donation from Anita Steineckert





a good weeding underway



Barbara Kulla working on the crevice bed

**Romanzoffia tracyi, TRACY'S MISTMAIDEN, at THE ESWYN GARDEN**  
by Bernie Guyader

Bernie writes: "When I was down at the garden in Nanoose, I was asked to identify a plant. It was *Romanzoffia tracyi*. I'm attaching a web page you might want to include in "The Crevice".

Information and picture below from:

<http://www.racerocks.com/racerock/eco/taxalab/genevievea.htm>



Pictures taken April, 2006 by Garry Fletcher

Domain Eukarya  
Kingdom Plantae  
Division  
Class Dicotyledones  
Order  
Family Hydrophyllaceae (waterleaf)  
Genus *Romanzoffia*  
Species *tracyi*  
COMMON NAME: Tracy's mistmaiden

#### Location:

*Romanzoffia tracyi* is a rare plant (classed on the BLUE list) (1) This land plant with perennial leaves, is often referred to as mist maiden. It grows (to 10cm only) on ocean bluffs on Southern Vancouver Island and the adjacent mainland south. For several years two small patches grew on the center island. One was at the very top of the highest rock cliff on Great Race Rock and this one by 1988 had disappeared. The other, five meters NW of the boathouse was obliterated by the rock blasted from the helicopter pad in the late 1970's. Since the mid 1990's it has again been observed growing scattered among the large rock rubble close to where it had originally been established above the boathouse. In 2000, a new site has been found just east of the SE corner of the Guardian's house. In a floristics survey done of the island in the spring of 2001 by two students, Julia and Taarini, several clumps of the plant were found in a number of new locations on the island, notably to the South West corner of the keeper's house.

#### Physical appearance:

This plant has perennial leaves which are heavy with a protective wax covering. *Romanzoffia tracyi* grows to a maximum height of 10 cm. It grows brownish-woolly tubers, has 5 to 8 rounded lobes and petioles 2 to 3 times as long as the leaves. The blossoms are delicate and white funnel-form in few-flowering spikes (flowers from March to May). The flower stems are short and are called peduncles with hairy clayx lobes.(3)(4)

#### Potential research question:

*Romanzoffia tracyi* is only located in ocean bluffs where it is possible for the plant to be in contact with salt sprays. Why are these salt sprays necessary for the location of this plant? A very useful website for those who wish to read up on the correlation between sea sprays and plants can go to: <http://www.seaspray.com/plants.html>. This site also offers information on differences between vascular plants *Romanzoffia tracyi* and non vascular plants.

1) <http://www.hat.bc.ca/hatrs001.html>

2) <http://www.racerocks.com/racerock/rare/rare.htm>

3) Pojar, Jim. Plants of Coastal British Columbia including Washington, Oregon & Alaska, Lone



Pine, Canada, 1994, 527 pages.

4) Trelawny, John G.S. Lewis Clark's field guide to Wild flowers of the sea coast in the Pacific Northwest, Gray's Publishing Limited, Sidney, British Columbia, Canada, 1974.

## **MASTER GARDENER VISIT TO ESWYN GARDEN**

**report and photo by June Strandberg**

A group of Master Gardeners, from the Conference in Nanaimo, visited the garden on the 21st October in the afternoon. They were at Milner and Pacific Shores and then came to the NRG where they looked round the rock and crevice garden. I was surprised how interested they were in everything. Karen, Elaine and Loraine had made cookies and we all enjoyed a very nice tea in one of the rooms donated by Nanoose Centre.



**Master Gardeners checking out the crevice and rock garden with Karen, Elaine & Barbara answering questions**

# **CZECH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**by Zdenek Zvolanek**

## **THE SECOND CZECH INTERNATIONAL ROCK GARDEN CONFERENCE MAY 2 - 5 TH 2013 - IN TÁBOR**

A well-prepared international conference must offer something very specific for its visitors and our committee, which have got experiences from the last venue, will do its best.

The main purpose of a conference of this class is the optimal balance between attractive and rich lecturing programme and the convenient social microclimate for delegates to meet each other and exchange their personal experiences. The official language of the conference is English and no lecture will be translated into other language.

We offer a relatively young multinational team of speakers, who are all excellent photographers of alpines, mountain ranges and flowers of rock gardens. The illustrations of all lectures are with digital pictures and a digital projector. The menu of the topics or subjects of lecturing is broad, covering preferably our Northern Hemisphere and its hardy rock garden plants. Many lectures will give the audience expert advices and the information about the newest growing technique tricks.

Two workshops given by western experts are prepared and one workshop will demonstrate rockwork for miniature gardens (troughs). We selected ten lectures for you but a show of pictures presented by delegates will bright nights in the lecture hall. The lectures of delegates will be moderated to fit three selected national influences: Scottish Forum, Scandinavian Night and Eastern Bohemia Night

The conference will content a special offer (sale) of rock garden plants and the Plant Health Certificate will be available for the overseas exports.

The post conference tours are designed for maximally 120 delegates, which do the circling rock gardens in 4 buses with our experienced guides. The tours are prepared for 5 days, visiting 20 rock gardens (many of them have the sale of alpines, rock garden plants, dwarf shrubs and dwarf conifers/witches brooms) and Prague downtown with the famous May Rock Garden Show. Many selected rock gardens have had new reconstructed parts; many gardens are new ones with talented owners.

All-important details are available at [www.czrgs.cz](http://www.czrgs.cz) and direct contact to Jiri Papousek is [conference@czrgs.cz](mailto:conference@czrgs.cz)

Come, hear and see all items of our special May offerings in the Heart of Europe in 2013.

## UPCOMING ALPINE SIG EVENTS

**NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> - *AGM & CHRISTMAS LUNCH*** at the Creek House Restaurant, French Creek. AT THE AGM WE WILL BE ELECTING OUR EXECUTIVE MEMBERS. NB: the current Executive is willing to stand again: Chairperson - June Strandberg, Vice-Chairperson- Barbara Kulla, Treasurer - Mike Miller, Secretary - Lori Pross, Newsletter - Valerie Melanson. But if you would like to run for the Executive or can help in another capacity, please contact June Strandberg, [normjune@shaw.ca](mailto:normjune@shaw.ca). Gather at 11:30, AGM at 11:45, Lunch at Noon.

## PRELIMINARY CALENDAR FOR FIRST ½ of 2013:

**JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> - REGULAR SIG MEETING - HANDS-ON SEED STARTING DEMO.**

**FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> - REGULAR SIG MEETING**

**MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> - REGULAR SIG MEETING**

**MID APRIL - ROAD TRIP TO VIRAGS SPRING SHOW & PLANT SALE**

**APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> - REGULAR SIG MEETING**

**MONDAY, MAY 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - CHRIS CHADWELL, PLANT HUNTER, SEED COLLECTOR, AND SECRETARY OF THE HIMALAYAN PLANT ASSOCIATION**, will be visiting us for garden visits and a seminar. He will speak on PLANT HUNTING FOR ALPINES IN THE BORDERLANDS OF WESTERN TIBET - Chris, with 27 expeditions under his belt, will share his fine images of recent explorations for rock garden plants in the NW Himalaya and Little Tibet.

## A Taster of Chris' Photos



*Cremanthodium decaisnei*



*Salvia hians* with Chris Chadwell





*Iris hookeriana*



*Sorbus aff. Cashmiriana*

## **FURTHER ALPINE SIG PLANS FOR 2013:**

**TUESDAY, MAY 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - ROAD TRIP TO VIRAGS** - CHRIS CHADWELL, PLANT HUNTER, on "Paradise on Earth".

**TBC WEDNESDAY, MAY 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013** - We are invited to attend a seminar with Chris Chadwell at Alba Plants Nursery, Cowichan Bay, on "Starting Himalayan Seeds". \*\*DATE AND TOPIC TBC. Reservations will be a must.

## **PLANT PORTRAIT**

### **SMALL AND DISTINCTIVE STERNBERGIA**

Text: Zdeněk Zvolánek Photo: Cedrik Haškovec





As the editor of quarterly journal **Skalničky**, I obtained the second picture from a rock garden near Prague, showing a dwarf Sternbergia (genus named after Czech aristocrat-botanist Kaspar Maria Graf von Sternberg) in a shallow scree of finely eroded alkaline slate. The owner's idea about the name was *Sternbergia sicula* (*S. lutea* subsp. *sicula* by Flora Europea). After a study of the jungle about classification of this European Sternbergia by different authors, with the tendency put all the morphological varieties under *Sternbergia lutea*, I looked at the narrow leaves with the absence of the longitudinal central stripe. Then I accepted a gardeners name ***Sternbergia lutea Angustifolia Group***.

The first picture from nature shows a happiness of the small geophytes in a narrow crevice and it is good inspiration for our trials in a rock garden. Sternbergia is one of the most valuable plants for autumn golden colours among rocks.



## WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - JUNE STRANDBERG



*Cyclamen hederifolium*



*Galanthus reginae-olgae*



*Sternbergia sical ssp. Graeca*

June notes: "The *Sternbergia* I got from Hans Roemer at the Sept VIRAGS meeting. He was selling small packets of bulb off-sets and the little *Sternbergias* have produced two blooms - which I have hopefully pollinated! I had to bring it into the house to get it to open - there was lots of pollen. I think I have to keep it in a pot.

The *Galanthus reginae-olgae* I grew from Archibalds seeds and it is increasing quite quickly. I have also tried pollinating it this year as it has never yet produced a single seed pod. I found very little pollen.

The *Cyclamen hederifolium* seeds itself around and comes in various shades of pink as well as pure white. This one I have to move as it is growing along the wall to be jacked up! "



## WHAT'S NEW IN MY GARDEN - VALERIE MELANSON

### TROUGHS PREPARED TO WITHSTAND THE COMING WET:



*Raoulia australis* & *Bukiniczia cabulica*

The *Raoulia* is a piece from June's garden, the *Bukiniczia* grown from AGS 2010 seed



Western USA Dry Trough



Turkish Dry Trough - mostly *Campanulas*





*Lewisia rediviva* leafing out, October 2012. Plant purchased from Beaver Creek, Spring 2012, and shown flowering in picture from May 24, 2012

## THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE THIS FALL, SO FAR, HAS BEEN DAMAGE FROM DEER



*Dianthus* and *Aubrieta* have been chewed



My special *Androsace armeniaca* ssp. *Macrantha*, chewed & ripped right off. Will it survive?





*Erigeron trifidus* , flourishing in the Dry Western USA Trough. Plant purchased from Gordon Mackay of Alba Plants at our Trough in a Dish Seminar in September 2012

## **IDENTIFICATION HELP, A REQUEST BY THE EDITOR**

### **WHAT IS THIS?**



Photo taken at the Eden Project by June Strandberg  
Acacia or Callistemon or .... Australian or ....?? The Editor wants to know !!

**FABULOUS TROUGHS SEEN  
BY JUNE STRANDBERG & BARBARA KULLA  
AT UBC BOTANICAL GARDEN, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**



*Acantholimon capitatum*, *A. caryophyllaceum*, *Campanula aucheri*, *Erigeron*





*Antennaria, Eriogonum ovalifolium, Arenaria tetraquetra ssp amabilis, Draba*

***Watch for a report on their visit, coming January 2013 in "The Crevice".***

## **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:**

There will be no issue of "The Crevice" in December, so the next will be # 14 in January 2013. Cut off for submissions will be January 12<sup>th</sup> end of day, with the finished product emailed out approx. January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please send your items to Valerie Melanson, [melanson.valerie@gmail.com](mailto:melanson.valerie@gmail.com).

I wish you all VERY HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!