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The other Sunday I went on a Garden Tour. Now I'm not really keen on garden tours; everybody else's garden looks always so impeccable, and mine looks so shabby in comparison. But I was invited by a good friend and didn't want to turn her down; so I went.

The first garden was an old established garden, partly flat, partly bush, with a great variety of plants carefully chosen for sunny and shady places - not a weed in sight, of course.

The second garden was much more exposed to wind and salt spray and therefore more restricted in what would grow. On the more sheltered side of the house it had the loveliest sitting area you could wish for, and old roses all around it.

The next garden was monumental, with a huge retaining wall at the back, and steps and more retaining walls further up, and terraces and a watering system way up the hillside; it must have cost a fortune. They had unbroken rows of lettuces and two big rhubarb plants with all the leaves still there.

The next garden was a small conventional section. The owners' pride and joy was a pot on the verandah with an orchid in flower. The lawn had quite a few flowers in it; you might call them weeds, but the owners obviously appreciated the splashes of colour they added. Aquilegias had found ways to self-seed all through the garden. And the row of lettuces was not a straight row, and the rhubarb plant had been raided, too.

When I got home I looked at my garden. Yes, there are weeds and seedlings here and there. I might prick out the seedlings and give them to friends - and live on in my friends' garden. My garden is not splendid at all; it looks a bit burnt where the Southerly has hit. But it is my garden, and I love it, warts (or weeds) and all.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Mini liebe Mitglieder - au i ha de Stupf übercho, das d'Zit ganz schnäu der Wienachte u em Neujahr zue geit. Es isch aber au die Zit wo me wider langsam gseht was me no sötti mache, u ds Tageslicht isch lang gnue das me gseht wo's äbe no fäut; Stunge fähle eifach, u z Läbe geit vorbi. Me muess haut de dra däiche we me gueti Vorsätz fürs nöi Jahr schribt!

Grad chunnt mer no z Sinn, Wienachtpost muess o no gschribe u verschickt wärde!

My dear compatriots - it's the time of the year when we look around us and start thinking of all our friends and families. The committees of all the Swiss Clubs are busy planning their Christmas and New Year's function and I am sure there will be something for everyone young and not so young. I would like to encourage everybody to participate with a good Christmas spirit, and we will include all the ones who are less fortunate.

*I wish You All
a Merry Christmas
and a Very Happy New Year*

Roland

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