

OLD MAN'S BEARD

Your gardening features are always a joy to read, particularly as my own green-fingered skills extend no further than watering a few small pots of begonias in my courtyard garden.

While I admire Sue Mabberley's ability to maintain her expansive gardens in Wales (*Little House in the Big Woods*, June), my real amazement is at the amount of time and effort that must be expended on the most impressive and luxuriant growth – her husband Ian's truly magnificent beard. Forget the ferns, firs and flowers, it's

Ian's 'facial fungus' that must surely be the pride of Nant y Bedd.
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