

Pat Lewis
My Favourite Tree

I have many favourite trees, so it has been quite hard to make a final decision, but I think my mind is made up now. When we had been in our house in Rothbury a couple of years, we did some major rearranging of our outside space which included making new driveways and entrances and redesigning the garden areas. The garden outside our kitchen became our area for sitting as it is quite a suntrap. As part of the planting, we included a small lilac tree that was given to us by our neighbours, Clive and Joan, as it not needed in their garden.

This small tree is a constant source of pleasure to me as I can see it from the window over the kitchen sink making it the perfect place to see all the birds that come into the garden. We have a bird table quite close to it and a metal stand with bird feeders dangling and the birds use the lilac as a staging post while they wait their turn at the feeders.

I spend a lot of time just looking out of the window of the kitchen. Or from the conservatory when it is warm enough to be out there. The little lilac is of endless interest as I watch the seasons change and monitor its progress, from first buds to full bloom and then green leaves that last until the first heavy frost. As Christmas approaches, we decorate it with coloured lights, and it shines like a beacon in the dark winter night. At this time of the year, with the branches bare, we are delighted to see flocks of birds perching there. Goldfinches, siskins, green finches, chaffinches and many members of the tit family. We also have the full complement of sparrow species, some extremely fat pigeons and some very bold jackdaws and crows. It all makes for a lively scene!

So, there it is, a lilac tree, not much taller than I am, with so much going on every day. There are bigger, more impressive trees all around the garden, but this is the one that makes me happiest.

