

Subject: **Welsh Poppy** *Meconopsis cambrica*

Medium: Acrylic

Size: 430 mm x 190 mm (Nominal)

Working Time: 60 Hours

Completed:

Comments:

**All research photographs and drawing by the illustrator.**

The plant was from a neighbour's garden who was in the process of changing to an all pebble surface. I at first mistook the plant for something else, however, intrigued by the poppy like flower further investigation revealed it to be a Welsh Poppy *Meconopsis cambrica*.

There were a number of criteria I tried to follow:

\* To illustrate as many parts of the flower as possible; for example the flower heads are shown from both sides where normally these would all face the light.

\* A side view with a blue graduated background would both enforce the yellow petals and emulate the blue sky.

The graduated background was more difficult than I first imagined. The translucent washes of blue and white were re-applied after waiting for each coat to dry (acrylic becomes water resistant when dry). Finally the layers became the solid colours I wanted.

Notes:

**Welsh Poppy** *Meconopsis cambrica*

Perennial, flowering between June and August, growing to about 60 cm. Flower is between 5 - 8 cm in diameter with four overlapping petals: initially the flower is covered by two sepals which fall off leaving a yellow / orange flower soon turning to yellow.

The fruit is an erect carrying capsule.

The leaves, a pale green, are bunched at the base of the plant and pinnately ( from both sides of a central stalk) with rounded lobed divisions.

Native to Wales, South West England and Ireland. It is found in shaded or semi - shaded places as with rocks. Now found in other areas having been introduced as garden flower\*

\*Grey - Wilson, Christopher: **Wild Flowers of Britain and North West Europe.**

Dorling Kindersley

1995

ISBN 0-7513-1024-7

Broven, Peter. Gibbons, Bob: **The Hamlyn Photographic Guide to the Wild Flowers of Britain and N. Europe.**

Octopus Illustrated Publishing

1992

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Blamley, Marjorie: **Marjorie Blamley's Wild Flowers by Colour.**

Dorling Kindersley

1997

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Sutton, David: **Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers**

Larousse / Kingfisher Publishing Plc

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[www.bioimages.org.uk](http://www.bioimages.org.uk)



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