

Local and rare

I.

I'm researching weeds
For my exam
I see my mother
Wild flower book in hand
Relishing odd names,
"It's a bog rosemary!
Local and declining."
(Like the bogs of course)

The way the syllables trip off the tongue
Cardamine hirsute
Alchemilla mollis
6 syllables
names fit to call your daughter

Oh Mother
Do I grow into you?
It is sweet, local and rare

II.

Exam behind me
As I examine
A white bluebell -
Not so
Three-cornered garlic
"Locally very common"
T'is so in West Cornwall
Allium triquetrum
Classic 6 syllable appeal

This holds me up as I hold up
My daughter - her pain
On my mobile
I hold on to the flowers
The distant tripping Latin
Sitting on a rock in Mousehole harbour
Staunching tears
Something to hold on to
Local, painful, precious, rare