



BULB LOG 27.....4th July 2018





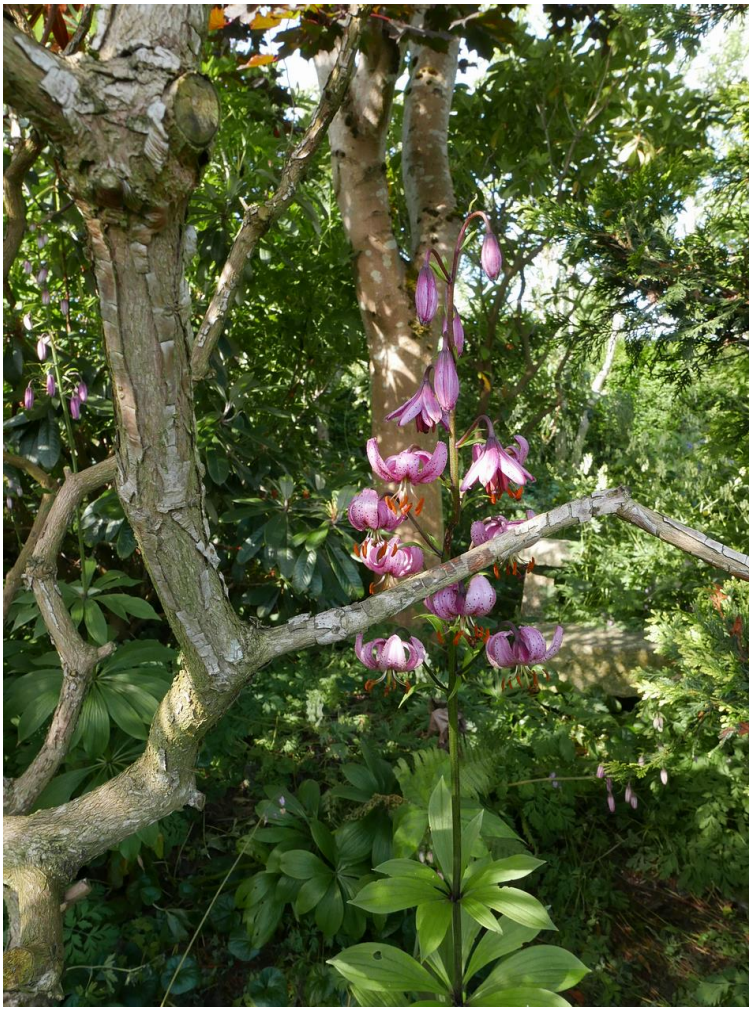
Nomocharis flowers have a colour combination of white, pink and blackcurrent that seems to be universally appealing in whatever genus it occurs. Some of the most popular forms of Paeonia, Hepatica and Helleborus share this colouring. Nomocharis are extremely promiscuous especially in the garden where it is difficult to maintain the species from

seed with hybrids being the norm; however I do believe that this one is close to **Nomocharis pardanthina**.



Lilium martagon

Having just come back from botanising the machair on the outer Hebrides I am very aware of how we often had to search carefully among the mass of growth to find certain target plants: they did not stand out in isolation so I am happy to find that is the same case in our garden where these Lilies are not growing in great clumps isolated in a border but are treasures to be found and enjoyed. I love plant hunting in our own garden.



Lilium martagon



Lilium pyrenaicum

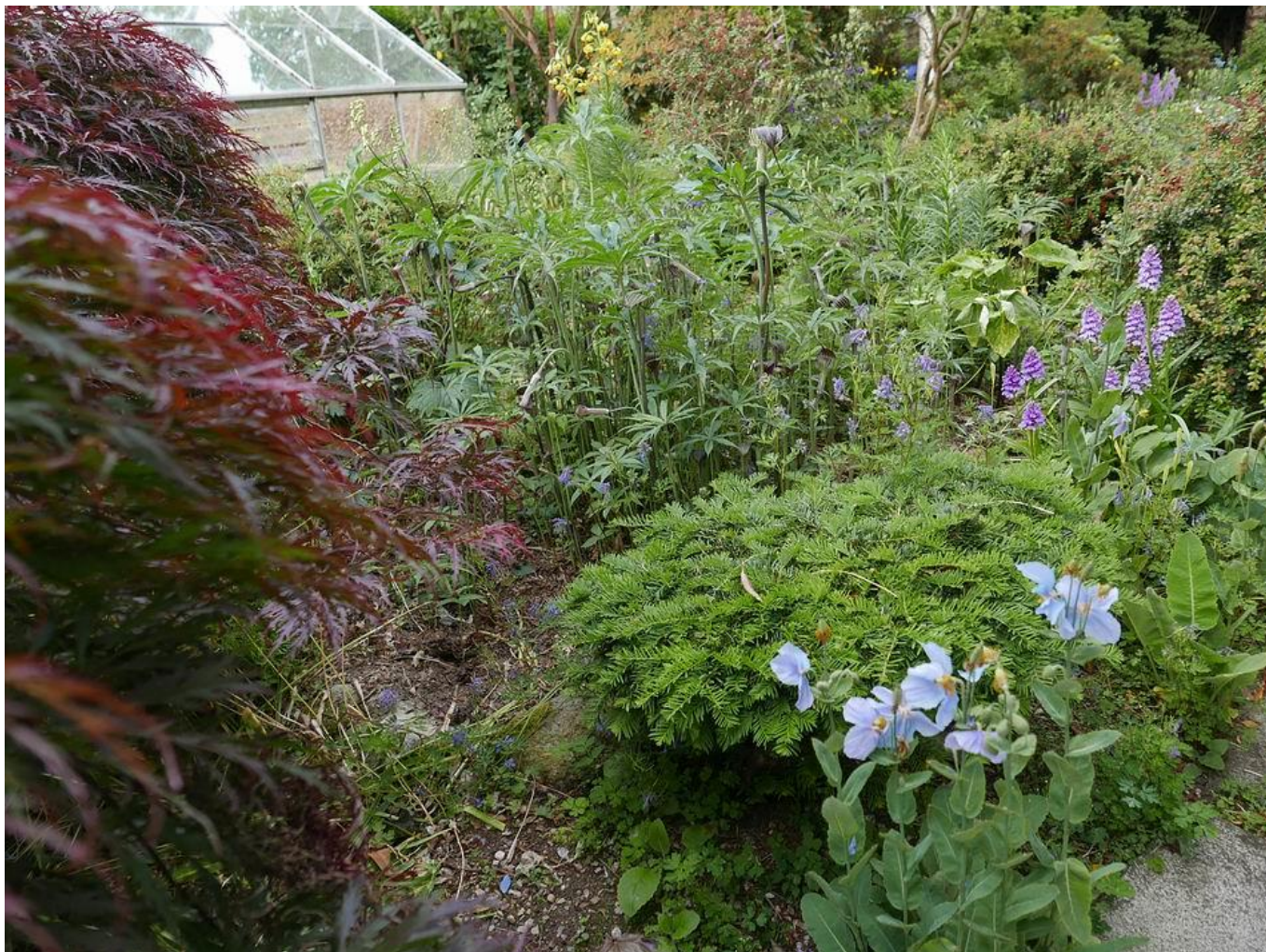


Cardiocrinum giganteum



Arisaema ciliatum* and *Cardiocrinum giganteum

The hot dry weather continues to make this a challenging time for many of our plants which are more accustomed to our normally cool wet summer conditions. The flowers of plants such as the lilies and Arisaema, that would normally last weeks in our garden, are going over very quickly in the dry heat.



The view across this bed changes dramatically as the seasons progress, the sequence starts in February with the likes of Galanthus, Eranthis and Corydalis flowering then progresses with displays of Erythronium and Anemone before Dactylorhiza and Meconopsis flowers appear and now we have an *Arisaema ciliatum* forest.





Arisaema ciliatum

Every year the same seasons come around but they are never exactly the same: the annual growth of plants varies – some will grow well and increase others may struggle and recede also the overlap of flowering varies. This overlapping is very different this year with the flowers of many plants coming and going so quickly that they are not blooming together, also in many cases the foliage has also receded before the next sequence of flowers open.



Here most years the Arisaema would rise up through the yellowing Colchicum leaves: this year those leaves are completely dried up as the Arisaema emerge.

It is often said that many Colchicum are not suitable garden plants at all because their leaves appear in a different season to the flowers however it is

just a case of accounting for the foliage and selecting the appropriate companion plants and I have found Arisaema to be suitable.



Arisaema jacquemontii



**Arisaema
wilsonii**



So the joy of searching for plants extends into our garden where even the **Cardiocrinum giganteum** is there to be discovered – especially this year where, due to the weather conditions, it is flowering at around half its normal height.

I am sure that to some our garden will appear too wild and over grown but I love the natural effect of mixed plant communities where cultivars and wild plants grow and show happily together and, just like in wild habitats such as the machair, I can search out the gems that are currently flowering.



This section of the front driveway planting with *Trifolium repens* (Clover) running through is very reminiscent of last week's foray to the machair where its nitrogen fixing properties brings a benefit to wild and cultivated habitats.

A view across the front garden shows the jungle of growth where a combination of wild and cultivated plants grow and are encouraged to seed around.



Many of the early flowering bulbous plants are now shedding seed onto the west drive way where a carpet of **Geranium sanguineum** is pierced by the rising spires of **Digitalis grandiflora** and *Dactylorhiza* hybrids.



***Digitalis grandiflora* and *Dactylorhiza* hybrids**

Geranium sanguineum

The explosive nature of *Geranium* seed capsules ensures that it is spread far and wide across the garden where it has not only reached onto the top of the wall but has also been catapulted across the hedge to start colonising the next door neighbours' garden.





Moving round to the back garden where more *Dactylorhiza* forms and species come into flower.



Dactylorhiza maculata



A view looking across a slab bed towards the rock garden bed.



The new growth on the bonsai that I root pruned earlier this year is growing very vigorously now which is evidence that new roots are growing from the cuts I made into the fresh potting mix – a trim is in order.



Similarly the emergence of new growth on these *Vaccinium nummularia* cuttings tells me that they have started to root in the mist unit and can be moved on.



Vaccinium nummularia



Box of cuttings

As an intermediate to being planted out I transfer cuttings rooted under mist into a box of sand, kept always moist, in a shady spot.



I have not mentioned the sand beds in the bulb houses for a while and as you might expect in this heat most of the plants are now into their summer rest but a few flowers remain and are glorious in this unusually hot period.



Triteleia ixioides* and *Allium crispum



Lychinis flos jovis

We do have some sun worshippers in the garden which suffer in most years but this year they are in their glory.



Dianthus alpinus



Erigeron and Aquilegia on a slab bed.



Campanula garganica has never flowered so well for us as it is in this sunny year.



Another *Campanula* in a trough is also flowering well – if you can remind me of the name I would be grateful.



Silver saxifrage flowering in the troughs are among the plants that are enjoying the sunny dry weather.



Looking across a few troughs gives the impression of a mini mountain landscape.



Primulas start to flower in the marginal habitat at the edge of the pond where there are also *Dactylorhiza*.

There is plenty of water available for *Salix lanata* growing in the pond along with the many *Dactylorhiza* that have seeded in.



***Roscoea humeana* cultivar**

The many *Roscoea* that we grow around the garden are now coming into flower.



Roscoeae 'Harvingon Royale'



I will round off this week with this group of **Roscoeae alpina** increasing by seeding around the rock garden but just before I go click if you want to join me in my latest [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#).....