



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 05.....13th May 2026





The inspiration behind our garden has always been nature and the wild areas I have seen, whether on my travels around the world, or locally on my daily walks. Since 2020 my circumstances have meant that I cannot travel but I can still find that inspiration walking around our own locality at the edge of Aberdeen. One of my regular walks takes me about a kilometre up the road before I turn into an area of abandoned fields and woods where I

can feed my fascination with the plants and wildlife.



Daffodils have grown wild here for all the years I have been tramping these grounds, which started in the second half of the 1960's. Here they don't grow in the neat rows, lining a path or small patch of lawn, like I see in the very suburban gardens I walk past on my way, rather they stand their ground growing among grasses, brambles, and Cowparsley to name a few of the wildlings they share the ground with, and how much better they look to my eye.



As I walk on my eye is drawn to another distant yellow haze – this time it is not Narcissus but a host of **Taraxacum officinale, Dandelions**, looking magnificent in full golden bloom.



The flowers will gradually be replaced by the Dandelion clocks, that I am sure you are all familiar with since childhood, when we were taught to blow the seeds off counting the number of puffs it took supposedly an indicator of the time.



Another golden yellow spring wildflower I encounter is **Ficaria verna**. With its shiny petals it stands out among the undergrowth and grasses that it tends to grow among.



I am always delighted when I find **Cardamine pratensis** and try and help to widen its distribution by scattering the seeds around if I find them when they are ripe. These plants are very well adapted to cope with our changing climates and in my view deserve a place in our gardens. If you have not seen it already read and see more about the plants, I find on my walks in 'the adventures of a weedy gardener' in the November 2025 issue of the IRG



Arriving back home I spend some time observing the naturalised planting we have created in the driveway which, like the rest of the garden, draws heavily on the lessons I have learned from observing the wild areas. Here like in the rest of the garden we mix bulbs and other plants, including wild flowers, to give sequences of flowering interest for as long as possible through the year.



The third flowering sequence of year in the driveway planting is dominated by the pink flowers of **Erythronium revolutum** all grown from an initial scattering of seed - allowing the plants to self-seed since.



“It should feel like a landscape” could be my moto - the informal look and increasing wildness is very satisfying.



Even the plunge frames are structured to blend into the landscape of the wider garden.

Peak flowering time for the *Erythronium* can vary from year to year but generally falls between mid-April and mid-May. The period when we have *Erythronium* flowers gracing the garden can run from late February when early flowering forms of *Erythronium caucasicum* emerge to late May as the last of our *Erythronium oregonum* bloom.



When I am selecting garden hybrids I am looking firstly for a plant that stands out from the crowd, secondly it must grow and increase well, but I am also looking for plants that can extend the flowering season and these three plants all fit that criteria. Their flowers start to open as the majority of the pink *revolutum* types are going over.



It is not just outside that we plant in sequences we seek to achieve long period of flowering interest in the bulb house sand beds. The first flowers opened in these sand beds way back in September. Here they are still delivering new flowering interest eight months later with Tulips, Fritillaria, Narcissus and others all still going.



Narcissus obesus



I will have to check back in my records for the name of this *Fritillaria* but that does not stop me enjoying it growing and flowering well in the sand.



Narcissus cazorlanus, a naturally occurring hybrid between *Narcissus bulbocodium* and *triandrus*, that we have grown for over forty years. It has always been a favourite of mine with mature bulbs having two flowers per stem.



Narcissus bulbocodium and obesus.



Tropaeolum azureum



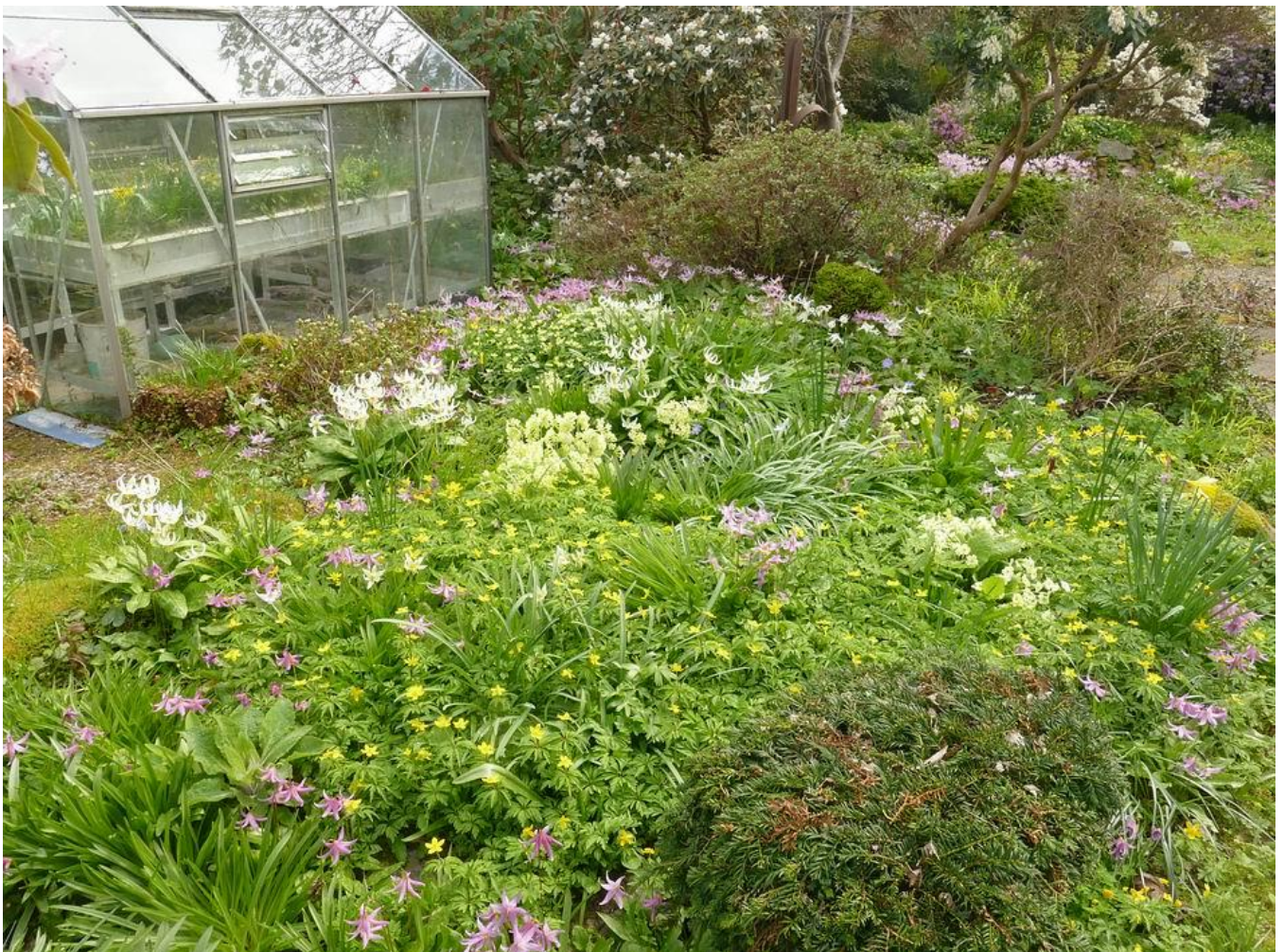
Tropaeolum tricolorum



The Ipheions grow very vigorously in the sand beds and need to be thinned out regularly to prevent them taking over but I do enjoy their flowers late in the bulb season.



Now for a series of images showing the garden over the last four weeks. If you want to see more do check out my [YouTube Channel](#) where you will find 226 videos of the garden. In each video I walk and talk my way round the garden at different times of the year – it is exactly a video version of the Bulb Log Diary.



Typical of our planting style at this time of year where we have a community of bulbous and herbaceous plants.

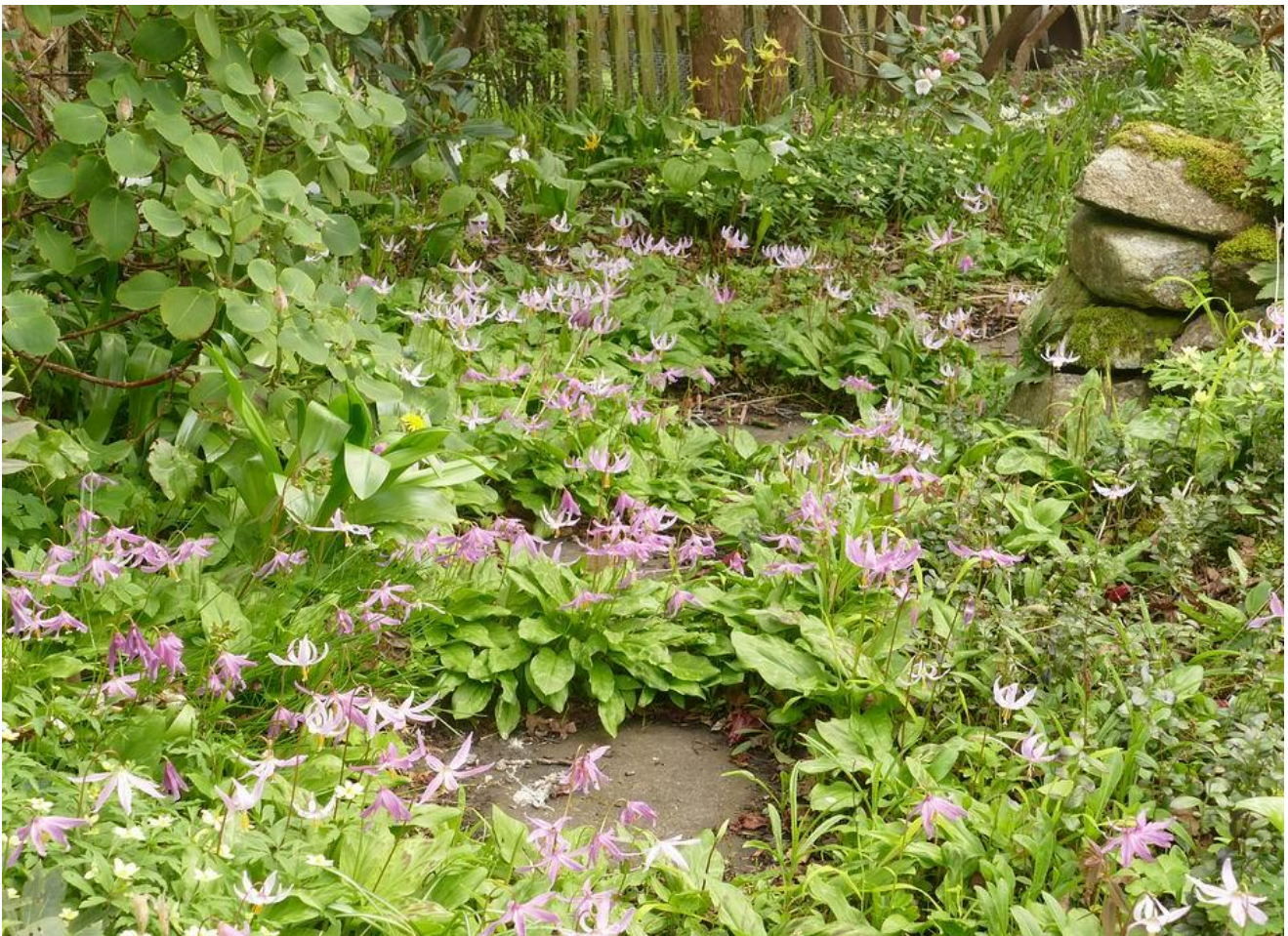


Erythronium oregonum and revolutum and their cultivars flowering happily along with Anemone and Primula





The gravel areas around the paving stone pathway that weaves around the garden has become increasingly taken over by plants that seed in. I have in past years tried to keep these gravel areas clear but in recent years I have accepted that plants rule, and with a few exceptions, I am now happy to let them grow.



It does mean that we have to step from slab to slab over the flowers, in this case **Erythronium revolutum**, that have taken over the gravel parts of the path



I treasure **Erythronium americanum** which now flowers well every year in several places. There are still a lot more single leaves from immature bulbs than there are twin leaves from mature flowering bulbs but that is how this plant grows out and spreads about - you just need to plant it then have the patience to let it settle in and eventually start to flower.



Erythronium americanum and Erythronium 'White Beauty'



Jeffersonii dubia



Erythronium americanum



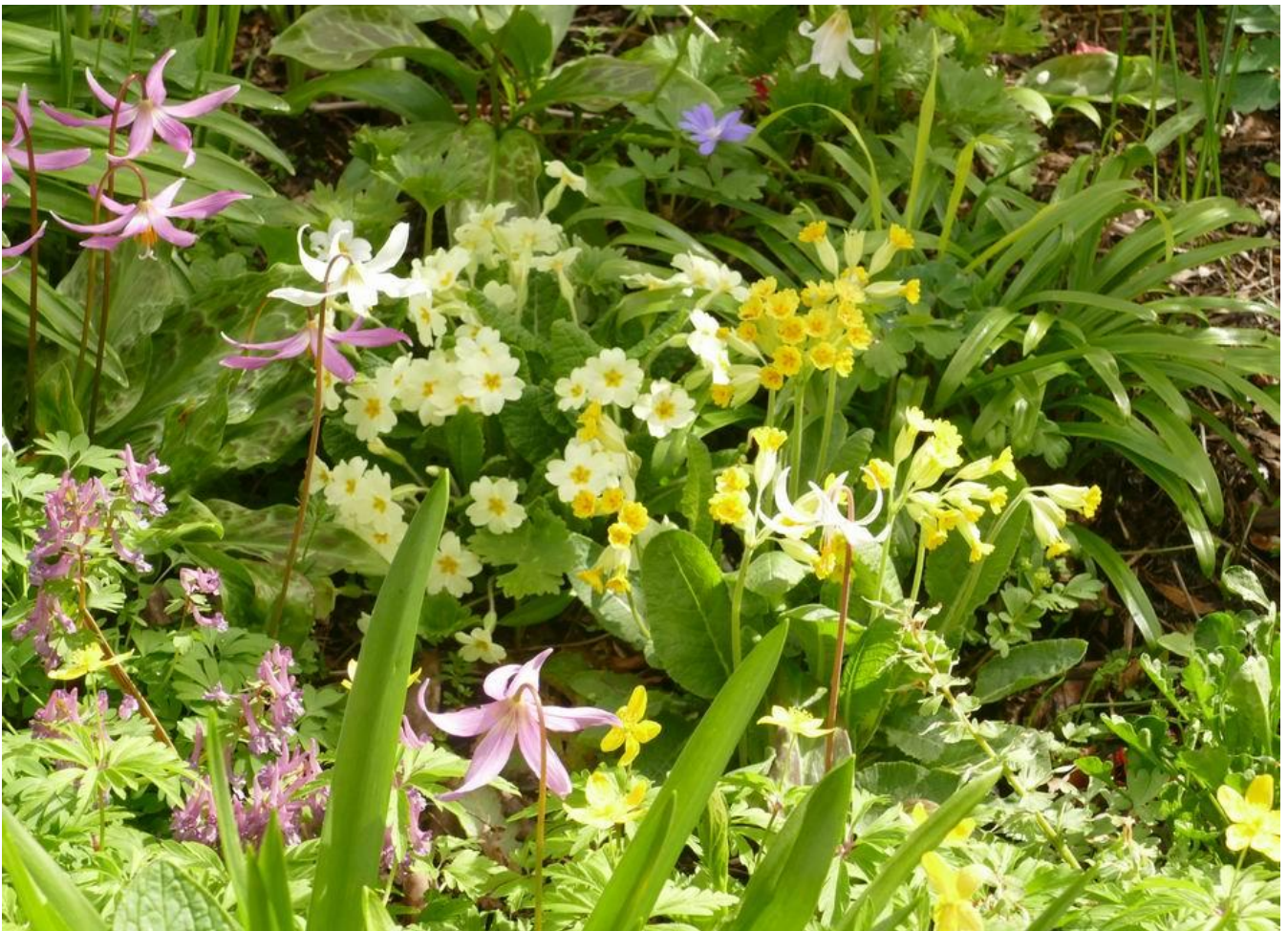
Erythronium americanum and revolutum



Erythronium 'Craigton Cream' an *Erythronium helenae* hybrid I selected because it stood out mostly in the way it holds its flowers facing outwards looking back at you rather than straight down like many do,



Erythronium 'Craigton Cream'



It has been a good year of flowering for **Primula vulgaris** and **Primula veris** both of which have been in bloom for a few months now.



The main path leading from the house into the garden.



Cream and white **Erythronium oregonum** and hybrids starts to flower later than *E. revolutum*.



A large planting of *Erythronium* 'Craigton Cover Girl'



Rhododendron dendrocharis fits in, both in scale and colour, with the rest of the planting.



I have to show some of the many Trilliums which are also spread around the garden - here **Trillium grandiflorum** and **Trillium chloropetalum**



Trillium garden hybrids that fall somewhere between *Trillium chloropetalum* and *Trillium kurabayashii*.



Trillium garden hybrids



A typical community of plants flowering together at this time of year.

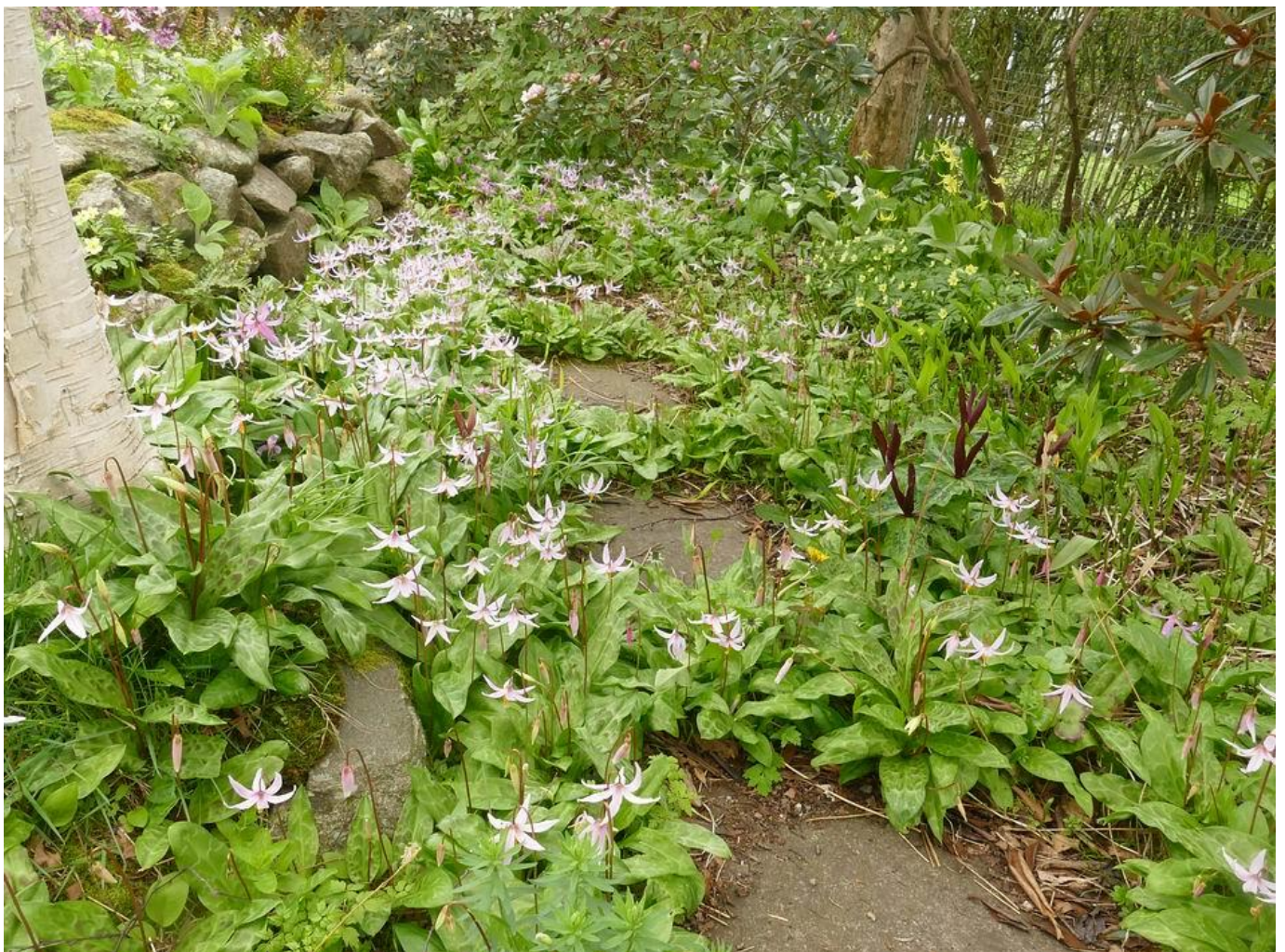


Rhododendron dendrocharis





***Sanguinaria canadensis* -double form.**



I will wind up with this view of the *Erythronium* path.....