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Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 06.....9th February 2022



Dryad Gold Group



The white wave continues advancing across the garden with more Snowdrops appearing and flowering every day. While I do not bother too much about the plethora of cultivar names that are around I do love to see the variations, vigour and fertility that seed raised bulbs bring. I like plants that attract my attention and stand out from four or more metres away; they could qualify for a name.

I greatly admire the careful breeding work that Anne Wright has done in her Dryad Gold Group where she originally crossed two yellow forms

Galanthus plicatus 'Wendy's Gold' with *Galanthus* 'Sandersii', formally known as *G. nivalis* 'Lutescens', which resulted in a range of good yellow seedlings.



Galanthus 'Trumps' is also growing in the cobble bed and can be seen in the background of the cover picture and above with a group of 'Wendy's Gold' just pushing up through the cobbles.

We received a number the Dryad Gold Group cultivars and grew them in pots at first where I could better speed up the rate of increase by breaking the single bulb down into a number of smaller ones. Over a few years these bulbs regained size so I slowly released them into the garden planting them out as single bulbs.



I am delighted to observe how well they have grown with the single bulbs increasing in number by the year.



Dryad Gold Group

As well as her range of Snowdrops Anne has for many years bred a number of excellent miniature Narcissus: more information can be found at [Dryad Nursery](http://www.dryadnursery.com).



While I get great pleasure from studying individual plants it is how they combine in the garden to form visually pleasing associations that really interests me. Sometimes these groupings are intentional but they are often accidental, created when plants seed around or we plant bulbs out at random.



From my work table I look out on such a grouping where a clump of *Galanthus woronowii* grows in the shadow of a fern, *Polystichum setosum*.



This white flowered **Hepatica nobilis** seedling is always the first of this genus we grow to open a flower - down in the base of the plant I see the fat buds, an indication there are a lot more flowers to come.



Hepatica nobilis seedling



Following up on the storm damage I have cut the Rhododendron that got blown over back to a trunk of about a metre and a half high - now I will watch for signs of budding in the spring.



If a significant number of buds don't appear then by the summer I will remove it altogether. It is sad to lose plants especially when like this we have raised it from seed but we have another sister seedling growing elsewhere in the garden. All the cut off top growth went through our trusty shredder then it was spread on a path as shown below.



I have always surfaced this path, running between the hedge and the back of the bed, with newly shredded woody material and what now remains of this rhododendron has refreshed a small section.



These **Dryad Gold Group** flowers are among the many buds and flowers appearing on the rock garden bed.



It will not be long before the flowers burst out from these Iris 'Katherine Hodgkin' buds.



A cluster of ***Galanthus nivalis*** leaves emerging through the moss.

**Erythronium
caucasicum**

As I walk around the garden searching for early buds I find the first Erythronium caucasicum poking through.



A small adventurous **Corydalis caucasica** could be easily missed but for the colour of the flower jumping out against the dark ground.



The display of hoops continues with the flowers in the former frit house sand beds starting to open in numbers.



Being less crowded, the flowers which are almost entirely our own seedlings, get more room to display.



There are still plenty of flowers in a range of colours fighting for space in the crowded 'U' shaped sand bed.



As you can observe from these few pictures there is quite a variation between the many **Narcissus romieuxii** seedlings that are currently flowering.



Narcissus romieuxii seedling



Back into the garden: like yellow eggs the **Eranthis hyemalis** flowers are slowly getting ready for their flowers to open when they will face skywards.



Snowdrops and Eranthis will be the theme in the coming weeks as the early garden slowly emerges from its underground rest.



Here a mixed grouping of snowdrops is rising through this recently mulched bed.



The broad leaves indicate that this is a *Galanthus plicatus* type seedling.



The final sequence of pictures gives a flavour of the Snowdrops that are appearing across the garden.



Snowdrops enjoying some sunshine.





I leave you with two pictures featuring Snowdrops with decorative stone ornamentation in the background.....