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Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 1223rd March 2022

1000th Bulb Log



Eranthis 'Guinea Gold'

Eranthis 'Guinea Gold' seems an appropriate cover for what is the **1000th Bulb Log**; yes I have done this one thousand times, writing a diary every week since the start of 2003. I never intended it to last this long however the support and encouragement I have received from you dear readers has kept me going. Looking back the Bulb Log has evolved from the first years when I covered all aspects of growing bulbs in pots and the garden detailing in pictures the methods and the discoveries I made in my many trials and experiments. In more recent years as we have cut back on the number of bulbs we grow in pots my emphasis has switched more towards the garden where I continue my journey of blending gardening with nature. Many of you have told me of the lessons you have learned or how you were encouraged to grow more bulbs from my writings and pictures which I greatly appreciate but you are not the only ones to learn - I have also been on this journey of discovery with you. Knowing that I have to write every week has disciplined me into recording photographically the discoveries I have made as well as documenting and commenting on the garden through the year. The result is a massive pictorial record and I am perhaps the one who has learned and benefited the most.



Lovely Silver Gilt Veitch Memorial Medal and Badge from the RHS.



*The Veitch
Memorial Medal*

*Instituted in 1870 in commemoration of
James Veitch of Chelsea*

This is to certify that

Jan Young

*has been awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal
in recognition of service given in the advancement of
the science and practice of horticulture*

President: [Signature]

Secretary: [Signature]

Date: 6 April 2020

I was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal by the RHS two years ago in 2020 but Covid struck and the awards ceremony had to be postponed. Since then there have been other ceremonies but due to Covid it is still not safe enough for me to travel all the way to London and back for the presentation. By coincidence the Certificate, medal and badge arrived by post in the very week that I write Bulb Log 1000.



A golden crocus cultivar celebrates in the sunshine - we are enjoying long periods of clear skies however in the cool sea breeze the garden temperature stays modest and distinctly cold in the shade.





The bright sunshine creates strong contrasts which are not the ideal light for taking pictures so I adapt; trying instead to capture the atmosphere illustrating the light and shade rather than details.





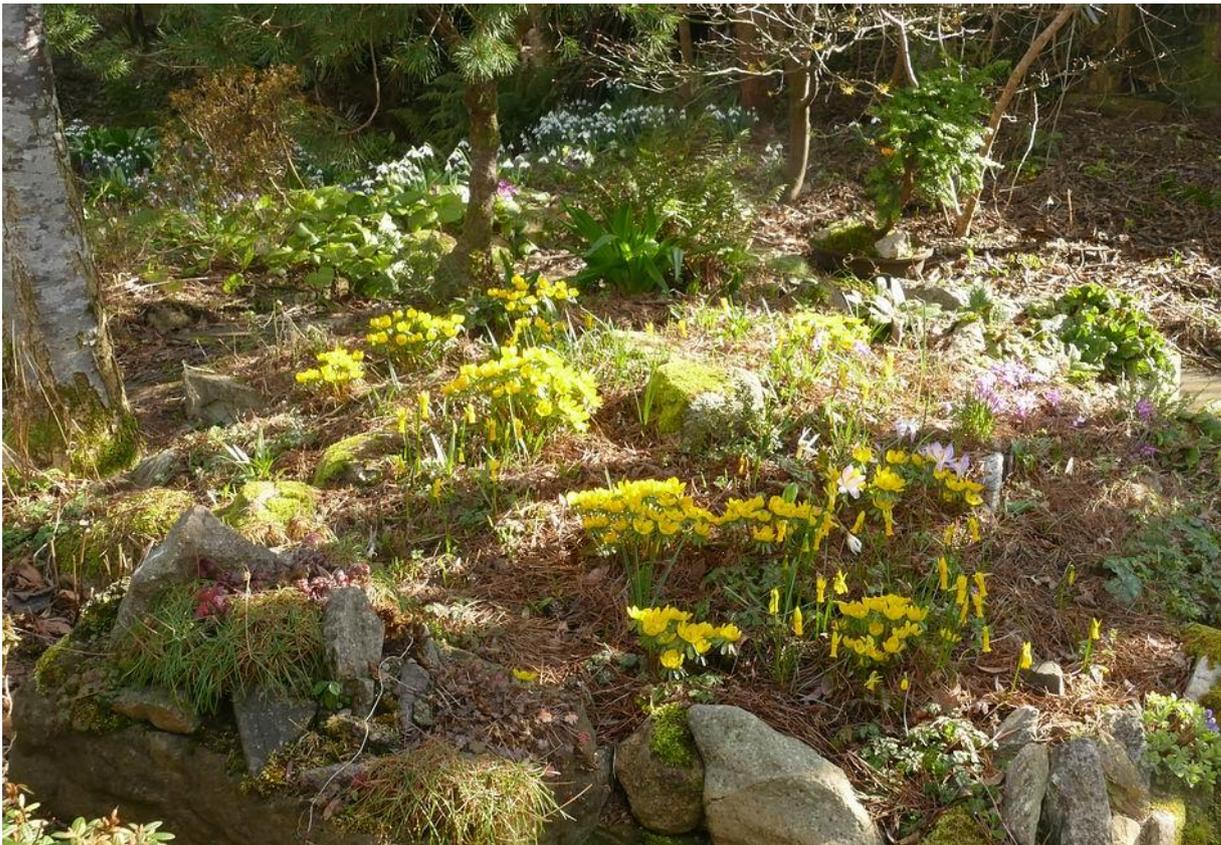
Crocus, Eranthis, Hepatica and Narcissus.



Hepatica nobilis



My love of nature is reflected in the garden where I have tried to create a landscape and plantings that I can explore - searching out plants and seedlings just like I would in a wild habitat. This low camera angle gives the impression of walking up a hillside with **Primula marginata** in the foreground and a mass of golden yellow flowers waiting for me to walk further up the hill.



I have to compromise between the intense light and deep shade when setting the exposure but the image does give you the impression of moving from shade in the foreground to an area of intense light then back into shade again for the snowdrops in the distance.



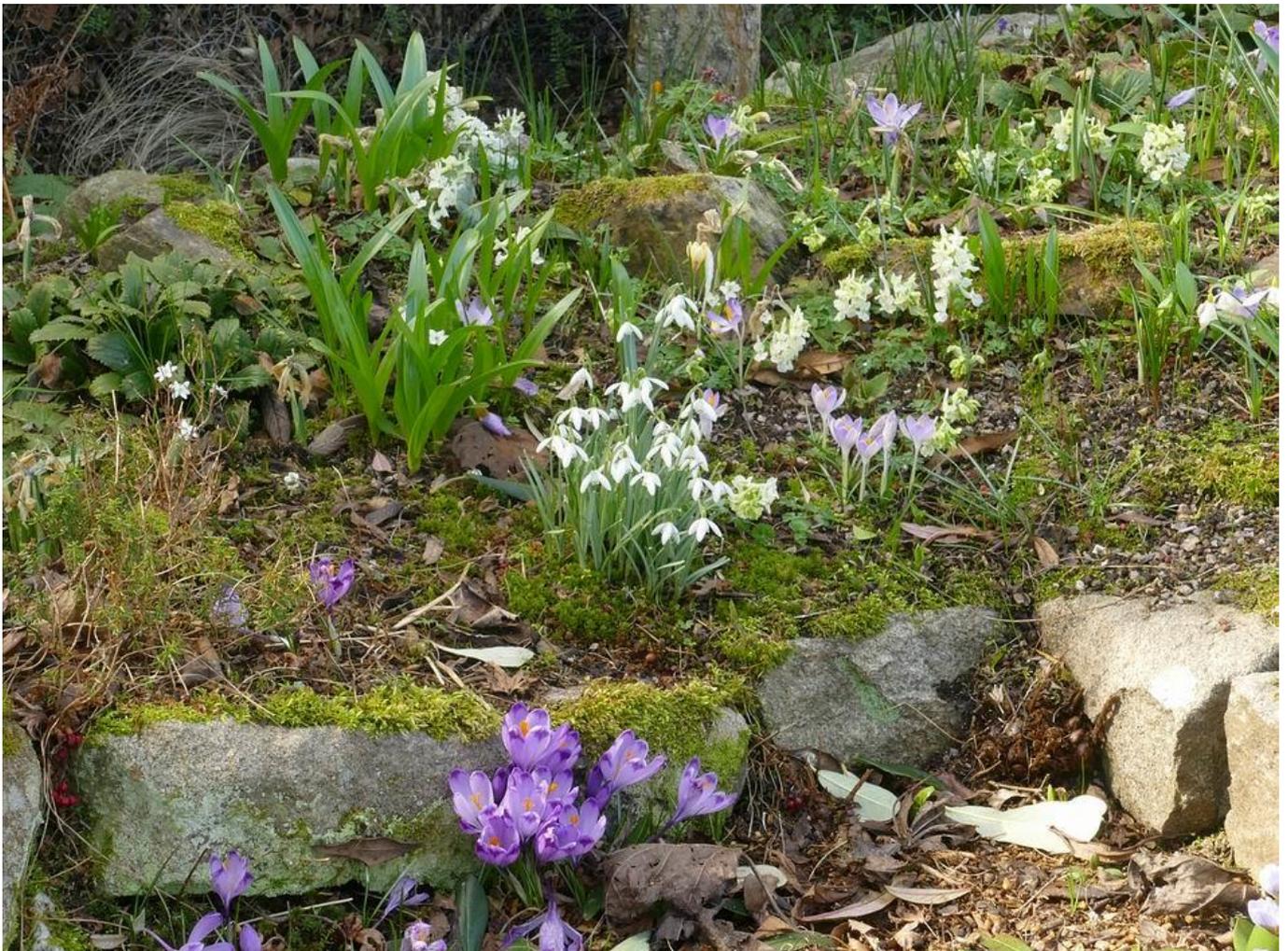
At the same time and only a few metres away where the garden is in shade, it is like being in another place at another time where the snowdrops only just coming out.



Crocus tommasinianus , **Corydalis malkenensis**, **Narcissus asturiensis** and **Galanthus** emerging out of the shade.



In these conditions I am constantly walking in and out of shade as here in another recently replanted part of the garden small plants of *Hepatica* and different forms of the *Galanthus* 'Dryad Gold' group including 'Gold Medal'.



A group of *Crocus heuffelianus* that some years ago escaped from the bed deciding they preferred to grow at the edge of the path.



Here I show **Crocus tommasinianus** growing through a ground cover of the evergreen **Asarum europaeum** foliage with more snowdrops.



After receiving a single bulb of **Galanthus 'E. A. Bowles'** a few years ago we grew it in a pot to increase it and last year I planted a number of bulbs out around the garden. We don't use labels in the garden and I did not make a record of where exactly I planted it so this year I have had the fun of seeking them out and indeed they are all growing well.

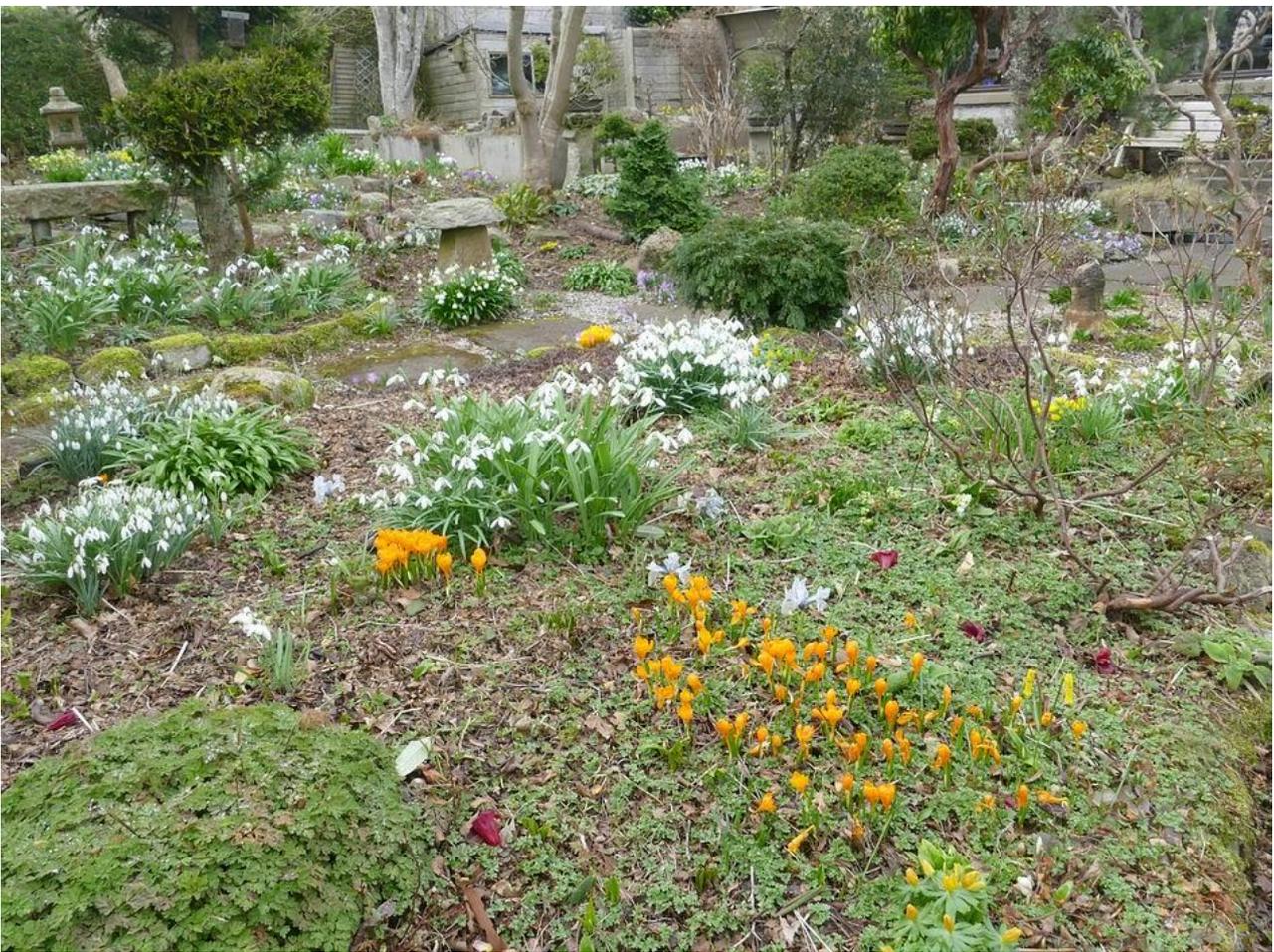
Galanthus 'E. A. Bowles' is perfectly poculiform, meaning all six segments are the same length and we grow a number of others, arising from different species, that while smaller in stature are equally attractive.

Here are two from *Galanthus nivalis* the first found in Scotland is

Galanthus 'Annielle' a beautiful pristine white poculiform snowdrop found by Cyril Lafong and named for his wife.



The second ***Galanthus*** 'Fairy Tail' comes from Poland where it was discovered and named by Chris Ciesielski.



This bed is going through a seasonal transition as the first of the snowdrops flowers pass over and the ground cover consisting of *Adoxa moschatellina* in the foreground and *Anemone ranunculoides* in the other half pushes through the leafy mulch to form a complete carpet over the ground.



The growth advances with the season and the early flowering plants now cover most of the ground and as these subside they will be followed by a succession of later growing subjects all the way through to winter.



Crocus heuffelianus



Crocus sublimis tricolor



Mixed Crocus cultivars



Returning to the shaded end of the garden the dominant colour is white provided by the recently opened snowdrops.



Snowdrops



Snowdrops and Eranthis



The *Eranthis* in these shaded beds flower two to three weeks later than the same ones in the sunshine.



In a sunnier bed *Leucojum vernum* and *Corydalis malkensis* join in the display.



Hellebores are among the next wave to flower



The white flowers of *Erythronium caucasicum* are appearing among the yellow *Eranthis* 'Guinea Gold'



Erythronium caucasicum



My eye is attracted to the diminutive **Trillium ovatum maculosum** which for us, is the first of this genus to bloom. Perhaps I will have earned a break or run out of things to say when I have completed twenty years of these diaries; that is a decision I will take at the end of the year. When I do eventually stop there will still be over a thousand Bulb Logs to read again and be reminded of the plants we have grown and lost as well as those that stayed with us through the whole journey since we first started this garden in 1975.

The evolution of the garden and gardener are inextricably linked and the Bulb Log is a record and reminder of the changes as the garden and gardeners get older. Thank you for being with me.....

You can also join me on this new [Bulb Log Video diary garden](#) walk by clicking the link.