



BULB LOG 01.....14<sup>th</sup> January 2026





Here I am writing the first Bulb Log at the start of the 24<sup>th</sup> year. One of my concerns is how repetitive it becomes as each year repeats itself in the garden. One thing I have learned is that, while each year and seasons come around, conditions are never an exact repeat of the previous ones. Parameters change – the ever-changing weather has the biggest influence on the timings, but other factors influence the growth and flowering times so every season is not the same.

There are there always going to be new things I can share alongside the regular suspects.

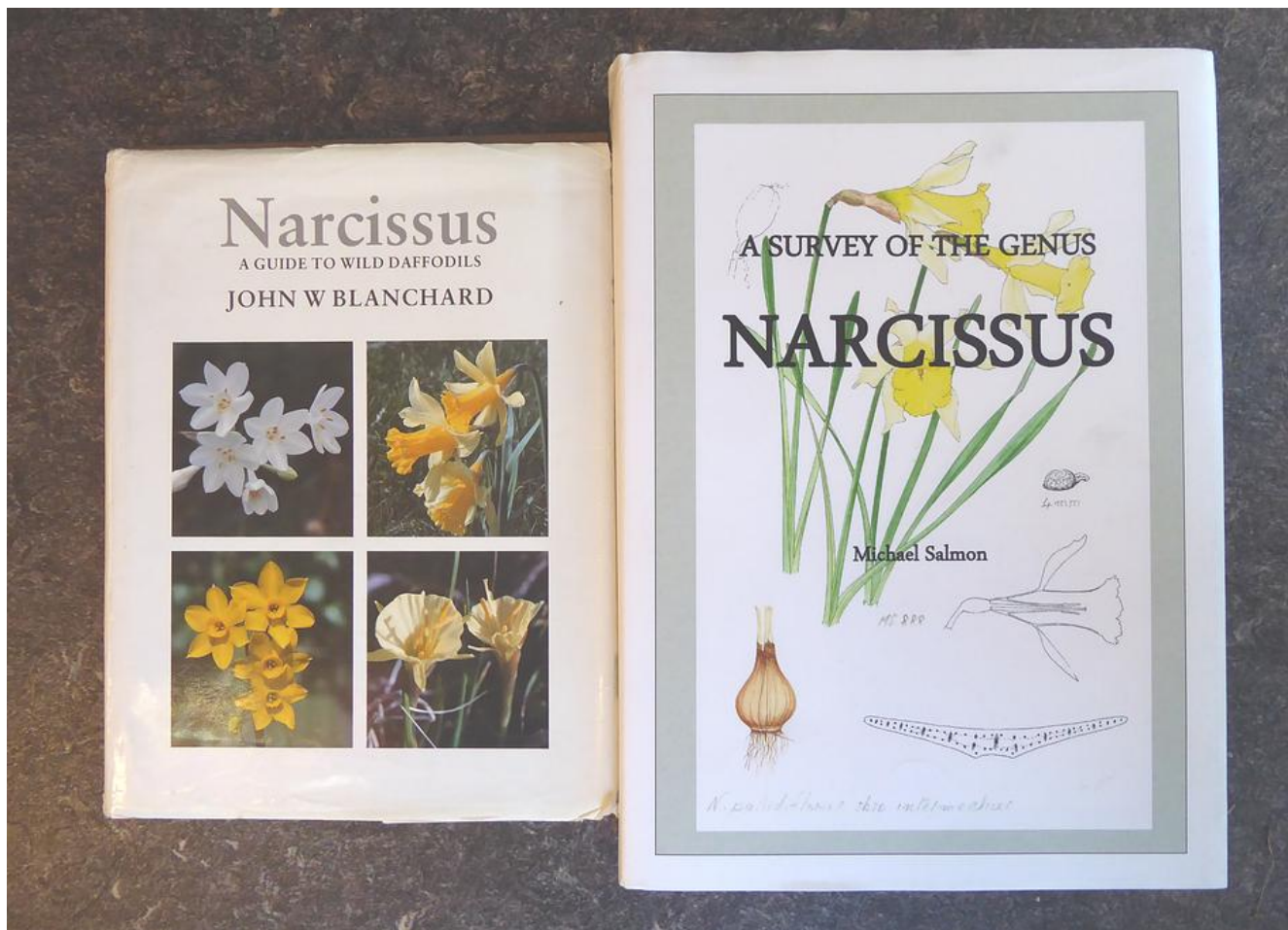
I did not create a still life for a cover last year so decided I would make one for this month and it

was obvious that it would be the Hoop petticoat Narcissus that would feature: no two flowers are the same,



The bulbs growing in pots are well behind those in the sand beds, with the first flowers only starting to open now, so they will extend our flowering season. My observations are that it is always this way, I think the reason for the different timings is that the moisture/temperature around the bulbs in the sand beds is more constant than it is in the pots. Despite my initial fears that we might not get a good flowering (I always have that worry) there are masses of flowers competing for the space. I am not going to go put names to the individual forms I show below partly because they are mostly raised from our own seed and as a result are part of our garden hybrid swarm, plus I have attempted to put names to them many times over the years which you can look back at. I do recommend the following two books to help expand your knowledge on this unruly confusing section.





I am continually referring to these two books written by John Blanchard and Michael Salmon which give us access to a lifetime of research by these two leading figures in the Daffodil world. I will show some of the 'types' of flowers pointing out some of their key features and the differing opinions.



Pure white, including the filaments, and funnel shaped corona.





Creamy white all over, corona open funnel shaped style, and stamens exserted.



Similar to above but petunioid shaped corona.





The original sand bed has been very successful with some bulbs increasing so well that I had to thin them out a few years ago. I used the spare bulbs to start the sand beds in the other bulb house. It is now getting to the stage that I may have to go in and thin out the number of bulbs once again but for now we can just enjoy the beauty of this miscellany of forms.



We have experienced more losses of bulbs in the second bulb house due to prolonged freezing conditions along with the nature of the sand I used. I cannot over emphasise how important the makeup of the sand is. It needs to be gritty with as few very fine particles as possible.





A few winters ago, we lost nearly all the bulbs in this bed in the second bulb house. I used a few bags of sharp sand from a garden centre which had too much fine material holding moisture so it was easier for the frost to penetrate, freezing the bulbs to death. Losses like this are part of the learning process, I have added 6mm grit to open the sand and am enjoying replanting it with a wider range of bulbs that may be more tolerant of these conditions.

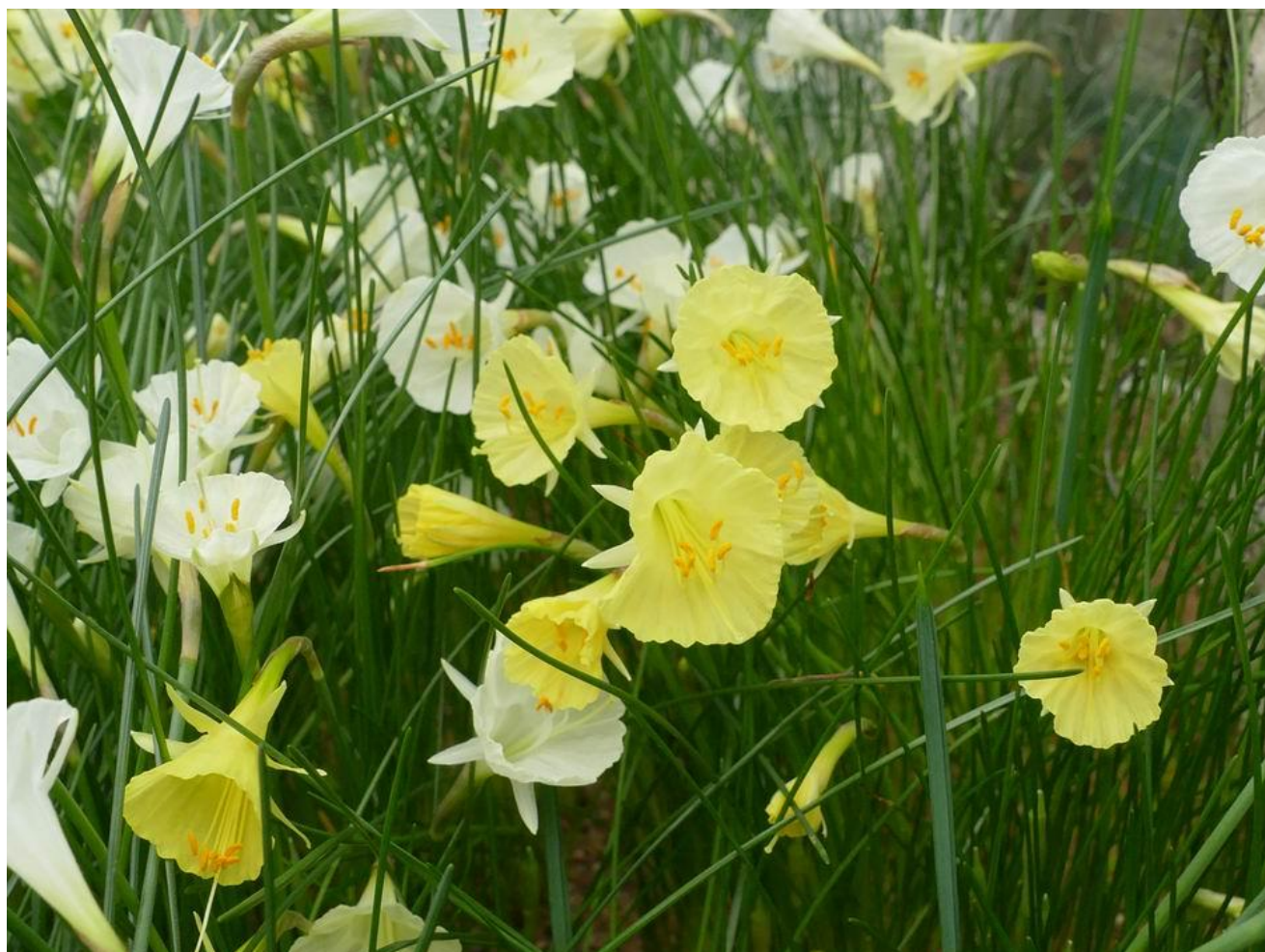


To round off this section on a positive note here are a few more images of the many fascinating blooms we are currently enjoying. Spend a minute scanning the images for all the variations there are.





**Narcissus**



**Narcissus**





**Narcissus**



**Narcissus**





If you would like to see more Narcissus check out my [December Bulb Log Video Diary](#)







Gardeners should gain experience from their failures and success. I have done most of my learning from observing nature and the plants themselves. The often repeated traditional rational that you should not place plants at the base of a tree seems at first sensible until you observe and understand what is going on in nature.



You might, as I did at first, wonder how these *Primula vulgaris* are growing in the roots of a large mature tree when the traditional wisdom states that it is too dry there.





I decided to follow nature's lesson and plant a *Primula vulgaris* seedling right at the base of one of our larger trees.

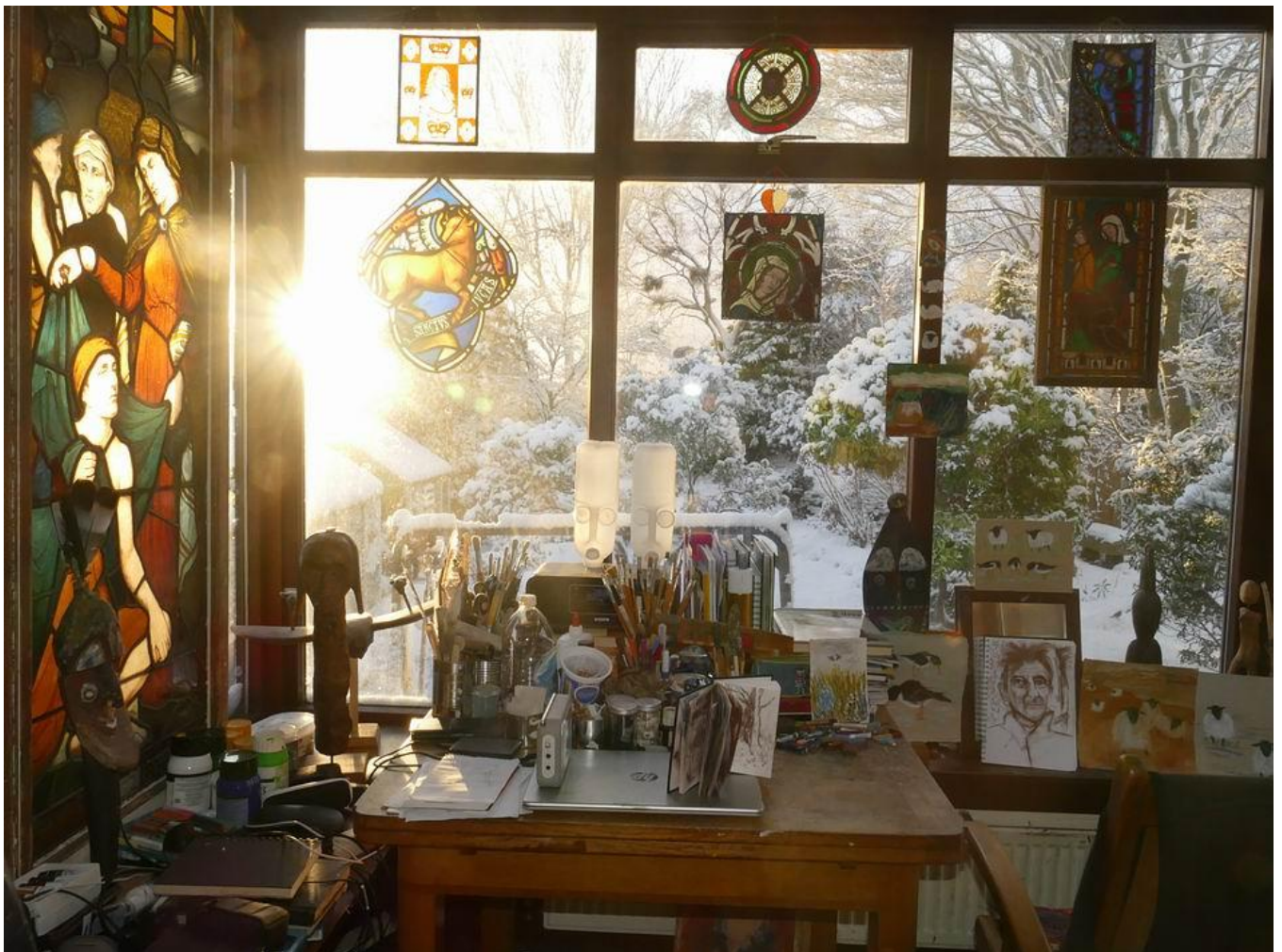


The clue to how the seedling has thrived, growing very well throughout the year even surviving some very dry spells, is visible in this picture but perhaps more obvious in the following one.





Look at the tree trunk even though it was not raining, just misty, there is moisture running down one side of the trunk delivering the moisture captured by the structure of the tree right down to the Primula.



The snow arrived with 2026 and we have had snow falling every day since. The garden under snow looks very pretty looking over my chaotic worktable which reflects my mind which jumps around from plants, nature and art.



I have an overpowering drive to be creative whether I am working with art or gardening it is all about making something that didn't exist before. Also, I hate waste, so I have turned some used plastic milk cartons recycling them into my own version of the Rapa Nui Maoi statues on Easter Island. Sitting in front of the window it is fascinating how they change through the day with the light.



I kept watching through the window as outside the snow just kept falling and getting deeper. For a few days I only ventured out to feed the birds.





The feeders are close to the house so we can have the pleasure watching all the bids feeding. In this weather I have to top the feeders up on a daily basis.





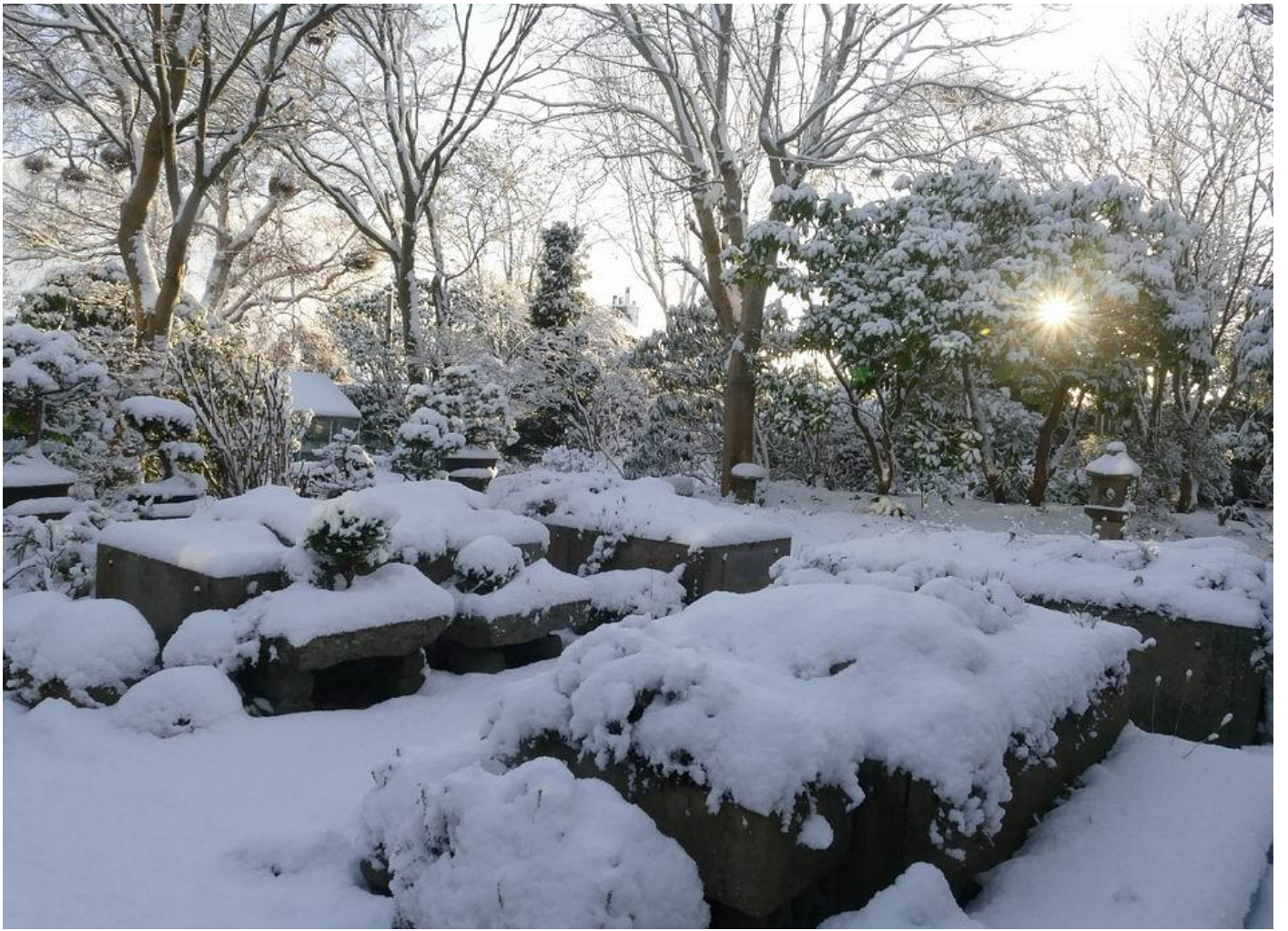


Everyday the snow kept coming and I was out with my camera. I share a selection of the many pictures I took below showing the snow getting progressively deeper up to 45cms.



The weight of snow was distorting the shapes of the trees and shrubs and could potentially break or damage them, so I have been knocking it off.









By now there was around 40cms of lying snow.











While the snow piled up the wee Narcissus were safe inside the bulb houses. It is difficult to capture the feeling of standing in this winter wonderland with a still camera so check out my January [Bulb Log Video Diary](#).....