



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 02.....18th February 2026





What has been happening since the last Bulb Log? The period opened with more snow falling – it was the kind of snow that clings to everything including the trees making for some very pretty vistas seen on my walks and in the garden which you can see this snowy [Bulb Log Video garden diary](#).

Then the weather turned to rain which quickly washed all the snow away and it has not stopped raining since. We are currently sitting at 21 consecutive days of rain. In January we had 271 percent of the average rainfall for that month and we achieved the average rainfall for February in the first few days. I have not seen the sun since I took these pictures on

8th January.



All this snow followed by a lot of rain means there is plenty moisture in the ground to fuel the imminent growth of the early bulbs - more on that later. I took the first two pictures on my walk the rest of the snow pictures are from the garden. I am wondering if I should rename to the Weather report because I keep writing about it but weather has the biggest effect on the plants that will grow in the garden and surrounding environment.



We had a good 45 to 50 cms of snow with everything looking very pretty and bright as long as you didn't have to travel far.





I have often shown the hanging bird feeders but I do not forget to look after the ground feeding birds especially when the snow disrupts their normal foraging habitat.



The weather changed - blowing down from the north and the east bringing in the three weeks of gloom. The sea was raging, smashing against the shore and breakwater. We could see the waves crashing over the south breakwater from our front doorstep and the stormy conditions disrupted the narrow channel into the busy port stopping all shipping including the ferries to the northern isles.



The snow melt combined with the constant rain inevitably brought flooding. Even the paths I regularly tread through the fields and woods turned into burns with water flowing down them.



These flows were fed by the pools of water gathering in the low-lying areas of the field. Note the clump of daffodils, bottom right, growing on the wall which leads me nicely back home to look at our little daffs.

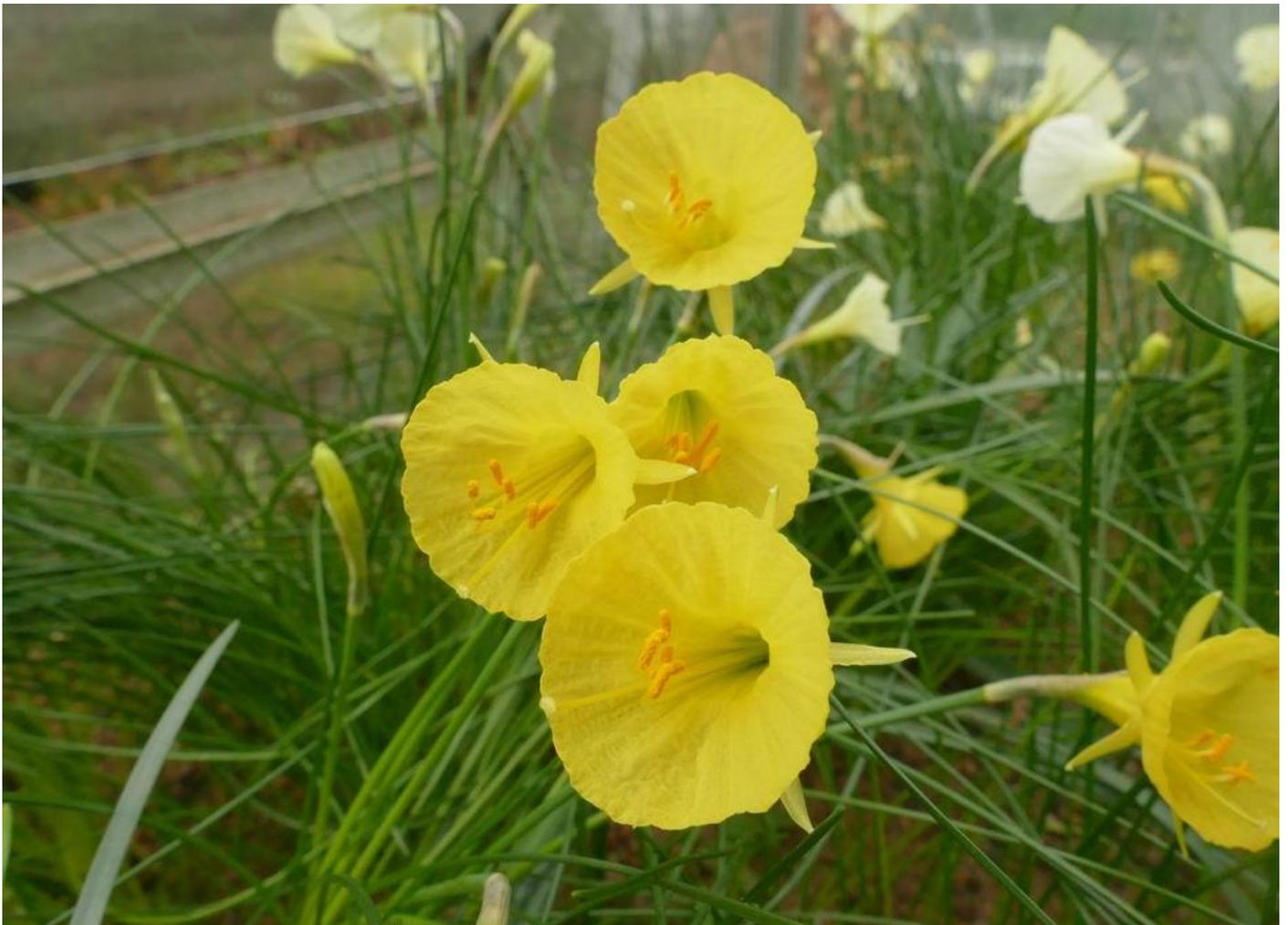


All through the gloomy period the light in the bulb houses was greatly restricted, first by the snow lying on the roof then by the ceiling of heavy dark cloud that we had for 21 days in a row. This caused the stems which were still growing to get longer and flop over but still their diminutive flowers were lovely.





The start of the wee daff season is dominated by the white flowers but later it switches towards yellow, which is now the dominant colour in our plantings.





Narcissus 'Craigton Clumper' cascades over the edge as their stems flop while a **Narcissus bulbocodium** which has stouter stems remains upright.



Narcissus bulbocodium.



This cool, damp, dark weather is not conducive to a good set of seed but it is perfect for the growth of grey moulds. As the flowers fade and wither I must remove them to prevent the mould from moving from the dead material to leaves and ultimately down to the bulbs.



I normally say that you should not dead head your bulbs - let them give you a harvest of seeds, but in this case when there will be no seed I remove the flowers as they turn. Bulbs that are not setting seed will go dormant that bit earlier so I have to think about building next years buds in the bulbs below so feeding so I am applying additional feed that bit earlier.



As a reminder I give a feed of Sulphate of Potash, which I bought at a local B&Q garden centre, other brands will be available. It is Potassium oxide (K_2O) 48% soluble in water that comes in the form of a white powder which I sprinkle on the pots or across the sand beds as the flowers fade. With each watering a little will be taken down to the roots.



The growth and flowers we get in the garden, starting in January, just keeps on going with more and more plants joining in the display with each passing day. Primula, Eranthis, and Galanthus all combining here.



The first few flowers of **Primula vulgaris** have emerged into the cold frosty sunshine, undeterred by the cold conditions and, like us, anxious to face the sunshine we have so missed in recent months.



While we have had some flowers on the **Cyclamen coum** over the winter it is now putting on a lovely display growing and seeding around among the moss.



Cyclamen coum



Cyclamen coum



Looking across the small moss-covered sand bed towards beds that are filling up with Snowdrops and Snowflakes.



The first Crocus flowers of the season join in but being dark in colour do not jump out the same as the Snowdrops.



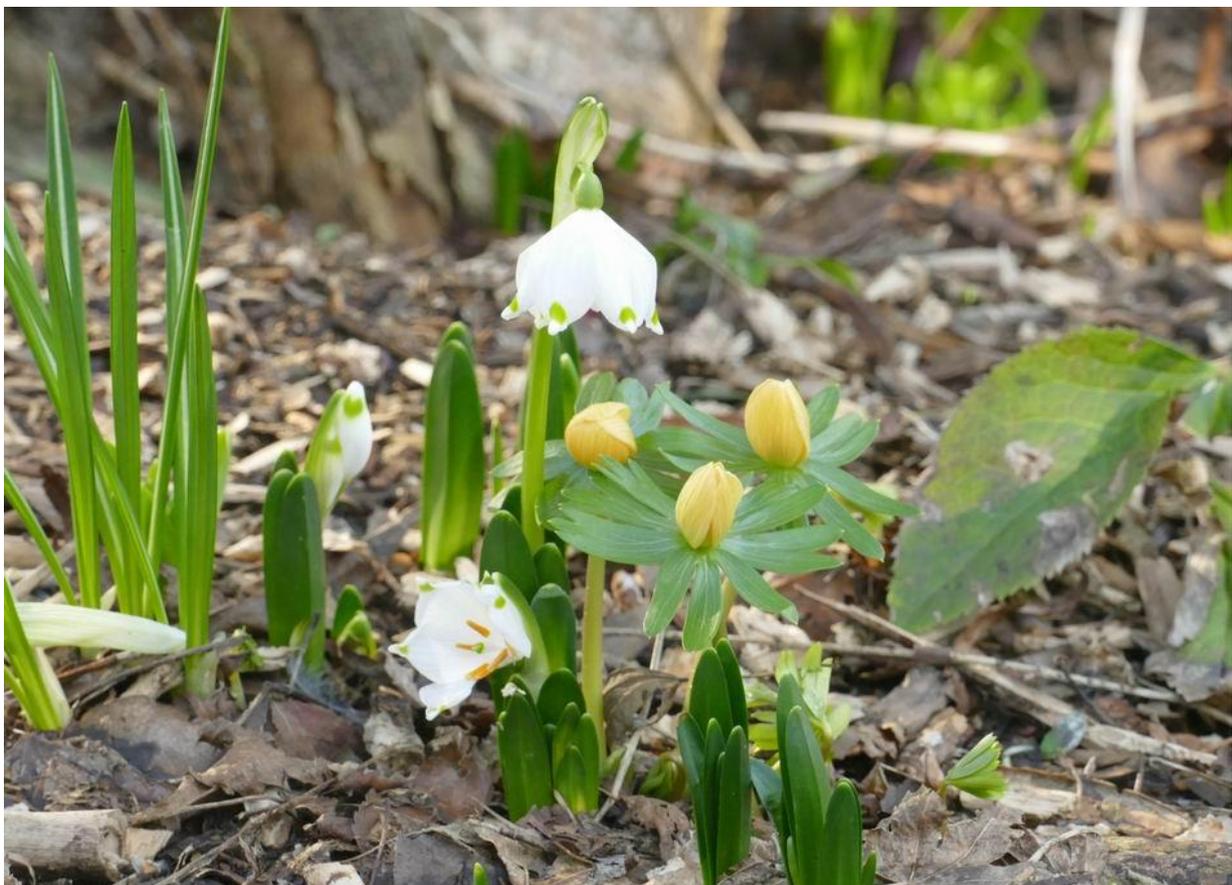
Galanthus woronowii



Clumps of Snowdrops that should really be split up are waiting for a slightly milder day to open their flowers fully.



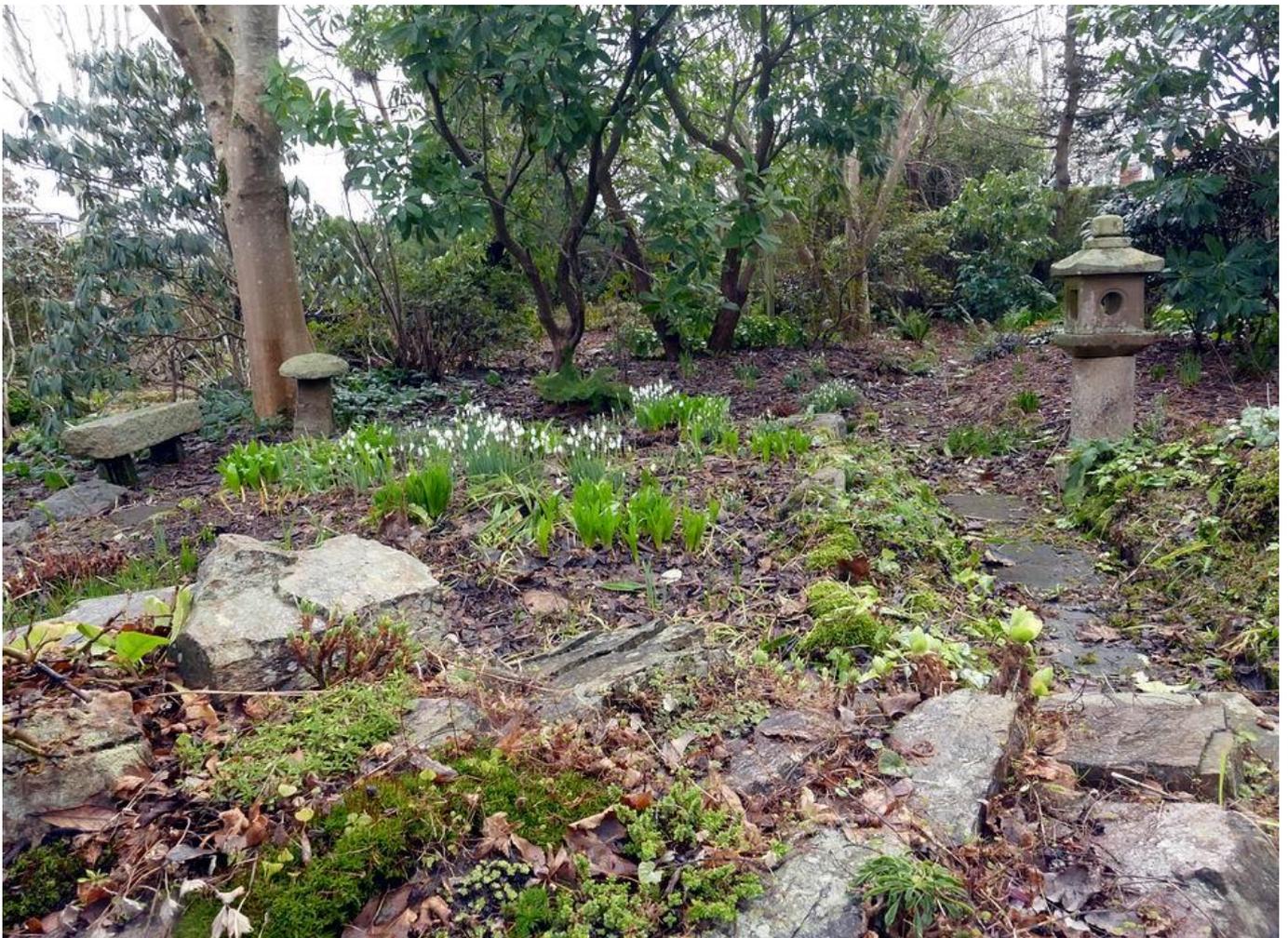
There is much discussion about when is the best time to split clumps of bulbs. Of course, it is less disruptive to the bulbs to do it when they are not in growth but ultimately it is best to do it when you have time and remember which is most likely now when they are in flower. Just do it carefully minimising the damage to the roots then replant and water them in immediately.



While it is nice to see the bulbs thriving and clumping up I prefer the smaller moments such as this modest grouping of a few **Leucojum vernum** and **Eranthis hyemalis**.



Galanthus 'Glenorma'



The garden wakes.



A group of the **Galanthus 'Dryad Gold'** group all of which I find to be excellent garden plants



Iris 'Katherine Hodgkin' flowers are among the earliest to appear.



An **Erythronium caucasicum** bud heralds the annual emergence of this fascinating genus. Depending on the weather our Erythronium will reach peak flowering between mid-April and mid-May.



I have just come back from my walk with the low sun in my face, the muddy ground now hard and crispy with frost crunches as I walk, the first Woodpecker drumming of the year rings out creating a rhythm for the bird song which is notably louder and more melodic – we are all enjoying these brighter conditions. I hope it soon warms up enough to 6C so the Eranthis flowers can also open to the sunshine. As I make my final adjustments on 17.02.26 the snow is back.....