



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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Pictures and text © Ian Young

BULB LOG 03.....11th March 2026





This is one of those Bulb Logs when the pictures will say more than my words ever could. The weather has been more stable, with the seasonal norms prevailing and the bulbs responding in their usual rush into flower. While the main theme is obviously the spring bulbs there is a sub plot as shown on the cover image of inside/ outside. Regular readers will know that we grow a lot of bulbs under cold glass conditions - originally in pots but increasingly planted directly into the sand plunge beds. This style of random planting delivers a more pleasing aesthetic to my

taste. While many of the bulbs under glass would not survive in the open garden I do add some to the plunge bed that are hardy for the variety and colour they bring.



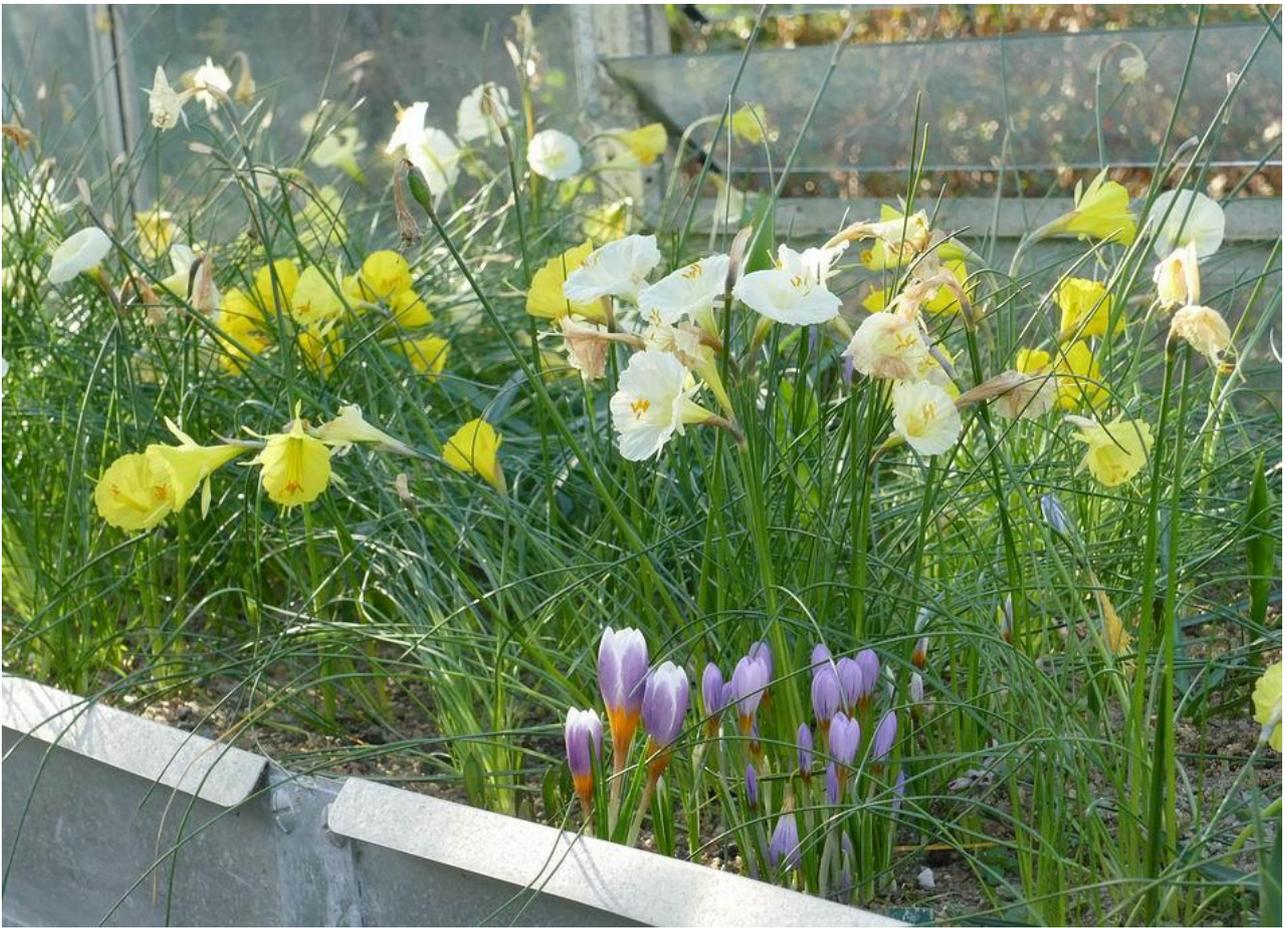
When we started out, we grew the majority of our bulbs in pots - starting off with clay pots when we were actively exhibiting at the SRGC Shows, before switching to square plastic pots when we stopped showing around 2000.



This plunge of pots has its advantage in that the clones and species are kept together and, as long as they are not parted from their labels, remain organised with their name which is what is required if you are showing.



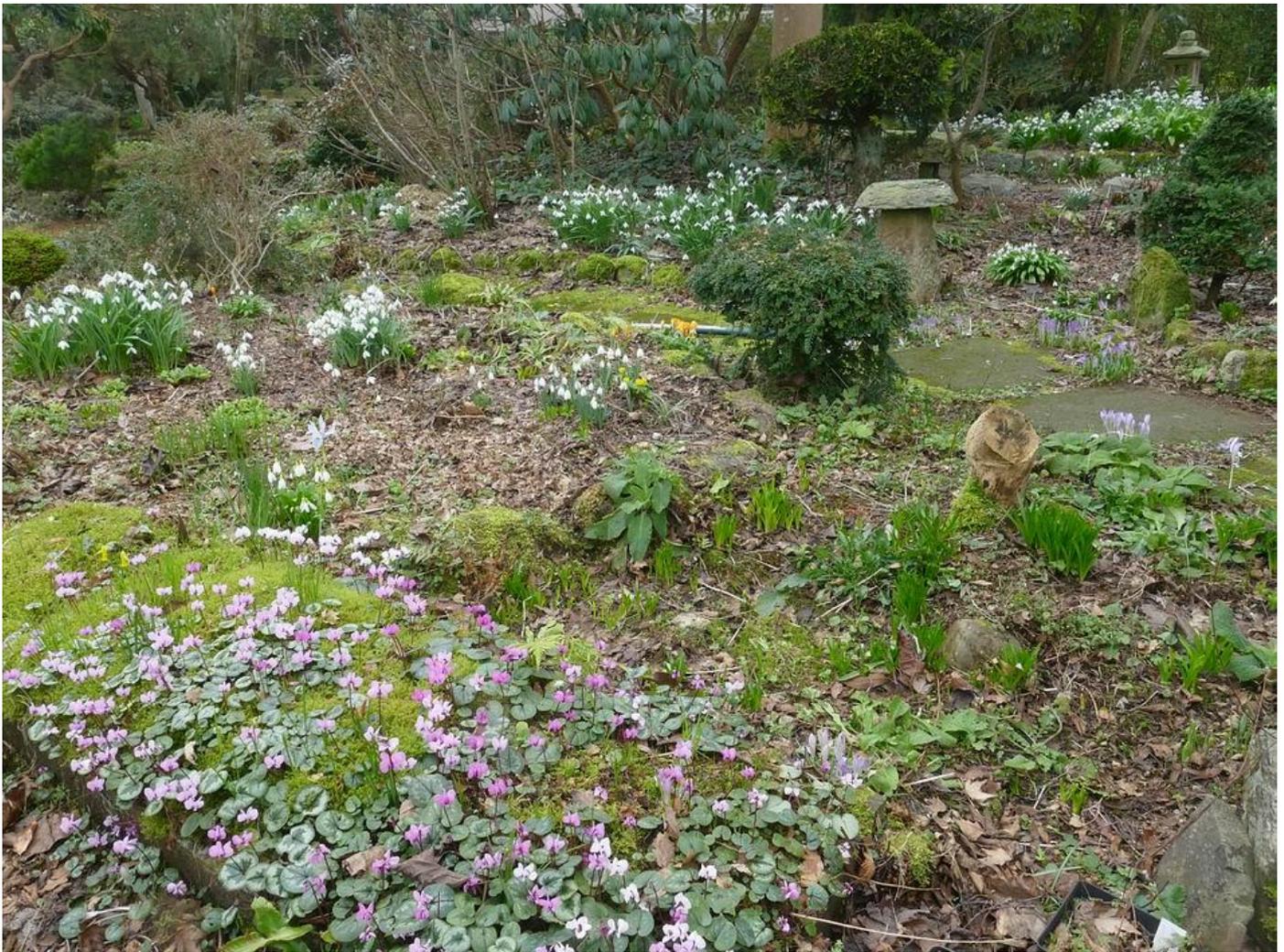
When we decided to stop putting our plants on the show benches, we moved to showing them off through the then-weekly-Bulb Log, where I could share so much more than I could on a show bench. In the sand beds I could use the plants like I use my colours when I am painting and drawing to create attractive combinations.



The Narcissus give us flowers all through the winter starting as early as October in some years often going on until May and even on occasion, June. Currently others are such as Crocus, Corydalis and Fritillaria are joining in the show.



With a multitude of flowers in the bulb house outside in the garden many of the snowdrops are at their peak of flowering even though the cold conditions mean they had not fully flexed their petals until we recently had a few days of sunshine.



The white wave flows across the garden as Snowflakes join the Snowdrops in a mass flowering surrounded by many other early flowering genera.





For the best part of two weeks the egg-shaped yellow buds of the Eranthis flowers stayed shut tight, until at last, the temperature in the sunshine rose above 6C, allowing them to open revealing their full beauty to all.



It is when all the different flowers start mixing forming communities that I get the greatest pleasure.



Eranthis hyemalis





Anne Wright of Dryad Nursery bred the amazing [Galanthus Dryad Gold Group](#). Each clone came with a name but, sorry Anne, I do not like labels in the garden I find they distract from the beauty.

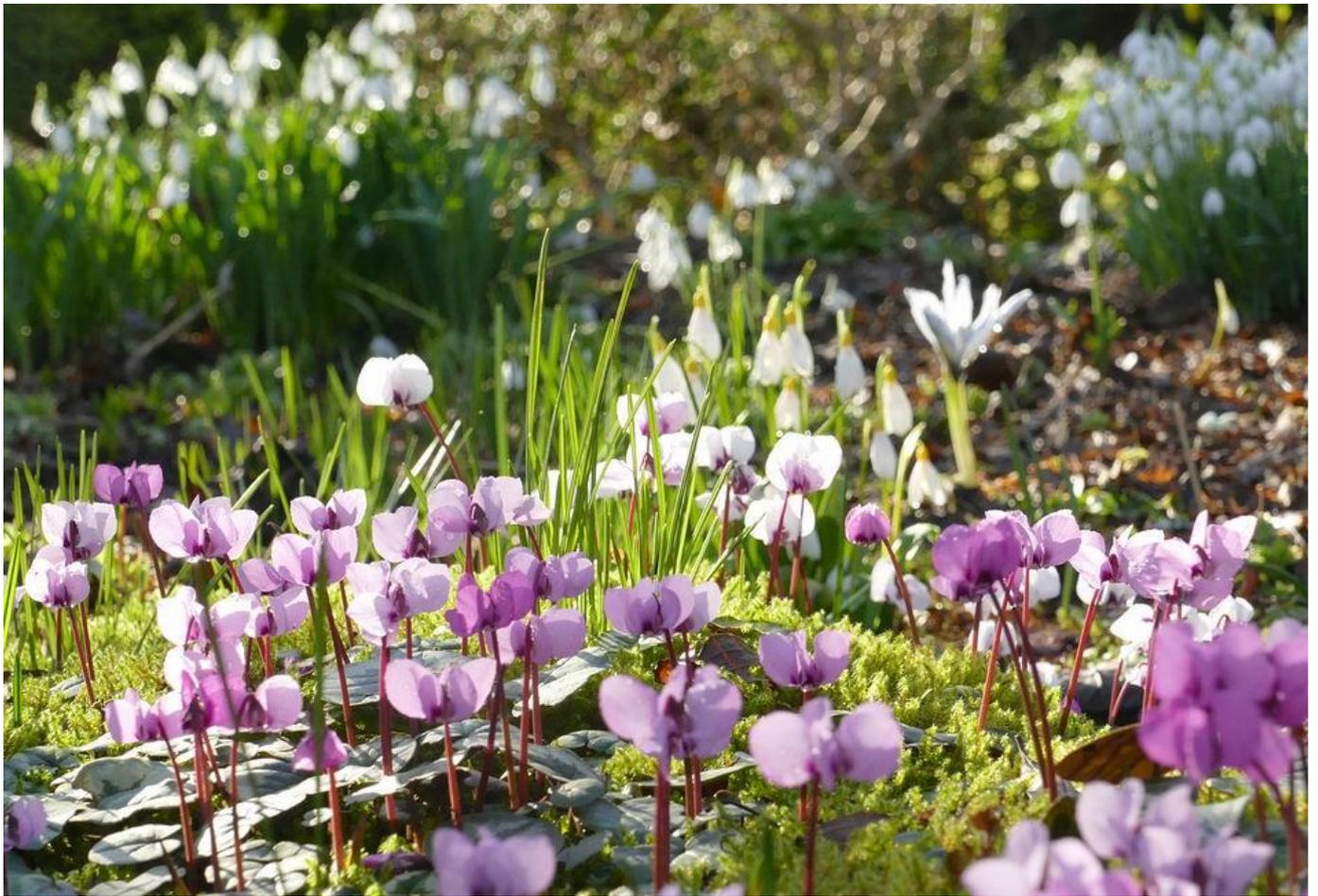




Iris Katharine Hodgkin



Erythronium caucasicum



Cyclamen coum





Crocus vernus, *Leucojum vernum* and a pale form of *Eranthis hyemalis* (*Eranthis* 'Schwefelglanz').



Crocus siculus



Crocus tommasinianus



As I write I can't recall which Crocus this is, I can do some research later, but you do not need a name to see the beauty.



Crocus hueffelianus





Galanthus 'Anniele' a form of *nivalis* selected by Cyril LaFong, where the inner and outer petals are of equal length, will soon be released into the garden, where despite its small size should be distinct enough to be recognised like the larger selection *Galanthus* E.A. Bowles below.



Galanthus E.A. Bowles

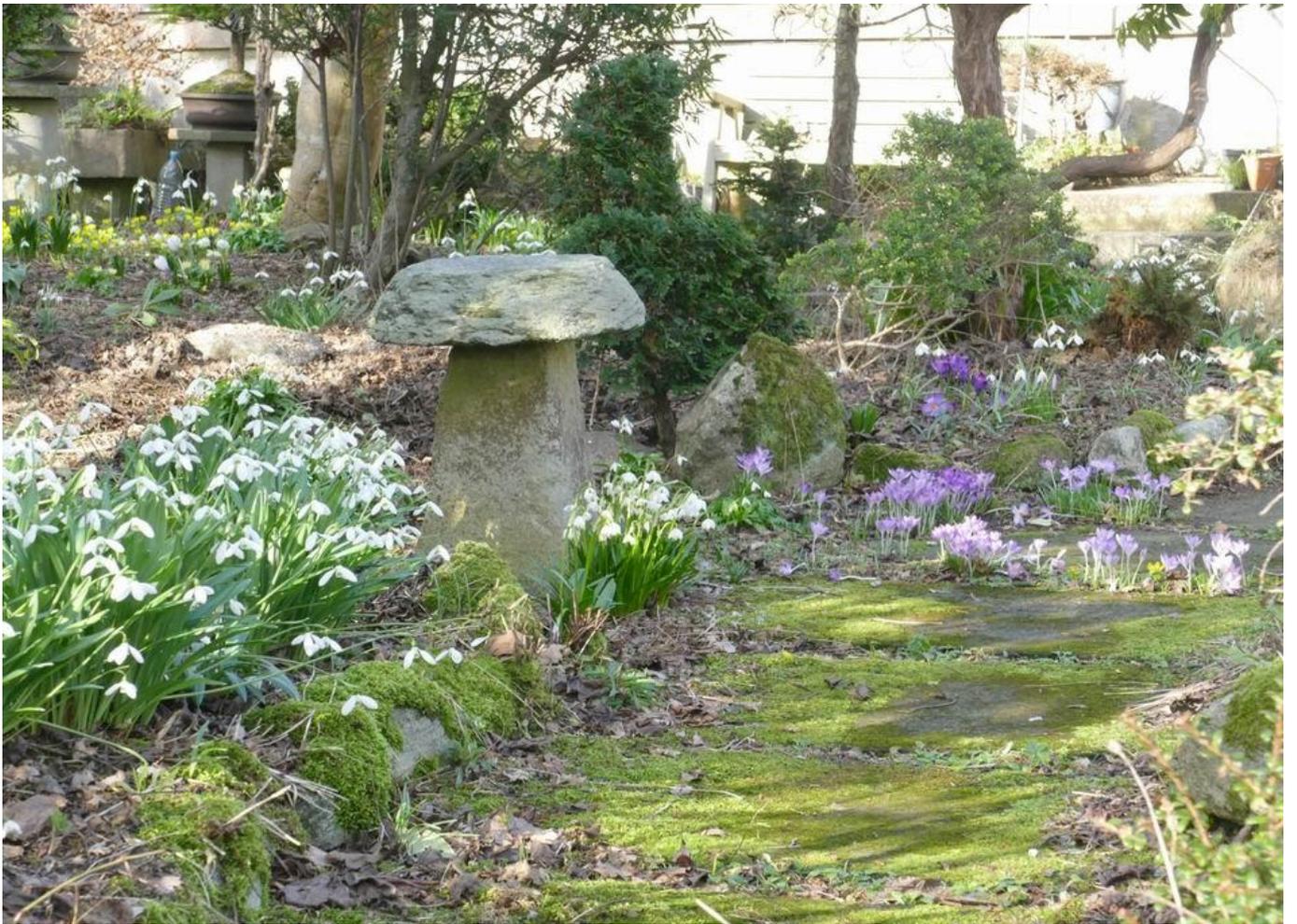


I like it best when the plants are left to do their own thing choosing where to grow as they seed and spread.



Galanthus woronowii





Plants do not respect the boundaries as they cascade out into the paths seeding around especially in the gravel.



Crocus tommasinianus is one of the species that seeds around most freely.



Crocus tommasinianus



Long established **Crocus vernus** cultivars.

As well as watching the flowers emerging we have in recent weeks been enjoying watching the Magpies build a new nest in a position that we could observe from our kitchen and sitting room. They started with a basic dish shaped cluster of twigs in the fork at the top of this tree and since then they have been gathering more and more twigs to construct a domed structure effectively creating a sphere at the centre of which is the nest. The final part has been to gather mud to line the nest.



In addition to the build they also had to defend their nest from a large black Crow that did not like the competition from another predatory bird in their location. I know Magpies get a bad name because they predate on the smaller birds' eggs and chicks but they are part of the diversity of life we enjoy in our garden. We have plenty of songbirds visiting all the time as well as Sparrowhawks and the Magpies are not new to the garden they have been nesting in another tree for some years it is just this new nest is more visible to us.



Narcissus cyclamineus



Narcissus cyclamineus is a real favourite inn the garden where it seeds around occasionally forming clumps.



Back to the inside/outside theme, I love that short period when there is a sort of balance between the flowers under glass and those out in the garden



Inside the flowering will start to reduce as the bulbs retreat into the sand while outside the number and range of flowers will grow as the season progresses.



A really attractive form or hybrid of *Narcissus bulbocodium* that I have not yet managed to get to survive outside but I will keep trying.



Narcissus cantabricus from wild seed with the naturally occurring hybrid **Narcissus x susannae** along with some of Anne Wright's miniatures growing in pots.



Just coming out on the left is a **Narcissus cantabricus** hybrid that Anne named **Narcissus 'Ian Young'** beside a lovely miniature trumpet she has named **Narcissus 'Maggi Young'** being photo-bombed by a random hoop seedling.



Crocus tommasinianus

Remember to check for new videos appearing on my YouTube channel: I always announce them on the [Forum](#) the links to all 222 of them are there.