



SRGC

# Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 06.....10<sup>th</sup> June 2026

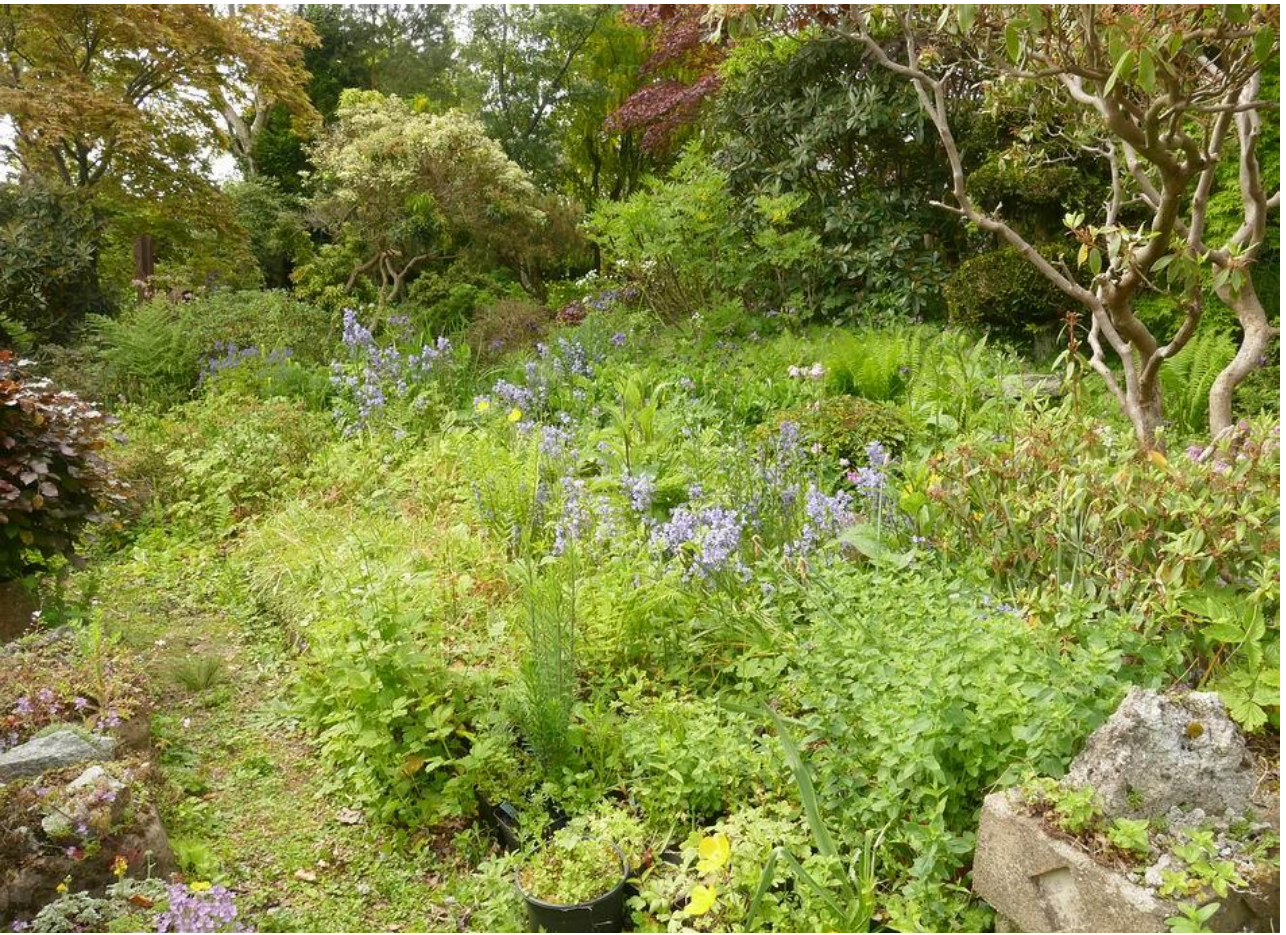




The cover image gives one view of our garden landscape, from the ground up, where a range of plants from the tiny all the way up to trees can share a relatively small space delivering a long season of ever-changing interest. Regular readers will know that I take my inspiration from nature and the wild areas I have seen including those I see on my local daily walks such as this area of Bluebells and Wild Garlic a ten-minute walk away.



It is fair to say that these plants are generous in their rate of increase, but they can be controlled in the garden by dead heading. Removing the flowers as they fade prevents excessive seeding. I am happy with this small pastiche of the bigger wood planting that I can enjoy in the garden. These plants form just one of the many sequences of plants that occupy this bed bridging the period between the earliest plants, spring and the summer growers.



When taking pictures I try and capture the wider landscape rather than just focusing in on the detail of a single plant. It is the same when I see images of plants people have taken in the wild. I am much more interested in and get more information from the wider shots showing the plants in habitat. Of course, the detailed images are also important but from a gardening point of view the wider images deliver more information and inspiration.



This bed that has given so much already this year keeps on going through another sequence of flowering and growth with evidence of the next phase, featuring *Arisaema*, starting to appear.



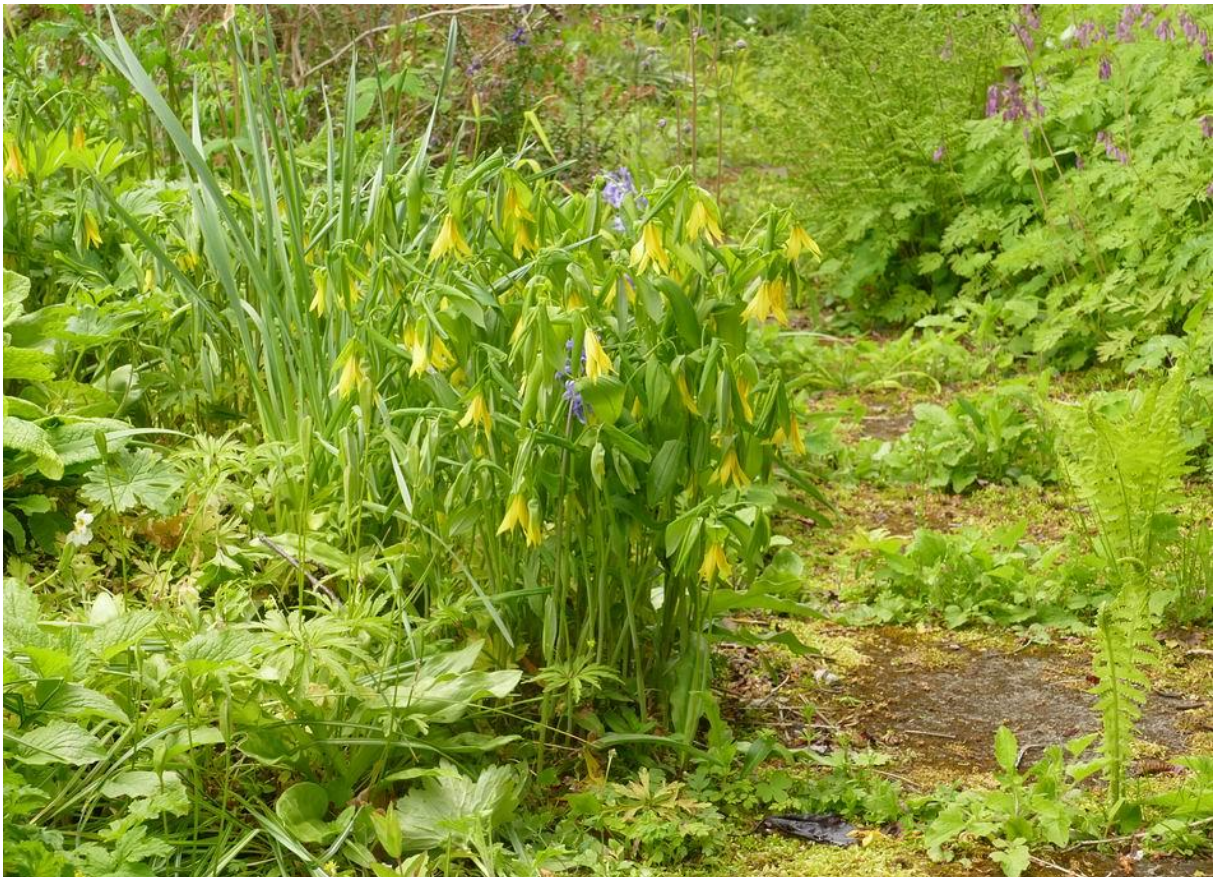
**Allium ursinum and Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica**



**Corydalis 'Craigton Purple' with the Blue Bells**



***Uvularia grandiflora*** also grows at the edge of this same bed and this clump which is the strongest with best growth has seeded out into the gravel part of the path.



There are a few lessons to learn here including, despite my previous comments about the Bluebells and Wild Garlic, it is good to let your plants self-seed. The resulting seedlings will choose their own space and will generally grow better than and have more vigour than those continually raised from division.



You may notice from the pictures that flowers are important but will only last a short time while the foliage stays around providing decoration and interest for many months. Ferns are a great addition to any garden.





The last hurrah of the season in the bulb house sand beds comes from this **Ornithogalum** sp. The beds will now be left to dry out for the summer then in September they will be soaked to start to the cycle again. I have tried to extend the season with various summer flowering species, but they tend to require summer wet which was not compatible with the majority of bulbs we grow that are winter wet and summer dry.





The wee white Daphne is well flowered again and seems to be one of the plants that is thriving in our warming weather while many others struggle.

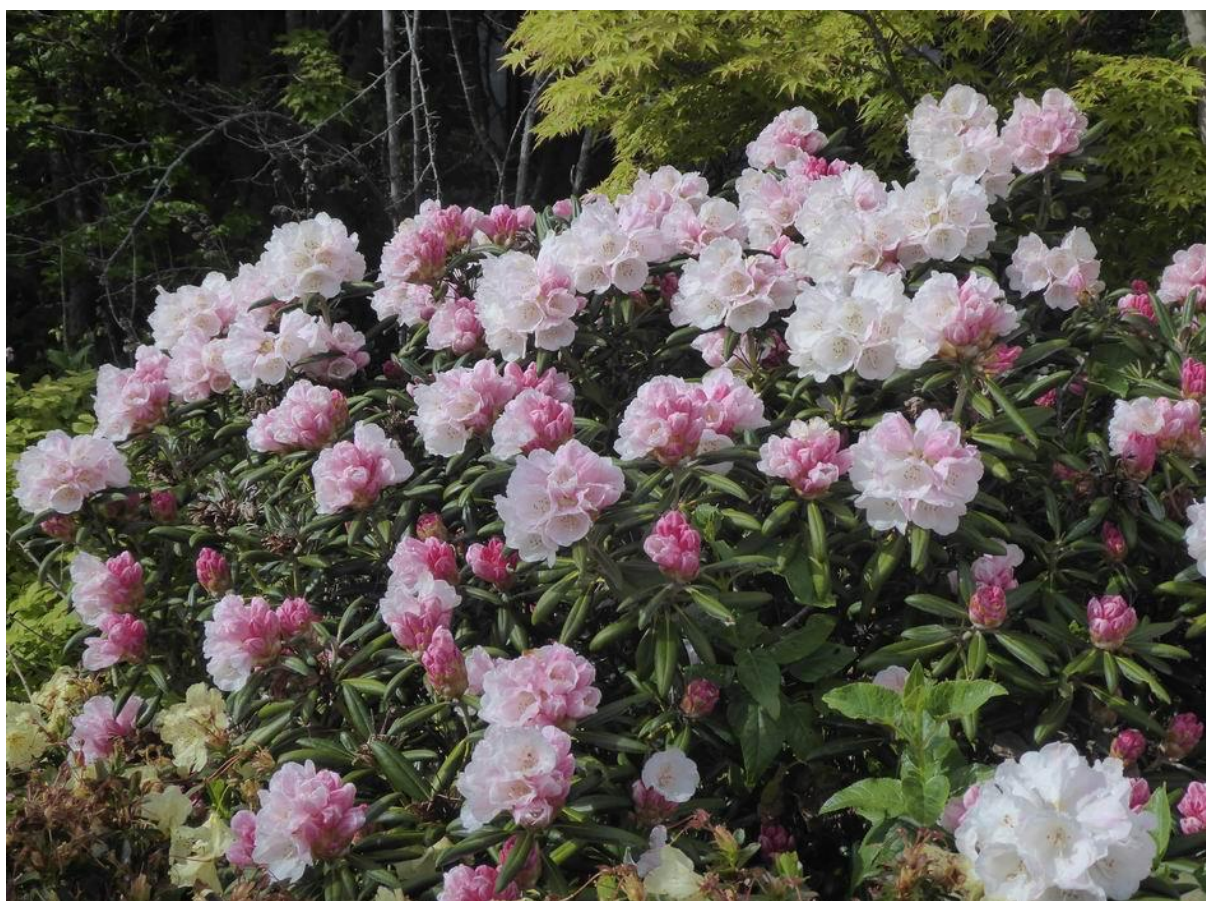


***Celmisia walkeri***

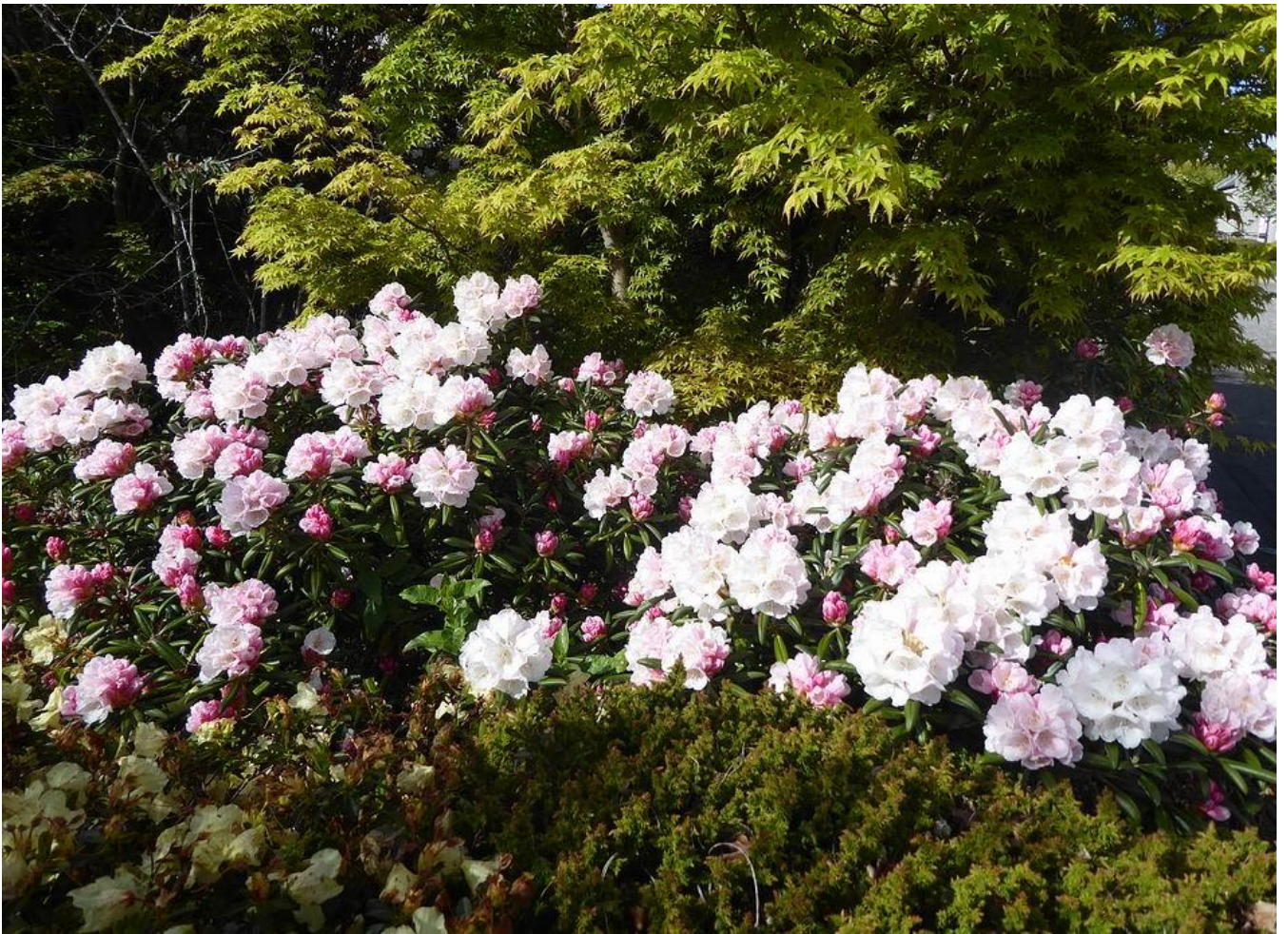


**Rhododendron 'Albert Schweitzer'**

The plants of the moment must be the medium to larger Rhododendrons that are in full flower. There follows a selection of pictures of the best.



**Rhododendron yakushimanum 'Koichiro Wada'** is probably the best selection from this lovely species and well worthy of the First Class Certificate it received. It has outstanding flowers and foliage providing year round decoration peaking in May when it flowers.



This is a forty-year-old single plant of **Rhododendron yakushimanum 'Koichiro Wada'**. It might only grow a metre or so tall but it can, as you see above and below, reach out for several metres.





Compare this **Rhododendron yakushimanum** to the previous selection and you will see why it received an FCC.



Not doing so well is **Rhododendron pingianum** which is not used to our increasingly drier spring and summer months which are the results of the climate emergency.



**Rhododendron rex ssp. fictolacteum** to the left and **Rhododendron bureavii** on the right are surviving and growing remarkably well considering the changing climate.



**Rhododendron orbiculare** is one of the many that flower well every second year with a lesser number of flowers in between. This is a good flowering year.



A carpet of **Maianthemum stellatum** has emerged under these big Rhododendrons sharing the area with the earlier flowering Erythronium, Trillium and Cardimine which grow happily under the Maianthemum foliage.



Since I cut back the small Rhododendrons in this bed, to rejuvenate them, it let more light into the **Rhododendron keiskei 'Yaku Fairy'** which I had not realised was still struggling away under the shade of those that over grew it. This year it is back to its former glory reminding me of the days when we would dig these small alpine Rhododendrons up, pop them in a pot, and take them to a Show.

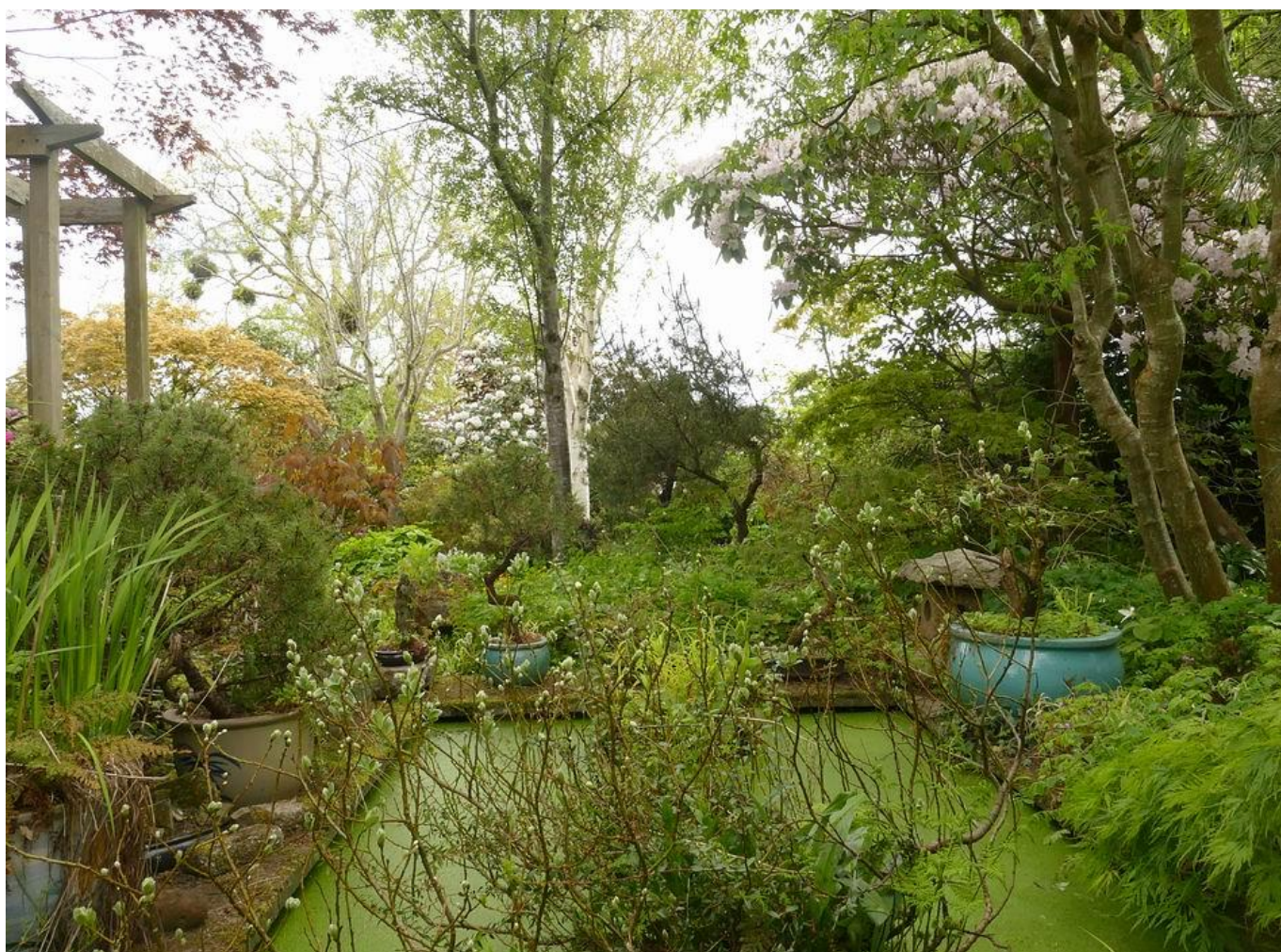


We have grown many of the larger Rhododendron from seed and this is the first flowering of a plant that I found self-seeded in the gravel then moved it here to grow in this more appropriate spot. I suspect the seed came from *Rhododendron decorum* but this, as shown below, is certainly a nice, flowered hybrid.





The next sequence of pictures shows the 'landscape' of the garden around the pond area.



Looking across the pond.

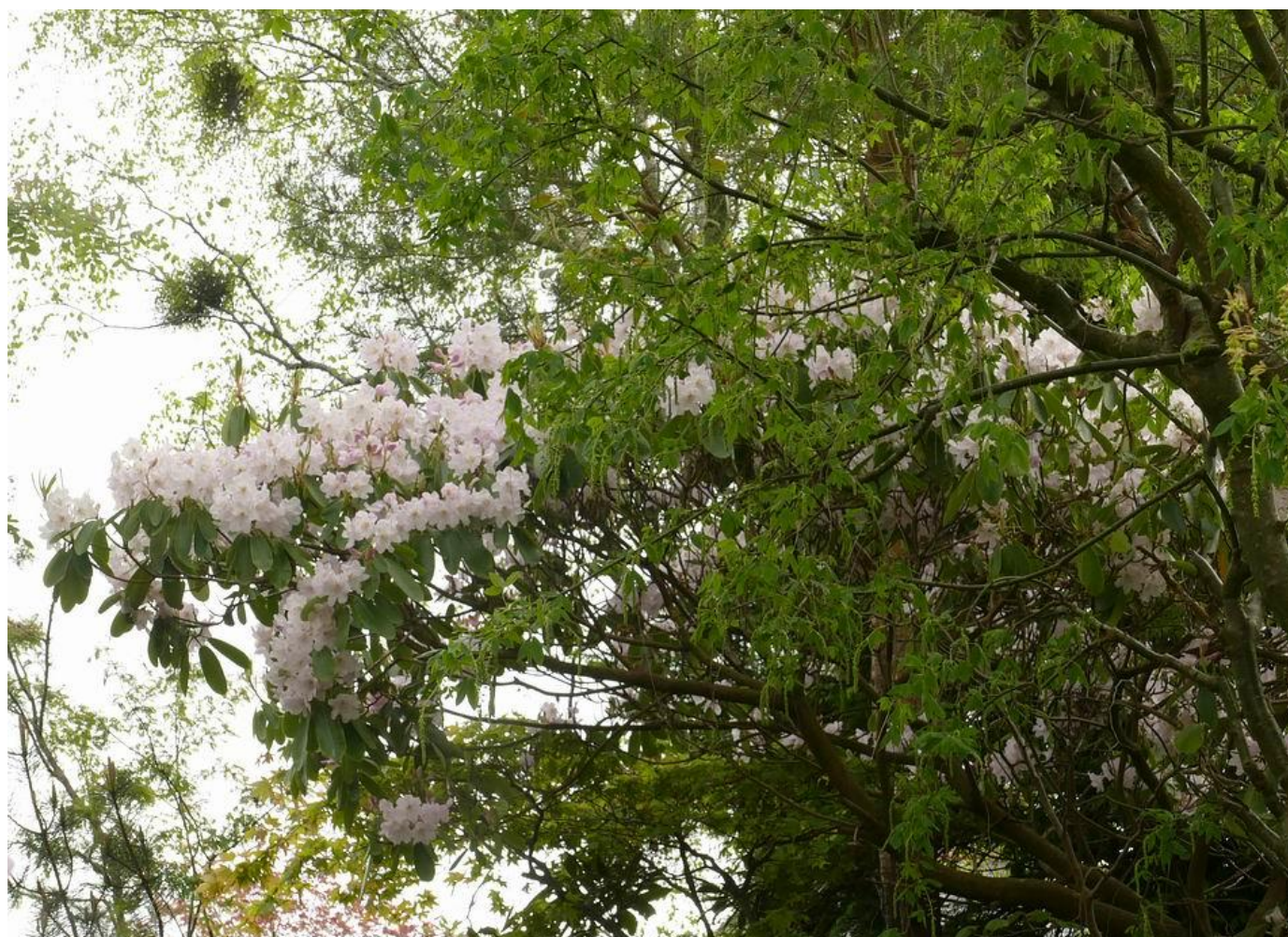


For some reason I do not show this area very often hence these additional pictures.

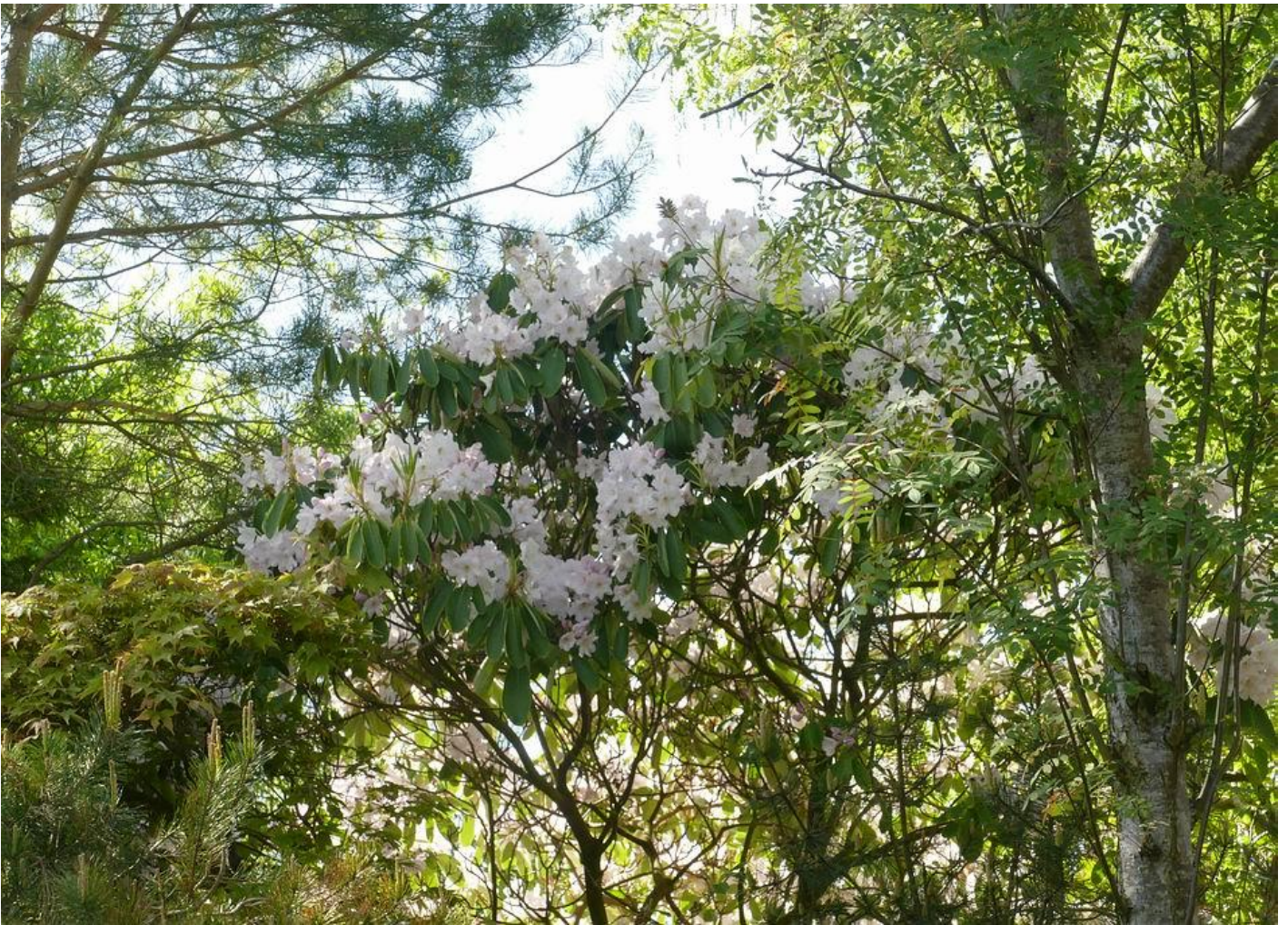




Looking past *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*, towards **Rhododendron bureavii** and **Rhododendron rex** ssp. **fictolacteum**



Looking up through the Laburnum to the beautifully scented **Rhododendron fortunei**.

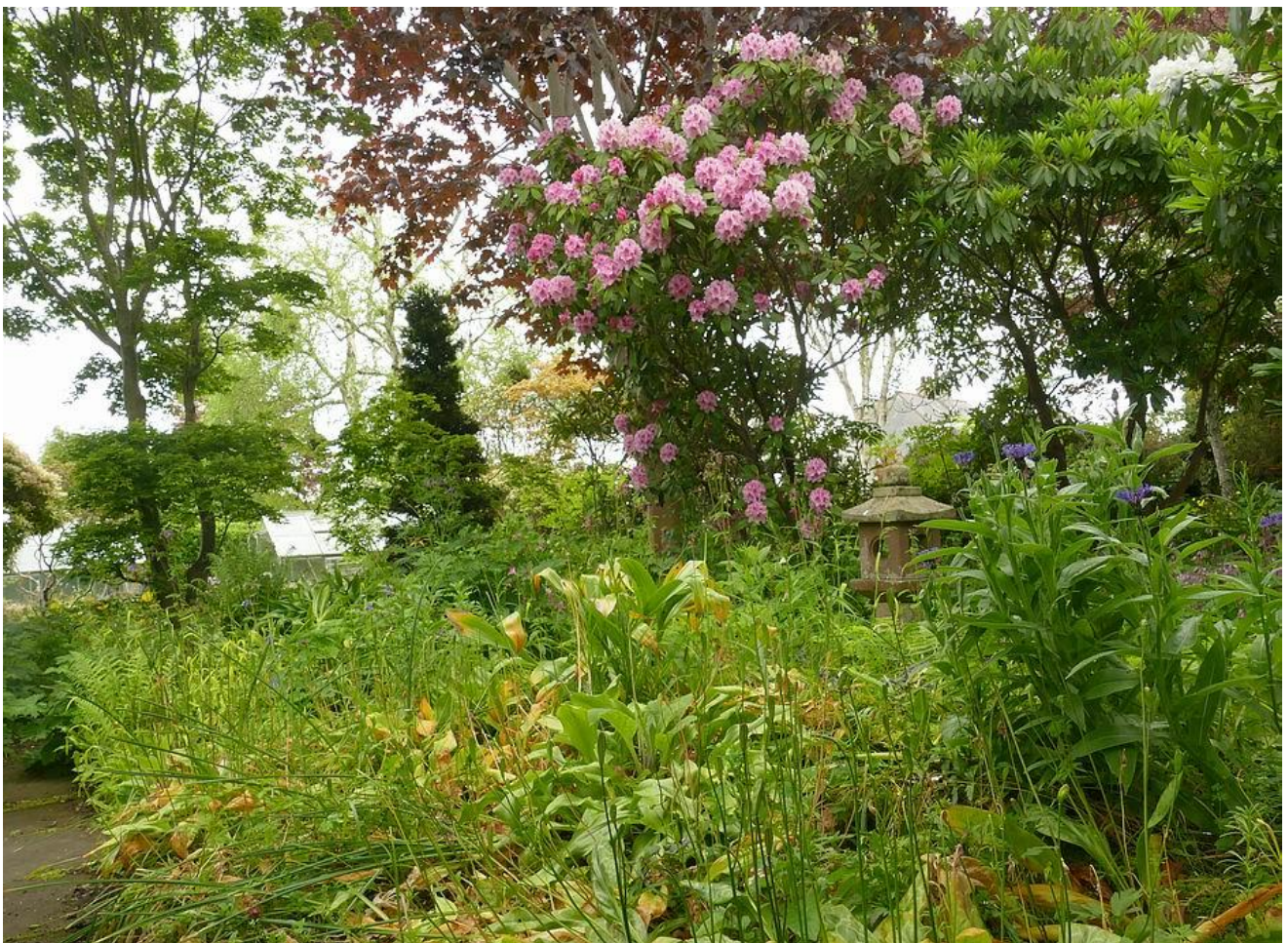


**Rhododendron fortunei** - zoomed in with its place in the landscape shown below.

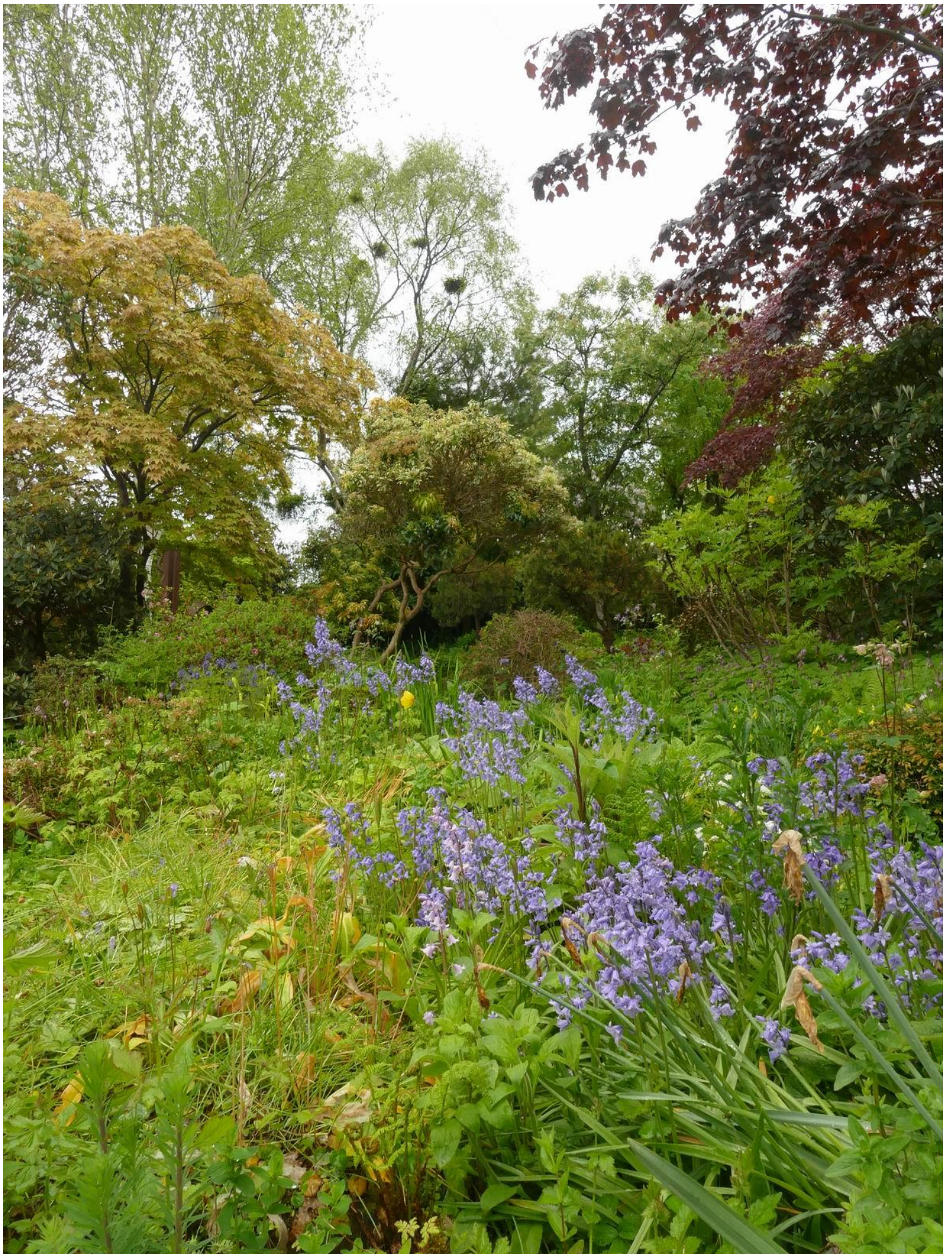




Almost overnight the Laburnum bursts into bloom the heavily scented flowers cascading down like a waterfall.



Without all the trees and large Rhododendrons the garden would, in my view cease to be a landscape, losing all its character and atmosphere. as well as the many woodland habitats they form where our bulbs and plants grow.



I will leave you this month with one more view of our ever-changing garden-scape.....