



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

ISSN 2514-6114

Pictures and text © Ian Young

BULB LOG 44.....2nd November 2022



Reflections on Trees

My mind works in a visual way so the Bulb Log is very image based with the content depending on what pictures I have taken that week. This past week most of my pictures were downloaded from the small camera that I carry with me wherever I go. At this time of year I cannot resist capturing the autumn trees and leaves. Every picture tells a



story so scroll back and look carefully at the cover picture and you will see that it nicely summarises the week and the season. The fallen leaves floating on a puddle of water indicates the amount of rain there has been, although at the time of taking it is a blue sky being reflected in the water along with the bare branches of the trees and even my reflection, with camera in hand, can be seen hanging down from the top right.

My images start with the derelict cottage, bathed in early morning sunshine and being reclaimed by trees, which is where I turn off the road onto the paths through the fields and woods.



It is not long before my eye is captured by the bright sunshine yellow leaves of a Horse chestnut.



These sunshine yellow colours give me a real lift after the dark wet days we have been through and I spend some time just looking at them and taking pictures.



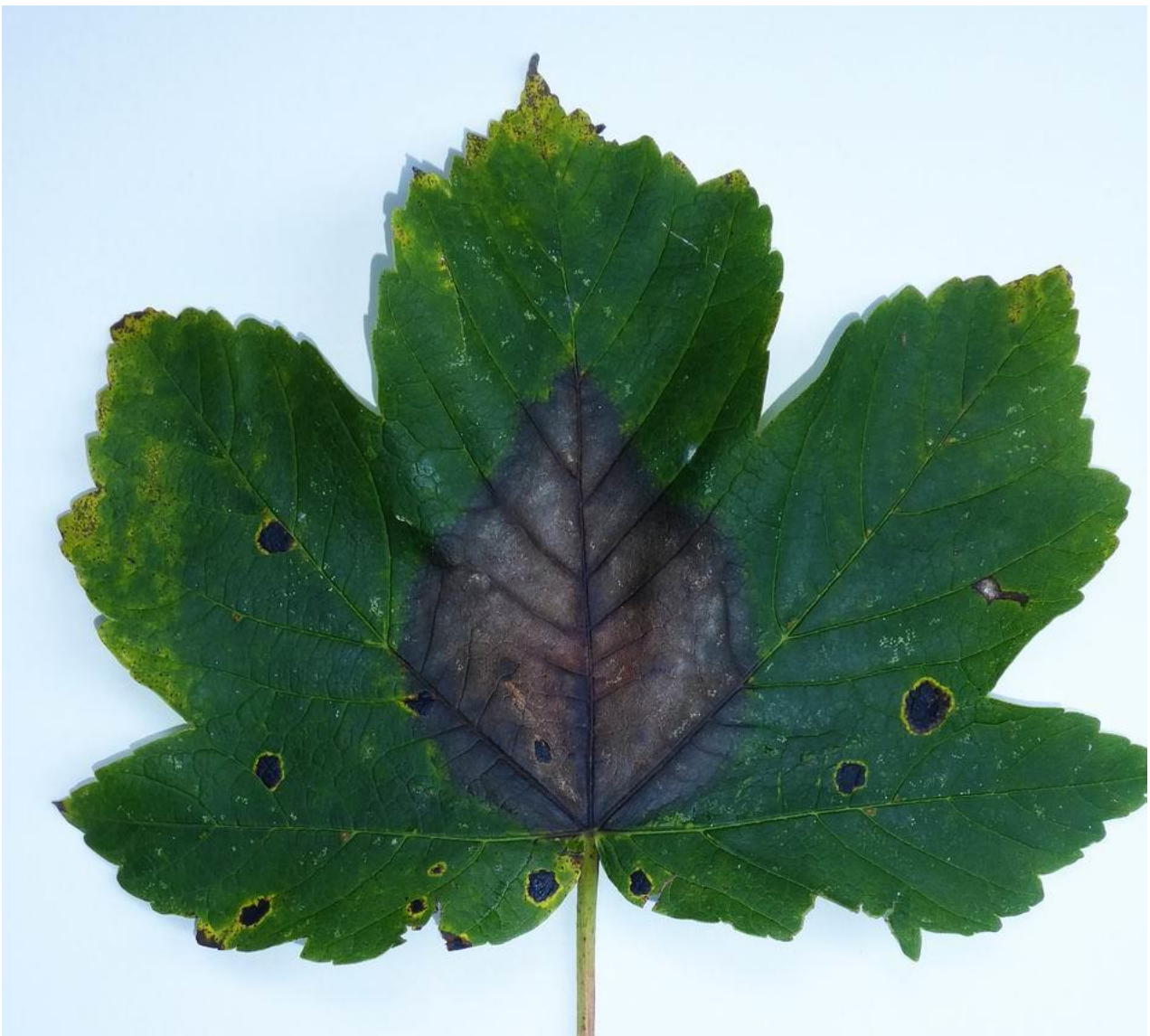
Once they fall to the ground the lovely yellow pigments disintegrate and the leaves turn brown.



I don't see everything at the scene and it was only when I was looking closely at my pictures that I noticed that there were banded snails eating the leaves in the previous picture - scroll back again and check top centre.



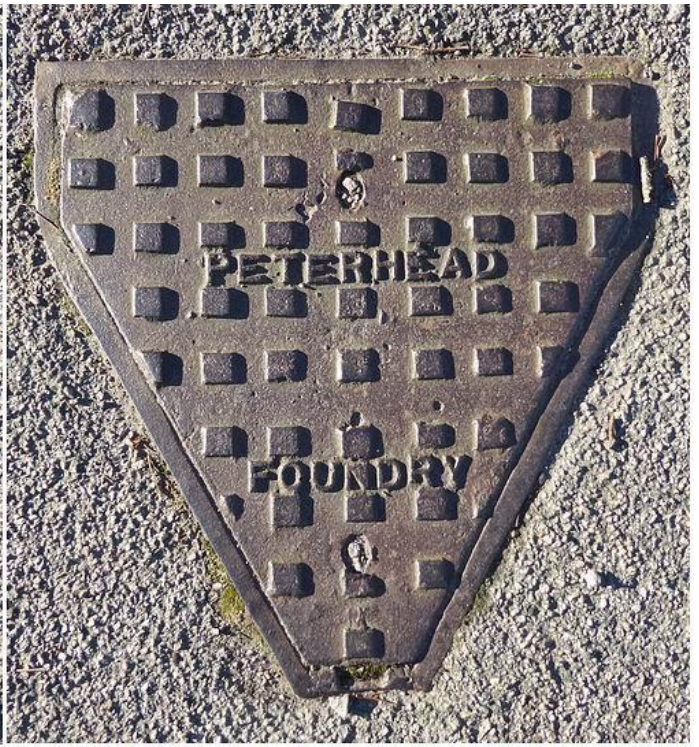
I noted a strange brown patch on some of the Sycamore leaves which resembled another leaf shape.



I have not noticed this brown pattern before it was like I had placed or painted another leaf on top of the Sycamore one. See and keep in your mind how the pattern of leaf veining is reminiscent of the tree itself.



The view of the derelict cottage shows how trees will eventually take over if the ground is left entirely to nature and the incredible tenacity of plants can be seen with these Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) seedlings I spotted growing in the crack between the road surface and the kerbstones.



Having decided to use the pictures from my camera I now have to inflict you with just a few of my many images of cast iron street covers. In recent years plastic covers are appearing so the metal ones will eventually disappear just like many of the foundries that cast them proudly forming their names and towns in iron. For now they are a historical record of the many foundries that once existed.



One day I took a walk at the seaside where the tide was very high so I saw no dolphins but I did see some seals and one bobbed up and down in one place long enough for me to a picture with my small compact camera on full zoom.





When the leaves have fallen the bare branches reveal the great structural beauty of trees.



The branching structural pattern revealed in this decaying leaf is reminiscent of the tree itself.



An interesting tangle of branches where a large branch, snapped in the spring storms, crashed across the living tree.



A group of dried stems growing on the top of the dyke resemble the young trees seeded among the ruins in the background.



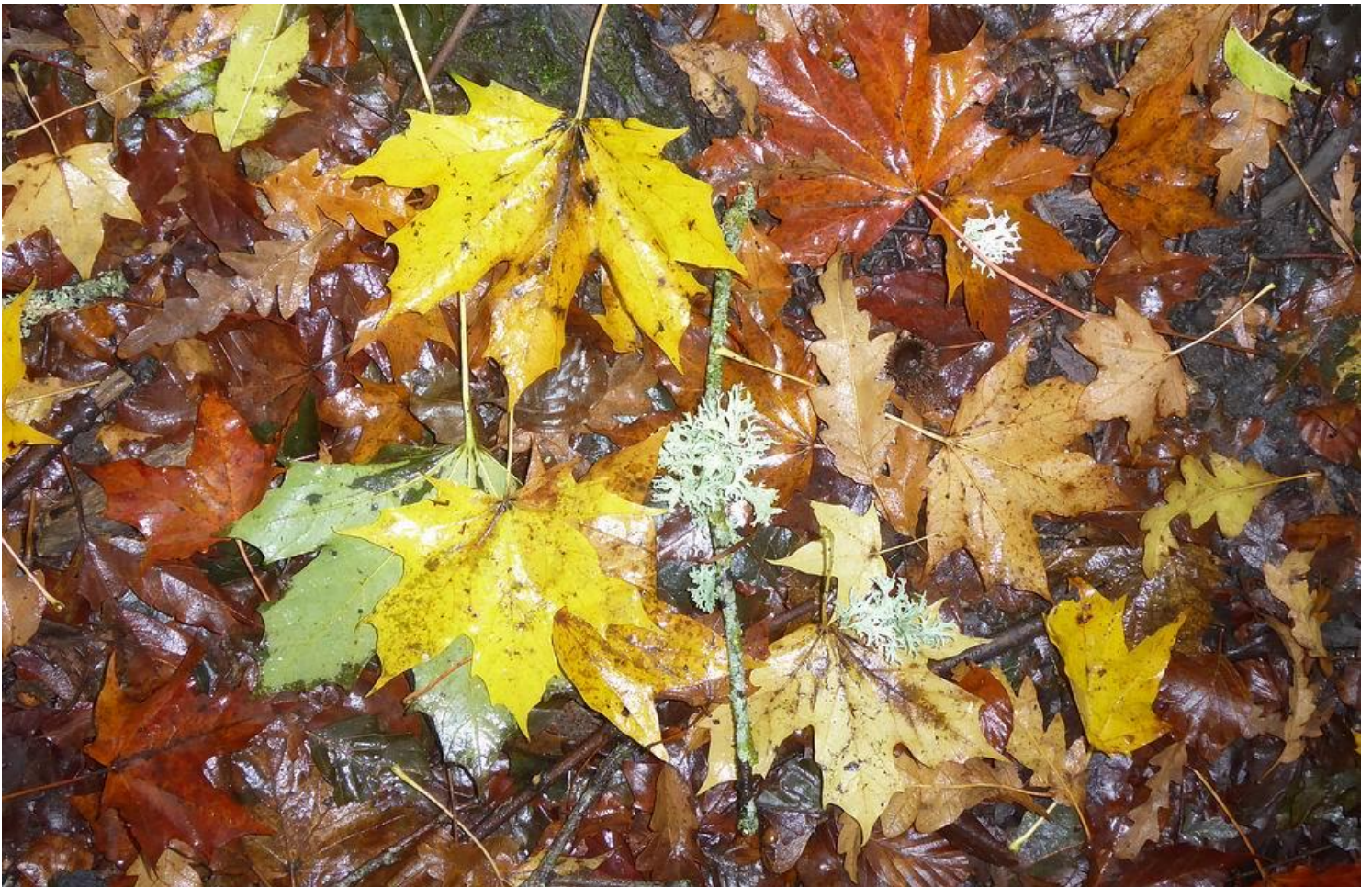
Few words are needed for the next sequence of pictures illustrating the wonderful colour, patterns and shapes that the leaves display – can you recognise the trees from the leaves lying on the ground in the following images?



The tar spots add an additional decorative element to the range of colours that the leaves go through as they decay.



Leaves





Yellow and gold.





There is a bumper harvest of Beech mast this year.



Leaves

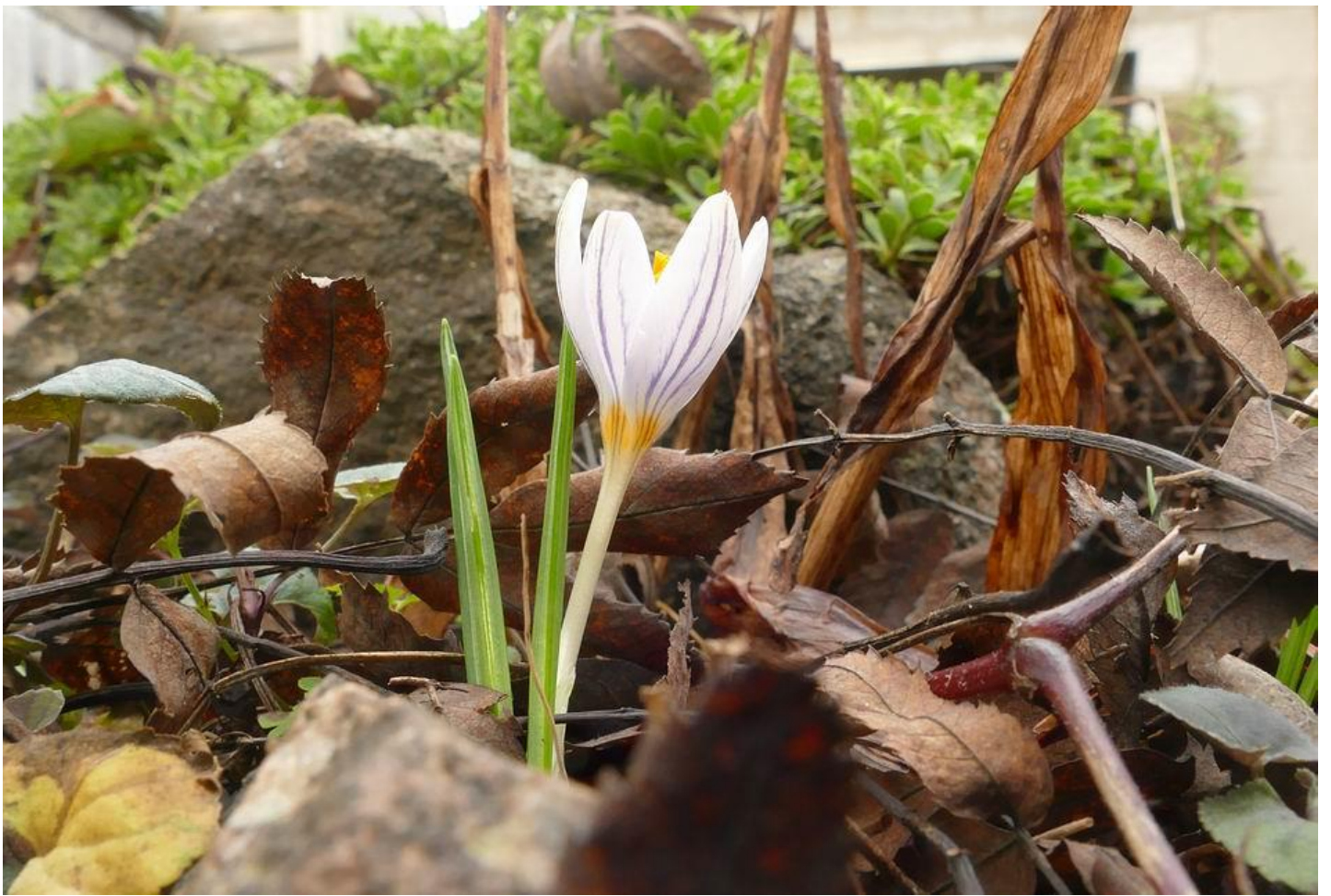




Now for a few pictures from the garden starting with the leaves of the **Geranium sanguineum** growing in the front drive which are also starting to take on their autumn colours.



There are a few of the autumn crocus flowers still around like these **Crocus banaticus** that are very welcome even if they are a bit late to the party.



I always think of **Crocus laevigatus** as a winter flowering species, here is the first of the new season and more can appear through the winter and into early spring.





Sharing the same raised bed as the crocus above my pet Dandelion also has a few out of season flowers.



When I lifted a watering can, which had been sitting here for some weeks, I was fascinated to see that the roots of a plant had spread out across the paving slab and once more the pattern they form is very similar to that of a tree.



The annual red carpet of fallen leaves below this Acer has returned once more as the leaves fall.



I will end this week with another reflection of trees and leaves; enjoy the seasons.....