



SRGC

# Bulb Log Diary

ISSN 2514-6114

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BULB LOG 49.....7<sup>th</sup> December 2022





Once again it is the weather that has dictated what I have been able to do this week, which is something that gardeners are well used to. I have been house bound by the heavy and persistent rain which has both prevented me from lifting more leaves as well as bringing down a new covering of leaves from the two Acer japonicum closest to the house. With the exception of the Cotoneaster trees, which depending on how cold it gets can hang on to their leaves well into the new year, these Acers are always the last to shed their leaves.



These Acer leaves are small, perfectly formed and typically palmate in shape and I rather like it when they spread a golden yellow carpet over everything including this small fern. It is important when designing your garden to consider the view you get from your windows especially when living in colder northern parts where much of the time has to be spent in the warm and dry looking out. That has been the case this week with many of the pictures taken through the windows.



When the rain eased I did get outside to grab a few quick pictures such as these Cyclamen leaves growing from seed that I scattered a few years ago on the cobbled bed which is the one nearest to the house just a step away from the back doorstep.

The **cobble bed** is just a small area of 100cms x 120cms but packs a big punch with a succession of bulbs, mostly Crocus and Narcissus, flowering through the spring and autumn.

We continue to add seeds of plants that we think will be compatible with the bulbs to extend the flowering in this bed through the summer when the bulbs are resting.

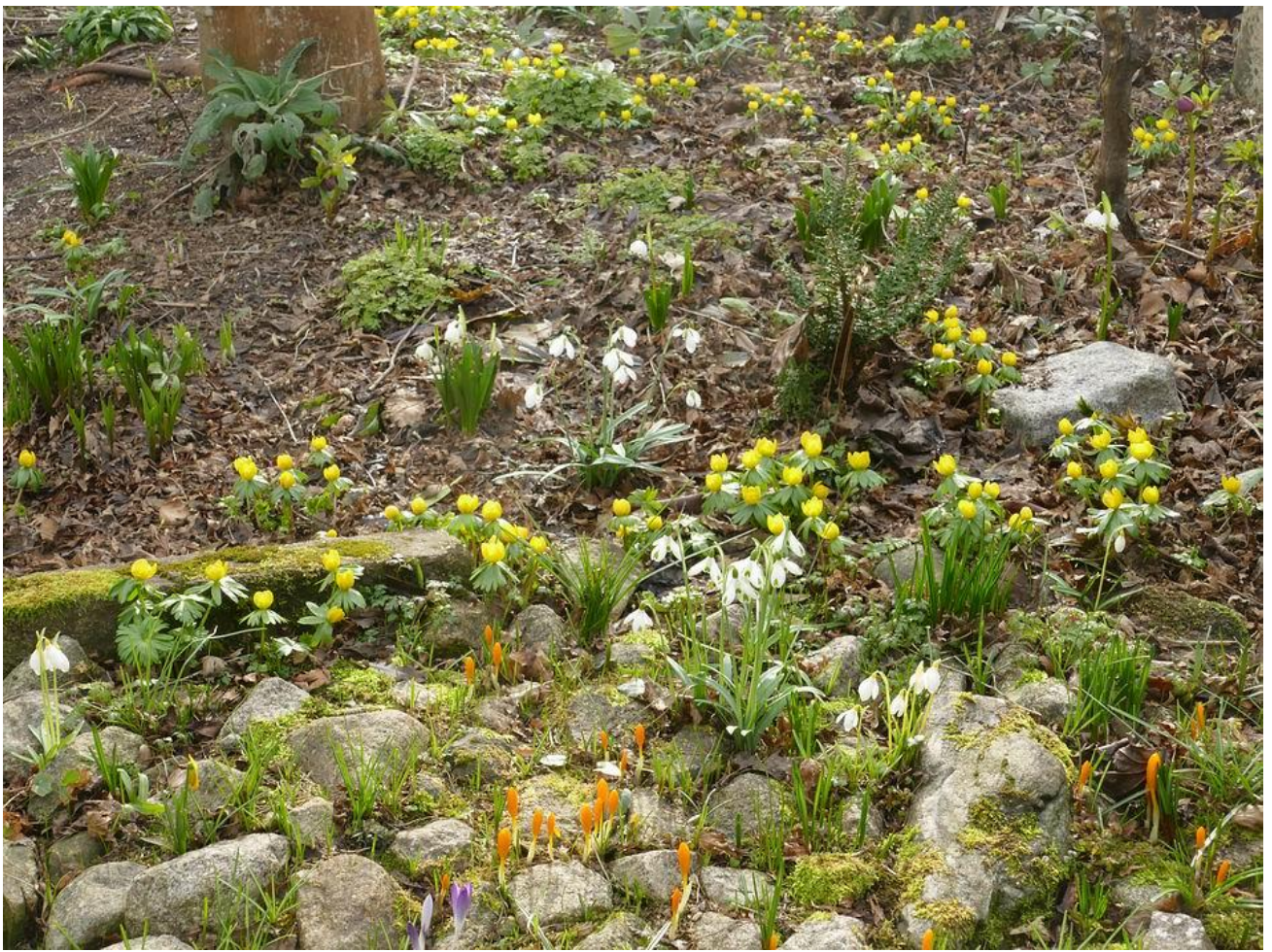




To give a flavour of this small bed through the seasons I have selected a few images taken earlier this year.



Early in the year *Galanthus* and *Eranthis* are among the first to flower - their stems and leaves making their way up between the closely placed cobbles.



Then Crocus and Narcissus flowers start to appear.

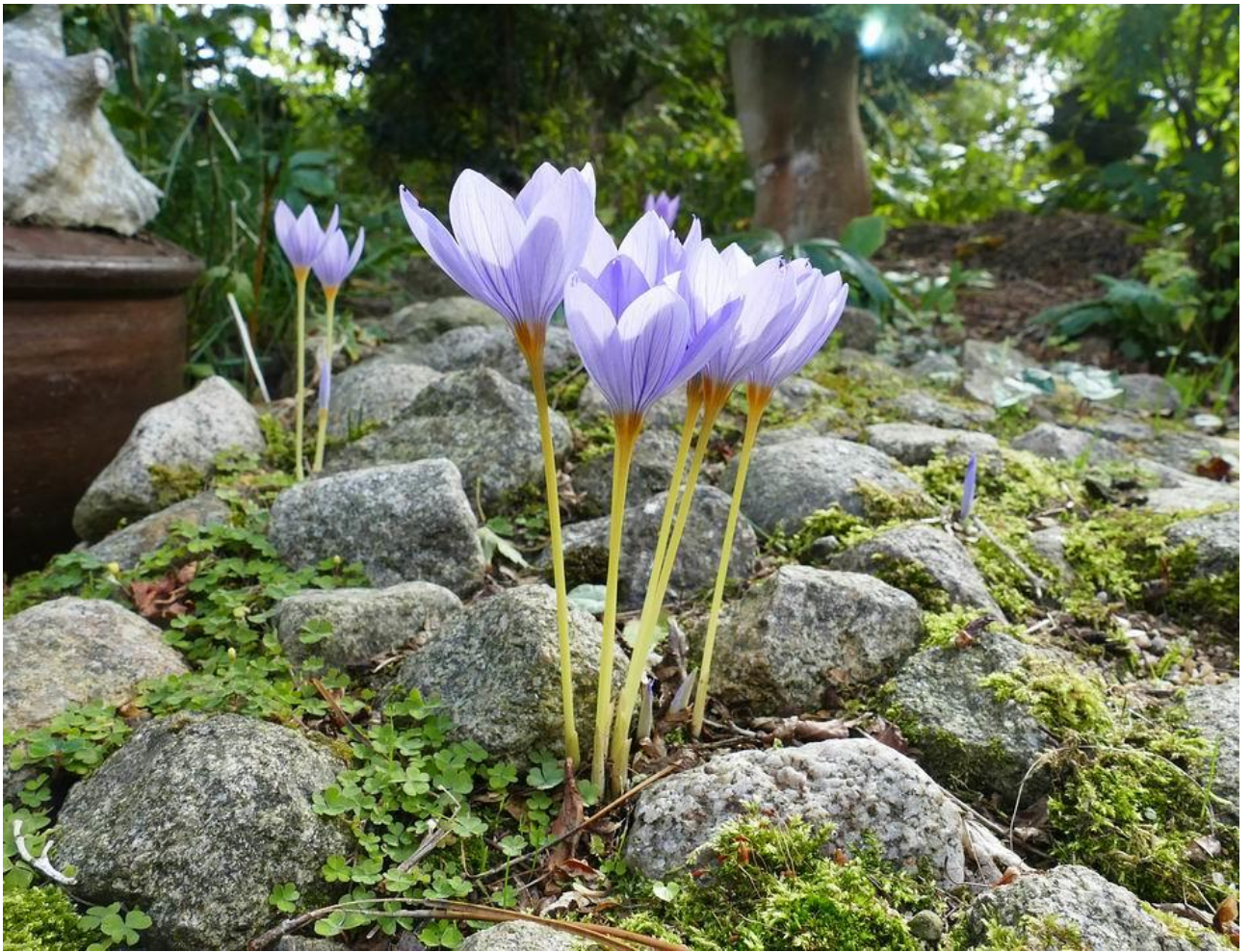




Later it is the turn of some of the trumpet daffodils as the cobbles almost disappear under the growth of foliage.



As we head into summer the leaves of the bulbs die down leaving the bed to the small oxalis and geranium species that seed freely around then as we approach autumn a whole new range of Crocus flowers appear.





In our climate moss grows on most stones and if left to its own devices it would completely cover all the cobbles but that is not the habitat I want in this bed so I regularly remove most of the moss.



This camera lens is not wide enough to capture the full view we experience looking through the sitting room window: this is the narrow section that the camera can see at one time, looking slightly to the right.





Looking to my right, east, as I sit writing at my work table gives this view over the cobble bed, to our 'Gundstrup cauldron' trough and Bonsai.



[Gundestrup cauldron](#) trough





We have two very well used bird feeders hanging on the Acer trees, the twigs suspended around the one shown below are to deter the pigeons from trying to get on the feeders, we have enough problems with them tramping about below eating what the small birds drop.





We feed the birds with sunflower hearts and I have to top the feeders up at least every other day as they eat them down below the top feeding port. These pictures are a bit fuzzy because they were taken through the window in very low light.



There are still some leaves left on the tree but by the time you read this they will probably all be on the ground.



The golden yellow leaves scatter across the ground, forming dense carpets directly below the canopy where I see something white poking through the yellow mat.



Our first of the new seasons Snowdrops is this form of **Galanthus reginae-olgae** which is the only one from a number we have tried over the years that has proven hardy in our garden.





It is interesting to reflect on how every plant has its moment in the garden; some of these are fleeting moments but the trees have a presence all year round it is just that they make more of an impact at certain times such as now as it sheds its golden cloak



The winds blow the leaves making random patterns on the slabs, troughs and slab beds.



When I clear the leaves from this slab bed I will also remove the sprawling mats of old *Cyananthus* growth to allow the leaves of the bulbs planted below plenty of light to grow into.





Looking back from the slabs towards my work table, in front of the stained glass, from where I get a panoramic view into the garden towards the bird feeders.



Getting creative with the camera as I write this week's Bulb Log.



Weather permitting I will get outside before next week to do some work and get some pictures until then I will leave you with one more image of this week's main subject the Acer tree and its leaves.....