



SRGC



Bulb Log Diary



ISSN 2514-6114

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BULB LOG 04.....12th April 2023



Eranthis x tubergenii 'Guinea Gold'



The Eranthis flowers were just starting to open when I posted last month's Bulb Log and now most of the Eranthis hyemalis flowers have gone over but the flowers of **Eranthis x tubergenii 'Guinea Gold'** open that bit later, extending the season and delivering a wonderful display in a range of habitats across the garden.



We like to leave the Eranthis to seed around but we planted Eranthis x tubergenii 'Guinea Gold' in the bed beside the pond because it does not set seed, leaving ground space for the other special plants we have there to seed around.



Some of the other early flowers in this bed include the pink **Erythronium dens-canis** from Ukraine and white **Erythronium caucasicum** which stand out against the predominant golden yellow of the Eranthis flowers while you have to look carefully to spot the similarly coloured flowers of **Narcissus cyclamineus**.



Both the Eranthis and Narcissus cyclamineus are thriving in this well drained humus rich bed at the cooler end of the garden but as shown below they also grow well in the more gritty soils of the raised slab beds near the house.

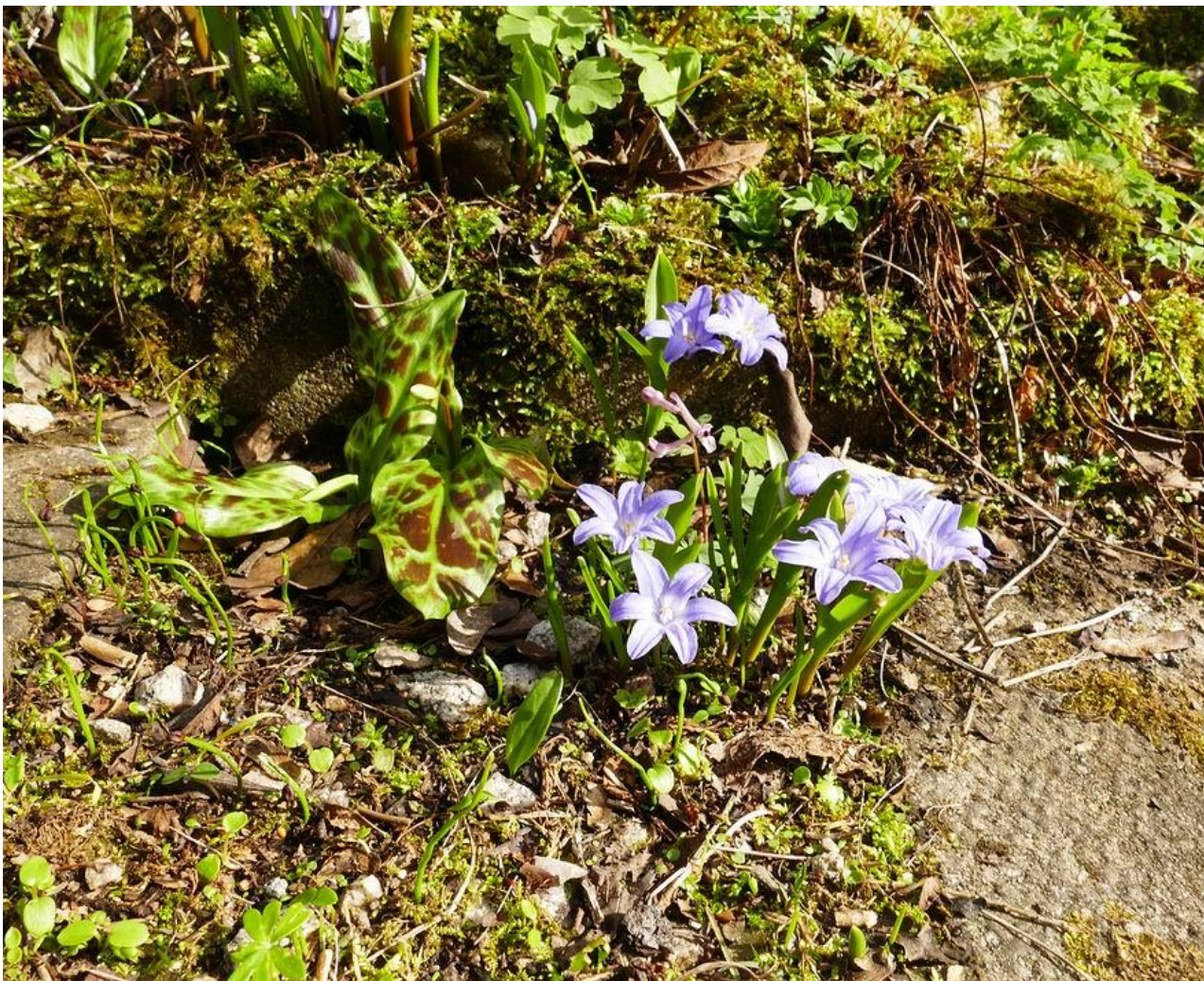


It seems that the common factor for the success of the *Eranthis* and *Narcissus cyclamineus* is not so much the soil structure but the cool moist conditions that prevail throughout most of the year.





Perhaps because they don't set seed these 'Guinea Gold' flowers last a bit longer than the species.



It is unusual that we celebrate a plant that does not set seed when so much of our garden philosophy is based on the natural process of plants seeding around. This small area of gravel between the paving slabs is typical of the garden with various self-seeded plants in a range of ages from newly germinating to flowering size.



Crocus heuffelianus is among the many bulbs that have seeded into the middle of the path and this species seems particularly well suited to our climate and growing conditions as it appears in many habitats.



Crocus heuffelianus in the cobble bed.



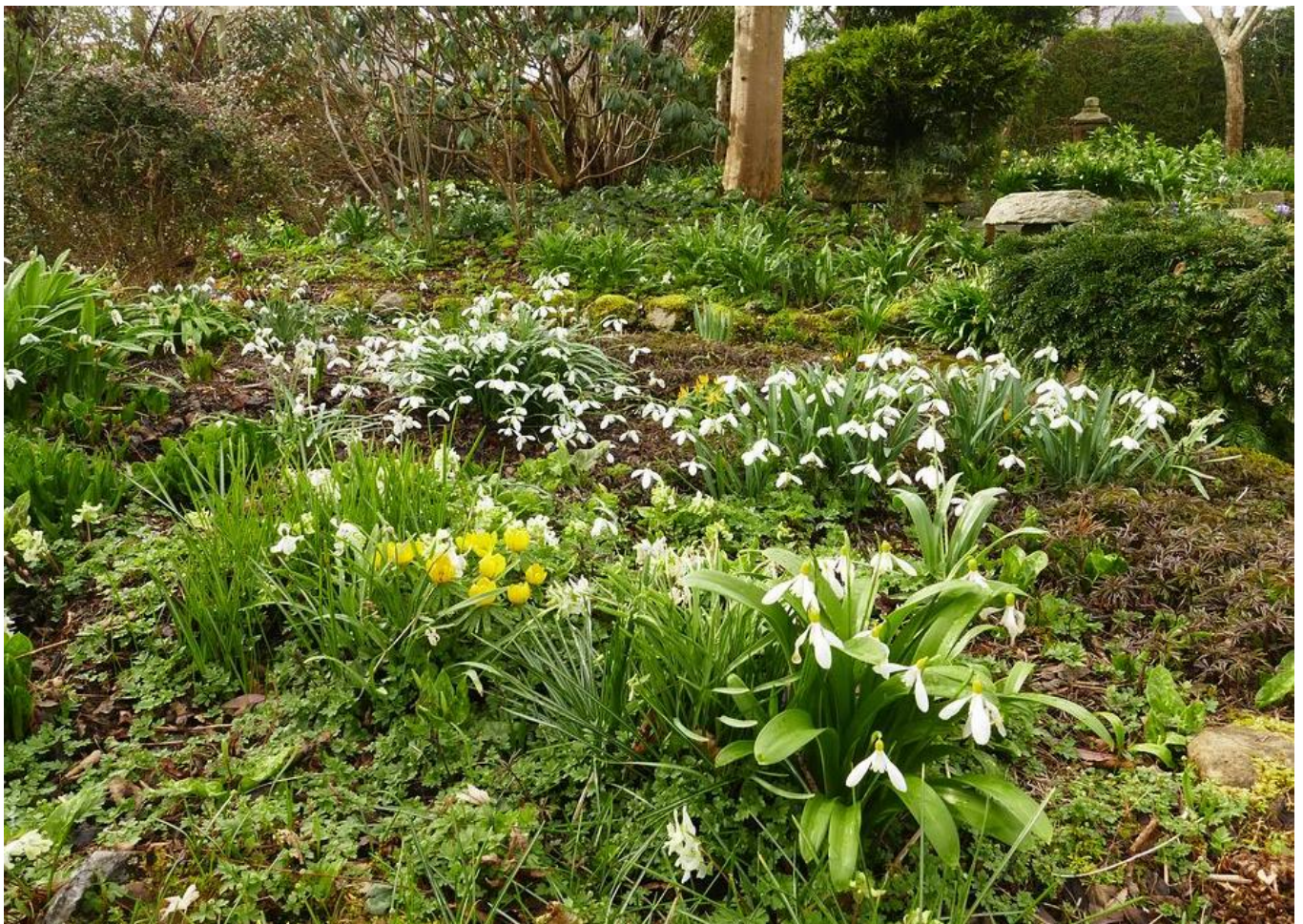
Crocus heuffelianus



Some of the **Crocus chrysanthus** cultivars we originally planted, like these above, will also start to settle in and seed around.



In another habitat this **Crocus veluchensis** is growing in a moss covered sand bed along with **Cyclamen coum**.



The later flowering snowdrop flowers rise up through the varying ground covering plants that are quickly emerging after spending the winter underground and will soon form a complete varied carpet across most of the garden beds.

Anemone ranunculoides provide the bronzy green leaves to the right of the above picture which shares the bed with **Adoxa moschatellina** another great ground cover plant that does not hinder the growth of the many other plants such as **Scoliopus hallii** growing there.



Scoliopus hallii is a small plant which is easily overlooked especially when growing through a green carpet. With all the self-seeding and the wild nature of our garden, a walk, especially at this time of year, is like exploring habitats in nature and I am always delighted when I rediscover such plants emerging again.



I am often asked if we have pests in the garden and yes we have the perfect habitats for all kinds of creatures such as slugs, snails and caterpillars that want to chew our plants. I will hunt them down occasionally but I have learned to tolerate a degree of chewing such as these white flowers of *Erythronium causicum*. Interestingly I have never noted any chewing of the yellow *Eranthis* although everything seems to like to chew on *Eranthis pinnatifida*.



While I am resigned to accepting chewed flowers and leaves I was very upset to spot that after all my careful pollinating of the flowers something had chewed into and destroyed this *Erythronium causicum* seed capsule.



Luckily this plant of **Erythronium causicum** has not been chewed as it is one of our best seeders.



An early flowering dark form of **Erythronium dens-canis** whose flowers opened later that day see below.



Erythronium dens-canis



A very early flowering form of **Erythronium grandiflorum**.



Galanthus nivalis growing in the cool end of the garden are among the last of the snowdrops to flower, extending the blooming season.



A few years ago I planted all the bulbs in our pot of **Galanthus E A Bowles** out singly across the garden so it is fun spotting them as they flower and increase.



The next wave of colour starts with **Corydalis malkensis** which seeds around prolifically but will never be a problem because by May it will have completed its growth, flowered, set seed and retreated back underground for another ten months.



I love those transition periods when for a short time we get what remains of the early flowers alongside the start of the next flowers such as *Erythronium tuolumense*.



These two pictures show just some of the plants that are slowly covering the ground with a rich mix of foliage.





Flowering stems of **Fritillaria imperialis** rise up through the mass of foliage that now covers the bulb bed in the foreground as I look towards the colours beyond.



At this time you could be excused for thinking that the Erythronium plunge bed is for Corydalis which make perfect bed partners, not only for the bulbs but for other plants also.



I have often featured this small bed landscaped with broken concrete, now hiding below a lush growth of moss. It forms one of the many micro habitats we have created around the garden. I first planted a few *Hepatica* and *Corydalis* seedlings which flowered and along with other plants seeded around into the moist conditions provided by the moss.



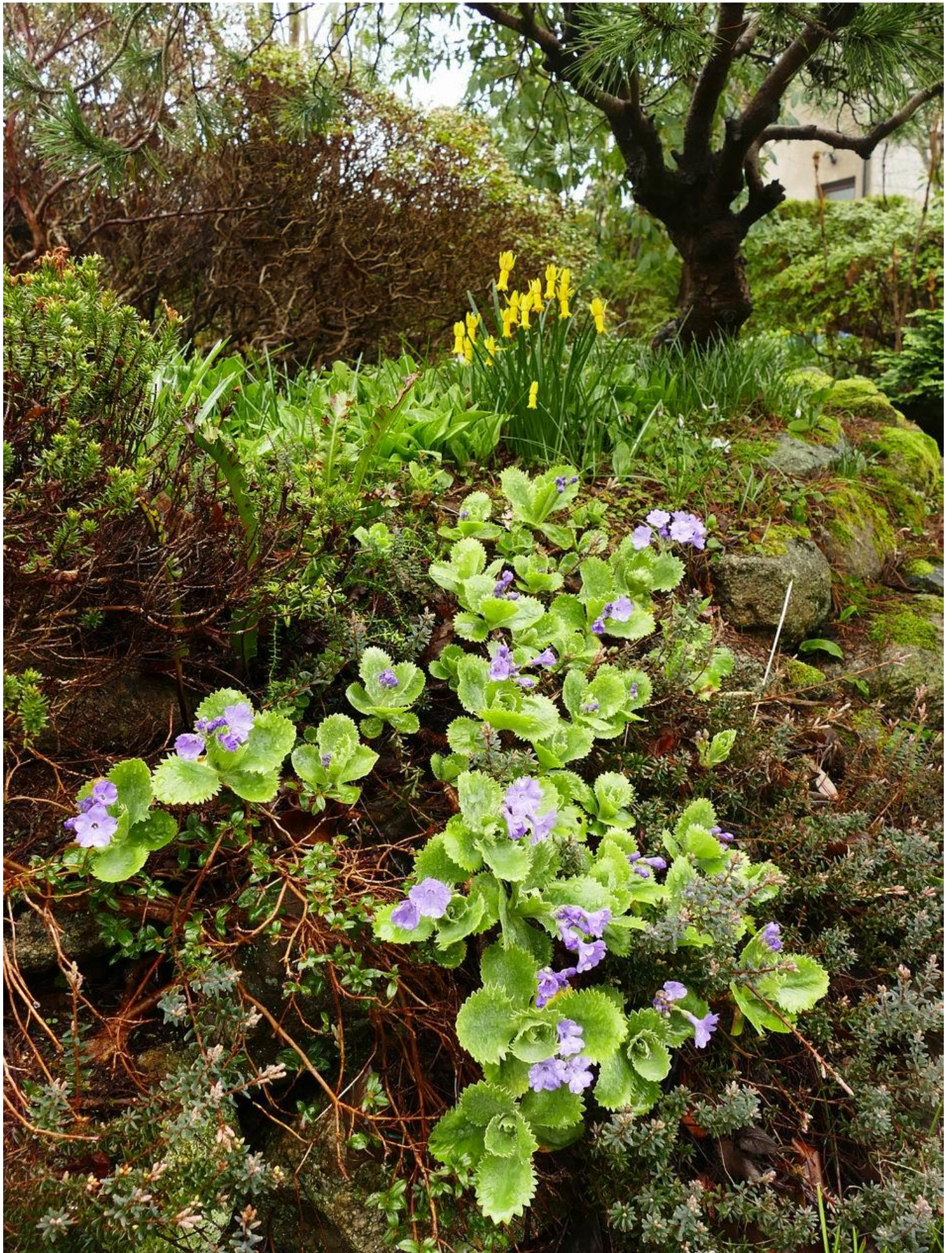
***Corydalis solida* and *Hepatica nobilis*.**



Meconopsis baileyi , **Corydalis solidae** and **Hepatica nobilis** seeding around the moss covered concrete landscape.



The colour forms of **Corydalis solidae** and **Hepatica nobilis** go wonderfully well together and the Corydalis will be underground by the time the new leaves of the Hepatica grow.



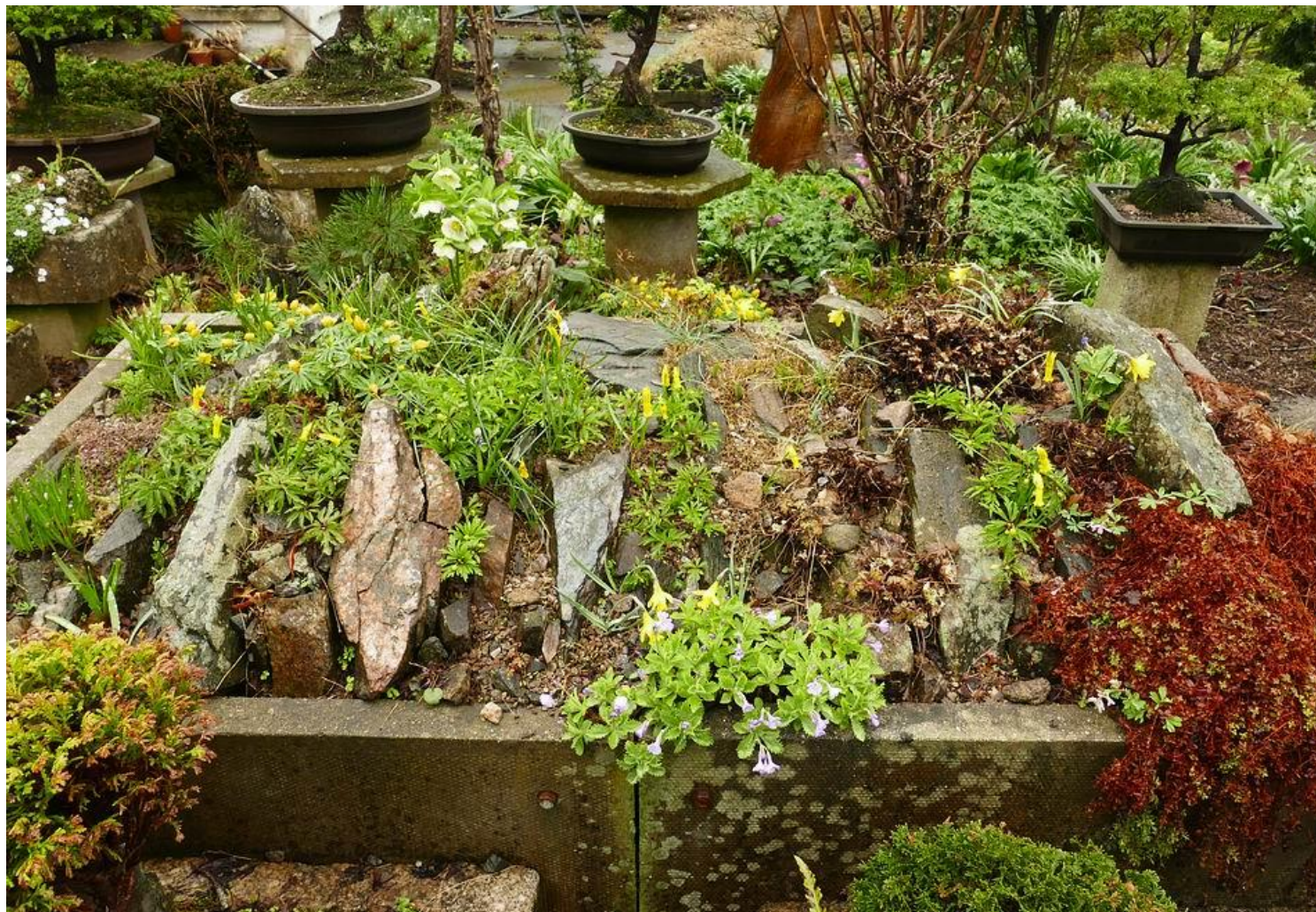
While an area like this raised wall can be seen as a single bed in the garden it actually consists of multiple habitats. **Primula marginata** grows in the gaps between the rocks of the wall while some *Narcissus cyclamineus* enjoy the moist humus soils on the top.



Primula marginata is a plant that is often grown on vertical walls but *Erythronium revolutum* and (Pseudo)Trillium *rivale* also thrive in this habitat. The *Erythronium* seeded in there themselves, while I have over a number of years been placing the Trillium seeds into the gaps to initiate what is now a self-seeding colony.



Primula marginata growing on one of the raised slab beds.



Primula marginata and Narcissus cyclamineus share each other's company again in this raised slab bed where they are among the earliest plants to flower in the year.



I was delighted to read that the Royal Horticultural Society have awarded Anne Wright ([Dryad Nursery](#)) the Reginald Cory Memorial Cup in recognition her excellent breeding work with snowdrops, daffodils and hepaticas. I have been an admirer of Anne's work for many years and am delighted that it has been recognised with this top award. These are some of her range of miniature daffodils.

Remember to check out my [Bulb Log Video Diaries](#) there are now 192 of them the [latest](#) went on this week. The videos sit as a supplement to the written Bulb Log and are even more relevant now I am just writing once a month. Click the link to the index page where you can download all the [Bulb Logs](#) where you will also find that we have now converted all the first six years into the more convenient PDF format.