



SRGC

# Bulb Log Diary

Pictures and text © Ian Young

BULB LOG 45.....

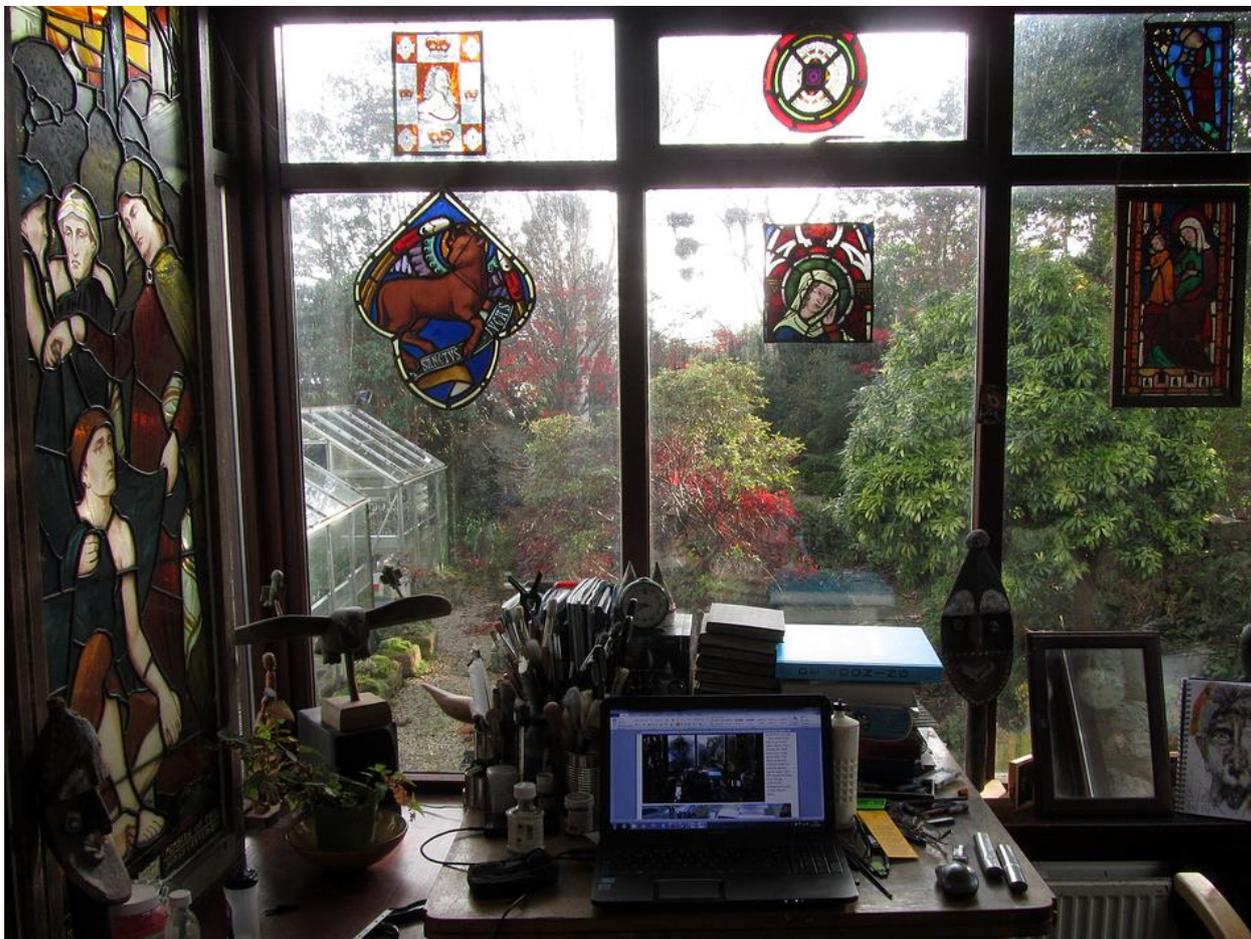
5<sup>th</sup> November 2014



THE GIFT OF MARY  
JANE MERRIBAN-TAYLOR  
WIFE OF DAVID DOW  
IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

MEMBERS OF THE  
CONGREGATION 1885





I thought that might grab your attention. I sit and look at these magnificent windows every day – they stand to the left of my work table where I have written the Bulb Log every week since 2003. The three sectioned kitchen window looks out onto the garden and in many ways the view of foliage reflects the background scene of the stained glass.



As well as the bulb log all my pictures and talks are worked here – in recent days I am finalising the talks I am to present in Gothenburg this week, where I am very honoured to be presenting the Carl Skottsberg Lecture. From the clutter of art materials and piles of sketch books you can tell that I also do a lot of painting and drawing here.



I draw something every day; it may be abstract compositions or what is in front of me - these sketches are not intended as finished works or for public view but are an exercise in making me look at things along with experimenting in mediums that will inform my other works. These other works include the garden which I see as just another medium in which I can express my art and creativity.



A current craze in the modern world is taking 'selfies' well I have been doing a series of selfies, at least one a day, by sketching myself in different moods and mediums most done very quickly in just a few minutes.

As I prepare to fly over to Gothenburg where I will meet many friends and make some new ones I contemplate on just how important these events and our organisations are to me. In this modern age I can sit here at my work table making contact and sharing information, including photographs and opinions with others all around the world which is indeed a wonderful thing to be able to do. Nowhere is this exchange of information more evident than in the SRGC Forum where 308,791 posts covering widely varying topics have been viewed 6,245,108 times - these are staggering numbers that we hope will continue to grow. 2485 people have registered as Members of this forum - a number which is steadily growing - making the forum effectively the largest group of the SRGC and it is a truly international membership that meets all day every day. Compare these rising numbers with the average numbers that attend SRGC groups, or those of any other garden club, meetings where numbers are falling. As I travel around the world giving talks inevitably the discussions turn to the problems groups share of falling numbers and even within those declining numbers people seem reluctant to come forward to be part of the Committee that organises the programmes. We have to accept that the world has changed since the SRGC was formed in 1933 and we also must accept that the formula that worked so well for the Club back then, and for many years, may not be relevant in the modern day so we have to change. From my travels and discussions I know this is a worldwide problem all similar groups are faced with this dilemma. I have recognised this for a long time which is why I and a small team have been working so hard to build an online 'Club' at [www.SRGC.net](http://www.SRGC.net). But I also realise from my travels that while I love the website with all its outreach and resources it can never completely replace that face to face contact, the excitement when group of plant enthusiasts get together can be measured in the decibel level of the chat and laughter – long may they continue. The SRGC hosts many such meetings here in Scotland as well as promoting and supporting other groups organising conferences in many countries.

As years progress many of the traditions of our groups will have to change – the printed journals produced by many of us will, I have no doubt, become a feature of the past driven out not just by the ever rising printing and postage costs but by the younger generations desire to have information delivered to their 'mobile devices' they will not want old paper gathering dust in their modern homes. Also the tradition of getting a cluster of articles every four or six months as required in the printed version will be replaced by a steady stream of information on a daily basis - the daily activity on the Forum does just that. I also think we need to consider the very nature of 'membership' – at the moment you have to pay an annual subscription to be a Member and receive all the benefits of the SRGC the money this brings in is necessary to fund all our activity and pay for the web site platform. There is no requirement to be a paid up member of the SRGC to take part in the Forum or read The International Rock Gardener or the Bulb Log, they are all open and free for everyone to see, fulfilling a large part of the mission of the SRGC which is to disseminate knowledge of and encourage people to become interested in rock garden plants. Even the term rock garden plants is interpreted in the widest possible sense as the range of plants discussed and illustrated on the forum will show. So why pay a subscription if you can access all that information for free? I am not suggesting that subscriptions will disappear soon or at all but I believe that people do appreciate that there are costs involved in running a website. Even though all the writing and information that appears online have no charges to the club there are significant costs to register the domain name, rent the site and disc storage space from the server and pay for the band width -that is the amount of data downloaded - which all adds to the cost. I also have faith in the generosity of so many of you whom enjoy this platform many have already made donations through the donate buttons on the site - **thank you** - the proceeds go a good way to offset the costs of the site.

If you enjoy reading the Bulb Log, IRG or using our web site and want to support our free open access outreach you too could make a donation. If you are a registered member of the forum use the [donate](#) button on the forum pages if you are not registered to the forum use the [donate](#) button on the home page. These donations not only bring in valued funds but they are also seen as a tangible expression of support delivering a great boost to the morale of the team.

Your journey of getting involved could start now - we would also be very pleased if more of you joined the forum and started sharing your plants, gardens and experiences there – perhaps you might consider contributing an article to the IRG, which can only appear if there is material to publish, whether you are a beginner or a seasoned grower we welcome all submissions– we would be delighted and are waiting to receive them.

If you choose to become a full member of the SRGC you will also be able to read The Rock Garden, the twice yearly journal and have access to our wonderful annual Seed Exchange.

So my appeal to you all is to get involved -contribute in an active way not just with the SRGC but with all the clubs and societies around the world both online and by attending meetings – keep this great interest and study of plants alive.

For my part I will continue the Bulb Log with a new development coming next year. During the course of the year I intend to write a book detailing my experiences with 'Erythroniums in Cultivation'. I will serialise the chapters as I get them completed in the bulb log and at the end of the project I will combine them all into a single PDF that will be free to download.



***Galanthus peshmenii***

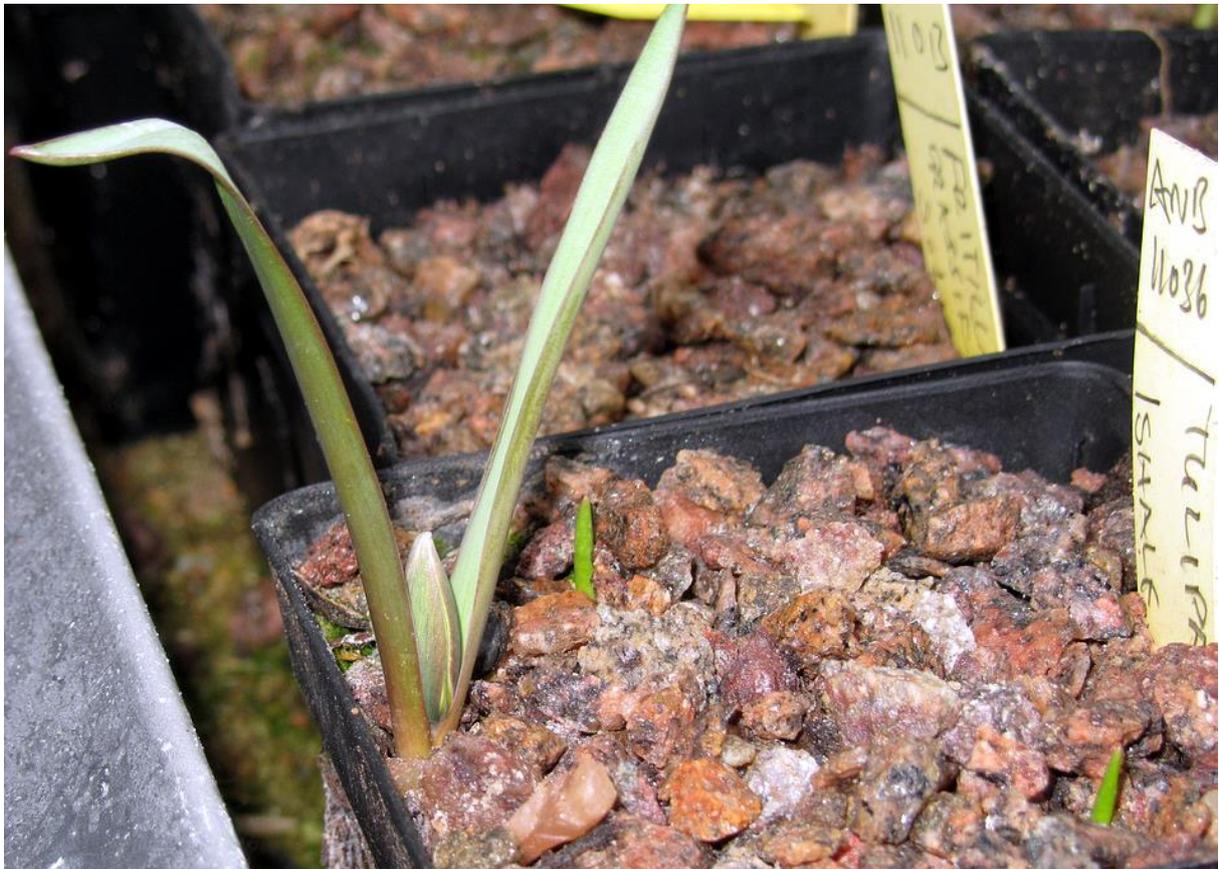
I am writing this in advance of time as I will be in Gothenburg on Wednesday midday when the bulb log usually goes online hence the change from the normal pictures from the garden but I have a few just to keep you up with what is happening around the garden.



***Galanthus reginae olgae***



***Galanthus reginae olgae***



A tulip raised from seed has a bud showing.



The seeds I sowed too soon, not realizing they did not need a cold stimulus before they germinated are mostly doing fine. One *Salvia* did not like the cold damp conditions and rotted off but only two seedlings appeared so I can hope that more will germinate in the spring. The others I am giving very dilute feeds each time I water in an attempt to keep them growing as long as possible before winter proper arrives – if that happens soon I am considering moving them onto a windowsill in the house.



In our garden some **Trillium** shoots always push through the ground at this time of year – they just sit like that until spring.



This plant I showed last week and now I have looked at it and seen that the filaments are white and not yellow I think it is a hybrid involving *Narcissus romieuxii* and the plant we call *Narcissus cantabricus foliosus*.....