



BULB LOG 44.....2nd November 2016





The colours of the autumn are still the main attraction in the garden and they have intensified since I shared them in Bulb Log 4216. This week I am crawling about on my hands and knees closing in on the detail - selecting almost abstract images with stunning colours, textures and shapes. Once more this is more of a photo essay as words are not necessary in this celebration of colours.





Greens from the new leaves of *Cyclamen hederifolium* with the yellow of *Uvularia grandiflora* as the leaves die back.



Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears' go from through an intense warm yellow colour before they turn brown – that is if they are not eaten away by snails.

Viewed from a standing position you may think that the leaves are just a mess but when you get down and close up there are endless variations of colours and patterns to be enjoyed.



One of a number of thinking stones placed around the garden is decorated mostly by *Betula* and *Acer* leaves.



Fallen leaves sit on an evergreen dwarf conifer.



Could this be a lost masterpiece by Mark Rothko, the great colour-field painter, or is it just another view of the image below ?



Rhododendron decorum and Cardiocrinum leaves.



Rhododendron decorum leaves.



There are so many colourful variations of fallen leaves - here is a combination of the fallen leaves with the new leaves of *Cyclamen hederifolium*.

Below silver leaved forms of *Cyclamen hederifolium* with the bright yellow /orange *Hamamelis* leaves.





Flowers and decorative foliage of **Impatiens omeiana** poke through a fern – it is a herbaceous rhizomatic plant from Sichuan that forms open clumps.





Arisaema fruits





Tan coloured indumentum still coats the leaves of *Rhododendron bureavii* even after they have been shed.



My attention was drawn to an orange *Hamamelis* leaf illuminated by a shaft of sunlight.



Light plays such an important role in photography, what may have been an uninspiring image of some yellowing, ready-to-drop Rhododendron leaves are lit up like a stained glass window by the low sunshine. I mostly used the full manual setting on my camera to control the exposure, checking the results in the live view on the screen or the viewfinder.



Moving my position slightly and shutting down the aperture adds the starlight effect of the sun peaking around the edge of the leaf.



While under the bushes on my hands and knees, taking the above two pictures, I saw these fungi growing in the shade. If I had not been crawling about I may never have spotted them.





The chance combinations of the fallen leaves make wonderful collages and by moving your position you can get several images from one small grouping of leaves





Sometimes natural light will not give me the image I am after so for the next three pictures I used some fill-in flash to both add highlights and to allow me to close down the shutter, which increased the depth of field.

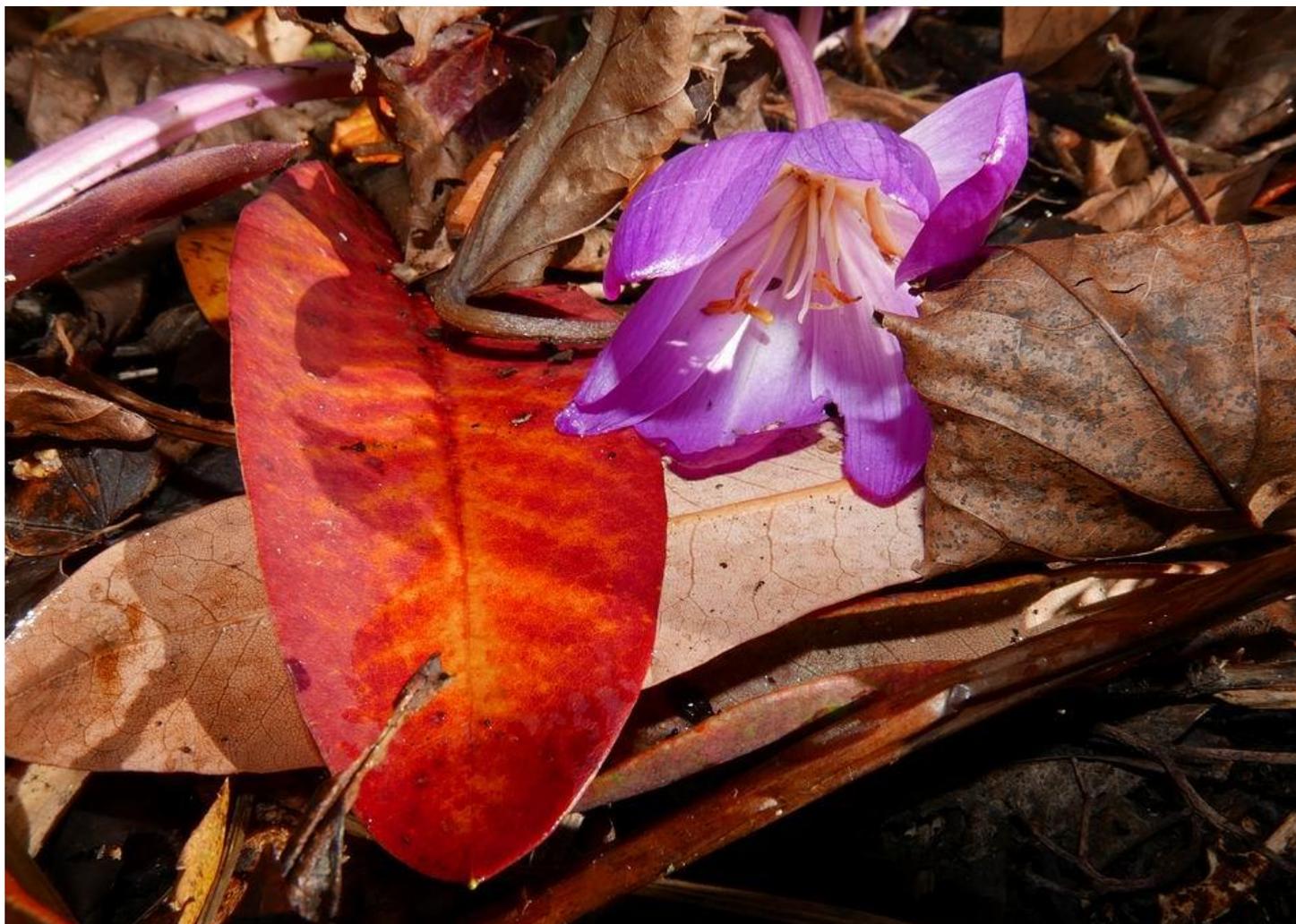




Back to natural light for this colourful grouping.



Fallen and chewed Colchicum flowers add some additional colours to these leaves.

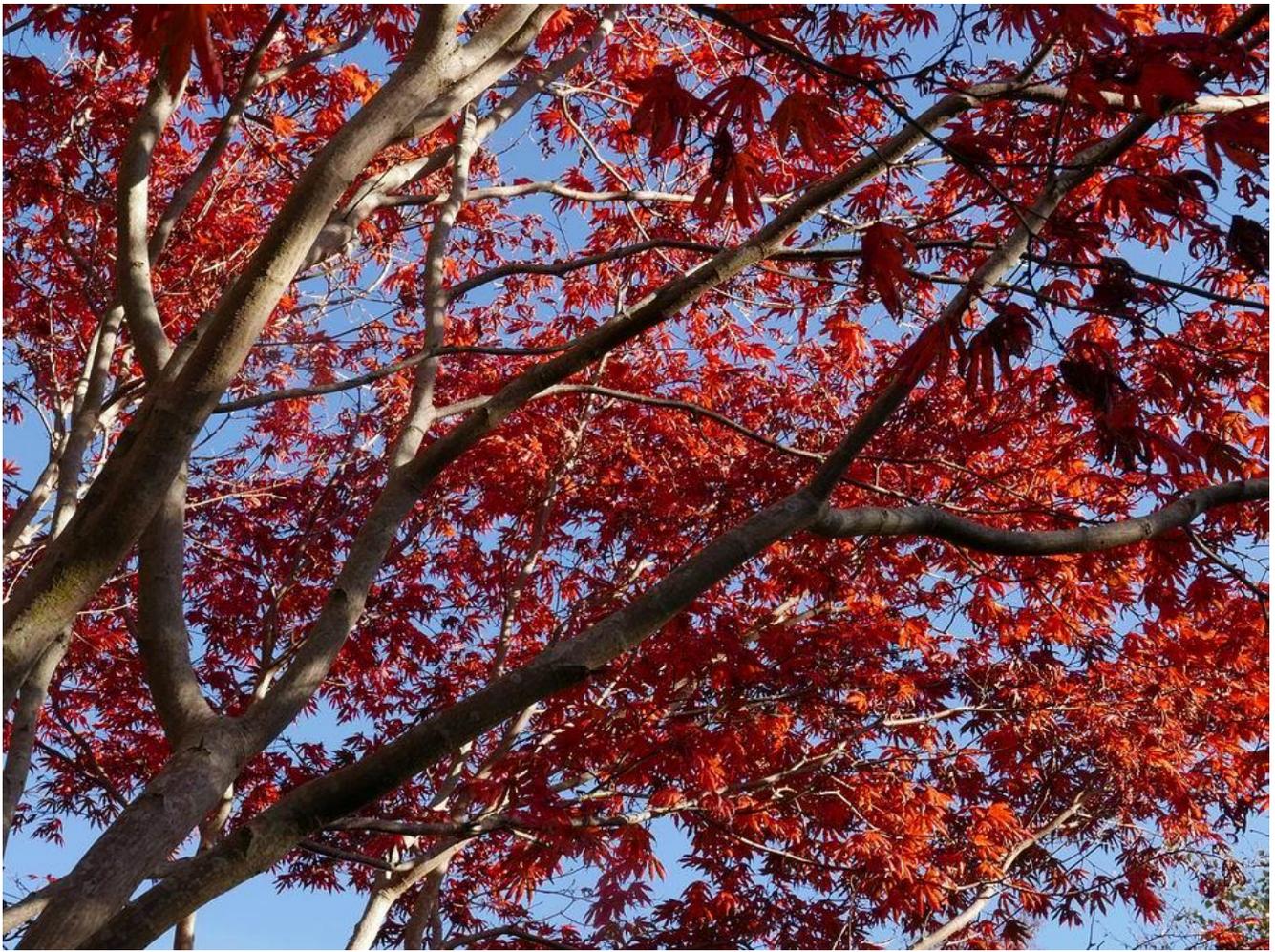




This growth of moss on the wet bark of an Acer also attracted my attention.



In the last few images for this week I turned my view to the canopy above; seeing the coloured leaves against the blue sky as a great contrast to those on the ground.

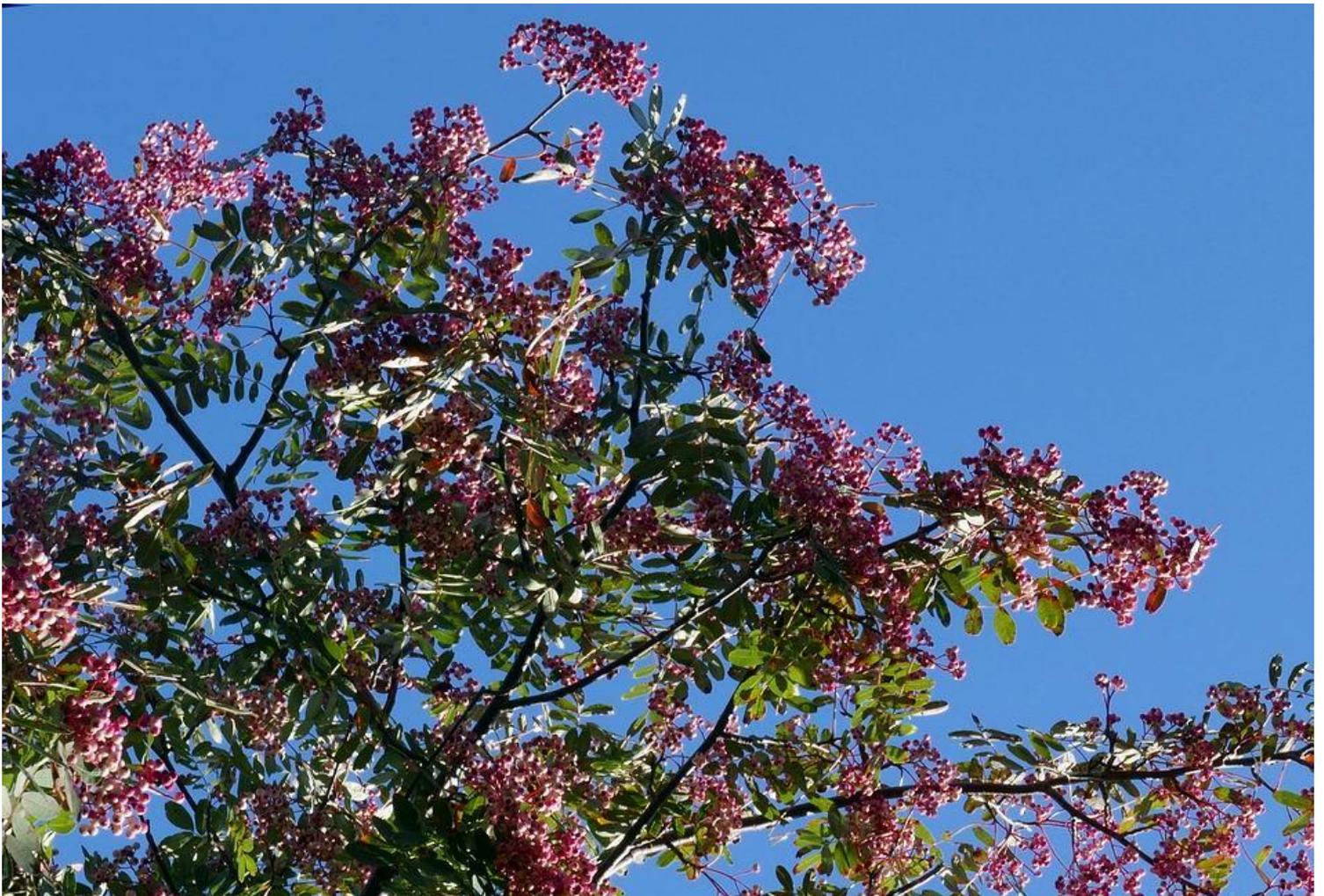


Acers





Paeonia lutea leaves with *Acer* 'Crimson King' against a lovely blue sky.



Sorbus hupehensis



My message once more is that there is beauty in decay and I encourage you to get out and enjoy the autumn colours before we have to start the big clear up of all those leaves. If you want to see some flowers check out the bulb houses in this latest [Bulb log video diary supplement](#).....