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Bulb Log Diary

ISSN 2514-6114

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BULB LOG 52.....23rd December 2020



SEASONS GREETINGS



This week I am writing on the Winter Solstice when the sun is at the lowest point in the sky and we have the shortest daylight hours of the year. Fortunately we have had some bright days when the sun, from its low position, shed some warming light across the garden which encouraged me to get some work done in the garden. The above ground remains of **Eucomis bicolor** which has featured twice on this year's cover pictures have now been turned to mush by the frosts.

The leaves of some plants such as the hellebores stay green through the winter and are still green when their new growth emerges early next year; at which point I would cut the old growth back however like all of the garden tasks - there is not a fixed time to cut them back.

The circumstances are that this year's unusually mild December temperatures have encouraged early growth with many shoots appearing already so where the hellebores overshadow the emerging growths I am cutting them back now.



In recent weeks I did an initial tidy up of this bulb bed by removing all the dead growth but now the appearance of early shoots means it is time to cut back the old green leaves on the hellebores as well.

The recent wet and windy weather has brought the leaves down from most of the trees, just the ones on some Cotoneaster remain and they will drop sporadically over the winter. The wet conditions have also stopped me clearing the leaves as they fall and now they lie wet and stuck to the paths.



I could not bring myself to cut back the lovely green **Asplenium scolopendrium** ferns yet so we will continue to enjoy their colour for some weeks or months depending on the winter weather before I also cut back this old growth. The other green growth in this bed is **Celmisia mackauii** and that does not get cut back.



Narcissus shoots.



Seeing these early *Galanthus* looking for the light was the reason I decided that now was the best time to cut back the old hellebore leaves in this bed.



Moving into the bulb houses to see what new flowers have opened in the sand beds I find *Crocus laevigatus*.



More of the small hoop-petticoat Narcissus are flowering most of the ones I show this week fall into the wider description of **Narcissus romieuxii**. On this page are two views of a form with a lobed corona the slightly different colour is typical as many are a creamy yellow when as they open turning white as the flower ages and expands.





A typical *Narcissus romieuxii* with wide open corona, exerted anthers with the style extending beyond them.



Side view of *Narcissus romieuxii* showing exerted anthers and style.



A paler coloured form of ***Narcissus romieuxii*** with a flared corona.



This form of ***Narcissus romieuxii*** has more of a funnel shaped corona.



A deeper yellow coloured form of **Narcissus romieuxii**.

You may have noted that this is Bulb Log 5220 and there is more than a week of the year to go – this is one of the few occasions in the eighteen years that there are 53 Wednesdays in a year so I get a rare week off before the next Bulb Log will be online at midday on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

Looking back 2020 has been a year that I would like to forget but will never be able to because of the Covid 19 virus which has affected all our lives in ways we could only imagine in a horror movie.

One of the good things to come out of the pandemic is that more people seem to be recognising the values of gardens and nature which I hope continues as we slowly emerge from the grips of the beast.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have the garden to escape to where we have enjoyed a good season of growth. With the wide variation of genera and species we grow and the multiple habitats we created we have seen flowers somewhere in the garden every day of the year.

By way of a visual index the final 13 pages combine all the Bulb Log covers of 2020 - clicking on the image will open the relevant Bulb Log.

On the subject of Indexes we are very grateful to Kelly Jones of Washington State, USA who for the last few years has been compiling the Bulb Log Index and the updated version to include 2020 will be loaded in the coming weeks.

Kelly now wants to pass the torch of indexer on to someone else and is happy to answer any questions about her method so I make an appeal if any of you would be interested in taking on this task for 2021 then please contact me. On behalf of the Bulb Log and all the readers I thank Kelly for all the work she has put in to providing the detailed and extremely useful index ,following on from the work of Len Rhind – I am sure that I am not the only one who refers to it on a regular basis.

Before you scroll through the following pages I want to wish all my readers Seasons Greetings with the hope 2021 turns out to be a better year for all of us....



BULB LOG 01.....1st January 2020



Narcissus



BULB LOG 02.....8th January 2020



Helleborus orientalis



BULB LOG 03.....15th January 2020



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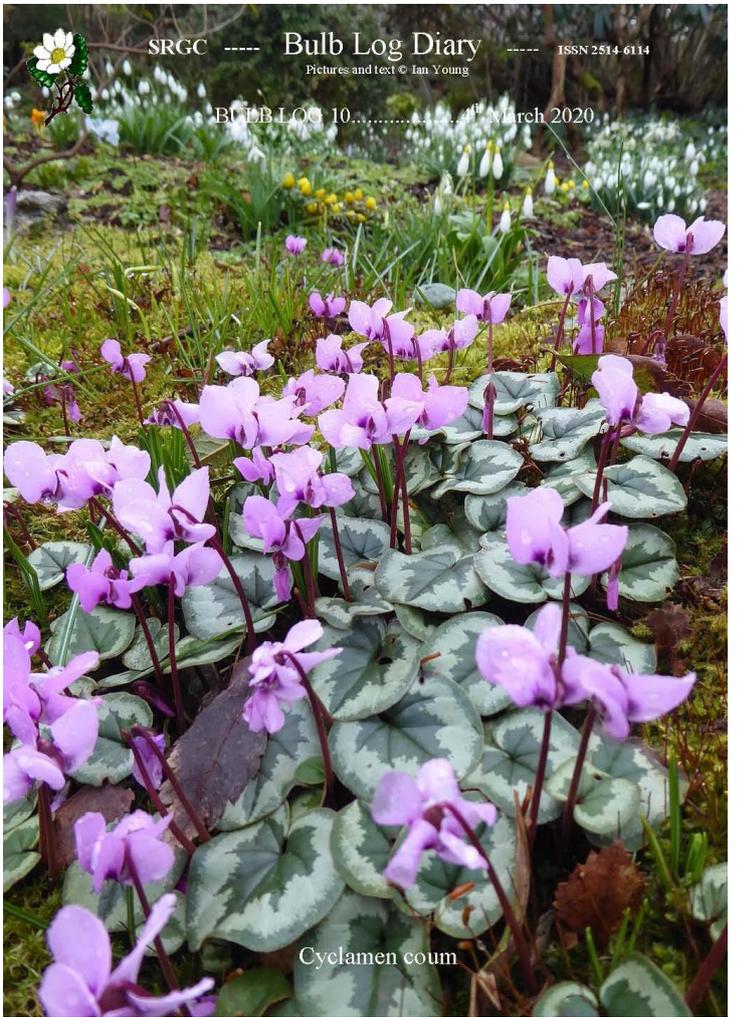


BULB LOG 04.....22nd January 2020

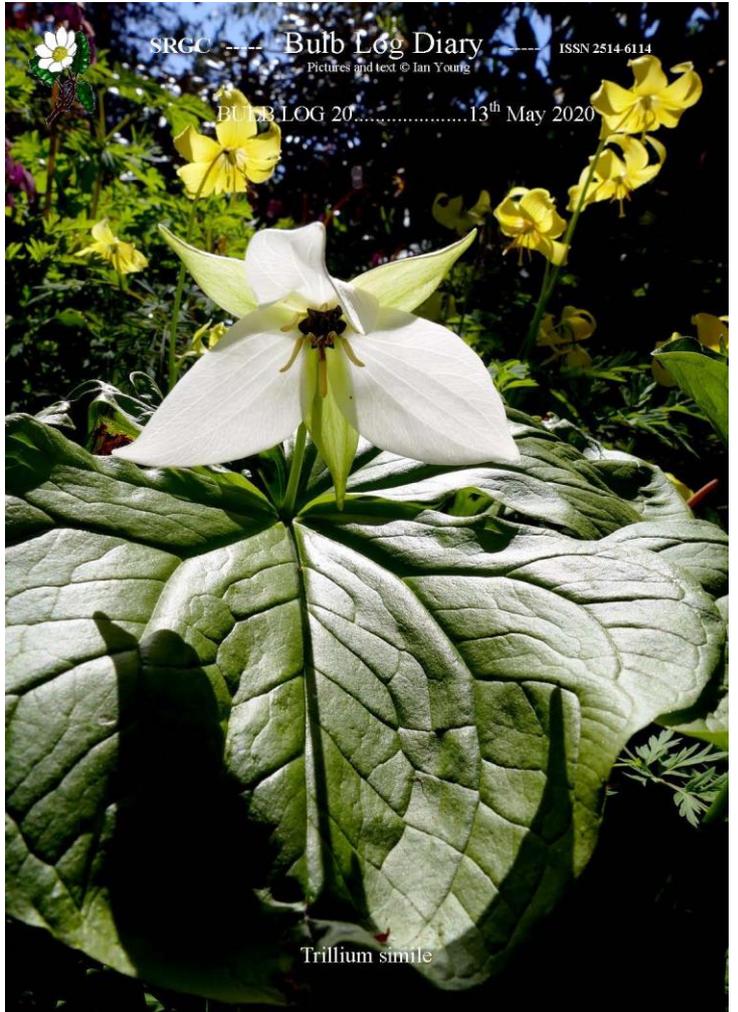
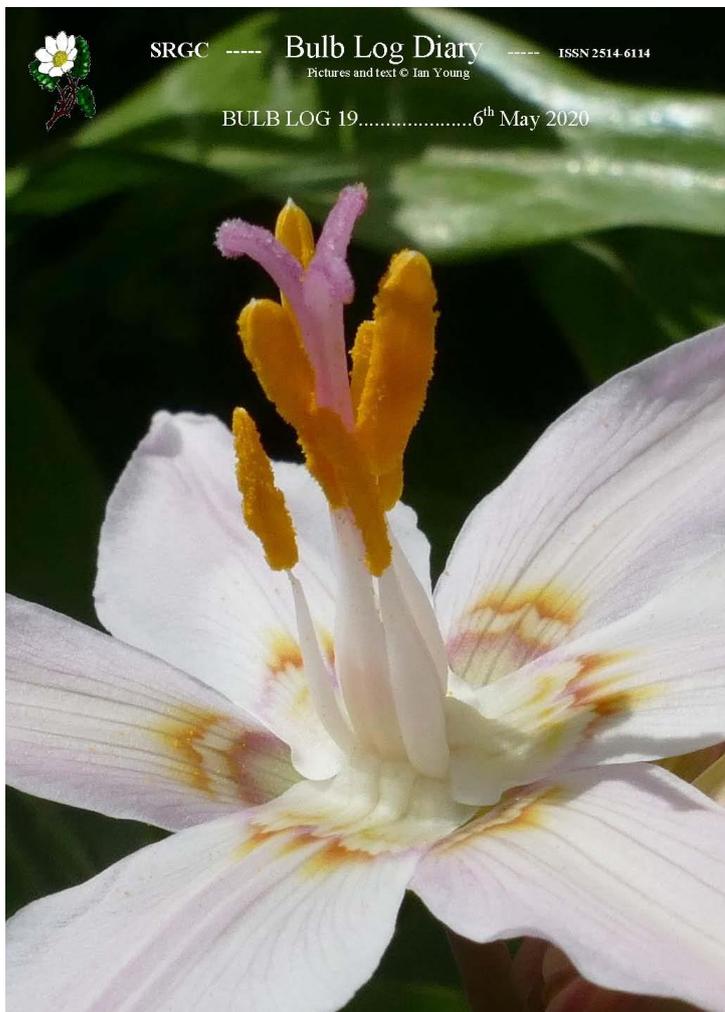
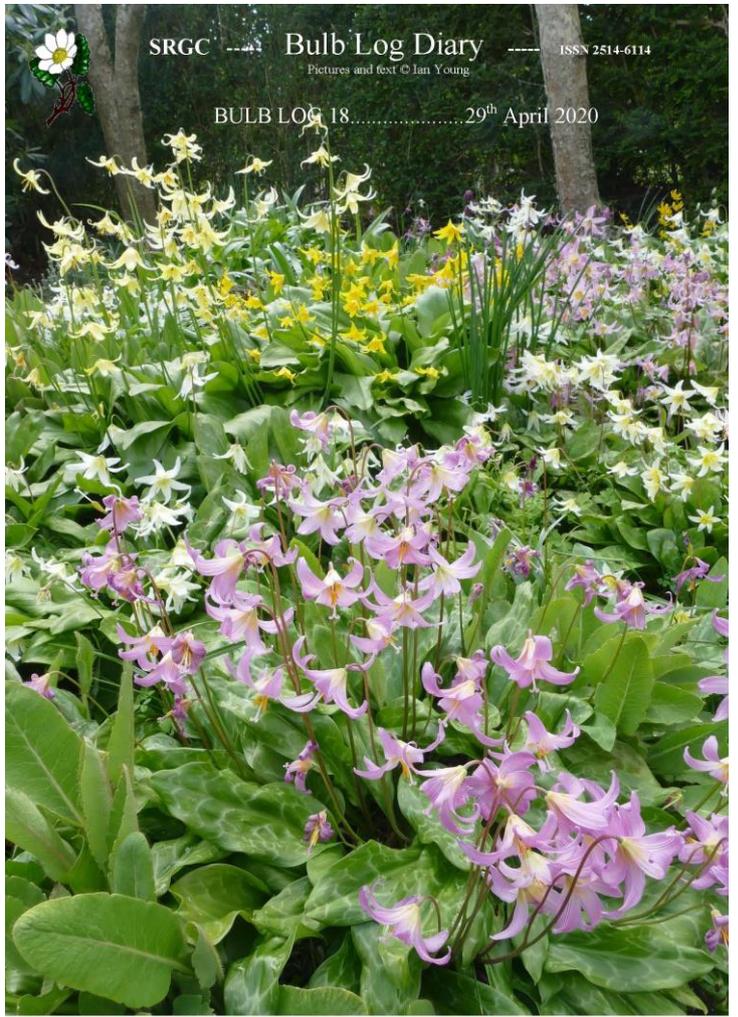
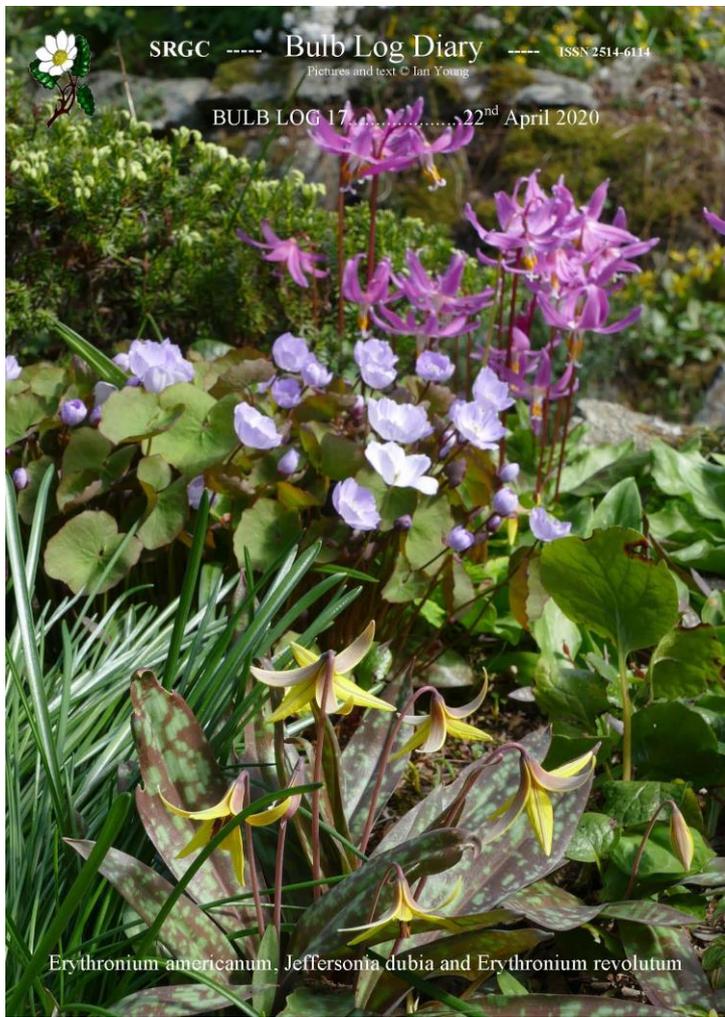


Eranthis pinnatifida











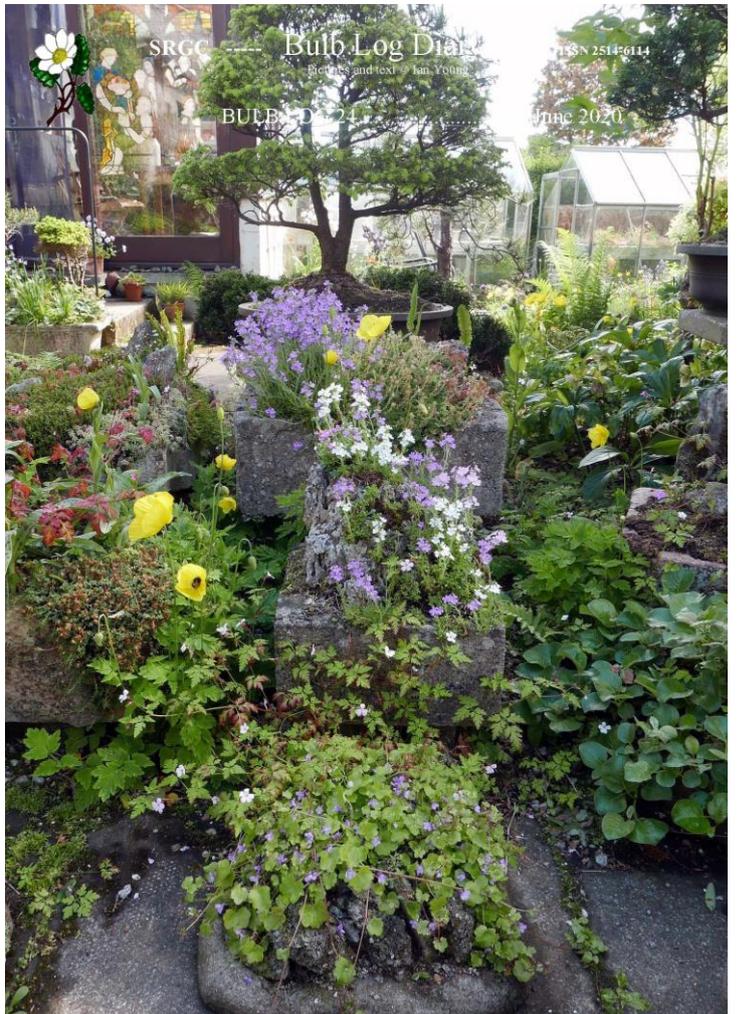
Ramonda nathaliae



Calochortus uniflorus



Corydalis 'Craigton Purple'





Meconopsis baileyi and *Corydalis mucronipetala*



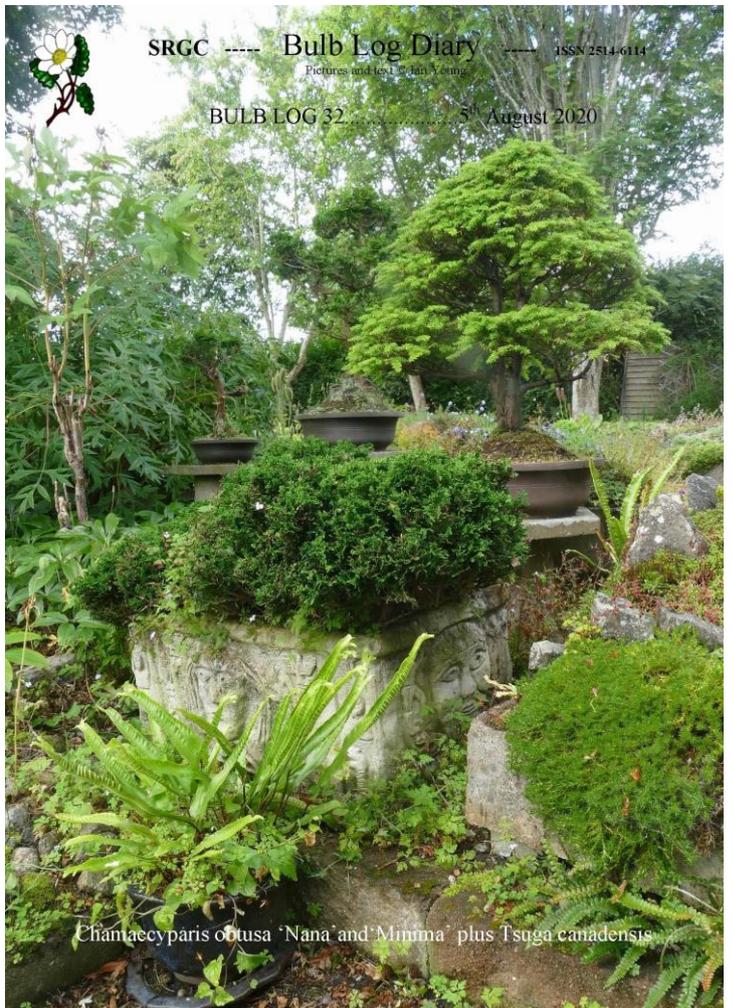
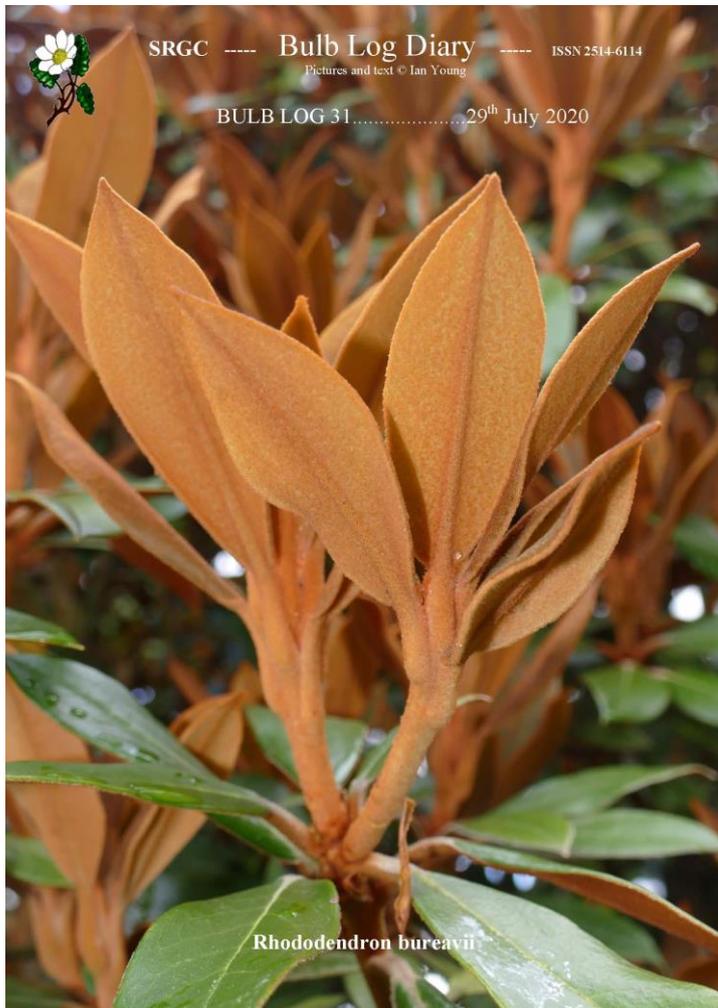
Meconopsis baileyi



MOLLY 20/03/06 - 26/06/20



Dactylorhiza and *Digitalis grandiflora*

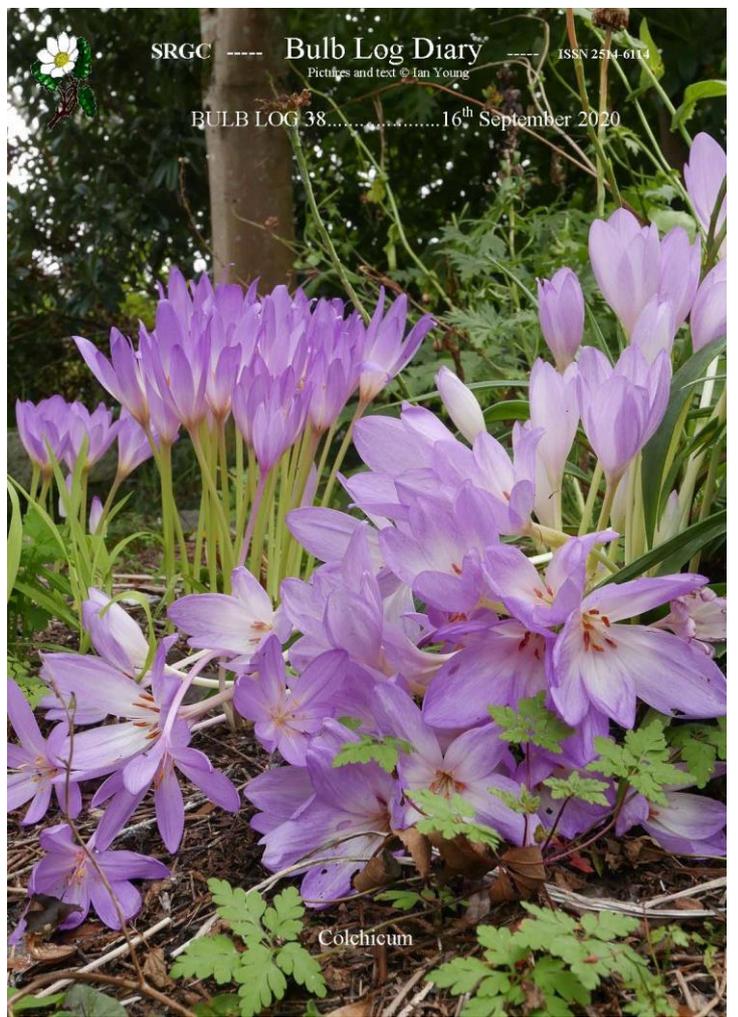






BULB LOG 37.....9th September 2020

Veratrum fimbriatum



BULB LOG 38.....16th September 2020

Colchicum



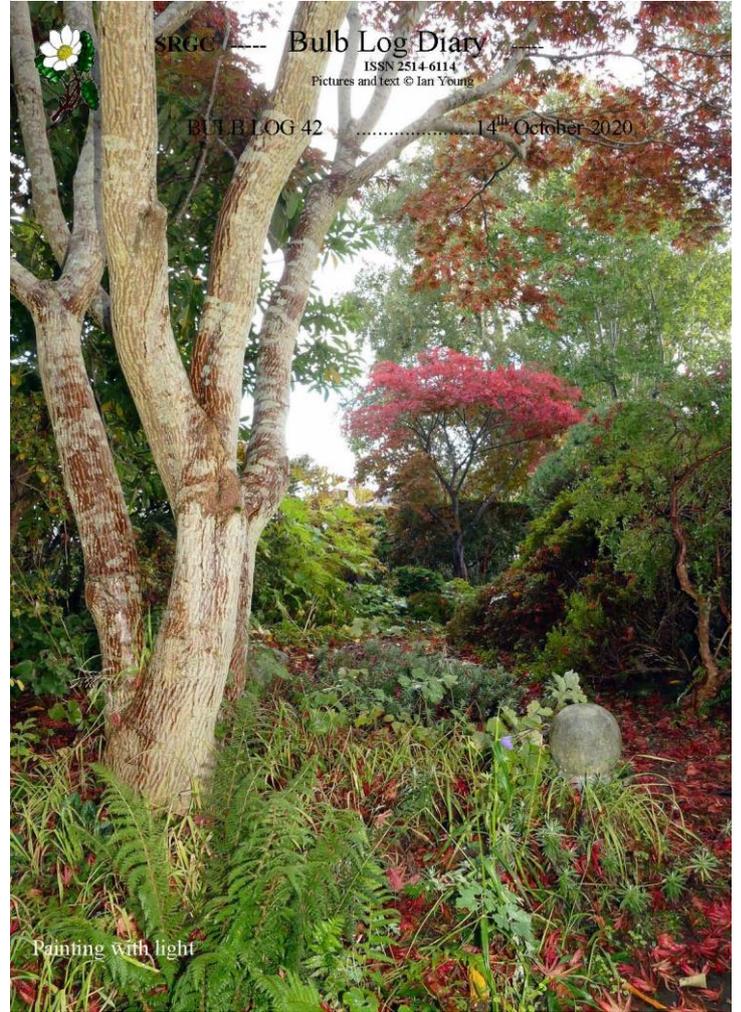
BULB LOG 39.....23rd September 2020

Autumn flowering Crocus



BULB LOG 40.....30th September 2020

Crocus and Colchicum





Shelter from the Storm



Eucomis bicolor



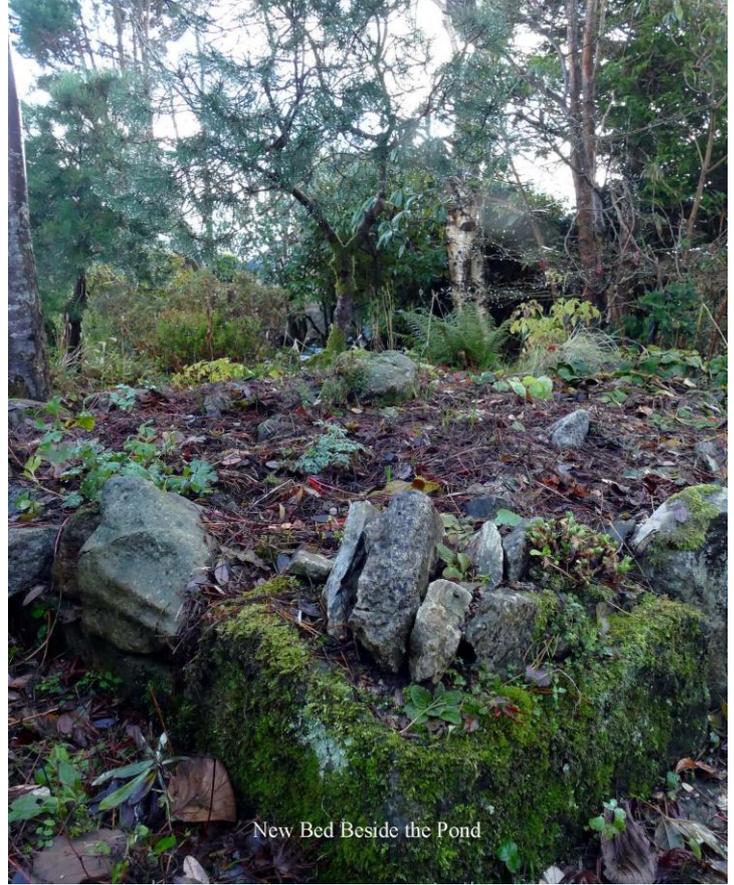
Narcissus



Reflections



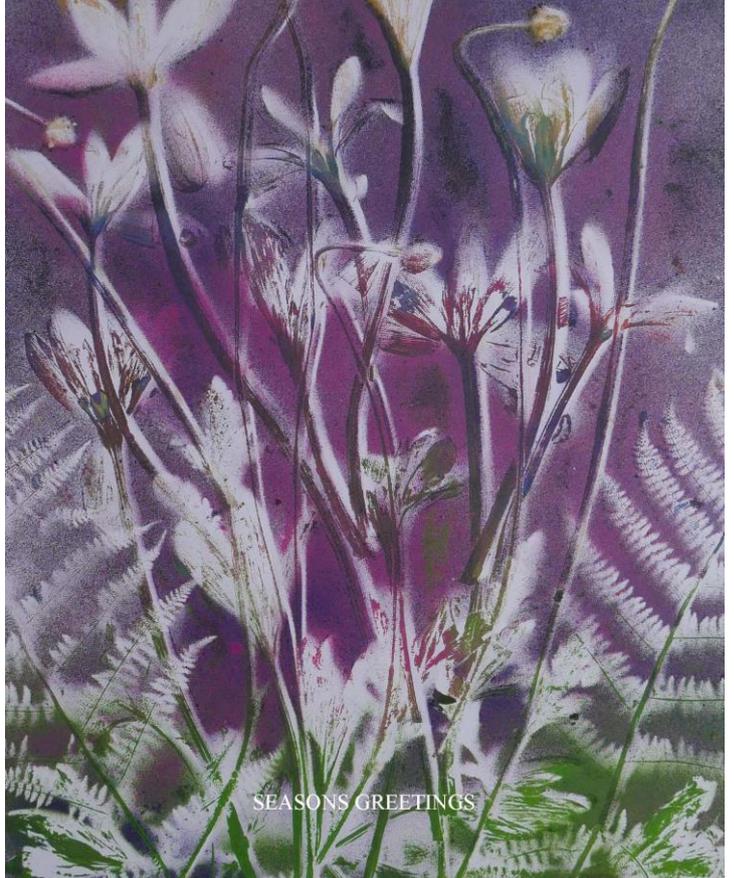
Narcissus 'Craigton Chalice'



New Bed Beside the Pond



Narcissus



SEASONS GREETINGS