



BULB LOG 06.....5th February 2020



Galanthus 'Dryad Gold Bullion'

I have just arrived home from the AGS Snowdrop Day where I saw many hundreds of pots of snowdrops for sale on the trade stands which were surrounded by enthusiastic people busily spending their money.

The great enthusiasm for this genus has led to a proliferation of new names appearing in recent years and I did wonder if I naughtily removed all the labels from the pots how many of these named cultivars would be distinct enough to be clearly identified.

When we grow plants, including *Galanthus*, in pots we do use labels but once they are planted out into the garden the labels are thrown away. My belief is that if they are distinct enough to stand out from the many then I will easily be able to recognise them but if they have no clearly distinctive feature then perhaps they do not deserve a name in the first place.



Galanthus 'Dryad Gold Bullion'



When you are clonally propagating and distributing a plant it makes sense to give it a name - if for no other reason than to prevent confusion further down the line when there is the possibility that several names could be applied to the same cultivar.

The best trial of any cultivar is for it to be widely grown and there is no shortage of people willing to try out the snowdrops. The test of time will be the judge showing just how many of the named forms currently around are distinct and robust enough to still be around in 10 or 20 years' time.

I especially admire those growers who are cross pollinating with a purposeful intention of the plants they are trying to raise. One of these is Anne Wright with her 'Dryad' range of cultivars some of which we are growing in pots until we get sufficient number to release and trial them in the open garden.

Galanthus 'Dryad Gold Medal'



This group of *Galanthus* growing in pots includes *Galanthus* 'Maggi Young', front right, whose flowers are just opening



Galanthus plicatus
'Wendy's Gold'



Galanthus 'Philippe Andre Meyer'



Leaving the labels behind I walk out into the garden where more flowers are appearing every day as the garden emerges from its winter state.



Galanthus woronowii peaks out from under a fern the fronds of which I will reluctantly cut off in a few weeks to encourage the new season's growth.



**Galanthus
'Glenorma'**

These are the first of the Galanthus 'Glenorma' I released from a pot which I am pleased to see are growing well in the open garden. This success is encouraging me to release more of the bulbs from the pot so we can enjoy the large stature and flowers of this fine cultivar introduced by Wol and Sue Staines of Glenchantry.



Another favourite with large flowers but this time on short stems is **Galanthus 'Mighty Atom'**.



Now I will show a sequence of pictures showing some of the general plantings of the earlier flowering Galanthus.





These are some of a number of clumps of *Galanthus* that have become so large that the bulbs will be in competition for the nutrients so to maintain good flowering they will need to be lifted and divided before long.



Galanthus 'Snoopy'





Galanthus woronowii



View looking from the slab bed area.



Eranthis hyemalis

Much to our delight *Eranthis hyemalis* flowers in their various shades of yellow are also gracing the garden.





Eranthis hyemalis



Narcissus cyclamineus



The two pictures of Iris '**Katharine Hodgkin**', above and below, were taken just a few days apart.

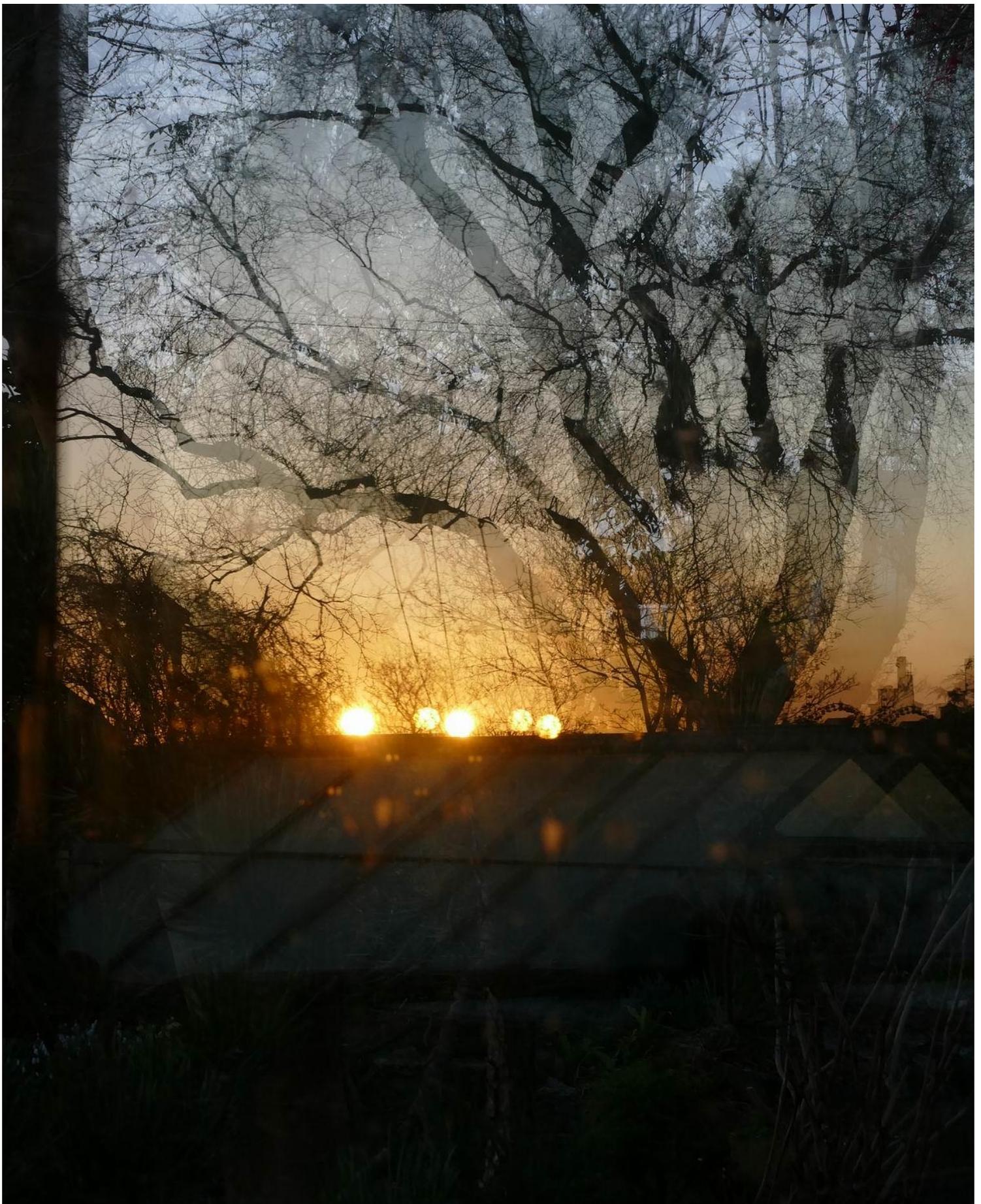


Iris 'Katharine Hodgkin'



You will have noticed the scattering of red Cotoneaster berries in the previous pictures which are attracting large flocks of Red Wing birds into the garden to feed.





Five suns rising

Having just arrived home from the Snowdrop Day and with only a few days before I travel to Germany for the ISU 'Winterdays' conference means this is another short Bulb Log. I will leave you with this picture of the dawn on a strange planet with five suns rising and advanced notice that the booking for the [2021 International Rock Garden Conference](#) in Perth Scotland next May is now open – click on the link for full details of this Conference and the tours of Scottish gardens – I hope to see many of you there.....