



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 25.....23rd June 2021



Arisaema ciliatum var. *liubaense*



I featured this same bed in last week's Bulb Log to show the sequence of the bluebells whose flowers are now passing over, the flowers are fading and the seed will start to swell and ripen. For the reason that we do not want this area to be a monoculture of bluebells and contrary to my advice to allow your bulbs to seed, I will prevent these from seeding by removing the stems which is the best way to control vigorous seeders. The passing of the bluebells does not mean the bed is without flowers as a forest of *Arisaema ciliatum* in the form of its variety *liubaense* are coming into flower. These spread by

short stolons and by the seed that forms as clusters of bright red berries that replace the flowers as they in turn fade. I encourage this plant to spread across the garden by scattering the clusters of seed into other areas where we would like them to grow where after around three years they will start to flower.



The growth pattern, where the leaves and flower form on the top of a long stem, make them perfect for growing up through other plants such as the ground covering Dicentra and ferns.





As with all plants you raise from seed you will find variations will occur especially around the colour such as the two flowers shown on this page which lack the dark maroon markings.





Tulipa sylvestris* var. *australis which, along with the bright red *Tulipa sprengeri*, are the latest of the genus to flower - here its orange backed bright yellow petals open to display only when the sun shines.



Tulipa sylvestris* var. *australis



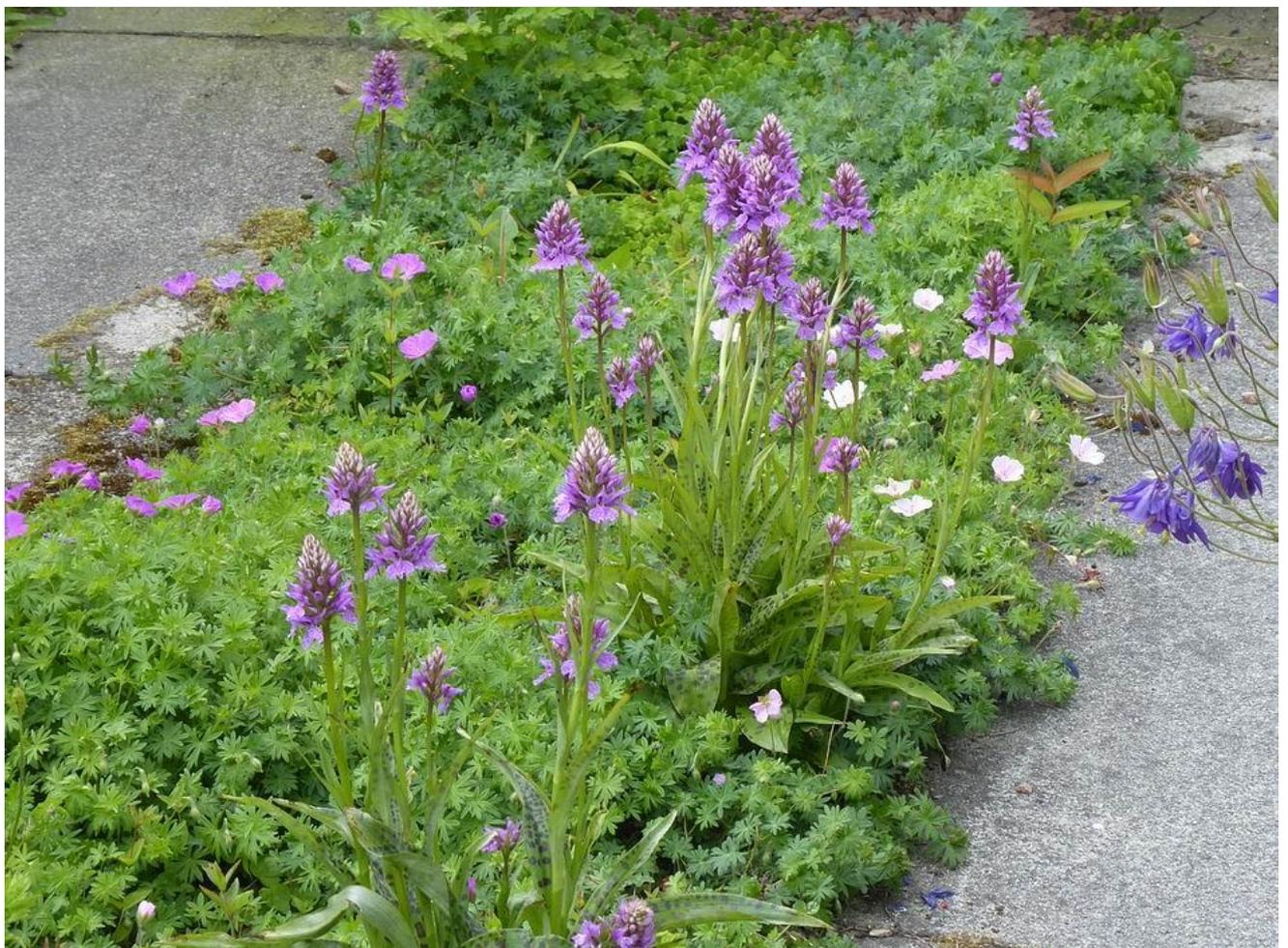
The Meconopsis always give a better display after the first flowers have gone over because more flowers open further down the stem.



A Delphinium species adds another shade of blue to the mixture of plants in the bulb bed.



The front garden gives the appearance of an over grown shrubbery, the locals call it the jungle, but we do try and keep areas open to allow woodland plants to grow.



There are some areas in the front garden that have to stay open and that is the driveways where the *Dactylorhiza* orchids are now opening.



We did lose about half a dozen flowers when we took the car out the other day but for the most part the car can come and go without damage.



Aciphylla glaucescens flowers majestically in the front garden.



The front garden is also densely populated with plants, both common and unusual, mingling and going through several seasonal sequences together that provide us with year round decoration and interest.



It is the *Phytuma spicata* sequence on the west drive way and while the tall spikes topped off with tight clusters of small white flowers may not look that spectacular they attract a constant procession of bees.

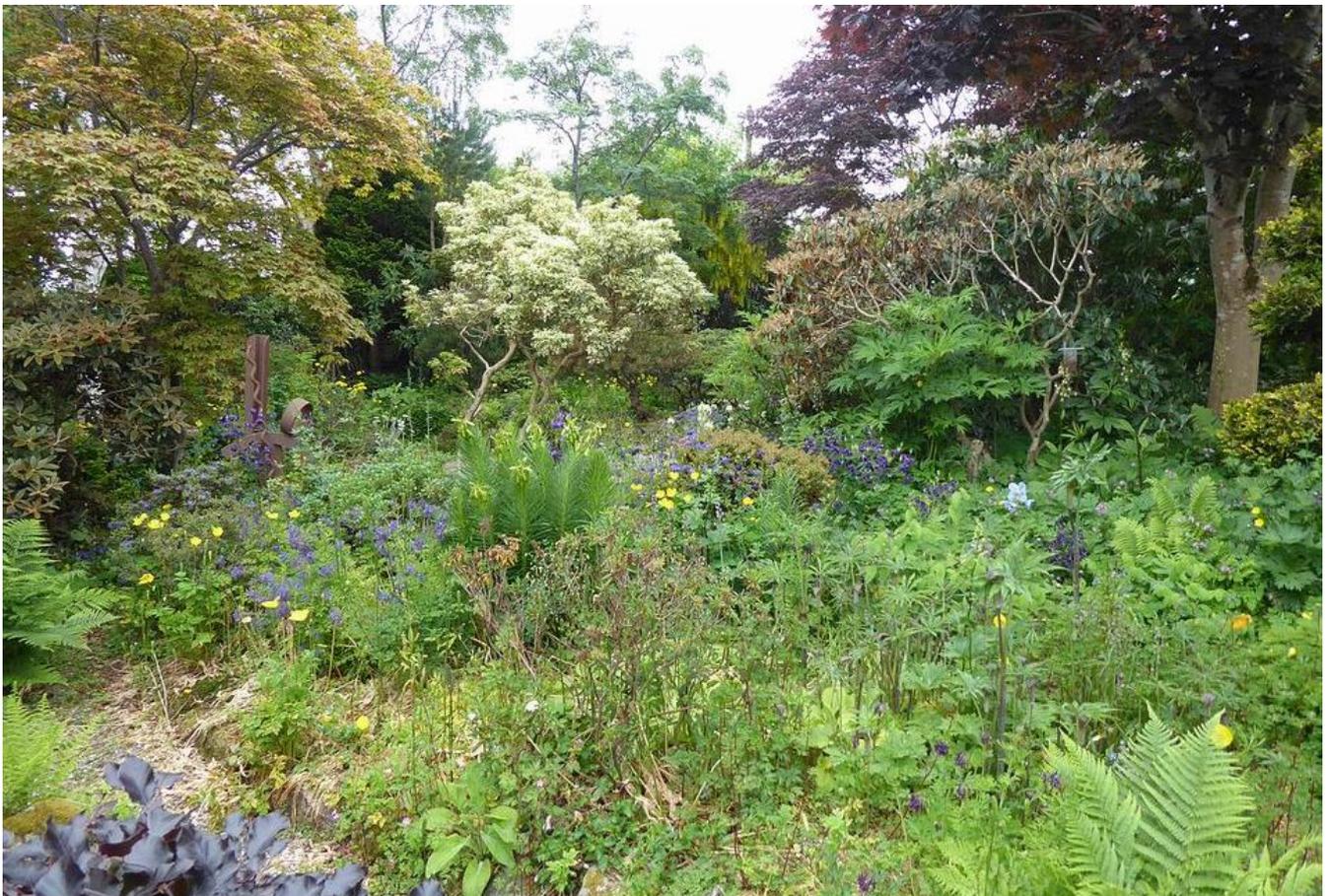


Looking back to remind us of how this drive looked during the April sequence then compare that, below, with how it looks now and there are more sequences to come such as the *Digitalis grandiflora* followed by the Geraniums.

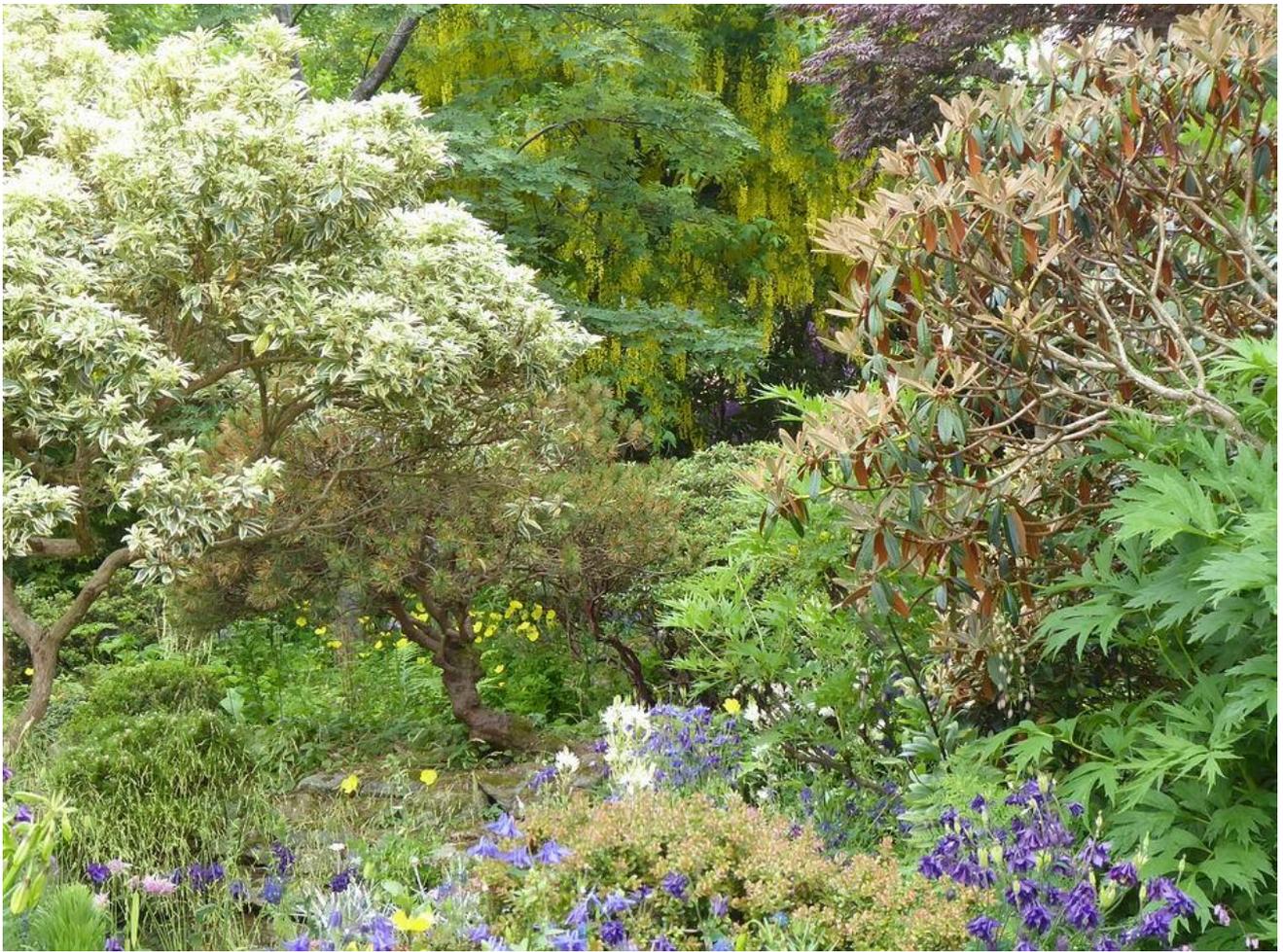




The next series of pictures look towards the trees now in full leaf with the Laburnum in full glorious flower capturing our attention as we walk around.



Just as with the ground level plantings the form and colour of the foliage was a critical factor when we planted the trees and shrubs.



The red-leaved Acers bring a wonderful contrast to the colour of the canopy.



The blue of *Meconopsis* and *Corydalis* harmonise with the yellow poppies.



Corydalis mucronipetala



It was early in May when the very first colour emerged on the flowers of **Corydalis 'Craigton Purple'** and they are still going strong many weeks later.



Ramonda myconi.



The pond area sits below the Laburnum.





A good colour form of *Iris sibirica*.



Doronicum orientale keeps on flowering while some of the other plants around it go in and out of flower.



Aquilegia and Camassia leichtlinii seed around in different combinations among the background of foliage.





Summer flowers.





It is often said that you either love Arisaema flowers or you hate them but before you decide to hate such fascinating flowers you first have to get to know them then you may learn to appreciate them.

It is fascinating the range of flower sizes we find in the **Arisaema ciliatum var. liubaense** from the tiny first flowers that form on the youngest tubers to full size ones, below, that form on the fully mature tubers.

There are male and female flowers which from the outside look the same although in our populations the larger flowers are more likely to be female and the smaller ones male.



The decorative spathe cloaks and protects the active parts of the flower which are found on the central spadix which when viewed from certain angles can be seen peeking out from under the hood.

You have to get inside the spathe to fully appreciate the full beauty of these fascinating plants.



Inside of a female *Arisaema ciliatum* var *liubaense* flower showing the cluster of female flowers at the bottom of the spadix which when fertilised will develop into the red seed bearing fruits - the spiky growths above them are called neuters and as the name suggests have no sexual function.



Male flowers bear the pollen although the gender of a flower is not set for life it can change from year to year.



The more you look the more you will get out of nature and your plants I hope that I have persuaded some to look more closely at your flowers and especially to appreciate *Arisaema* flowers.....