



SRGC

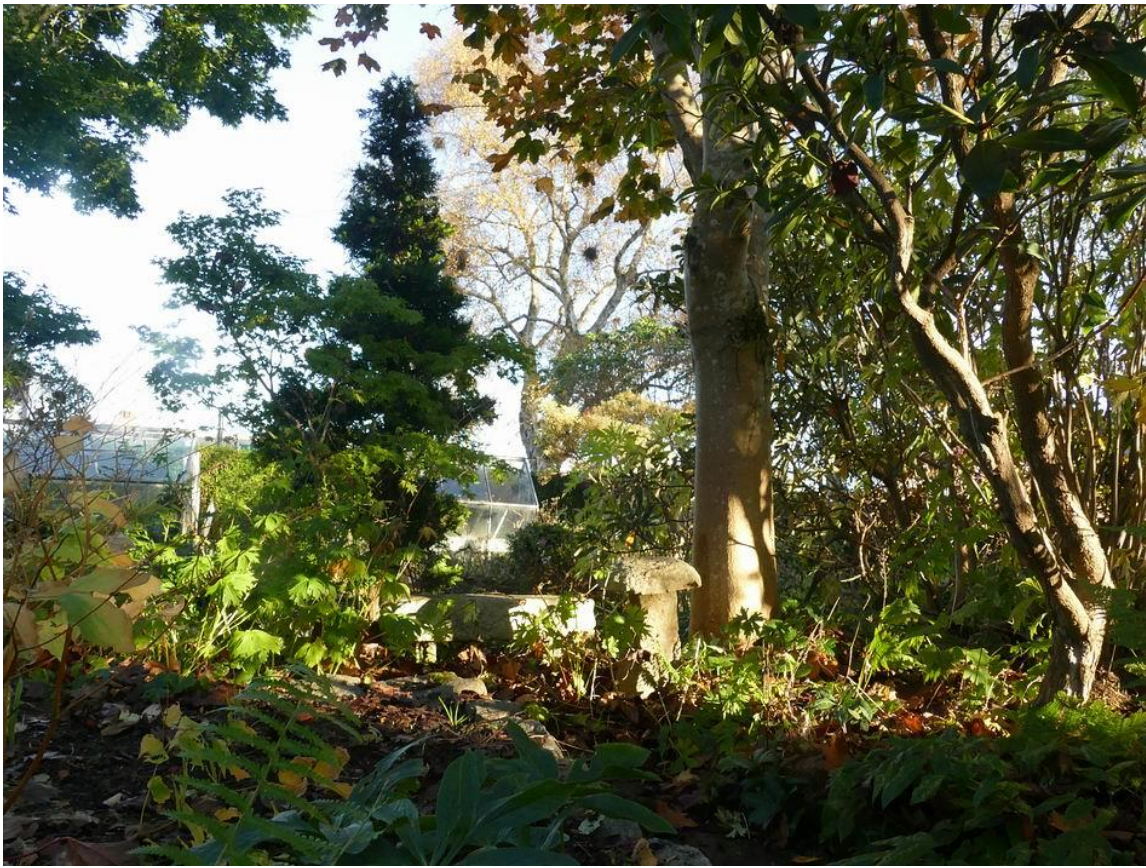
Bulb Log Diary

ISSN 2514-6114

Pictures and text © Ian Young

BULB LOG 45.....9th November 2022

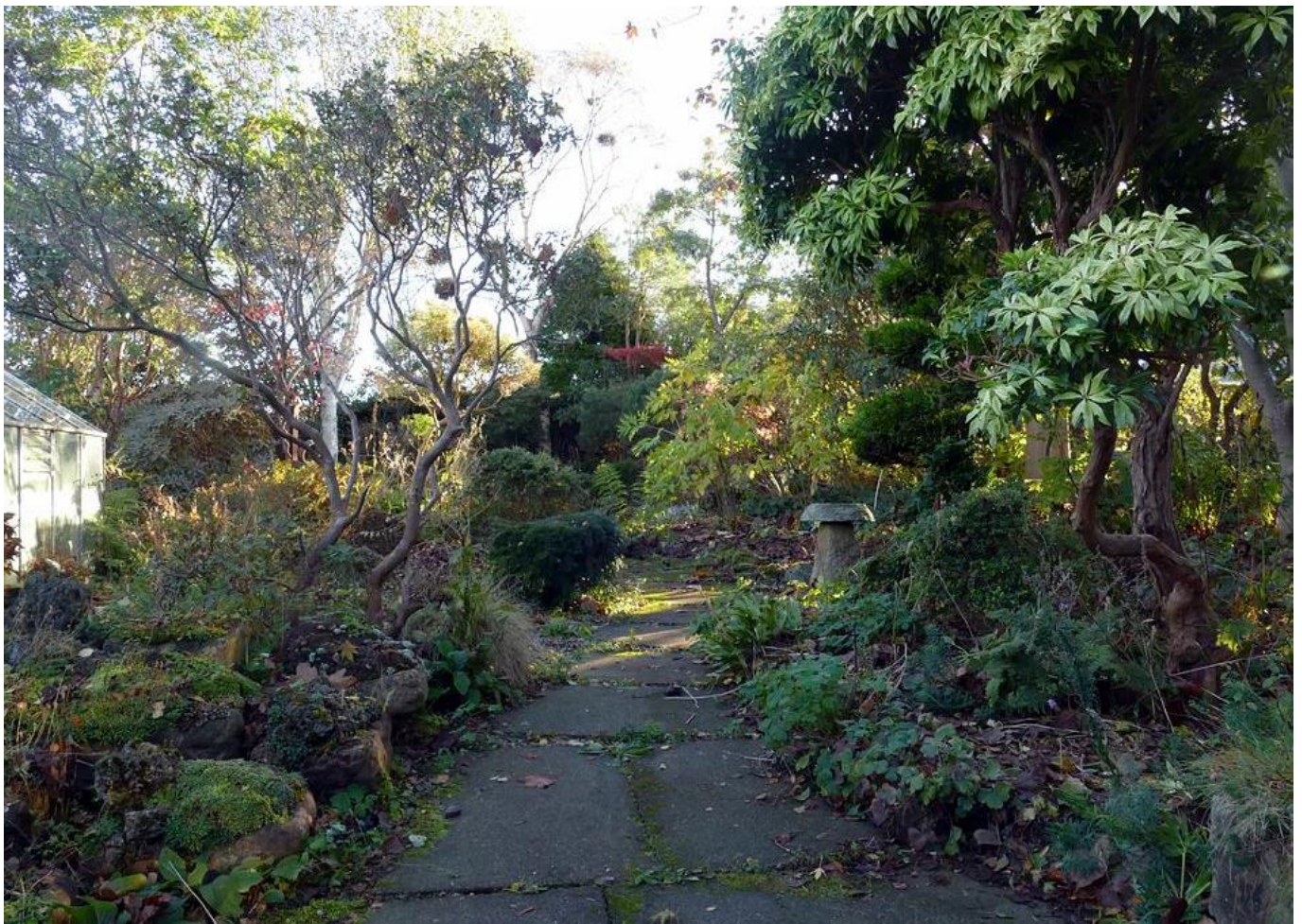




I love the light at this time of year. The summer light, when the sun is high and shining directly down, does not often create the most dramatic effects but when the sun is low in the sky it casts long shadows and makes projections of some objects onto others. If it were not for the dramatic light the cover scene would seem flat and much less interesting but the light hitting part of the tree trunk along with the projection of the stems of a large Rhododendron onto it makes such a difference.



In the same way the stone mushroom stands out because of the contrasting light and its image is similarly projected in the form of a shadow onto the granite bench.



The lighting effects are often fleeting, some lasting for only a few seconds, and so the scene can change quickly but then the scene also changes through the year as the plants come in and out of season. The garden also changes from year to year as plants grow and mature - some may die while new ones will appear so it is ever changing.



Having been celebrating the autumn coloured leaves in recent weeks they have started to make that change from the lovely colours to the wet brown mass that needs cleared away to the compost heaps. I have taken advantage of some nice sunny days to gather leaves of the paths initially. I start with a snow shovel which is brilliant for pushing the leaves along the paths into heaps where I then use my hand paddles to scoop them up, dropping them into a large bag to either go direct the compost heap or pass them through my shredder, if I have it out.

After the initial pass with the snow shovel I use an electric 'leafvac' which lifts and shreds the leaves as they pass into the collection bag but wet leaves quickly clog it up as they pass through the small attached shredder so I have to switch it to blowing the leaves into piles.



I have used the focus in this image to lure your eyes away from the lantern and background, which are slightly blurry, towards the sharp focus area at the bottom of the picture where the white branches of Stag's Horn fungi are growing on the stump of a tree which we cut down a number of years ago - the stump was just too big to dig out.



I usually spot nature in the wild fields and woods then find it repeated or mimicked in the garden but I spotted Stag's Horn fungi in the garden then saw it growing on dead wood (below) later while walking round the wild areas.





I then found these amazing growths under large Rhododendrons, Yew and other trees in the old estate and I presume these are variations of the Stag's Horn fungi.



There was a colony of them erupting from the ground not obviously growing on dead wood more likely following a root structure.



Stag's Horn fungi



A nice contrast in the garden between these ferns that will stay green all winter and the yellowing Roscoeas foliage.



It is the time when I pick and freeze some of the **Vaccinium ovatum** fruit, leaving some for the birds.



Blue berries of **Vaccinium ovatum**.



I also collect some of the **Vaccinium numularia** fruits, which are smaller with a very tangy flavour.



Earlier in the year I collected a small amount of **Primula vulgaris** seed from the woods which was sown immediately then placed under mist in the hope of stimulating an early germination but after some six weeks of the summer no growth appeared so I placed the pot outside to take the weather. After a few weeks germination started so I speculate that while we know there is a minimum temperature required for germination it may have been simply too warm in the mist unit for the seed to germinate. With the milder than average November temperatures I should be able to grow the seedlings a bit bigger before they shut down for the winter when and if it comes.



Most of the **Cyclamen hederifolium** flowers have passed with the coiling stems pulling the fertilised seed capsules down to sit on the ground until next summer when the seed will be released to germinate.



In a nearby plant, newly germinating seedling leaves can be seen alongside this years coiled stems.



I have employed the same selective focus in this image to highlight the fallen, slightly chewed, crocus flowers lying on a bed of yellowed foliage to indicate that the crocus flowering season in the garden is almost at an end until it returns after the winter passes when it will be the turn of the spring flowering forms to bloom.



I like to have a photographic record of the troughs through the year such as these saxifrages: as we head into winter they have grown into each other forming a hard mat of foliage covering more than half of the surface.



Androsace studiosorum



I think it is valuable to have pictures of the troughs, and the wider garden, at all times of the year not just when they might look good because the flowers are open.



Group of troughs.



What we record when we take a picture is a fleeting instant that may be unique such as the way these two leaves have fallen stopped me in my tracks to admire the relationship between the two forms and the road surface. This arrangement was totally random and I was drawn to the interplay between the positive shapes, the leaves, and the negative space the shapes of the road between them a few steps further on I found another stunning still life below.

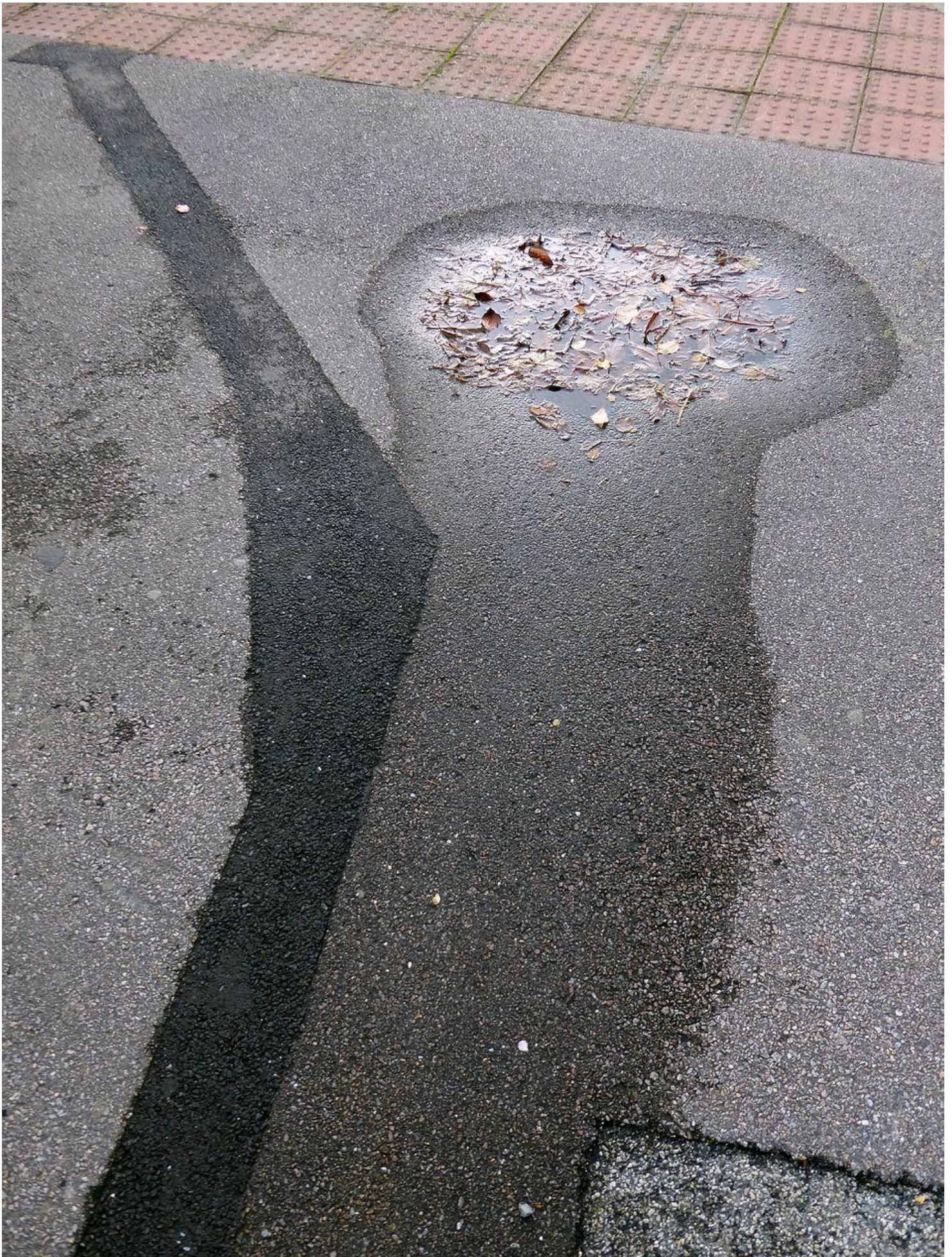




Can you trust your eyes? What do you think you are seeing in this picture?



The final few images downloaded this week from my camera show that it is not just plants and gardens that I take hundred of pictures of: here is one of the many pothole images that I mentioned last week.



It may just be me but this reminded me of the figure in 'The Scream' by Edvard Munch. Here the figure has an arm raised holding up something above the head which is formed by a puddle with some leaves while the body is created by a darker wet patch down the pavement which will soon dry out and the image will disappear leaving just the dark surface where the fibre broadband cables were laid.



I will leave you with another image to puzzle over as you try to work out what it is you are looking at.....