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Bulb Log Diary

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Pictures and text © Ian Young

BULB LOG 18.....1st May 2019





These pictures are a selection of the hundreds I took on Saturday 20th April: that was the day before I left to go to Inverewe Garden for their Erythronium Festival. We have yet again been experiencing some record temperatures for this time of year - up to 23C - which has accelerated the flowering of the Erythronium so, for this and next week I will be sharing some of these images. Inverewe which is on the West Coast of Scotland has also been experiencing a mild start to the season and as their flowering seasons are generally ahead of ours so when I arrived most of their Erythronium flowers were already over. What we observe at Inverewe reflects what happens in all our

gardens - two years ago during their first Erythronium Festival the flowers were at their peak, last year after a cold winter there were very few open and this time they are mostly over. This confirms my understanding that while we often refer to the annual cycle of the seasons as a circle ('We're captive on the carousel of time') this is not the case because while we do go around we never end up in exactly the same place, like on a circle, it is more of a helix so we can arrive in the same place but at a different time. The vagaries of our weather, the annual growth and spread of plants our interventions as gardeners etc. all add to the ever changing state of the garden.



This week I am celebrating the decorative value that Erythronium bring to a garden especially when they are grown in numbers and combined with other plants.

I hardly need to add many words so please enjoy the following photo essay. The first series of pictures show the plunge frames where the Erythroniums are grown in mesh pond baskets plunged into sharp sand. In the baskets the bulbs are planted in a mixture of loam, leaf mould and sand.



Erythronium plunge beds



Erythronium tuolumnense, *revolutum*, *oregonum*, *californicum*, among others.



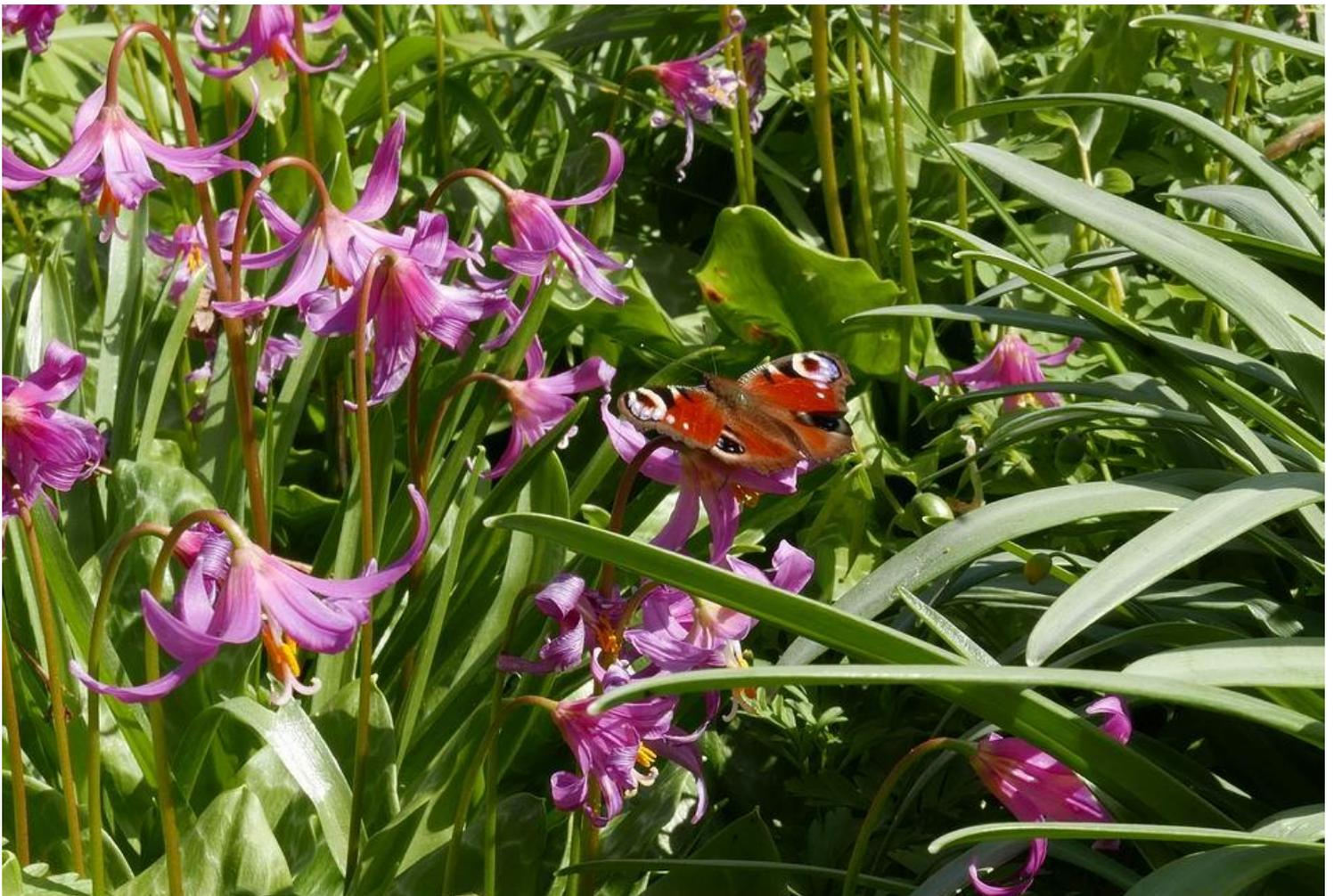
My pet *Taraxacum officinale* is in full flower and more than holds its own with the *Erythronium*s in the decorative qualities.



Moving out into the garden the large white flowers of **Erythronium 'Minnehaha'** glow in the strong sunshine.



Erythronium revolutum and its hybrids bring shades of pink to the display.



A **Peacock butterfly** is among the many pollinators attracted to the **Erythronium revolutum** flowers.



The pale yellow flowers of **Fritillaria pallida** are self-seeding into the gravel along with **Erythronium revolutum**.



Erythronium revolutum and **Trillium grandiflorum**



Erythronium sibiricum complex.



Erythronium sibiricum complex with *Pseudotrillium rivale*



Trillium pusillum, Erythronium sibiricum complex and Erythronium 'Ardovie Bliss'



Erythronium 'Craigton Cover Girl' rising up through the foliage of Corydalis 'Craigton Blue'.



Anemone ranunculoides, *A. x lipsiensis*, *Erythronium americanum*, *E. revolutum* and *Pseudotrillium rivale*.

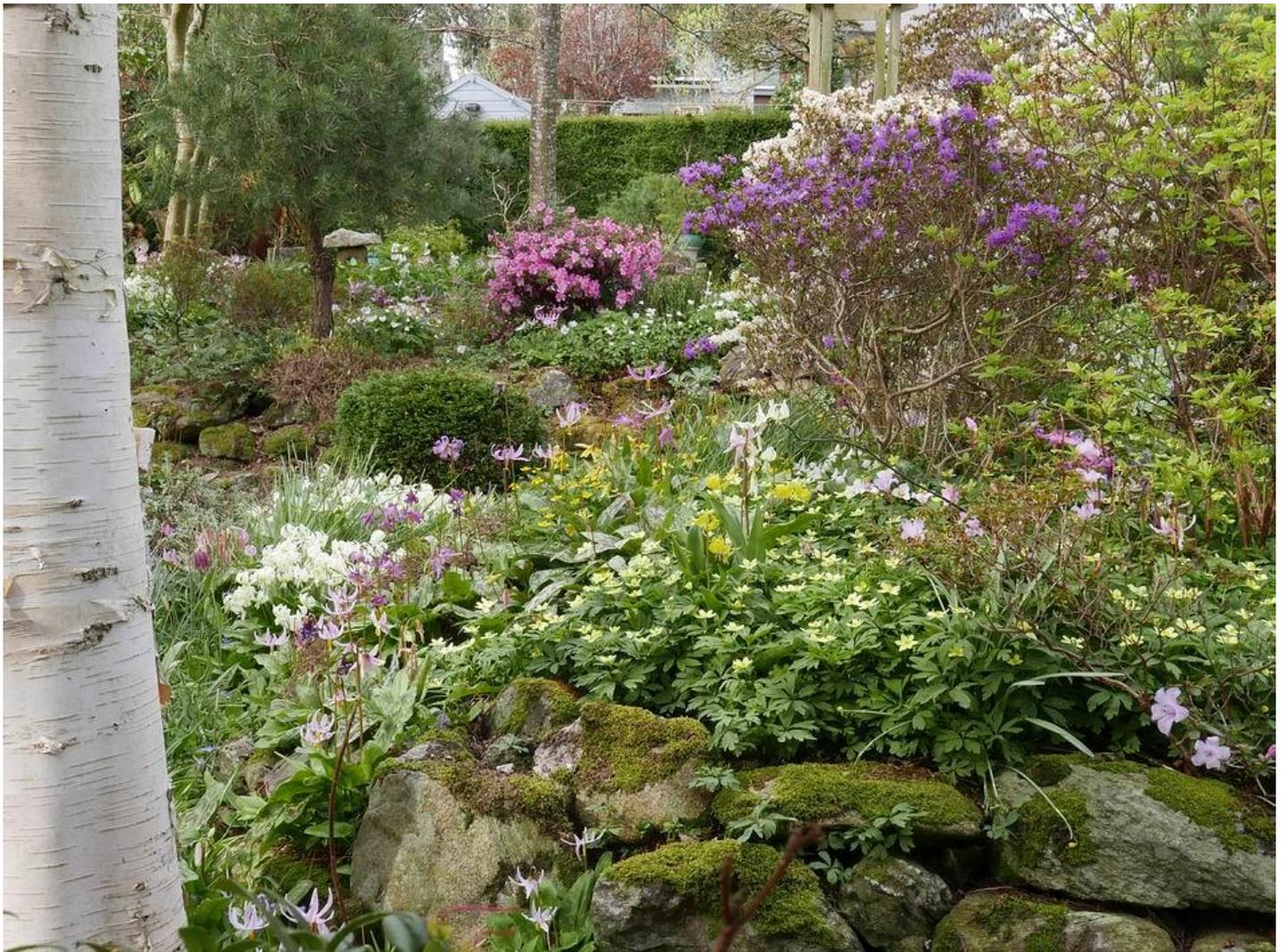


Erythronium revolutum hybrids



Erythronium revolutum naturalising on the rock walls of a raised bed.





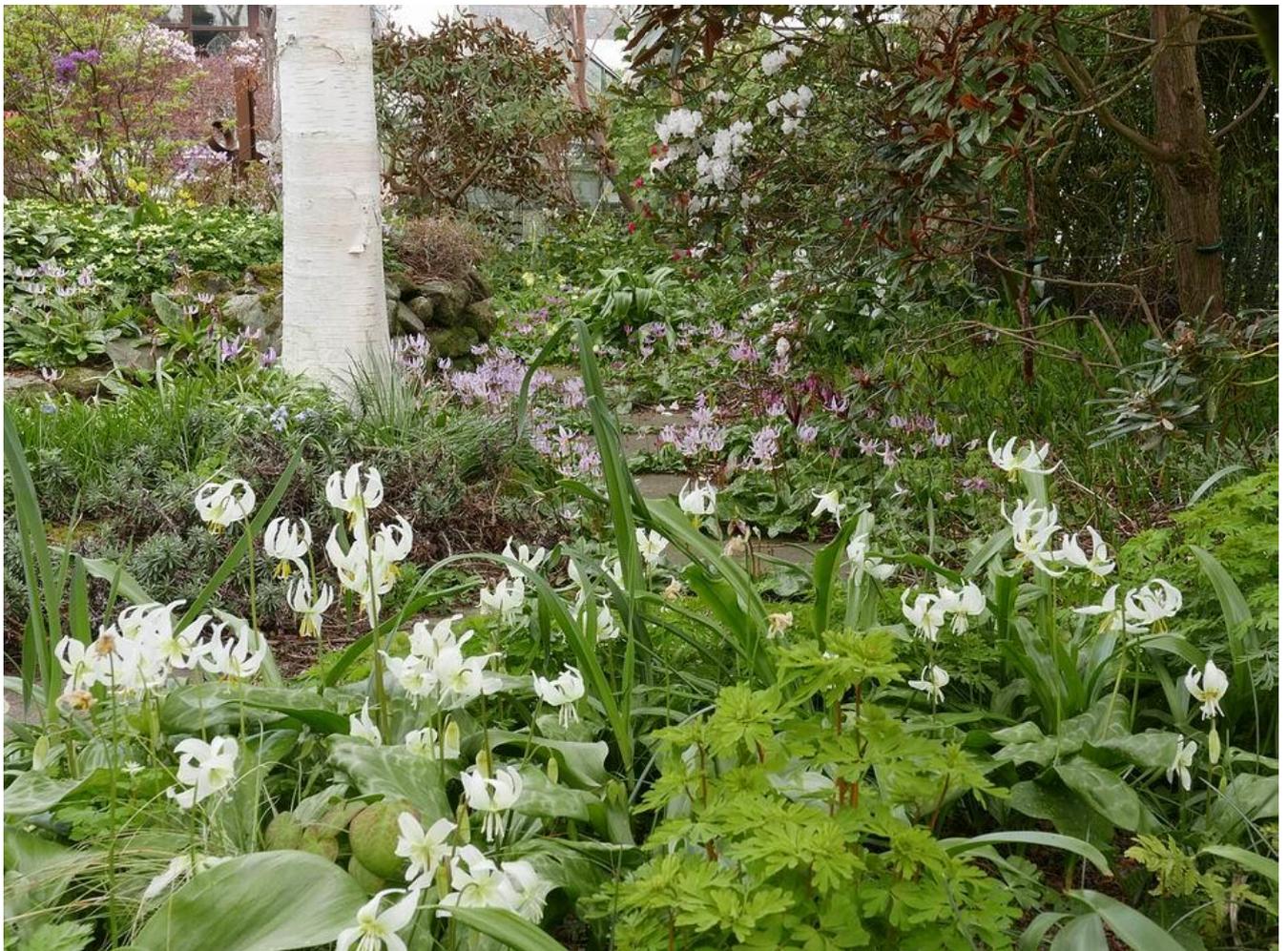


Above and below you can see that the recent plantings in this area, that I opened up by cutting back and removing some shrubs, are progressing well.





As well as opening up the ground for planting cutting back the shrubs has also opened up some new views from this end of the garden.





View



View



Above and below are two views taken in the front garden.





Erythronium tuolumnense



Erythronium 'Joanna'



Erythronium americanum

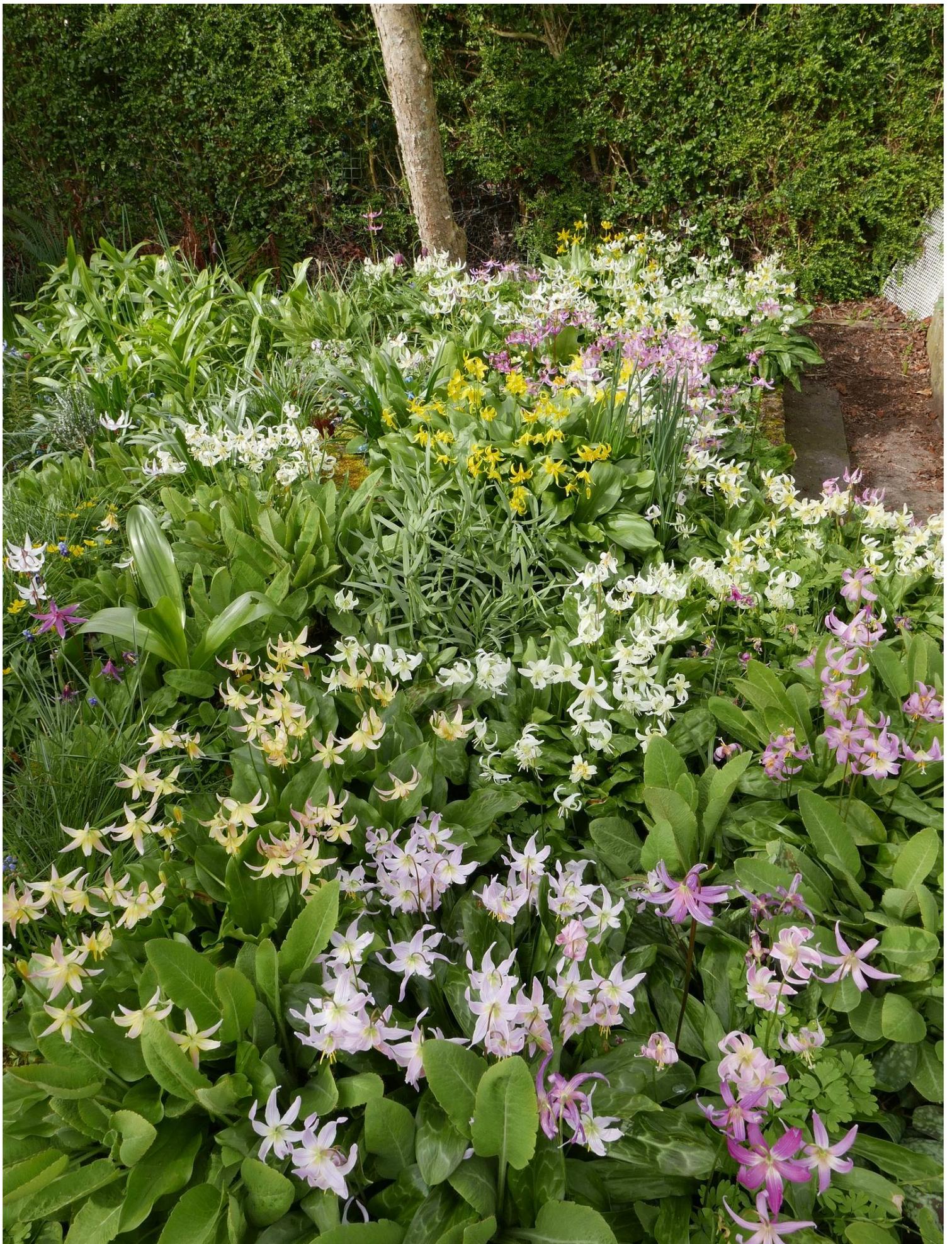


Erythronium americanum



Erythronium americanum and 'White Beauty'





I will leave you with another image of the plunge frames and a link to a [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#) also made on 20th April.....