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Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 06.....10th February 2021



Snowdrops



Another winter week where the precipitation varied between rain, hail, sleet and snow often all four within a few minutes of each other, but, just a few miles inland it is falling as snow. Obviously being only a few miles from the sea here has a moderating effect but as I start writing on Monday the snow level has pushed right out to the sea with heavy snow showers now falling so it was the right decision to venture out yesterday and get some pictures before the snowdrops disappeared under the snow. The cover shows a clump of a **Galanthus nivalis cultivar** and above is **Galanthus woronowii** which along with plants involving Galanthus plicatus are the snowdrops that grow best for us in the open garden with forms involving Galanthus elwesii often struggling to survive our weather.

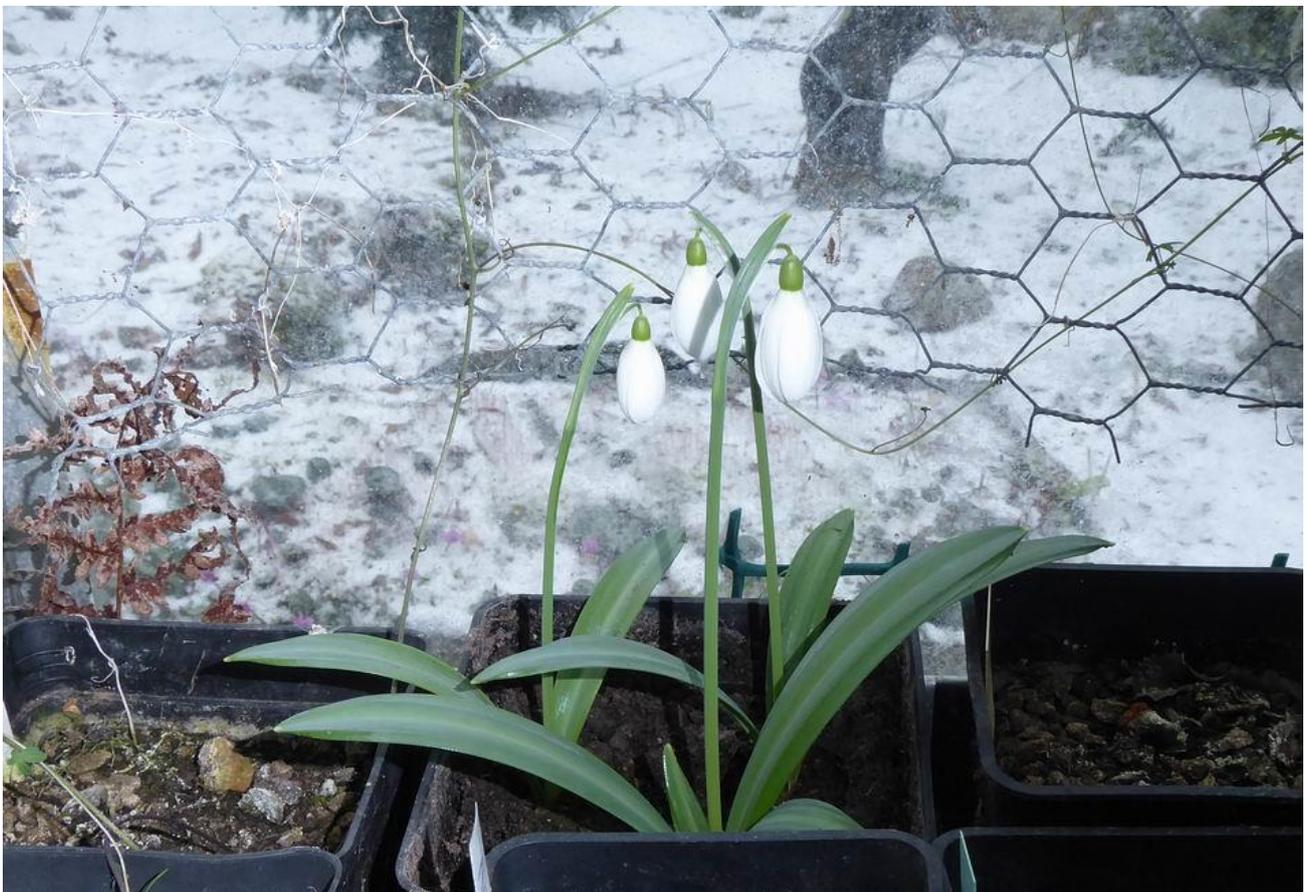


Despite the cold and poor light conditions there is still plenty to see in the bulb houses. For most of December and through January the maintenance of the bulb houses has consisted of watching out for problems such as moulds – I have not watered at all during that time. Although flowers have been slowly opening, the cold, damp weather has slowed growth down significantly and there has been little loss to the moisture contained in the pots and the sand however I have to stay alert

because that will change very quickly when the sun rises high enough for its light to reach and warm the bulb houses - then they will require watering.



We grow a number of special snowdrops such as **Galanthus 'Wendy's Gold'** and **Galanthus 'Dryad Gold Bullion'**, in pots as well as the garden so we can build up numbers and enjoy their flowers under protection.



Ian Christie selected and named **Galanthus 'Maggi Young'** a form of plicatus with large flowers and great leaves.



I was pleased to see a second bud is now appearing beside the first flower of **Crocus youngiorum**.



These are some of the Narcissus that we are still growing in pots.



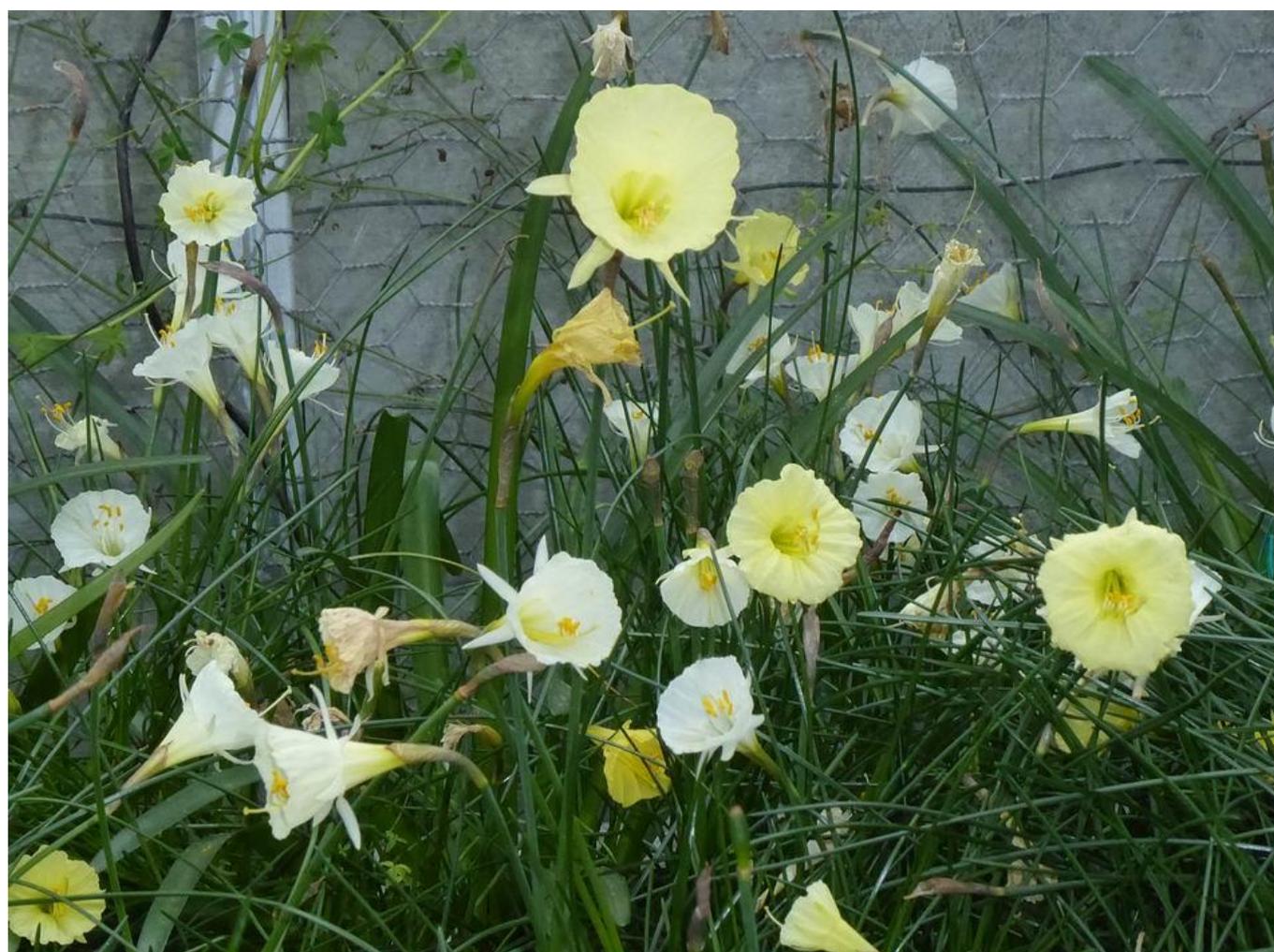
The mass flowering of Narcissus in the 'U' shaped sand bed continues to delight us with ever more flowers opening to replace those that are going over.



I love the mixed planting spending hours studying them looking in detail and trying to identify the many different species, forms and hybrids.



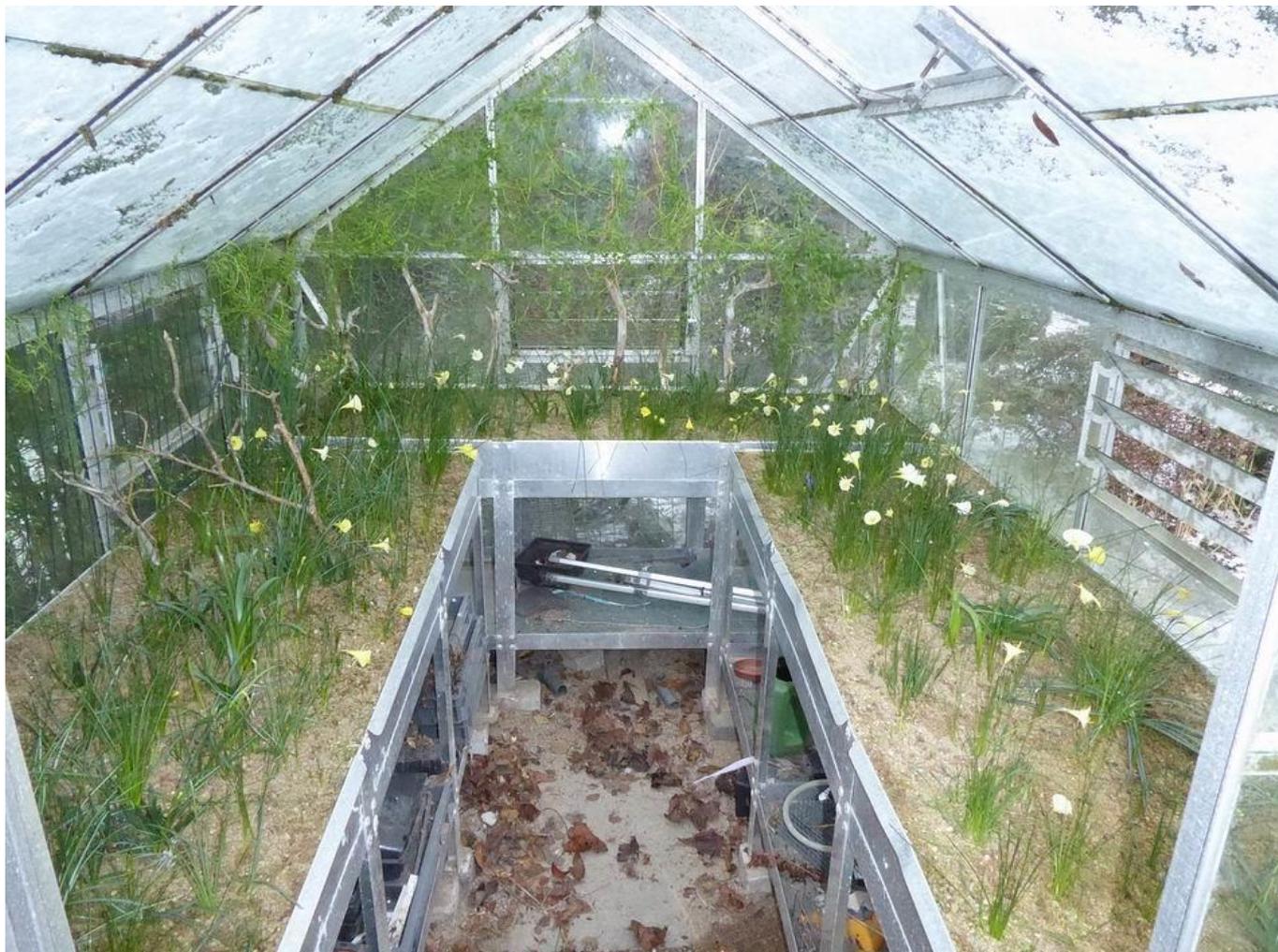
In addition to the different corona shapes the colours come in yellow, white and everything in between.





Narcissus





While Narcissus dominate the 'U' shaped sand bed I have gone for a more varied planting in these beds with lots of other genus in addition to the Narcissus which as a result are more spaced out .





Growth and flowering is well behind last year when we had an unusually mild period through January and February – compare the picture above taken yesterday with the same area on exactly the same day last year when the flowering was much more advanced. Looking carefully above you will see there are plenty of flower buds coming but they are still some way off from opening. Different species and forms react in different ways to the variations in temperatures so while a number of forms may all flower at the same time one year they may flower weeks or months apart another.



February 2020



Outside in this open frame there are lots of shoots poking through.



Despite the pots being frozen for most of the last few weeks the growth of many plants including these **Eranthis pinnatifida** continue to push upwards not seeming to mind at all about the weather.



This is the first pink form of **Eranthis pinnatifida** I raised from Japanese seed and below is a pot of the second generation seedlings which have inherited the same attractive colour to the flowers and foliage.





Eranthis pinnatifida



Cyclamen coum



Cyclamen coum

The stage of growth outside is also well behind this time last year which highlights how no two years in the garden are the same. For a number of years we have seen the first flowers of the year coming earlier and earlier as the plants respond to the warming climate and it is no bad thing that the colder soil this year has slowed the growth down. Checking back through the large number of images in my Bulb Log files I can work out that the growth is 3-4 weeks later than last year when by this date many plants in this bed were in full flower; this year they have yet to push through.





Galanthus nivalis and **plicatus** forms and hybrids all seem to grow well in our garden.



Galanthus woronowii



Galanthus woronowii and one of the more advanced of the ***Eranthis hyemalis***.



The early hellebores are also coming into in flower.



Helleborus



The warmer green of the emerging Colchicum leaves makes a nice contrast with the grey green snowdrop leaves all of which are emphasised by the white background provided by the snow.



A fresh green colour attracts me as I approach this recently replanted area at the south east corner of the garden.



The light snow cover also highlights the green of the **Ferns, Colchicum and Corydalis leaves.**



I have an inclination to write a presentation based entirely on the construction, planting and the flowering year in the 'New Bed Beside the Pond' so I continue to take pictures each week.





I like to document most beds, such as the cobble bed, by photographing them throughout the year. The pictures help direct me in my search for suitable plants that will extend the flowering season and checking through the images reminds me what is already there so guides me to where I might find space to plant new subjects.



The most advanced of our **Eranthis hyemalis** is one that self-seeded into cobble covered sand bed.



I will round off this week with **Galanthus 'Glenorma'** which at the time I finish off writing on Tuesday has disappeared, covered as the snow continued to fall.....