



RGC

Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 13.....31st March 2021



Corydalis malkenii and *Corydalis solida*



**Corydalis
malkensis,
Corydalis solida**

Now the flowers of the earliest bulbs are starting to go over a new wave of colour washes over the garden as *Corydalis malkensis* and *solida* start to bloom. *Corydalis malkensis* increases well by seeding, creating a creamy white background which acts as a foil for the hot colours of *Corydalis solida* which mostly comes in reds, pinks and purples.



Erythronium dens-canis, shoots of **Erythronium revolutum** and the first signs of Anemone leaves unfurling through the ground with a colourful backdrop of *Corydalis* set the scene that is repeated across the garden.



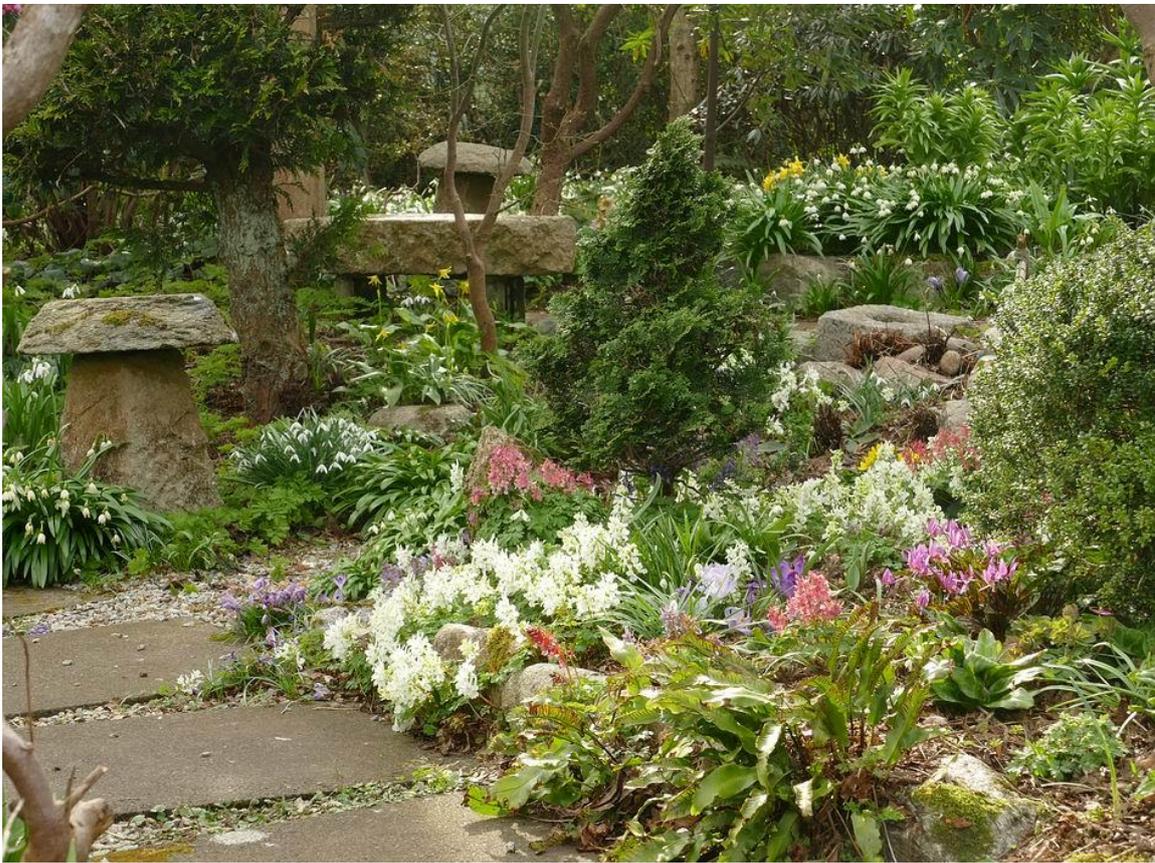
Erythronium dens-canis



Pink *Corydalis solida* among a sea of *Corydalis malkensis*.



Corydalis solida



The drifts of colour in the distance attract the eye encouraging movement around the garden to explore all the new shoots appearing.

When I first started looking at the wild plants of Scotland I would spend hours looking at the ground trying to spot and identify all the shoots that emerged and that is what I can spend hours doing in the garden, formed by us in partnership with, and under the tutelage of nature.

This is an especially exciting time of year for spotting the many new shoots and seeds germinating.





These *Galanthus plicatus* hybrids are among the last of the snowdrop flowers in the sunnier part of the garden. This area is mulched in the winter with organic matter from the compost heaps but now the low growing ground covering plants are spreading out to completely hide the bare ground, allowing the taller plants to grow thorough in a naturalistic way. The bronze/green foliage on the left is *Anemone ranunculoides* with the fresher green of *Adoxa moschatellina*, that I showed last week, covering the

area seen in the top left of the picture and the following two pictures of the same bed.

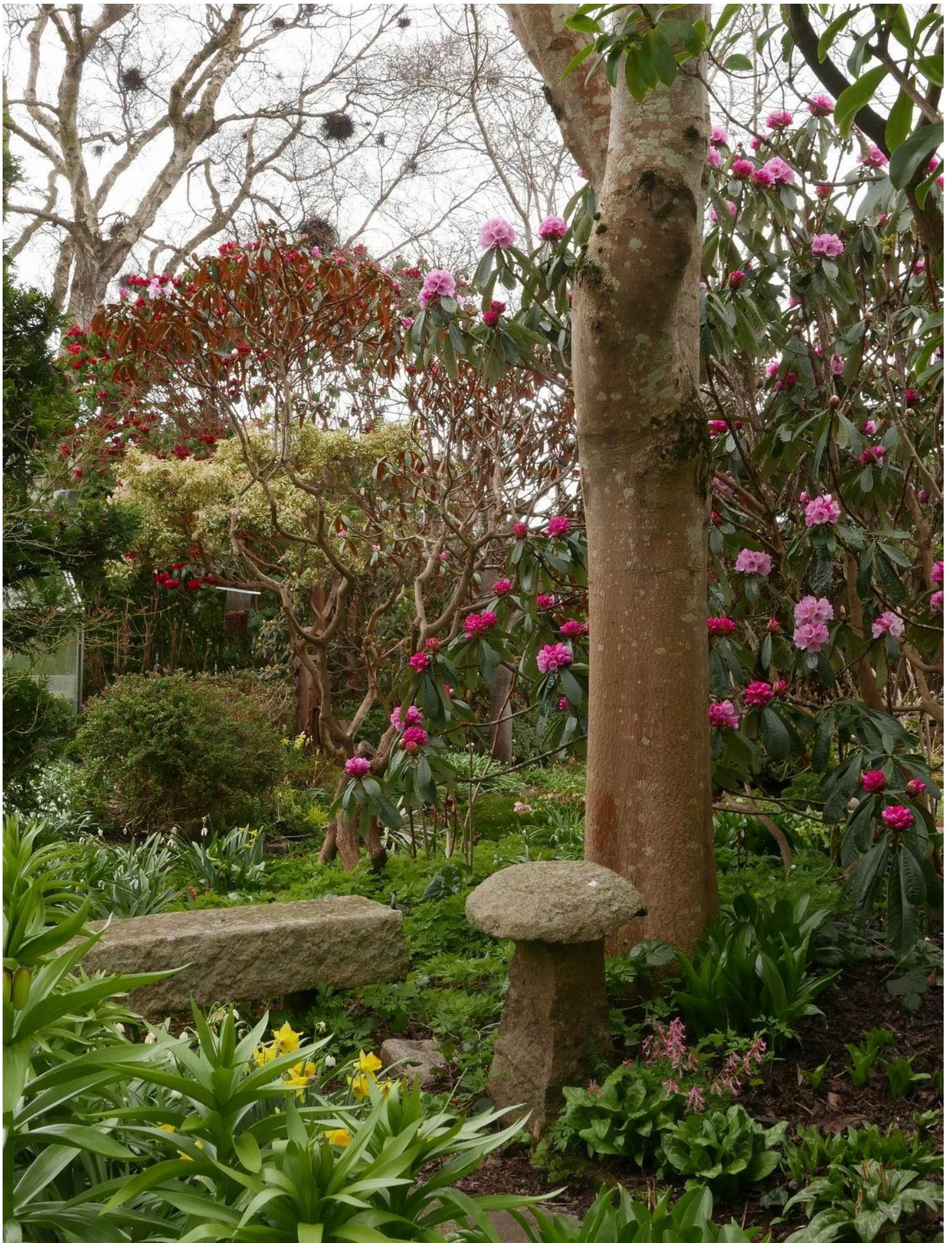




I like the way that, from a low view point, separate beds combine to form a single vista and this is all part of the illusion that we can introduce to the layout of a garden; much like creating depth when drawing or painting on a flat sheet we can give the impression that the garden is bigger than it actually is.



Several separate beds are combined in this picture forming what appears as a continuous landscape.



The lovely pink flowered **Rhododendron uvariifolium**, nearest, with the deep red **Rhododendron thomsonii** in the distance.



This view also shows those two Rhododendrons with the flower spikes of *Fritillaria imperialis* in the foreground.



The *Erythronium* plunge beds are waking up quickly in the milder weather we just need some rain.



Self-seeded *Corydalis* bring early interest to the *Erythronium* plunge bed.



Erythronium dens-canis



Part of the rock garden bed.



The pale blue **Puschkinia scilloides** flowers have been out for a number of weeks, now they are being joined by the emerging *Meconopsis* that self-seed around the rock garden bed.



Scilla rosenii



As the temperature rises the petals of **Scilla rosenii** flowers reflex, making them look like small blue Erythroniums.



Growth is a bit later on the shadier leg of the rock garden bed where many of the plants have seeded around the Ramonda and Haberlea that I did originally plant there. The small white form of *Hepatica nobilis pyrenaica* chooses where to put itself and the seedlings are mostly white or with an occasional slightly pink tinge.



Here the white flowers of *Hepatica nobilis pyrenaica* with self-seeded *Erythronium* in the foreground.



The extent of the self-seeding that occurs in the garden is well illustrated in this gap between the paving slabs - to aid walking around the garden we used to try and keep these gaps clear of plants however who would weed out these plants. How many can you identify?





This area was re-planted relatively recently (last five years) and shows that if you have the plants you can create an established natural look quite quickly.



Because this area is in shade the Eranthis and Galanthus flowers come that bit later here as spring moves across the garden at different rates.



The yellow flowers of **Erythronium tuolumnense**, one of the taller species, work well because they are able to rise above the mass of leaf growth towards the back of this bed.



One of my rules is to plant for leaf decoration because the flowers may just last a week or so while the leaves will provide us with interest for months – note the tapestry effect of colour shape, form and texture.



The shape and colour of the snowdrops leaves contrast beautifully rising up through the soft green Corydalis.



It is possible to have two seasons in the garden as these late winter flowers bloom in the shaded part of the garden while in other areas the bright colours of spring are well on the way.



I will leave you this week of another of the garden residents who has just enjoyed a bath with a view - admiring the colour of Corydalis.....