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# Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 07.....16<sup>th</sup> July 2025







Finally, the long period without rain was over. By the time I posted last month's Bulb Log the rain had arrived delivering much needed moisture to the garden and immediately plants, such as the **Roscoeae humeana**, responded. They had been waiting patiently underground until the summer rains could fuel the growth pushing their beautiful flowers and foliage into the light.



**Roscoeae humeana**





**Iris siberica** also came into bloom in a range of colours.







Regular readers will be aware of my desire to imitate the wonderfully wild growth that I observe in nature. This magnificent group of **Digitalis purpurea** rises through a tangled carpet of grasses, ferns and a range of low plants all watched over by a young, healthy ash tree, *Fraxinus excelsior*. With so much ash dieback killing out these trees I am encouraged to see this young healthy specimen.



Still on my walk I was taken by the shape and colour combination of the purple Foxglove and yellow Broom.





On arriving home, I found a similar combination growing in our driveway. This time it is formed by the flowers of **Vicia cracca** and **Digitalis grandiflora** both of which we introduced to the driveway by scattering seeds.



Spurred on by such beautiful sights as these that I see in the wild areas we grow **Pilosella aurantiaca**, **Crepis capillaris** and **Trifolium repens** in our drives and wider garden. Often derided as weeds these are plants that want to grow for you. Unlike many of the plants we try to grow, including the various exotics offered in the garden centres that are not suited to our weather that struggle in our conditions. The plants we see growing in nature are well adapted to the vagaries of our changing weather and bring welcome colour to the

garden along with sources of food for the wildlife after the early bulbs have retreated back underground.





It is worth repeating this image of a grassy slope on a local reservoir. This is a great example of a nature friendly garden and perhaps something those of you with lawns could consider.





Our philosophy of embracing most plants, especially those that seed around, is very evident in the driveway plantings where flowering starts off in February with the early bulbs - evolving through the season with a changing sequence of plants to this tangled meadow of plants in the summer.



For a number of years, a creeping grass seeded in from the street, which is one plant that I am not so keen on having here.



I have been trying to eradicate the creeping grass without much success so last year I took another approach – introducing **Rhinanthus minor** (Yellow Rattle) which is known to suppress the growth of grasses in the hope that it will help control this pesky invader. It is interesting that the Rhianthus plants growing with the grass are significantly bigger and flowering while in grass free areas the plants are small.



At this time of year the tangled mass of the driveway planting reminds me of an alpine meadow, If you would like to see pictures of the driveway through the year then click this link to a [Driveway Planting Special edition](#).





My wee car uses the other drive so we can only grow the lower growing plants here but there is still flowering interest through spring, summer and autumn.



**Geranium sanguineum**



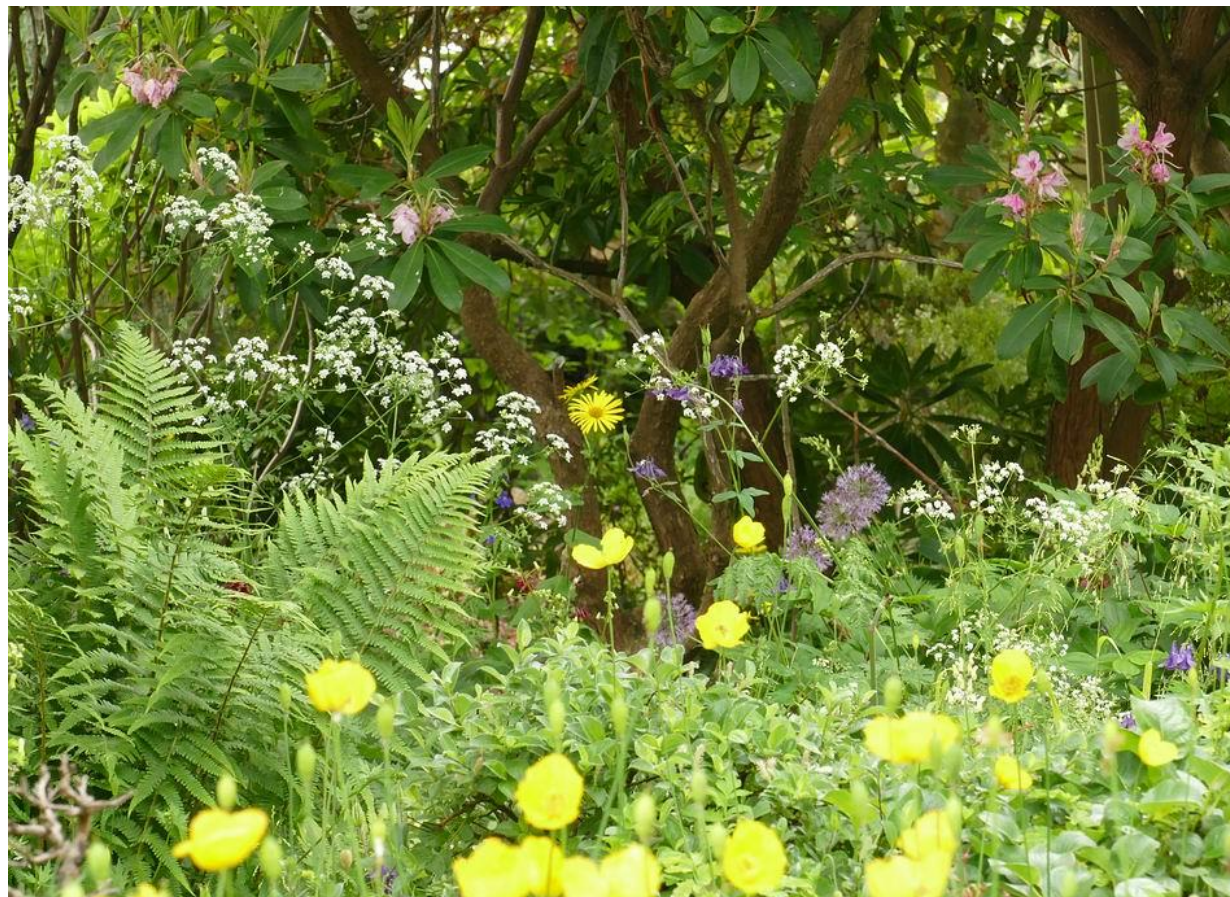


I would not choose these particular plants that I enjoy seeing in nature because they are vegetatively too invasive, but I can take inspiration from the overall effect of the growth.

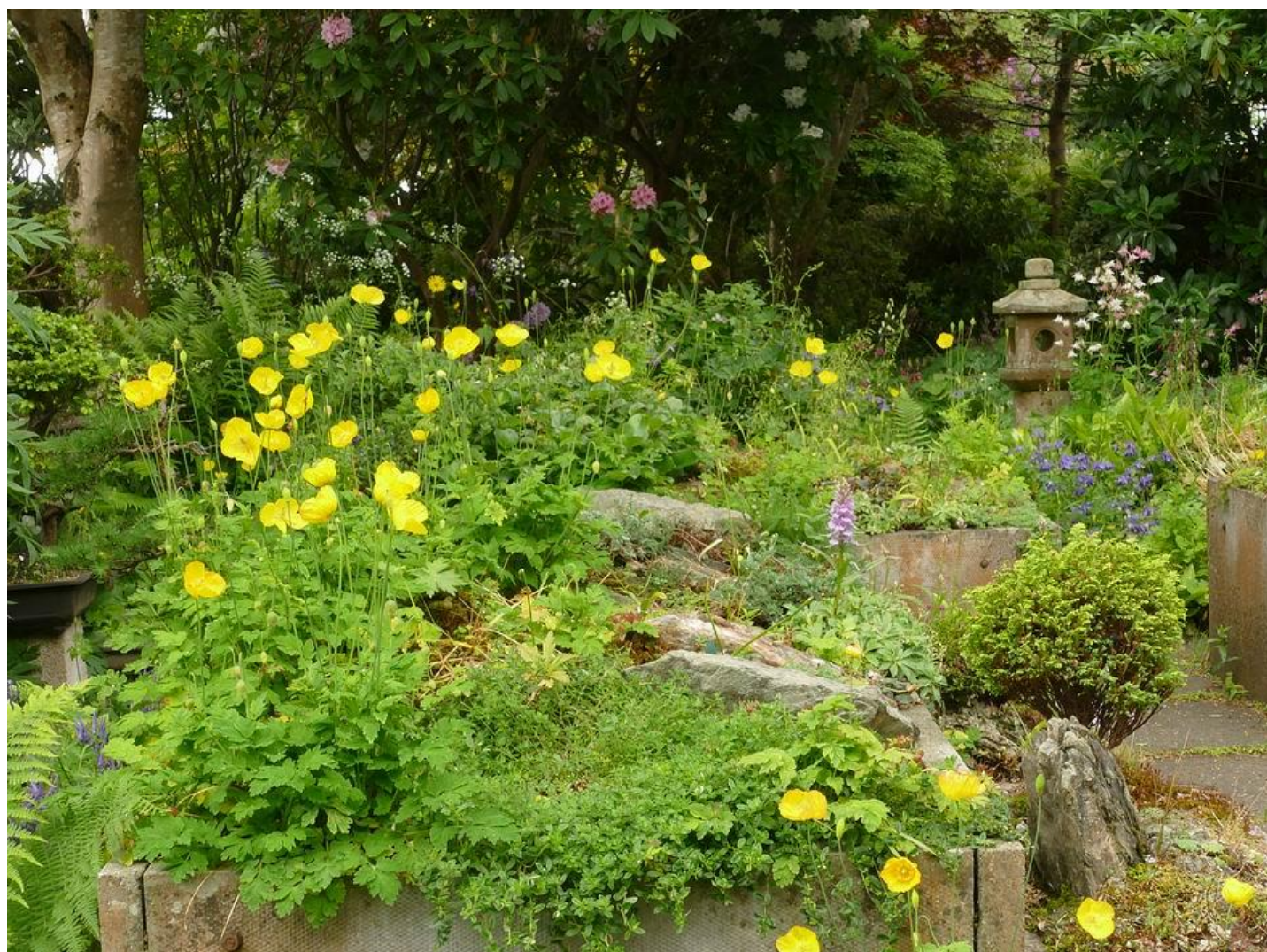


I can mimic the effect of the taller plants taking over in the summer when the early plants are underground.



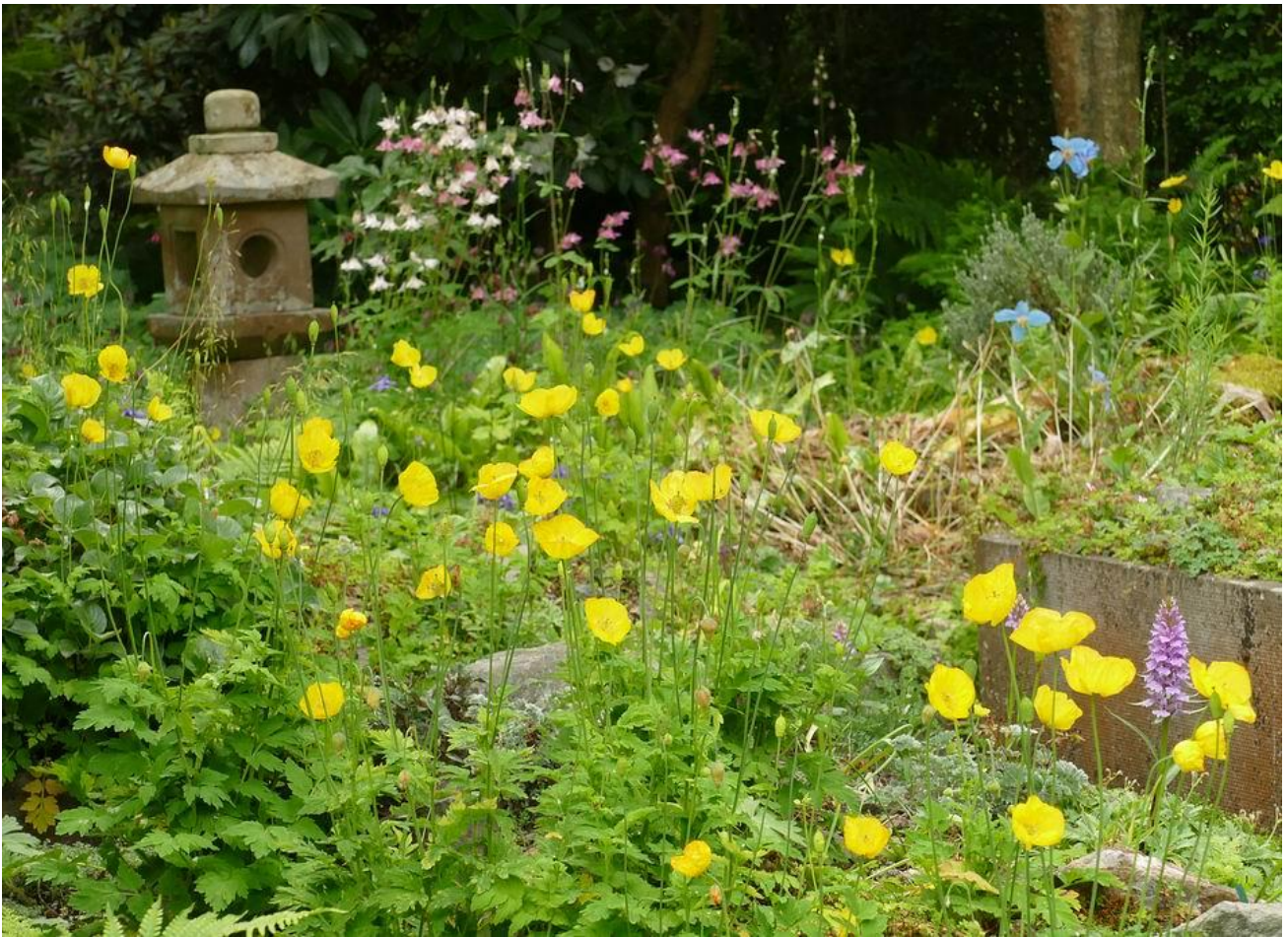


For the umbellifer effect I have used **Anthriscus sylvestris** in the place of the *Aegopodium podagraria* because it only spreads by seed which I can control more readily.



For the first half of the year the garden is enriched with a wide range of early flowering plants and bulbs from around the world then in the summer it is taken over with the plants that many consider to be weeds. I find this a perfect combination and have learned to accept the plants that nature brings us.





The changing climate seems to be no problem to the natural seeders but it is proving a hazard to the lovely blue **Meconopsis baileyi**, which used to form perennial clumps and seed around freely, but the hot dry periods of recent years are now putting our population under strain.

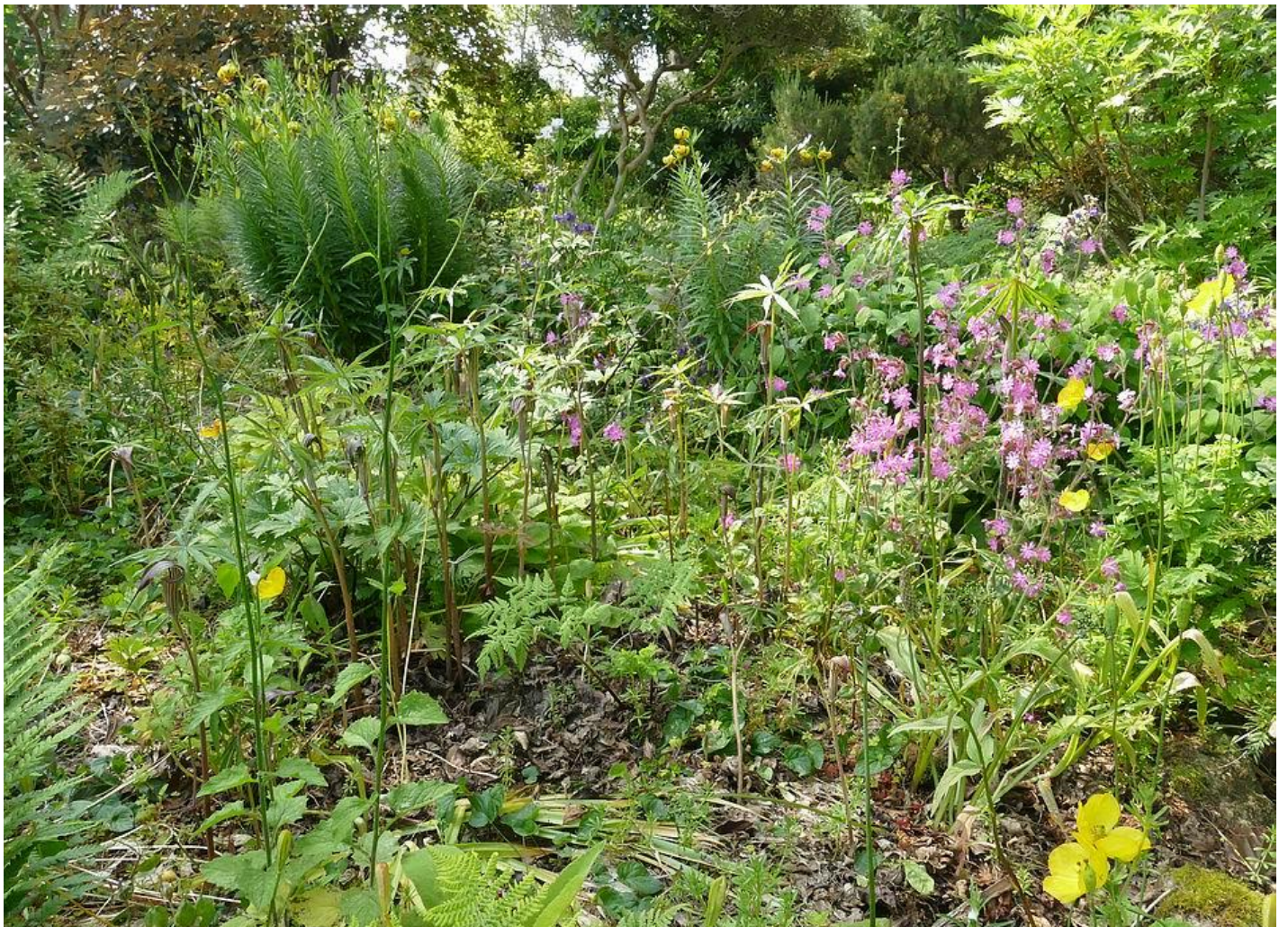


Rather than leaving it to its own devices I will now have to collect and sow **Meconopsis baileyi** seeds in pots to build up the population again. The changing weather also means I will have to plant them in a different habitat.





Not all the plantings are the same this bed is full of various sequences of early plants.



Now it is time for a population of *Arisaema ciliatum* var. *liubaense* rising up like a miniature prehistoric forest.





***Arisaema ciliatum* var. *liubaense***



These beds are never finished. I continue to explore more plant combinations as I seek constant growth and flowers.





Every year I scatter *Arisaema* seeds across other beds encouraging populations all over the garden.

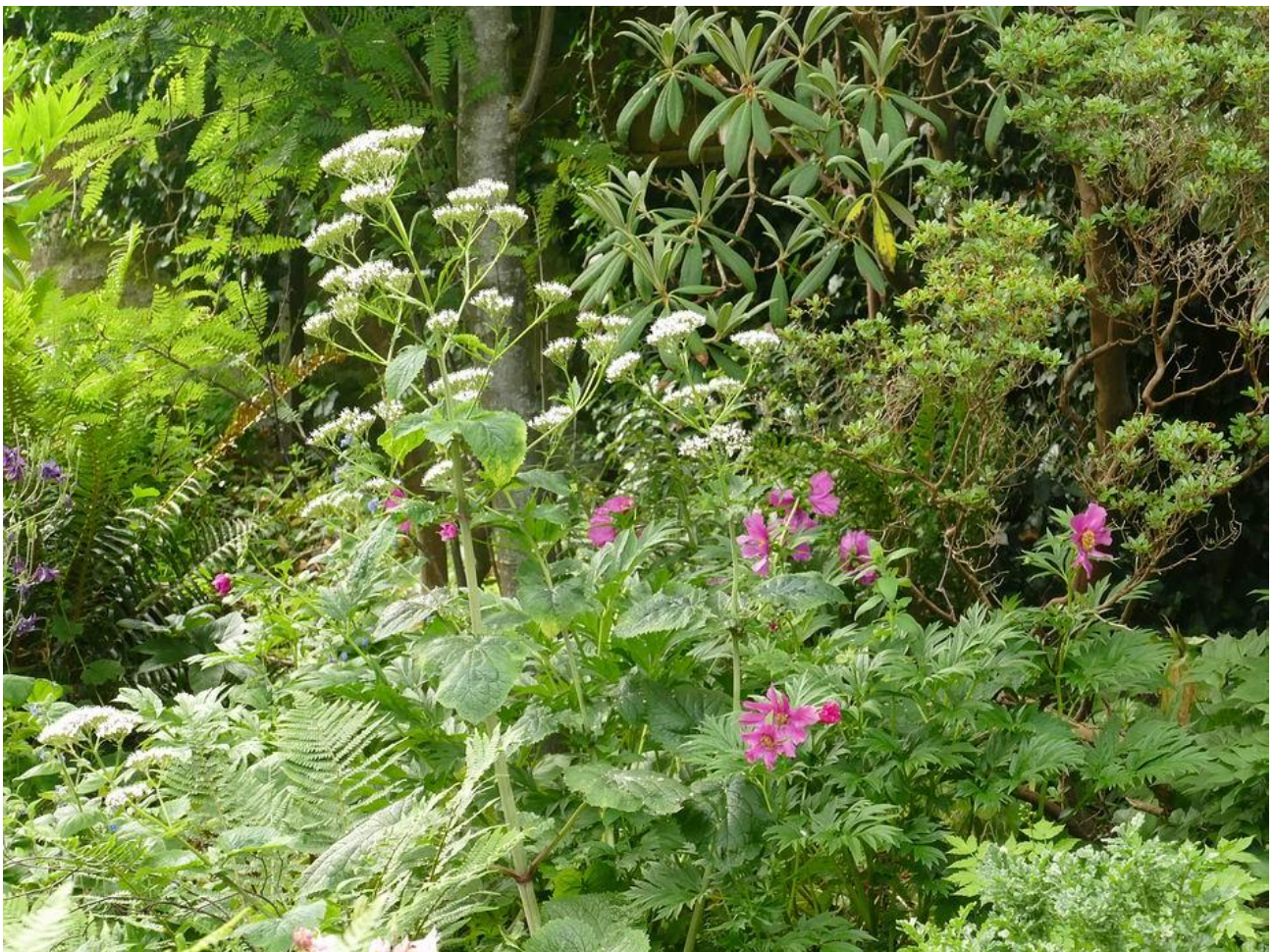


Another plant I have been introducing from the wild areas is ***Ranunculus acris*** a beautiful buttercup that I find to be well behaved in the garden where it is seeding around gently. Here it is growing with ***Pseudofumaria lutea*** and ***Papaver cambricum***.





My interest in mimicking wild plantings spreads into the troughs.



The remaining pictures show some of our plant combinations in a range of garden habitats where unusual plants and 'weeds' grow in perfect harmony adding to the biodiversity of the garden and wider area.



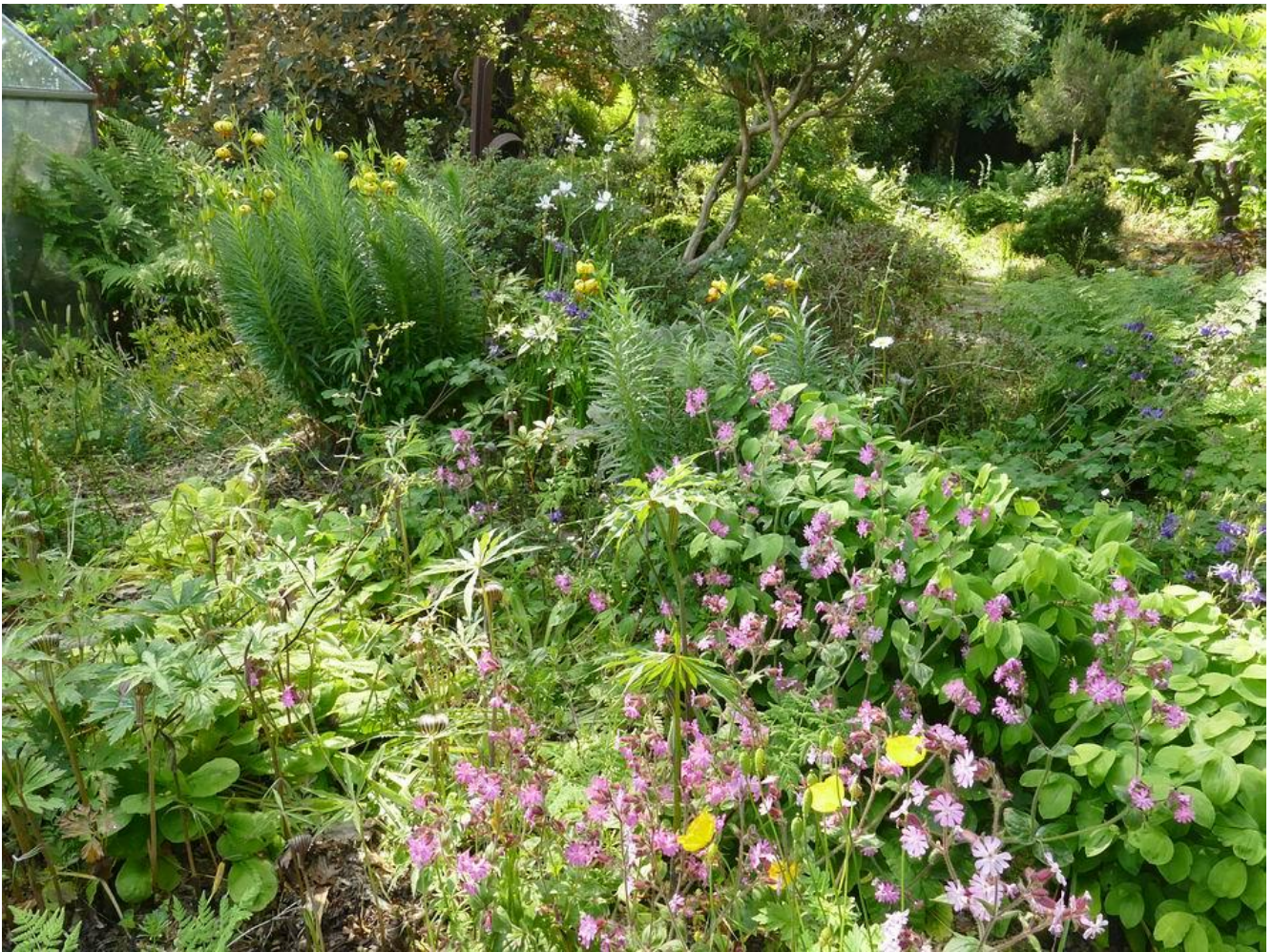


***Roscoeae humeana* and a later flowering form of *Trillium luteum*.**



***Roscoeae humeana***





I love the garden with the early flowers but I also love the wildness the same area becomes in the summer.

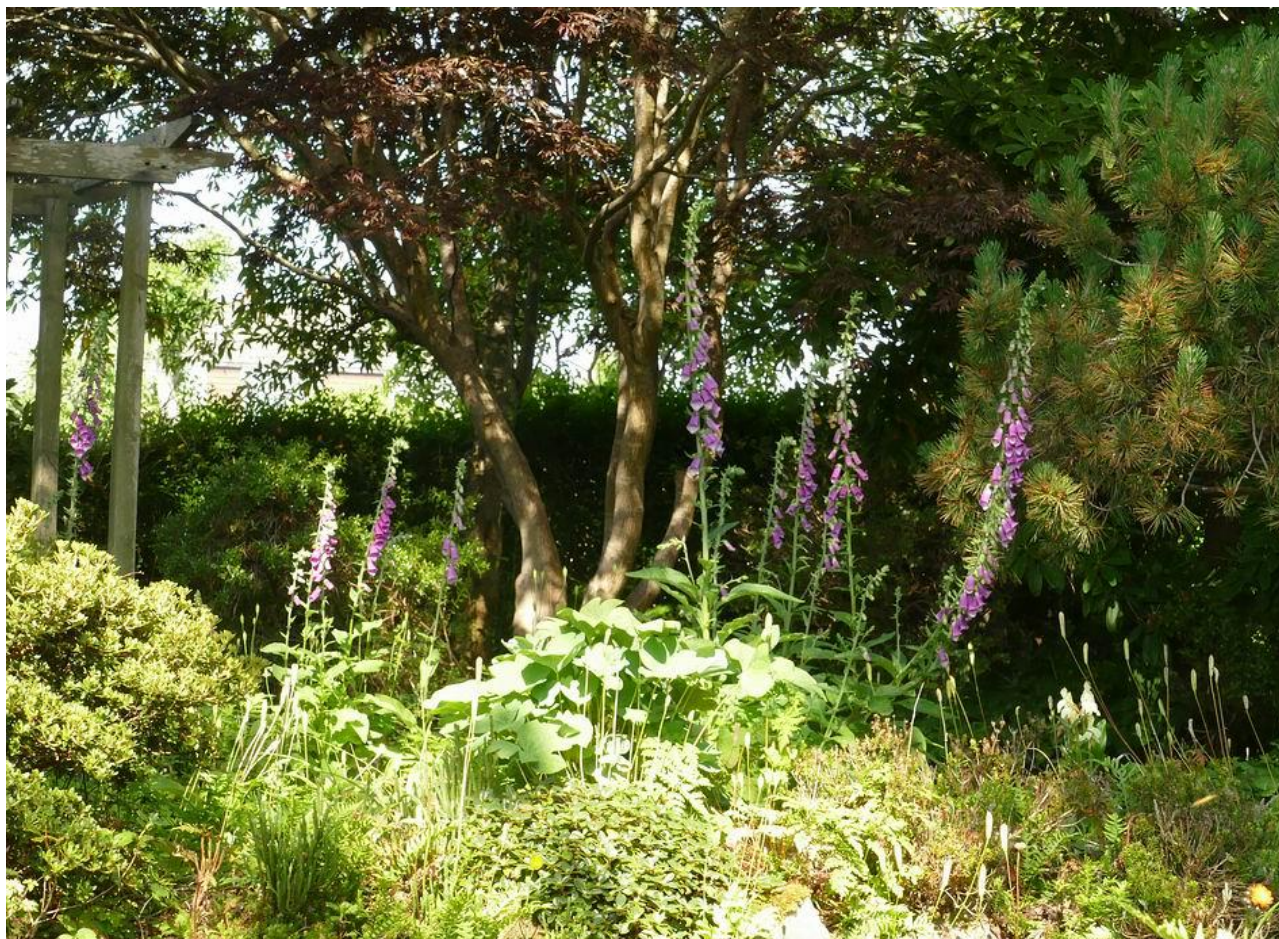


Also responding to the rain populations of **Roscoeae alpina** appear through the dried out remains of crocus, narcissus, erythronium and other bulbs.





While the some of the plants in the drive are not exactly the same as I see in the wild, the growth patterns are similar, getting more lush and wild as the summer comes. The scale in the front drives is lower growing while round the back it can reach up like the digitalis.



Who knows what the weather will bring in the next month, but I will be here to observe its effect and will be back then with my Bulb Log Diary.....