



BULB LOG 12.....22nd March 2017

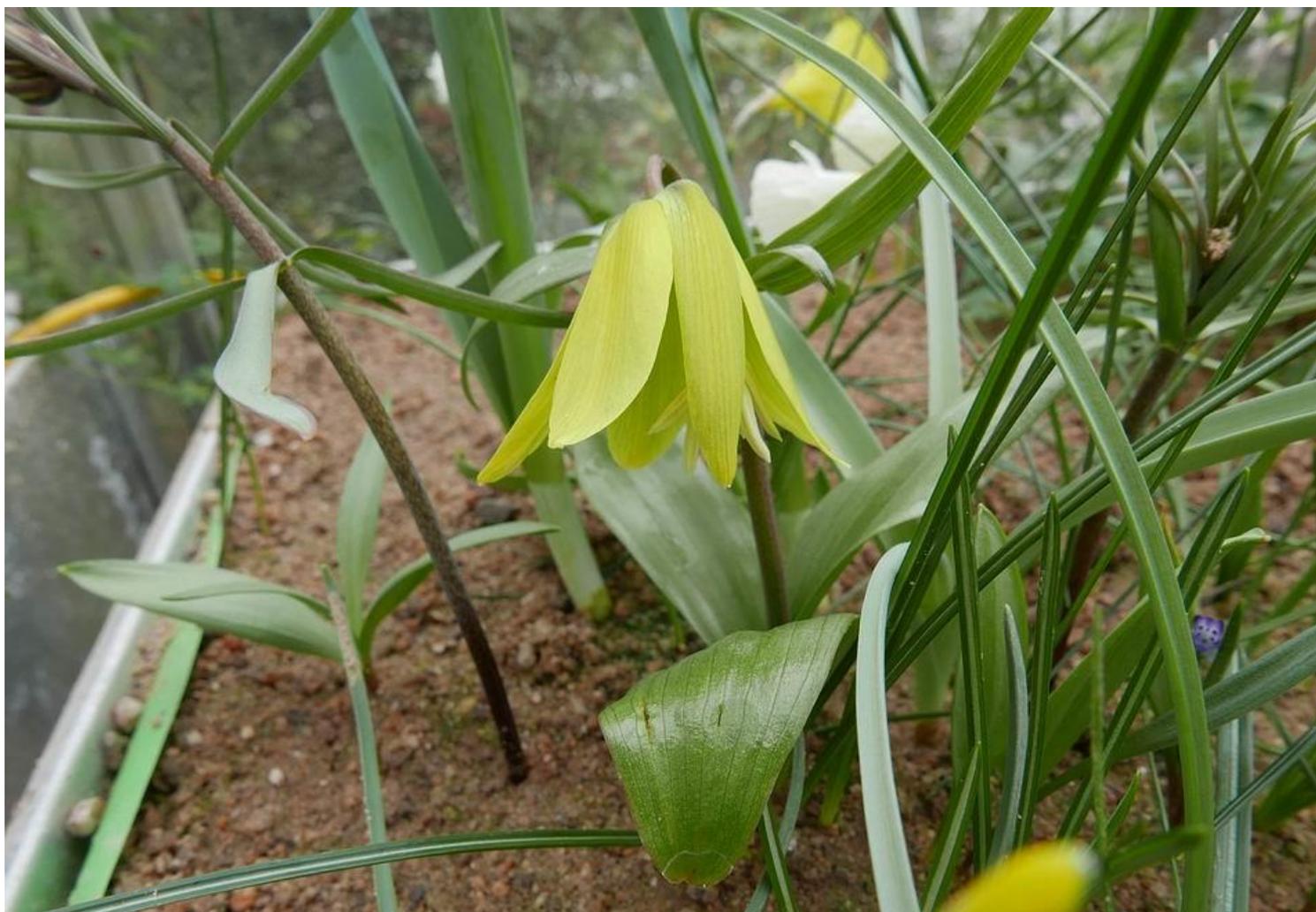


**Fritillaria
chitralensis**

The cover picture features *Fritillaria chitralensis*, the smallest of the group that also contains *Fritillaria imperialis*. As with so many *Fritillaria* it is well worth looking up into the flower. The dark-lined deep nectary pits are very striking and they exude lovely sweet nectar. This is one of the many frits that I planted



directly into a sand bed when I converted it from a plunge for pots into a small garden under glass.



This is a seedling that I raised from my original plants of **Fritillaria chitralensis**.



Fritillaria sewerzowii



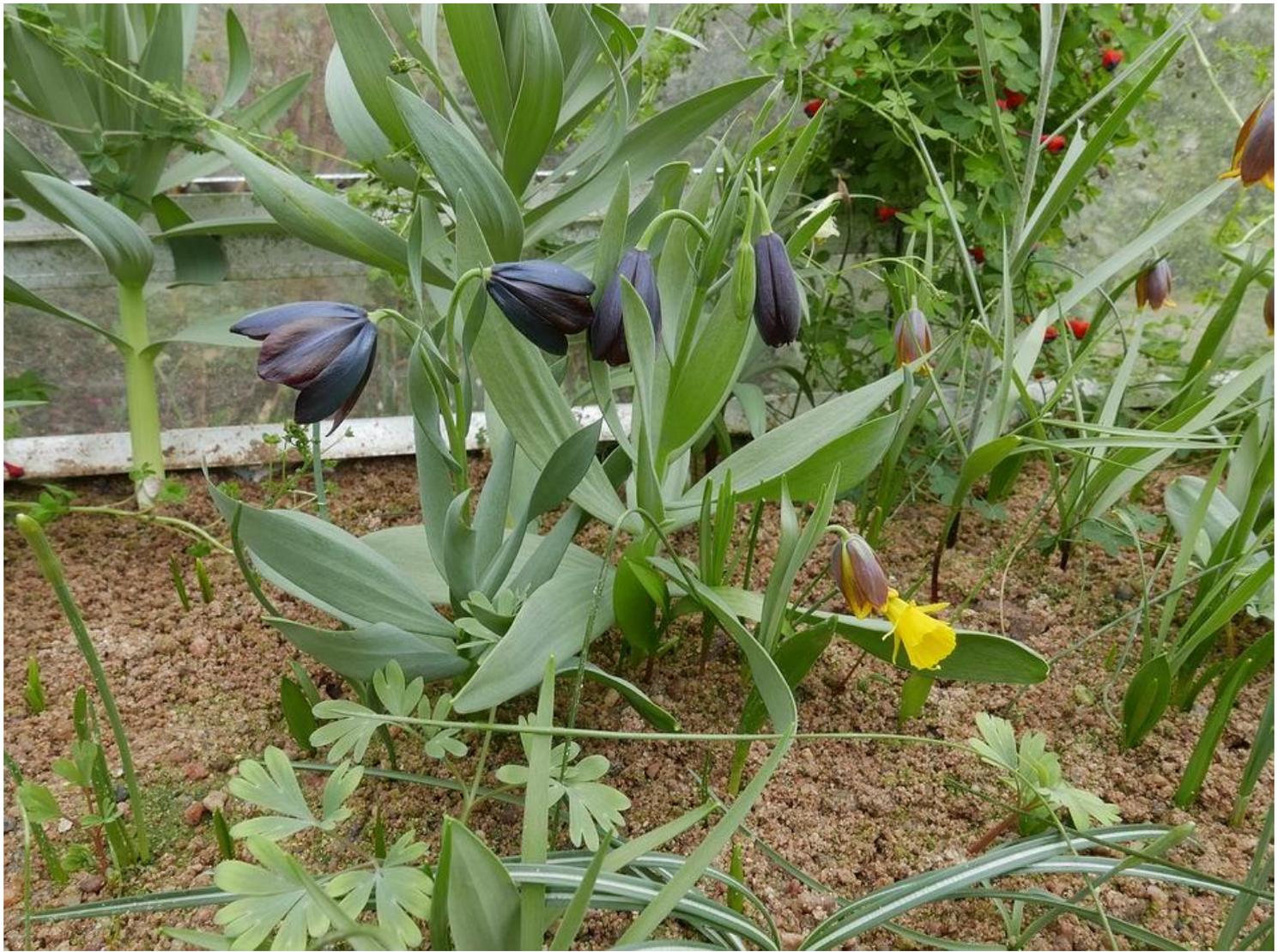
I did not plant all the frits into the sand bed (yet) here ***Fritillaria kotschyana*** 'Craigton Max' is still in a pot.



Fritillaria stenantha



Fritillaria armena



Fritillaria obliqua



Fritillaria pinardii growing in the sand with **Narcissus bulbicodium** - the same clone is shown below growing in a pot.



Fritillaria pinardii



Fritillaria carica

All these fritillaries with the exception of 'Craigton Max' are now growing in the sand bed and the evidence is that they are growing very well. Now they are in growth I have been adding some liquid tomato fertiliser when I am watering.

Join me as I look at the Fritillaria in the sand beds in this [Bulb Log Video](#) [Diary Supplement](#).



Corydalis nudicaulis is still growing in pots in the bulb house for the moment.

These Corydalis have one of the shortest growing seasons of all the spring bulbs and so it is very important that you ensure they have sufficient water and nutrients to build the new tubers.

Under glass I give them dilute tomato fertiliser every time I water them and in addition I sprinkle the potassium powder when the flowers are out.



Corydalis schanginii ssp. ainae is just coming out as *Corydalis nudicaulis* flowers are maturing.



Heralding the second main flowering of the year in our garden *Corydalis malkensis* and *Corydalis solida* flowers are opening taking over from the *Galanthus*, *Leucojum*, *Eranthis*, etc, whose flowers formed the first flowering phase.

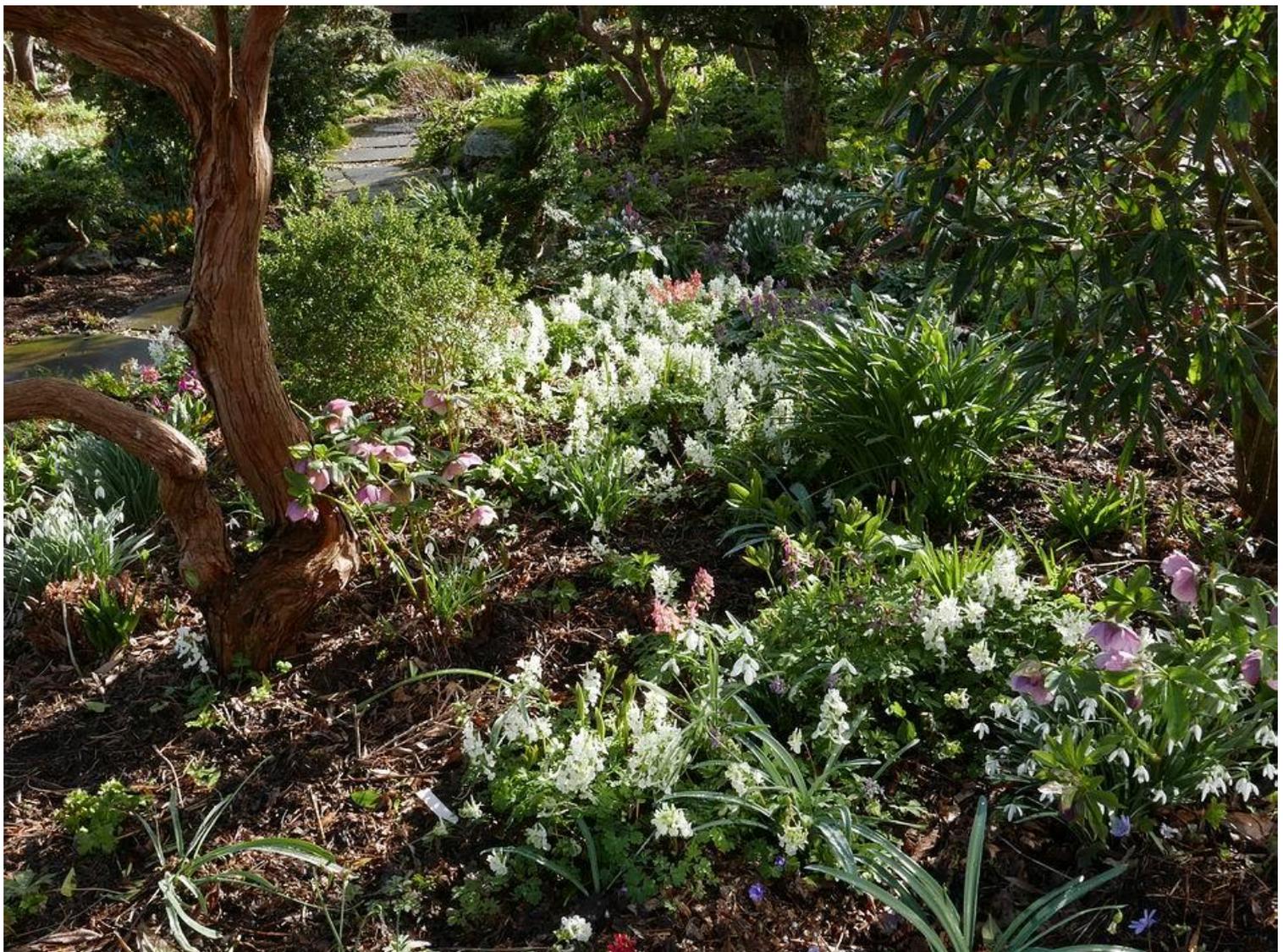


Corydalis solida



These flowering phases vary every year - depending on our weather conditions plants will flower that we see earlier or later bringing different colour combinations.

Many of the Galanthus are still in flower as the Corydalis flowers open and already we are seeing the first of the Erythroniums making an appearance, they will feature in the next wave of colour.



Corydalis, Galanthus and Helleborus flowers light up in the sunshine.



As much as I enjoy our beds with the mass flowerings it is often small vignettes such as this group of different *Corydalis* flowering at the end of a small sand bed that grab my attention.



The beautiful rich colour of *Crocus pelistericus* flowers is difficult to capture photographically.



Crocus heuffelianus

We can have crocus flowers for most months of the year and they take part in and often link through every phase of flowering. These are among a number of Crocus flowering at the edge of one of the paths nearby the group below.



Crocus sublimis 'Tricolor'



Heloniopsis orientalis with the smaller *Heloniopsis acutifolia* at the bottom left of the picture.



An early flowering form of **Erythronium tuolumnense** adds yellow into this bed.



Erythronium tuolumnense



Narcissus minor* and *Narcissus cyclamineus



I have grown this plant as **Narcissus perez-chiscanoi** for many years and now I understand it comes under **Narcissus confusus**.

Here it is growing in a pot but I also have it in the garden and like most *Narcissus* it is promiscuous and in our garden it has crossed with *Narcissus cyclamineus*.



I also currently grow this *Narcissus cyclamineus* hybrid in a pot but intend to release it into the garden as I continue trying to reduce the number of plants we grow in pots to a more manageable level.



Narcissus cyclamineus and Erythronium dens-canis



Rhododendron elegantulum

Some of the bigger Rhododendrons are in full flower - I hope the frost stays away!



Rhododendron elegantulum



Rhododendron uvariifolium



Tecophilaea cyanocrocus

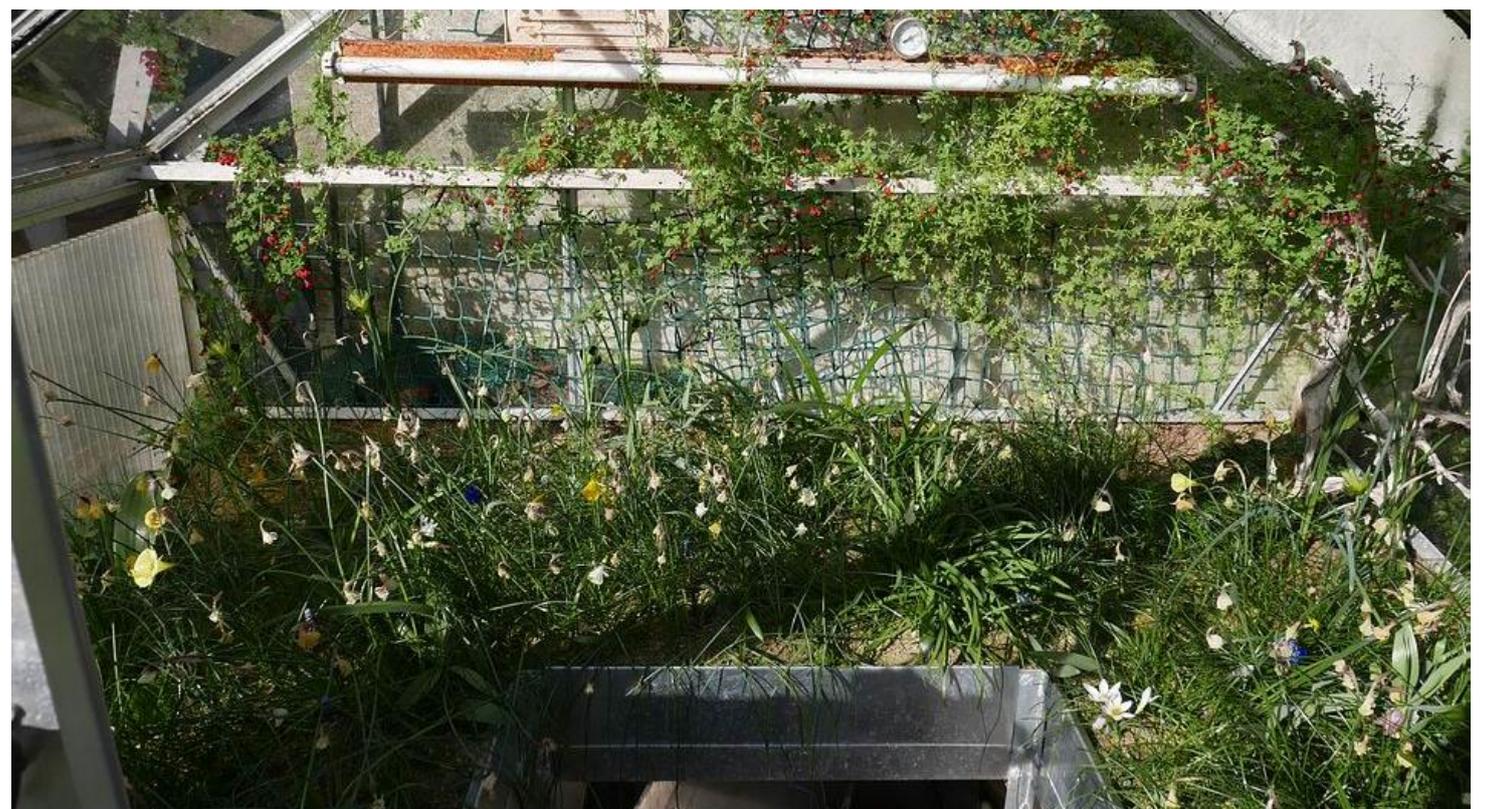
The first of this season's Tecophilaea flowers are open – these are growing in the sand bed where like most other bulbs they flower a bit before the same forms growing in pots.



Narcissus x susannae



These two views are of the two sand beds in the Fritillaria house. I have yet to decide what to do with the third plunge, at the moment it is handy to be able to bring some of the pots that spend most of the year in open frames under the protection of glass when they are in flower. I am really enjoying this new look.



Although there are few still to come most of the Narcissus in the 'U' shaped Sand bed have flowered and are hopefully now setting seed.



An unusual combination between the subtle colours of **Hermodactylus tuberosus** and the bright ones of **Tropaeolum tricolorum** both are growing in the 'U' shaped sand bed. I have loaded another [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement](#) so join me as I walk around some of the beds and frames.