



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 29.....17th July 2019



Lilium martagon

Lilium martagon is native to Portugal, through Europe and Asia as far east as Mongolia and comes in many colour forms including this creamy white one whose scattered flowers against the dark background appear in my imagination as a swarm of hovering fairies but perhaps that is just me.



When compiling and writing a Bulb Log I always try to find a story line or a common theme to link the various pictures. The link that many of the plants share this week is that they are native to a wide geographical range, mostly growing in a damp habitat, making them ideally suited to tolerate growing in the wide range of many of our gardens.



Phygelius capensis

Here *Lilium martagon* is growing alongside a cultivar of *Phygelius capensis*. *Phygelius* is a genus of evergreen shrubs native to southern Africa where they can be found growing on wet slopes or close to water courses which is why they seem so happy growing in our cool northern Scottish garden.

Although it is evergreen and shrubby I cut the stems back early in the year to allow space for the ground cover plants to make their colourful display, this also encourages the *Phygelius* to have good, short, well flowered stems.



Digitalis purpurea seen here growing along with various ***Dactylorhiza***.

Digitalis purpurea is native to and widespread throughout most of temperate Europe as well as being naturalised in many other countries. Having evolved through such a wide native range can result in many of these plants being

able to tolerate a range of garden conditions making them very successful - often so successful that some will tag them as 'weeds', a term I prefer to replace with wildflowers, which is what they are.



Campanula persicifolia

is another of those wild plants that once introduced into a garden will seed freely.

It is native to open woods, shrubby slopes and mountain meadows in Europe and Asia and can grow in a wide range of environments - if allowed it will spread by short runners as well as by seed.



Campanula persicifolia



Campanula nitida 'Alba'

We did not introduce *Campanula persicifolia* as such into the garden, instead in the early 1980's we acquired plants of the blue *Campanula nitida* and its white form 'Alba'. These plants are diminutive forms of *Campanula persicifolia* which have a recessive gene causing them to remain small

but all the plants in the garden arose through the seed line of these original two forms of *Campanula nitida*. A small percentage of seedlings will be the compact forms but the majority will revert to the larger type of the species.



Campanula persicifolia



Above and below are two colour forms of **Papaver somniferum**, native to the Eastern Mediterranean and Turkey, which is another plant that once you have introduced it into your garden you can, with a little encouragement, have for ever. These are monocarpic plants that will if permitted set plenty of seeds which germinate in spring growing on to flower in just a few months - you can scatter seeds around as you wish. If you do not want seed simply remove the flowers as they drop their petals.





Papaver rupifragum var. atlanticum is native to Morocco (Atlas Mountains) and Spain.

On this page are two more species of poppies that are generous with their seed which, if you wish, could be with you for always.

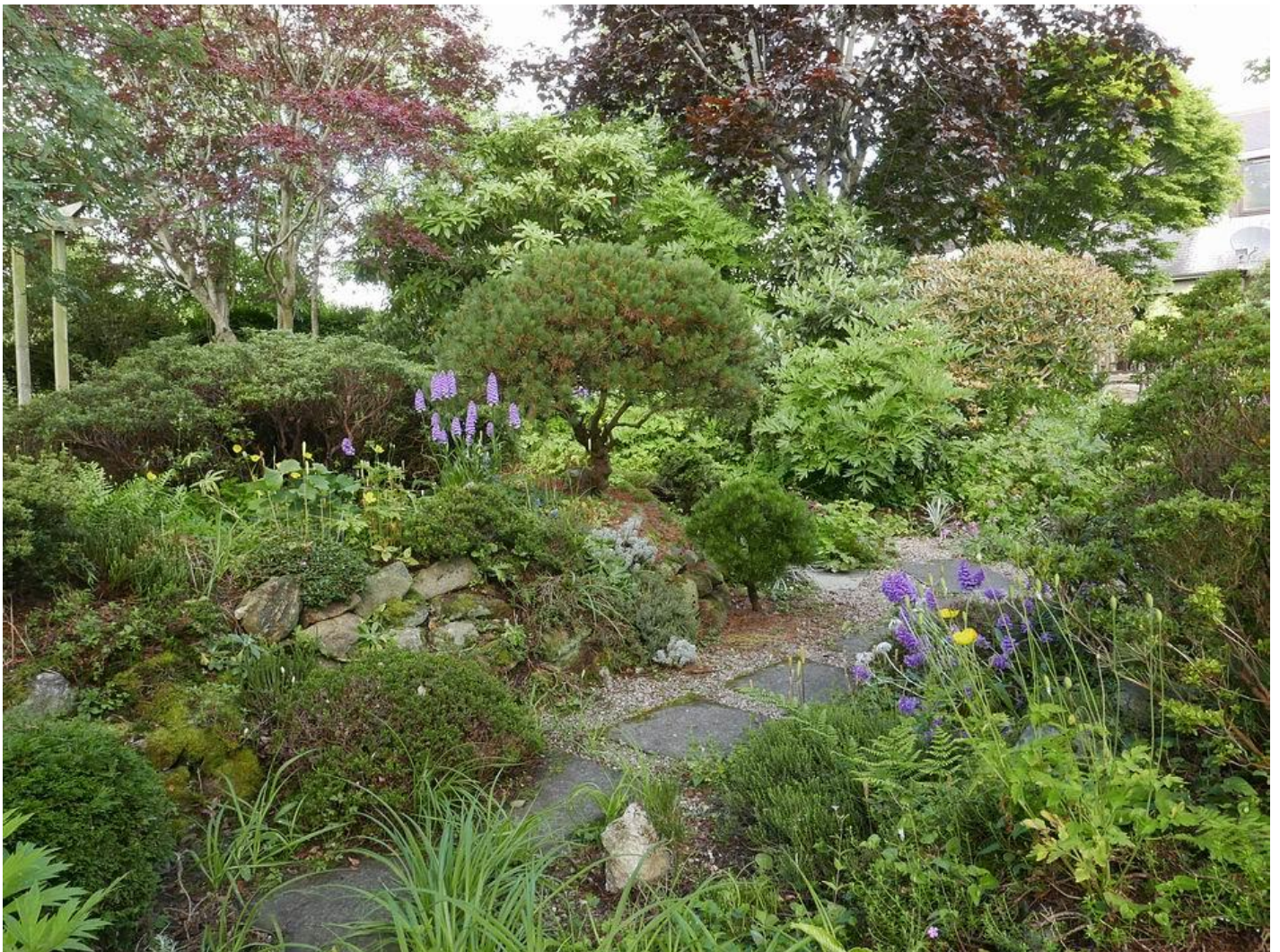


Two colour forms of **Papaver cambricum**

It is a native of damp, rocky sites in upland areas of Western Europe from the British Isles to the Iberian Peninsula



In our garden these commonly seen plants share the same beds with more 'exotic' plants such as the Arisaema.





Arisaema candidissimum with *Dactylorhiza*, *Digitalis purpurea* and *Papaver cambricum*



Arisaema candidissimum



It is always well into July before we see most of our Roscoea coming into growth - now they are starting to flower in many of the beds including the new bed near the pond where they are a good fit into the flowering sequence appearing long after the early flowering bulbous plants have retreated back underground . Like the other plants in this bed, and in fact the majority of plants that we grow, it either enjoys or can tolerate our generally cool moist summer months.



Roscoea 'McBeath's Pink' growing happily among some of the Meconopsis that have grown on from the seeds I scattered when I built this bed a few years ago - these should start to flower next year.



Roscoea 'McBeath's Pink'



Like many of the other wild species of plants that we bring together in our gardens Roscoea will hybridise among each other producing cultivars which can often become more accommodating garden plants. I think that this is a yellow form of **Roscoea humeana** or it could be a hybrid - whichever way it is a lovely plant to be growing.



Roscoeia



Roscoeia 'Harvingon Royale'



Although we received the original seed from which we raised the plants shown above and below under different names, *Roscoea purpurea* (above) and ***Roscoea alpina*** (below) I currently believe them both to be the latter.



If you are not familiar with it **Parochetus communis** can be a strange looking plant: it is a legume which has leaves like a clover with blue pea flowers.

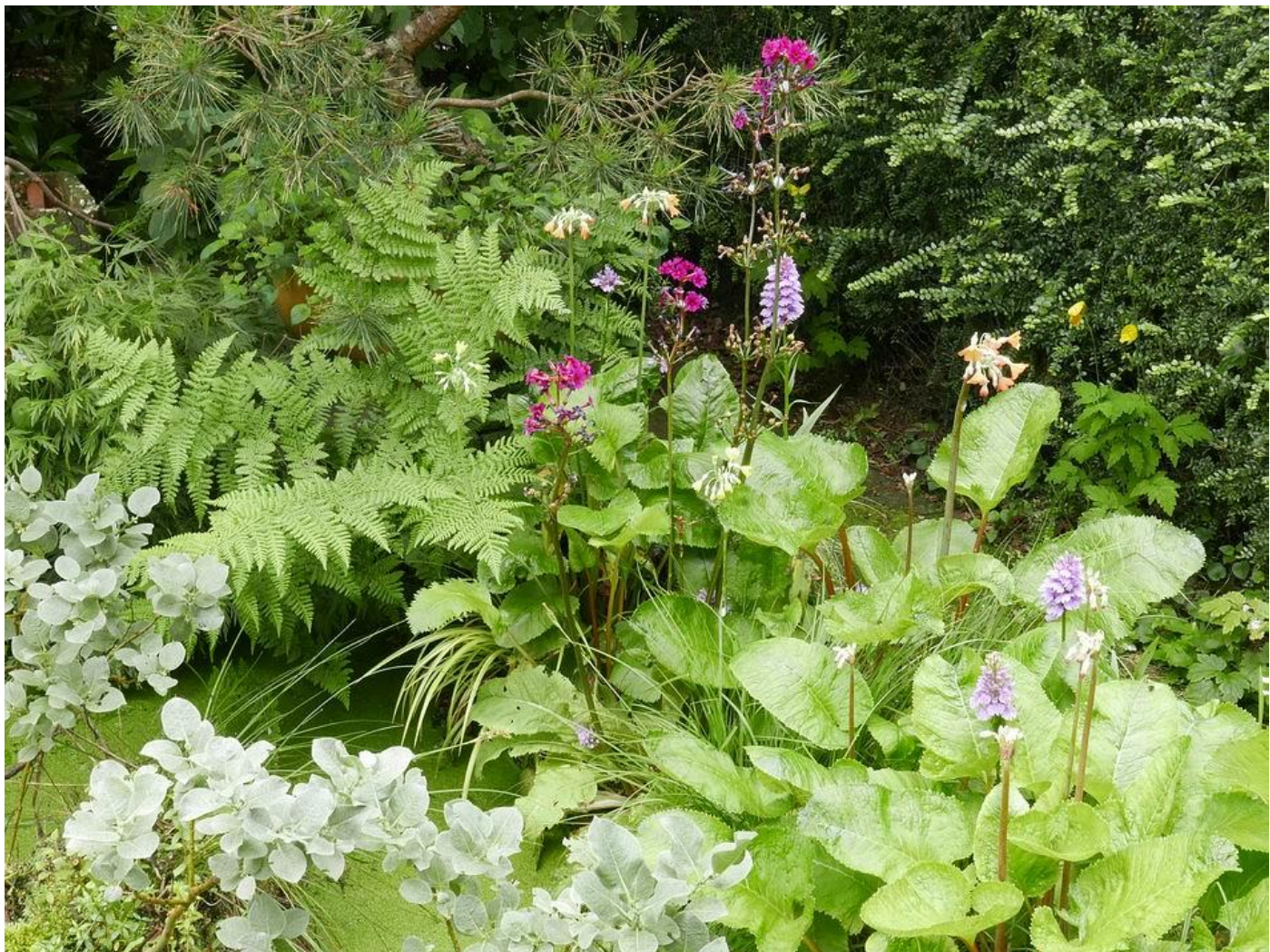
It has a similarly unusual distribution being found in the Himalaya, where our plant originated, and other Asian mountain systems as far as Java as well as in Africa where it is found in Burundi, central Ethiopia, eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and western parts of Uganda. It grows well in our garden because



it is another plant that grows in damp, shady places on the forest floor or along the banks of streams and rivers.



Parochetus communis



In the habitat around the pond *Primula florindae* is now coming into flower adding the colour and interest in this area.



Primula florindae



Mutisia spinosa

I have previously referred to this plant under the name we originally received it as, an *Mutisia oligidon* hybrid, however having received further information and doing some research would suggest that it is a form of, perhaps a hybrid, of *Mutisia spinosa*.



Mutisia are members of the Asteraceae, daisy, family of plants found from South America, *Mutisia spinosa* is native to Chile.

They like to climb or scramble and we have grown one on our south facing wall for over thirty years now.



In the cool shaded sand bed where I sow seeds a group of *Erythronium elegans*, having flowered for the first time, are themselves setting seed and still in leaf long after all the other *Erythronium*s in the garden have retreated.



The slab beds and troughs, where a number of plants are currently flowering.



With a little help from us with the seed distribution this self-seeding colony of alpine Aquilegia have for many years spread across the slab beds.



Campanula garganica



Among the many plants growing in the slab beds are some very old and woody **Globularia bellidifolia**, which was among the first plants we ever got from Jack Drake's Inshriach Nursery, and has been with us ever since. Through the years various names have been applied to this plant such as *Globularia meridionalis* but I prefer to stick with the name we originally knew it by.



Globularia bellidifolia



This is a box of sharp sand into which at various times of the year I place cuttings from a range of plants - note at the back right hand corner is nice plant of *Prunella vulgaris* I raised from a tiny cutting. You may be forgiven for wondering why I would bother raising a plant that many people classify as a weed which they will try to eradicate from their lawns.



Prunella vulgaris

It is my philosophy to look at the beauty in all plants with an open mind and many a time I have struggled to grow an alpine plant that is nowhere near as decorative as this.



Prunella vulgaris

I will leave you this week with one more picture sharing the beauty of this wild flower.....