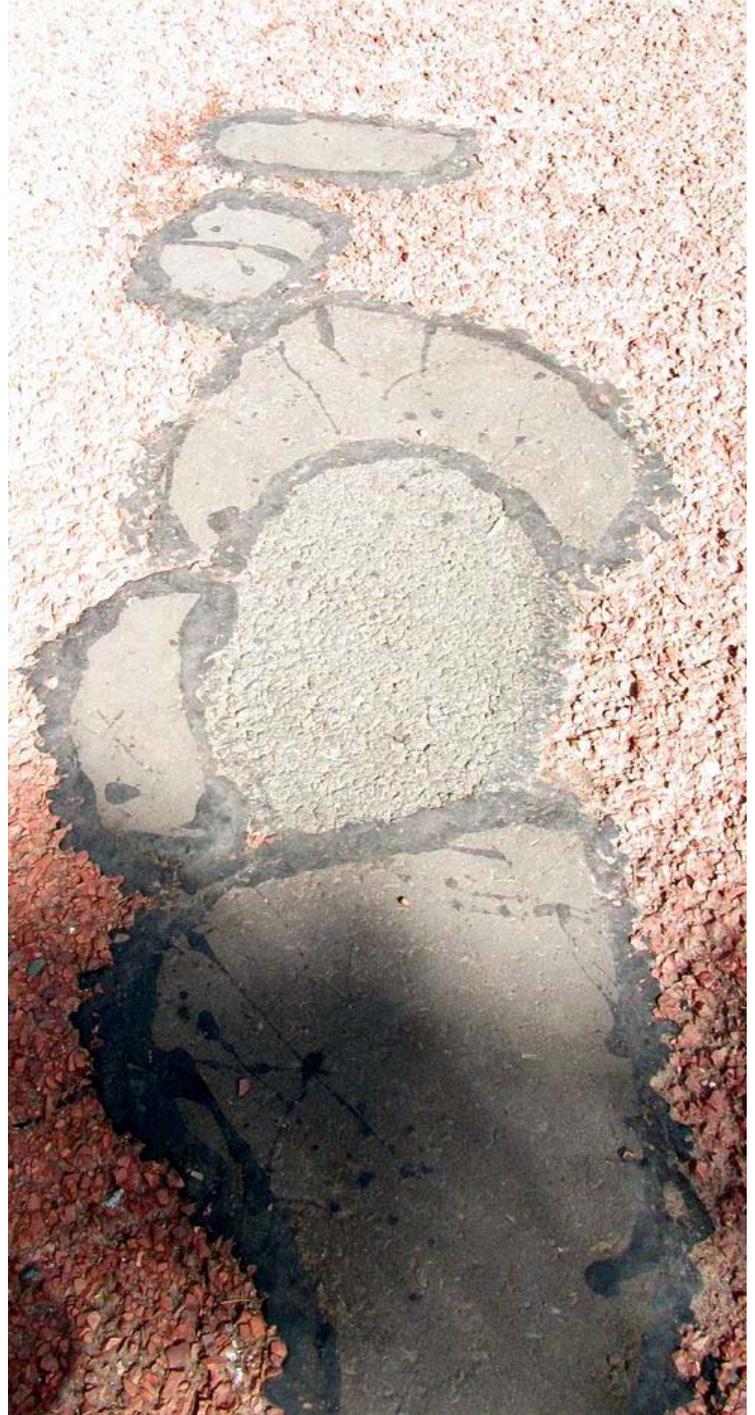




BULB LOG 42.....19<sup>th</sup> October 2011



The artist in me is always fascinated by shapes and patterns wherever I find them especially when they are similar like these two very diverse images.



The line drawn by an artistic slug on the left reminded me of the patched pathway I photographed in RBG Edinburgh earlier in the summer. While both shapes are abstract I see very definite figure forms in them both. I am sure you have all heard of the chimpanzee and the elephant who painted; now we have the slug!!



Autumn leaves are falling fast and will need to be removed from the troughs and raised beds where we grow our alpines.



### **Trough**

Progress on the troughs is good and all the ones I have planted up this year are establishing nicely.



I know there were some of you had concerns that the lime content or toxic salts may leach from the broken concrete blocks I used but I was confident that they would be fine. Some months on the plants have established and the sempervivums I placed directly on the block seem to be establishing along with quantities of moss.



### **Rhodohypoxis trough**

The leaves on the Rhodohypoxis have now gone and it is time for me to lift these troughs into the bulb house for the winter, where they will be able to dry out under the staging.



***Androsace studiosorum***

A cutting of *Androsace studiosorum* taken last year has grown well and looks attractive in its slate crevice trough.



Around the garden we have a number of self seeded strawberry plants – it is incredible how late into the season they continue to flower. This plant flowered on an off all through last winter although the cold prevented any fruit forming. More fruits of autumn in the pictures below.



*Podophyllum hexandrum* fruit



This Paris seed head is just starting to split open exposing the ripe red seeds.



This Acer is one of the first plants we planted in the garden in the early 1970's it is not much more than a meter high and makes a canopy of purple dissected leaves all the way to the ground. It looks good all the year round but it is especially colourful just now.



These white Crocus hybrids are set off well by the glowing maple leaves behind.



**Crocus longiflorus**

You lot don't miss anything – such as the signs of virus in last week's picture of this plant. I must agree that as I was checking the bulb log had loaded correctly I spotted it myself. It is amazing how we often see more in digital photographs of the plants than we do when we are in front of the plant. Most of the flowers like the one above look fine and I have checked the emerging leaves and there are no obvious symptoms of virus there yet but as a precaution I have removed this pot to a quarantine area to observe. I will try and get a good set of seed on it and if it does show more signs of virus then I will destroy it after collecting the seed. I must say I have always been extremely cautious about viruses and have ruthlessly destroyed many a plant but it is only the ones that manifest in



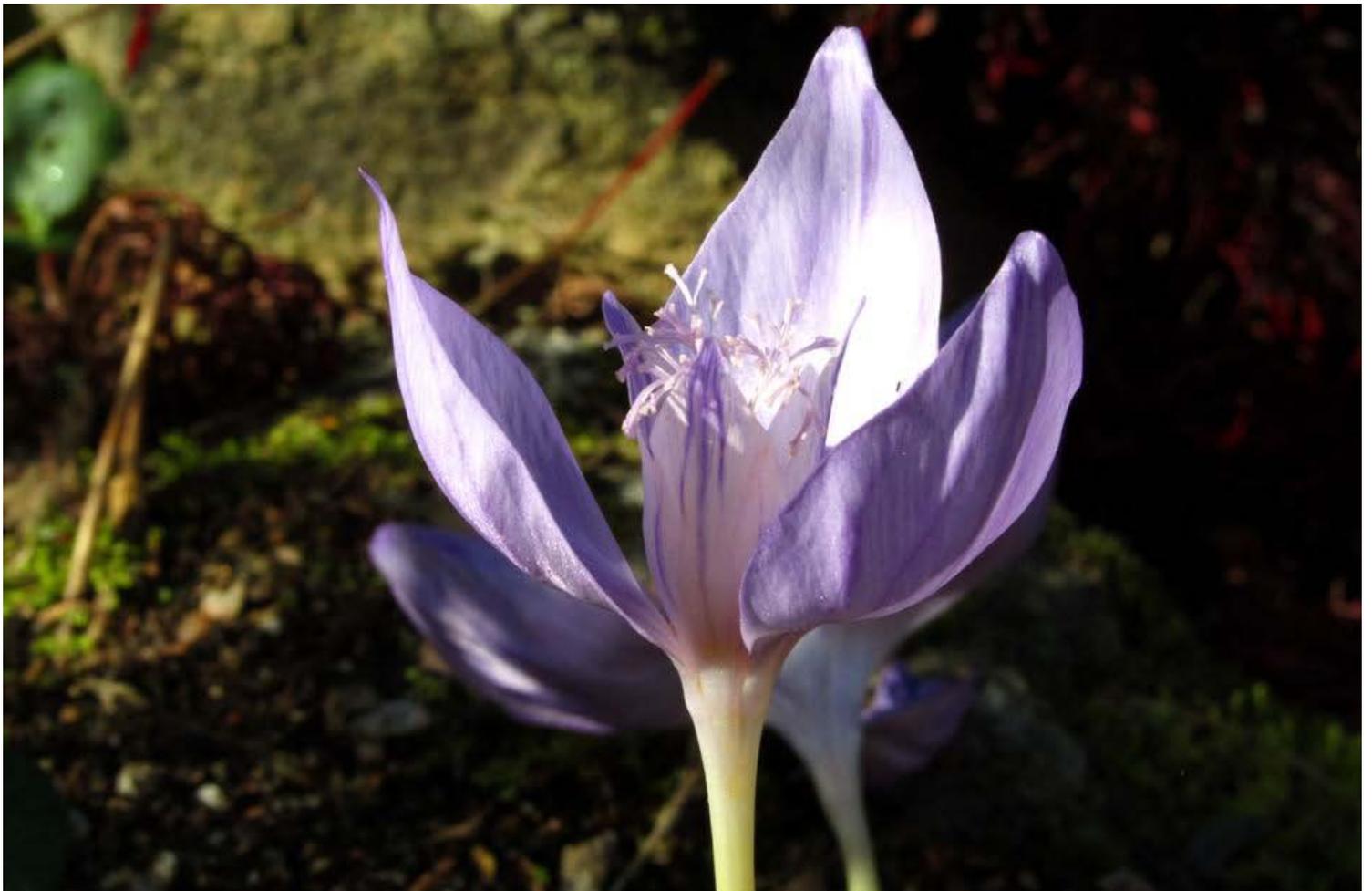
obvious symptoms that we spot. Knowing how many forms of virus exist all over the planet in nearly every living organism I find it hard to believe that there are not more in plants. They may be latent and not show up or like some of the mosaic virus they may have clear symptoms and kill the host but I am convinced that there will be many more that we just do not detect.

I still believe the cautious approach is best: isolating suspected plants and destroying them when you are sure they are infected.



**Crocus banaticus**

The best way to ensure a healthy collection of bulbs is to keep raising them from seed and here are some seed raised forms of the most distinctive of species *Crocus banaticus*.



**Crocus banaticus**



**Crocus banaticus**



I like the way this pot of **Crocus kotschyanus** are opening the flowers close to the ground – this is most likely an environmental effect rather than a genetic trait but I have marked the label to remind me to check it next year.



**Crocus ochroleucus albus**

Although there is no sign of my Crocus ochroleucus having survived I am pleased that the white form has pulled through as I think it is the more difficult form to replace.



**Crocus ochroleucus albus**



Two pictures for the drop fiends -

***Galanthus nivalis reginae olgae***



***Galanthus peshmenii***



### **Fuchsia procumbens**

While we all lament the losses of the recent severe winters they teach us a fascinating and valuable lesson into what will survive in our garden conditions and climate. *Fuchsia procumbens* is often described as not hardy yet it has survived in this bed for around twenty years. Most winters it is cut back and disappears underground only to re-emerge in mid to late summer.



### **Fuchsia procumbens**

Unfortunately as it produces its flowers so late in the season we rarely get the wonderful red fruits forming before it is cut back by the frosts.



Rhododendron seedling

This Rhododendron seedling growing in the moss on the stones self sowed and is now three years old – I have shown it in previous years. I hope the roots will be able to grow back into the wall and so produce a nice feature of a Rhododendron growing from the face of the wall.



A final autumnal picture of a section of the garden being bathed in the light of a low sun.