



BULB LOG 18.....1st May 2013



Above is a view across the slab beds towards the Erythronium plunge bed and the rock garden bed beyond.



When we first made the rock garden bed it had an open aspect to the south and was nice and sunny but the trees and shrubs have grown up and now this bed is quite shaded so we have had to change to growing plants that can tolerate or require a degree of shade. Ramonda, Haberlea, Hepatica are all happy there along with a mass of the wee blue bulbs that have mostly self seeded around.



Hepatica pyrenaica is a great companion plant for the *Scilla*, *Chionodoxa*, and *Puschkinia*



Some species of *Scilla* and *Chionodoxa* hybridise freely in cultivation and in the wild where they share a habitat these are referred to as *x Chionoscilla* and there are plenty named cultivars to choose from. In our garden we have lots of these plants interbreeding and self seeding around. Some complain about plants that seed around freely but I love it when plants

are happy enough in the conditions we have in our garden to seed around freely and if we do not want them in a particular place we can easily remove them.



On close inspection you will find all sorts of subtle differences in colour and form of these resulting seedlings examples above and below.





Each and every one of these 'wee blue jobs' is worthy of our attention.



Scilla rosenii



Their lovely blues work well with other plant combinations adding contrasting highlights.





The majority of our garden is under planted with glorious mixtures of bulbs – I do not like concentrating all bulbs of one type together in one spot I would rather distribute them around a number of beds giving different plant combinations that change from year to year and as we move through the season. It is not just bulbs - other plants play their part such as hellebores. We have so many self sown seedling hellebores that we cannot let them all stay or we would be over-run but it is so difficult to give them away until you see a flower – it might just be that special one. On this plate is a quick collection from a few of the mature seedlings and you will see a more detailed look at these flowers on the next page.



Helleborus seedlings



Looking at some of the other plant combinations that are in flower just now you will notice what an important role Corydalis plays – I am continually lifting and splitting the tubers as well as encouraging them to self seed





Here you see a new planting I just made over the last year in flower : *Erythronium* 'Craigton Cover Girl', *E. japonicum* coming through *Dicentra cucullaria* 'Pink Punk', white forms of *Corydalis solida*, *Trillium rivale* and *Erythronium revolutum* are the ones you can see in this picture.



Erythronium japonicum



Erythronium japonicum



Erythronium sibiricum and Crocus pelistericus



An 'increasing' clone of *Erythronium sibiricum*



***Erythronium sibiricum* seedling**



Erythronium sibiricum seedling



Trying hard to look like a blue *Erythronium* are the reflexed flowers of **Scilla rosenii**



The view back across the rock garden bed.



Erythronium oregonum, hellebores and Corydalis are the feature again in this bed. As I sign off you may realise that there are not so many words as usual – this is because I am busy getting ready to go to the Czech Conference which will also mean that next week’s Bulb log may be late to go online as I do not know if I will find a suitable connection to upload it while I am away, but it will appear sometime..... ;>))