



SRGC

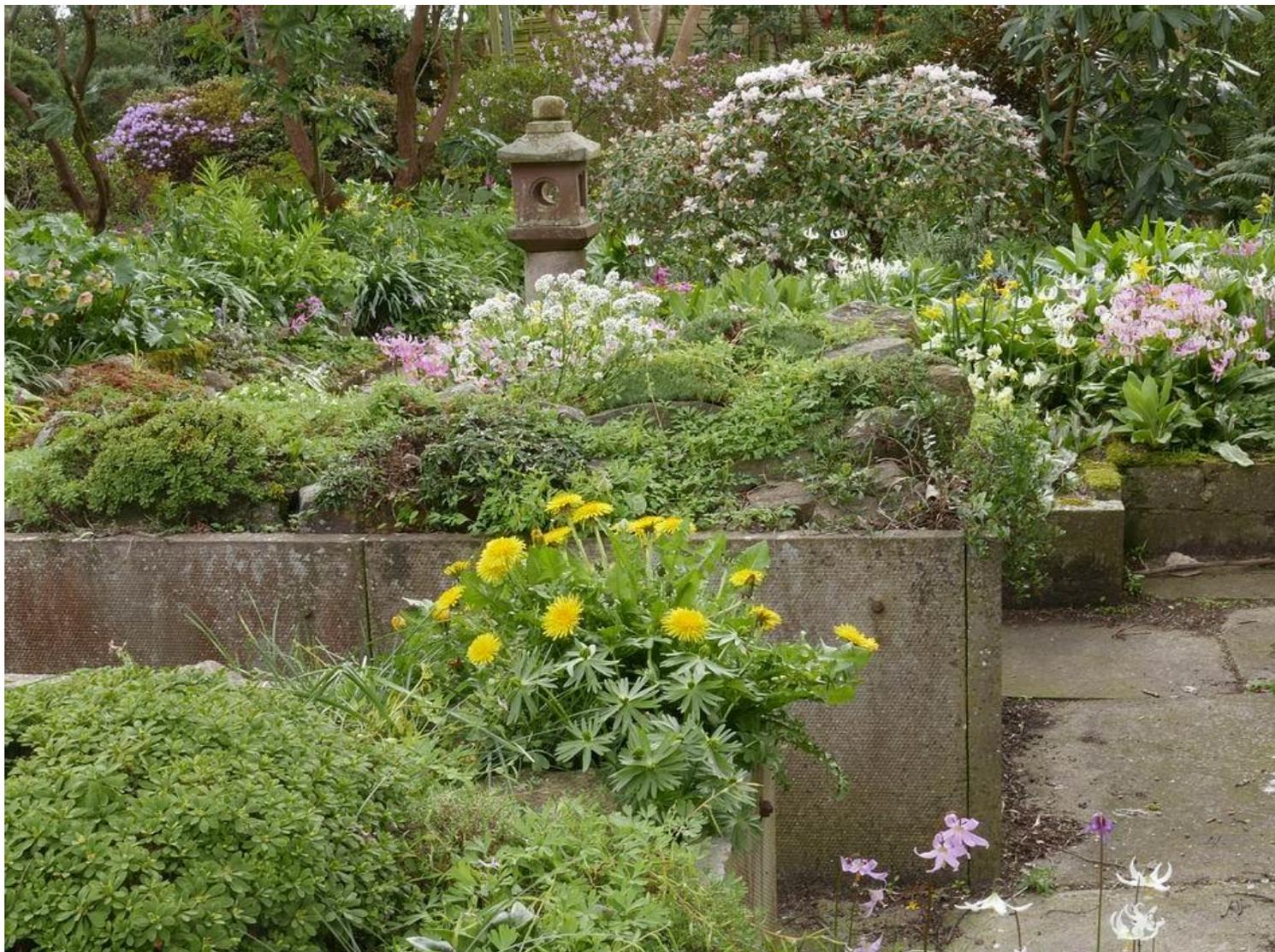
Bulb Log Diary

ISSN 2514-6114

Pictures and text © Ian Young

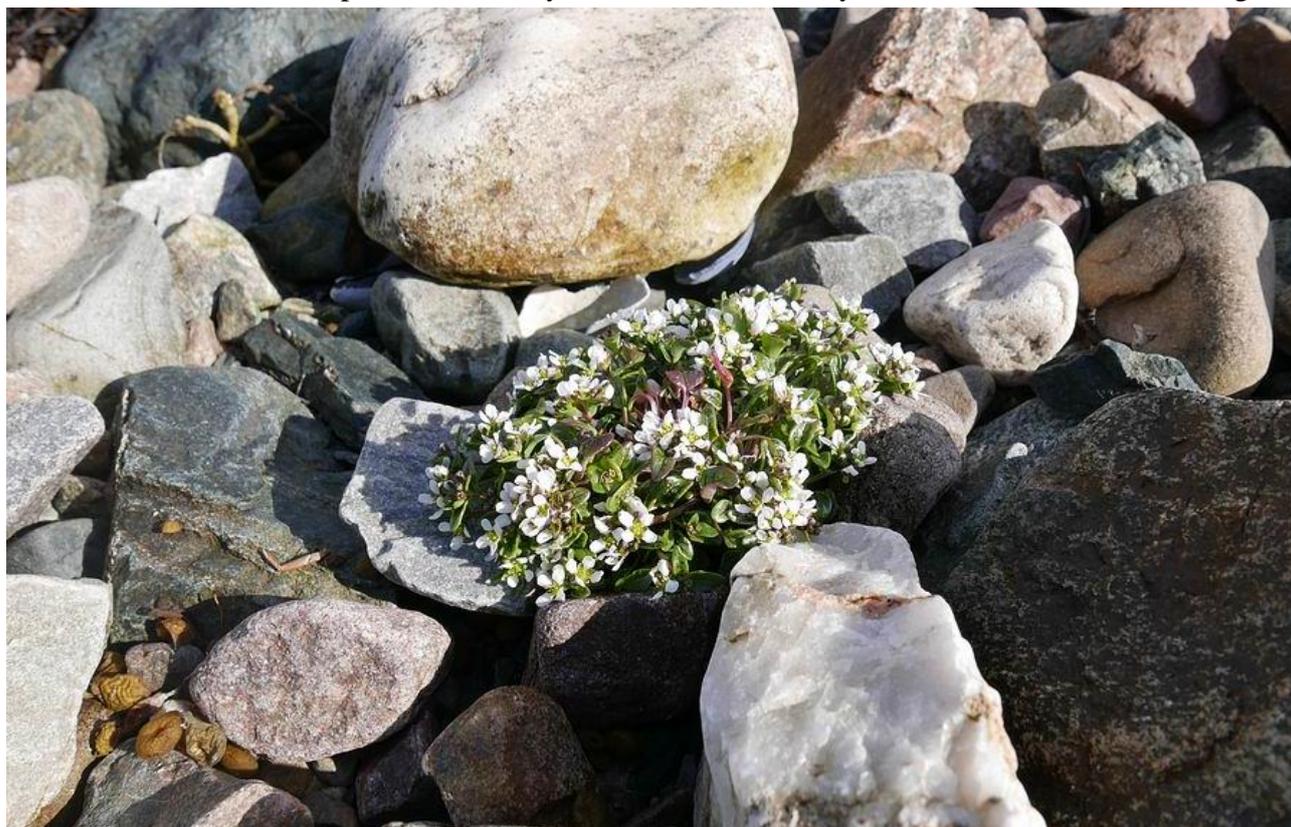
BULB LOG 17 26th April 2017





So much has happened since I wrote the Bulb Log for last week that it is hard to know where to start. Erythroniums, which are at the peak of their flowering, have of course featured heavily both at home and across in [Inverewe Garden, near Poolewe](#), where I was taking part in their first Erythronium Festival.

There is however another plant, less showy, that has linked all my activities this week which is growing in one of



the raised slab beds shown above. Not my pet Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) but the small white flowered plant in the other bed - it is *Cochlearia* of which there are a number of species found in Scotland but the main ones I see are *Cochlearia officinalis* and

Cochlearia danica shown here growing on the shore at Poolewe, right in front of the cottage that I was staying in.



The row of cottages are part of the [National Trust for Scotland's Inverewe Estate](#) and the view I had from the windows must be one of the best in Scotland.



As soon as I was dropped off at my accommodation I dumped my rucksack and was off to the beach to explore.



Cochlearia danica and Armeria maritima growing as one cushion complete with sea weed. There were masses of this charming plant growing just above the high tideline and I spent a happy hour in the evening sunshine botanising my way to the local hotel bar.



Cushion zone of Cochlearia danica

As I walked I had to cross the bridge over the River Ewe. The river charges angrily through a short rock gorge before flowing into the (for now) calm waters of Loch Ewe.



River Ewe viewed from the bridge looking towards the Inverewe Garden Peninsula across the bay.



Inverewe Garden photographed from Poolewe across the bay of Loch Ewe. You can make out the new ‘state of the art’ glasshouses and the walled garden in the distance.



The view towards the row of cottages and Poolewe taken from above the walled garden, which was dug into the hillside in the nineteenth century to provide further shelter from the fierce winds.



Inverewe garden was created from a barren windswept peninsula in the 19th century when the visionary Osgood Mackenzie planted thousands of trees to provide shelter from the strong Atlantic winds that batter the west of Scotland.

The New Zealand bed planted with lots of **Celmisia spectabilis** is one of the first you will encounter on your right as you enter the garden it must be a picture when the white daisies are in full bloom.



A short walk into the 50 acres of garden I was greeted by the plant I was there to celebrate - a mass of Erythronium which were seeding around a large area below giant trees and in front of some **Dicksonia antarctica**. A few yellow Erythronium 'Pagoda' and a scattering of Fritillaria meleagris were greatly outnumbered by the incredible display of thousands of Erythronium revolutum.



Once I got over the sight of this mass planting I started to study the flowers and found that every single one had pale pollen on the anthers. We do grow a form like this but by far the majority of this species that I have seen has golden yellow pollen. There was no exception to the pale anthers across the many extensive plantings I found through this wonderful garden.

Erythronium revolutum at Inverewe



Erythronium revolutum shows the more familiar pollen colour in our garden.



The next excitement came when I quickly spotted a pure white flower, then another, and another, and another - on examination they were all white forms of *Erythronium revolutum* of which I have only ever seen one other example – a seedling in our own garden. Just a few of the white forms looked to be increasing by forming clumps and I hope that the gardeners will pay these close attention and work to encourage them to increase numbers.



***Erythronium revolutum* white forms**



***Erythronium revolutum* white forms**

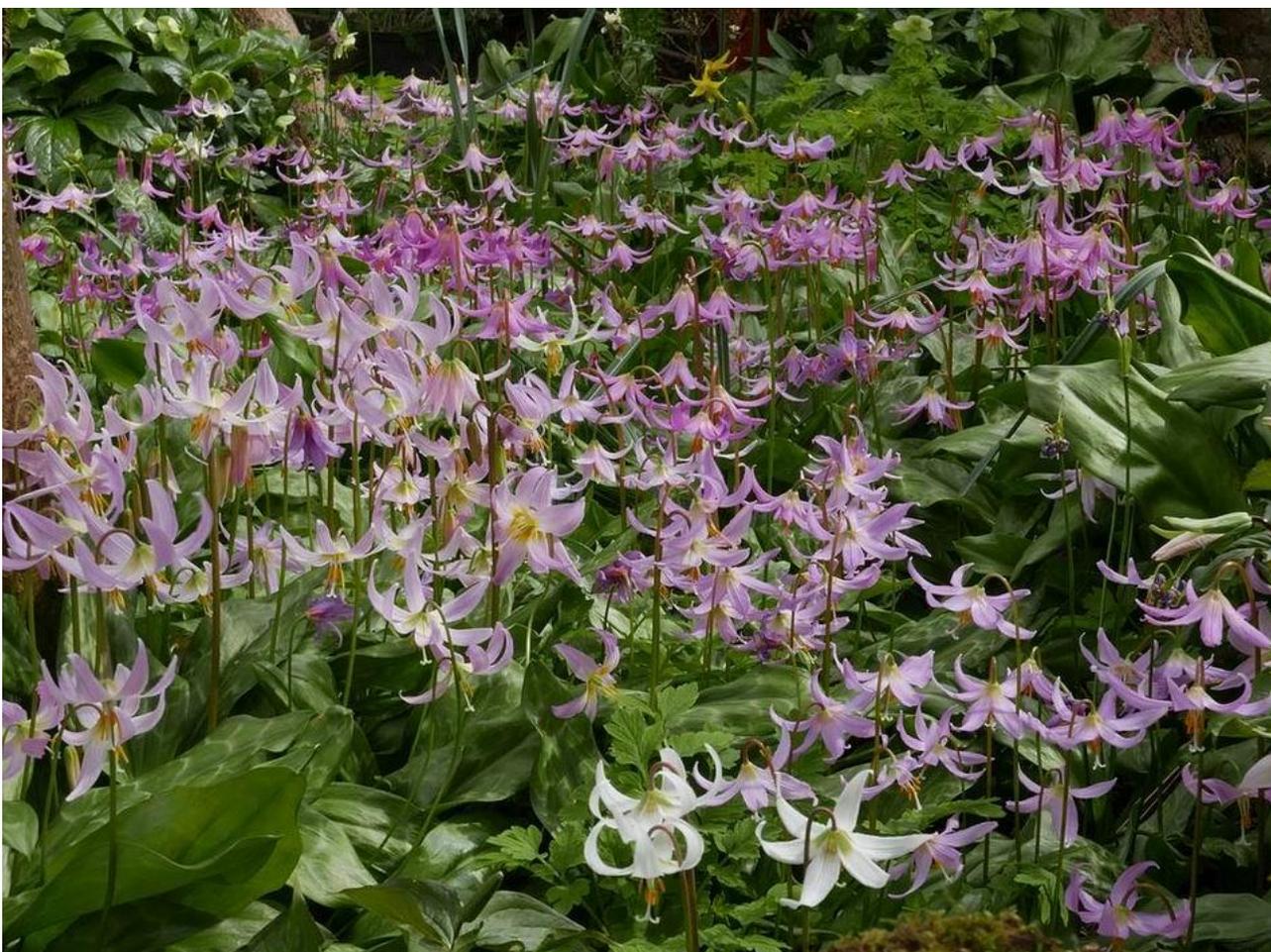
While I found a few white clones that were forming clumps I also found some areas where there were a higher percentage of white seedlings within that local population – it would also be worth collecting and sowing the seeds from these whites as that may also give rise to more whites.

I suspect that the tens of thousands of *Erythronium revolutum* I saw at Inverewe all arose from one introduction that has seeded around for many years; hence they all have inherited the pale pollen this would also explain the lack of darker pink flowered forms within the population.





Erythronium revolutum at Inverewe



Erythronium revolutum

Back at home we have more variation in the shades of pink among our *Erythronium revolutum* because we have had seed from many wild sources. In all the thousands I have raised we have just a single white form that is showing no inclination to increase. The white flowers in the foreground are *E. oregonum*.



One of the Inverewe white **Erythronium revolutum** with pale pollen alongside our white form with golden yellow pollen.



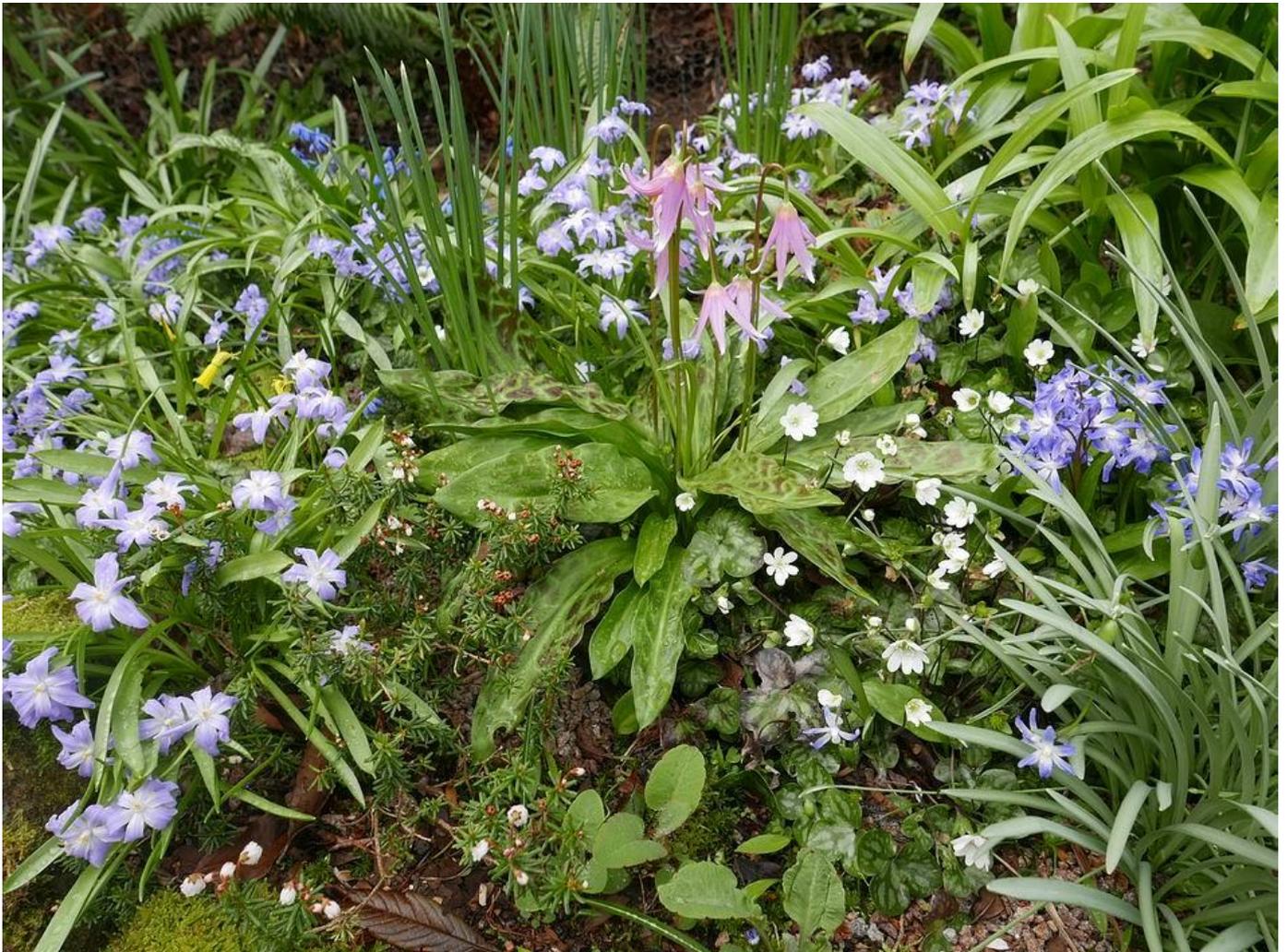
While I was away our own Erythroniums continued to bloom so I was glad to be back home to view them.

The mixed
bulbous
plantings below
a canopy of
larger
Rhododendrons
and trees make
our garden a
wee bit like a
mini Inverewe.





Erythroniums associate with many plants in our garden beds.





Fritillaria meleagris above, in the front garden and below, seeded into the drive.





I have also seeded *Erythronium revolutum* into the drive and now it continues to seed around along with many other bulbs. *Erythronium revolutum* is the best species to plant if you want to establish self-seeding colonies.



All the plants in our drive have grown from seed that I initially scattered and now many are continuing to seed around with a bit of encouragement from me.



Inverewe has the biggest Rhododendrons I have ever seen: they tower above you creating a forest.



Rhododendron arboreum



Fascinating trunks.



Camas Glas (Grey Bay in Gaelic) one of the many stunning landscape views you see while walking Inverewe.



Cuddy rock



When I returned home Annika Vinnersten and Roger Holt from [The Linnean Gardens of Uppsala University](#) came to discuss and learn about how we grow bulbs in our garden as they hope to expand the plantings in the Uppsala Botanic Garden. It was good to also take them out to see some plants in the wild especially as their visit coincided with the flowering

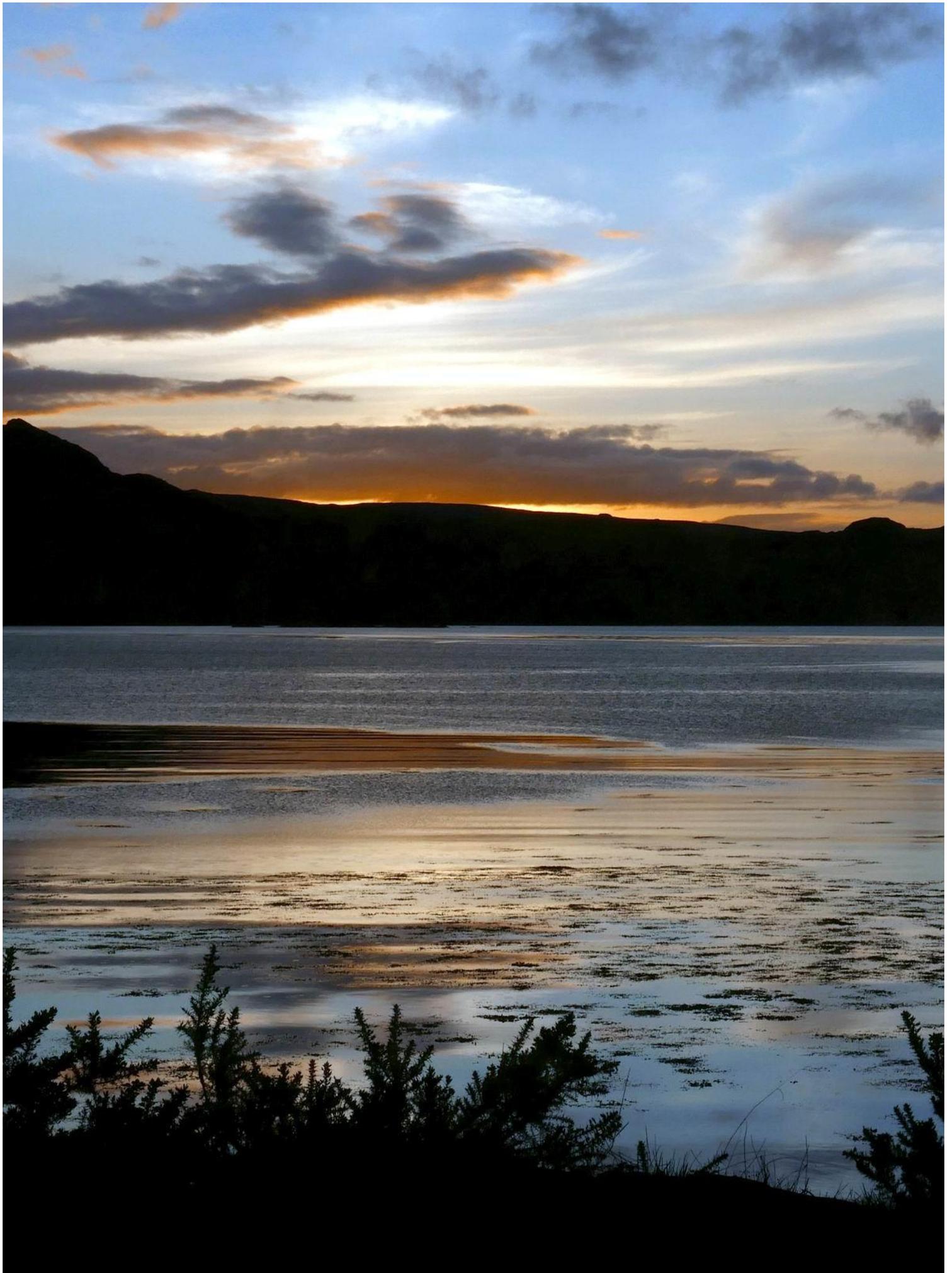
time of *Primula vulgaris* and other interesting plants at one of my favourite locations 12 miles south of Aberdeen.



Primula vulgaris



Now back to the plant that links my activities this last ten days and through this Bulb Log because at this location we also saw a number of Cochlearia including this pink variation of **Cochlearia danica**.



My closing image is the view at sunset from the window of the cottage where I stayed while at Inverewe.....
Last week I uploaded two new videos [Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement Walking with Erythroniums](#) and
[Bulb Log Video Diary Supplement Walking with Erythroniums part 2](#).....