



BULB LOG 08.....22nd February 2017





Our weather is still coming from the south and we are enjoying an unseasonably mild spell thanks to the winds being warmed up in the tropics – the bulbs have responded and growth has been fast.

Galanthus and Eranthis are the feature plants in the garden with their flowers opening in response to the temperatures. Towards the front left of this picture you will see a group of Eranthis seeds germinating something I am always trying to encourage.



I have found that most Eranthis seedlings look just like the seed parent – these are pots of seedlings raised from Eranthis ‘Schwefelglanz’, ‘Pauline’ and ‘Grunling’ all are very similar to the parent. Perhaps now we grow a wider variable range of forms that can cross pollinate we may see some variations in future seedlings.



Eranthis 'Orange Glow'



Eranthis 'Guinea Gold' has never set any seed.



Eranthis hyemalis





Eranthis Galanthus and Leucojum spread out across the garden.



Crocus and Corydalis are also starting to join the party in the bulb bed.

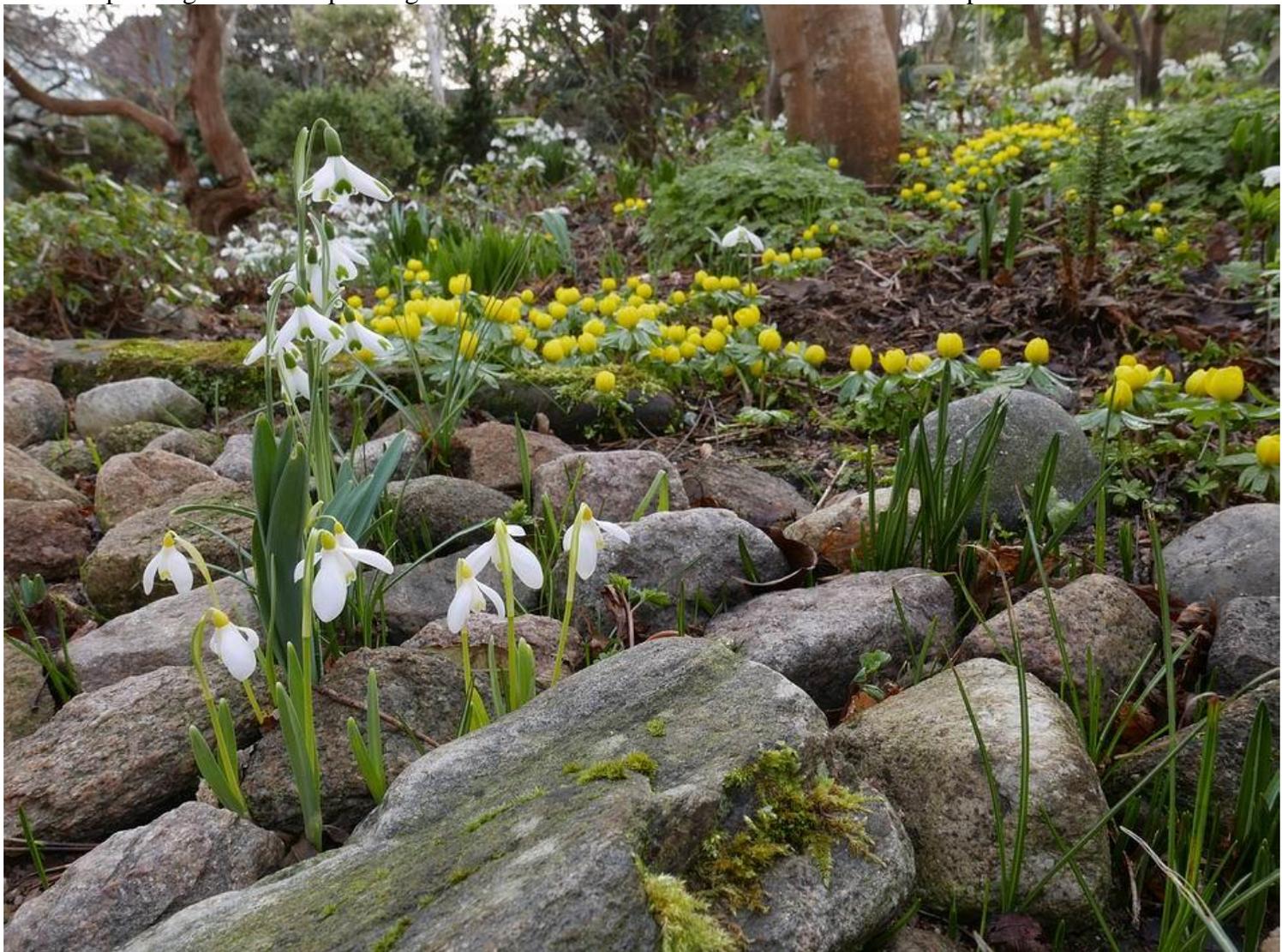


Bulb Bed





This is the view that faces us from the back door and while it is reasonably colourful for this time of year I have a plan to greatly increase the *Eranthis* planting so it forms a yellow river growing out of the cobble bed leading the eye up the garden. I will do this mostly by collecting and scattering the seed when it is ripe and in three years these seedlings should start to flower. I will probably also add to this by transferring some of the many seedlings around the main plantings as well as planting out some of the other colour forms that I have in pots and boxes.





Sand Bed



Cyclamen coum and Galanthus 'Elizabeth Harrison'

Moss and liverwort are an ever-present problem in the sand bed and I spend many an hour carefully picking it off but I am considering leaving it this year to see how it affects the growth of the bulbs. I suspect it may be more of an aesthetic issue than a cultivation one so by accepting the more natural look it could cease to be a problem.



Another bulbous genus that can compete in this early flower power spectacle is Iris with the reticulata group.



**Iris
'Katharine
Hodgkin'**

Is one of the hardy reticulate Iris (hybrids) that increases well in the garden, especially if you lift and split them when they form clumps removing the many bulbils that form on the base of the bulb and growing them on separately as I showed last week.



This is one of the bulbs of **Iris 'Sheila Ann Germaney'** that I split and replanted last week – I can now appreciate its flowers better as they have the space to open unhindered by their neighbours.



Various forms of *Iris reticulata* are growing well in our 'hot bed' and some of these would also benefit from being split up – I will do that later in the season when the leaves start to turn yellow.



Galanthus 'Maggi Young'

Maggi is delighted that Ian Christie has named this *Galanthus plicatus* cultivar after her.



Early growth and flowers in the Spring Bed – soon the Erythroniums, Anemone, etc will fill the spaces.



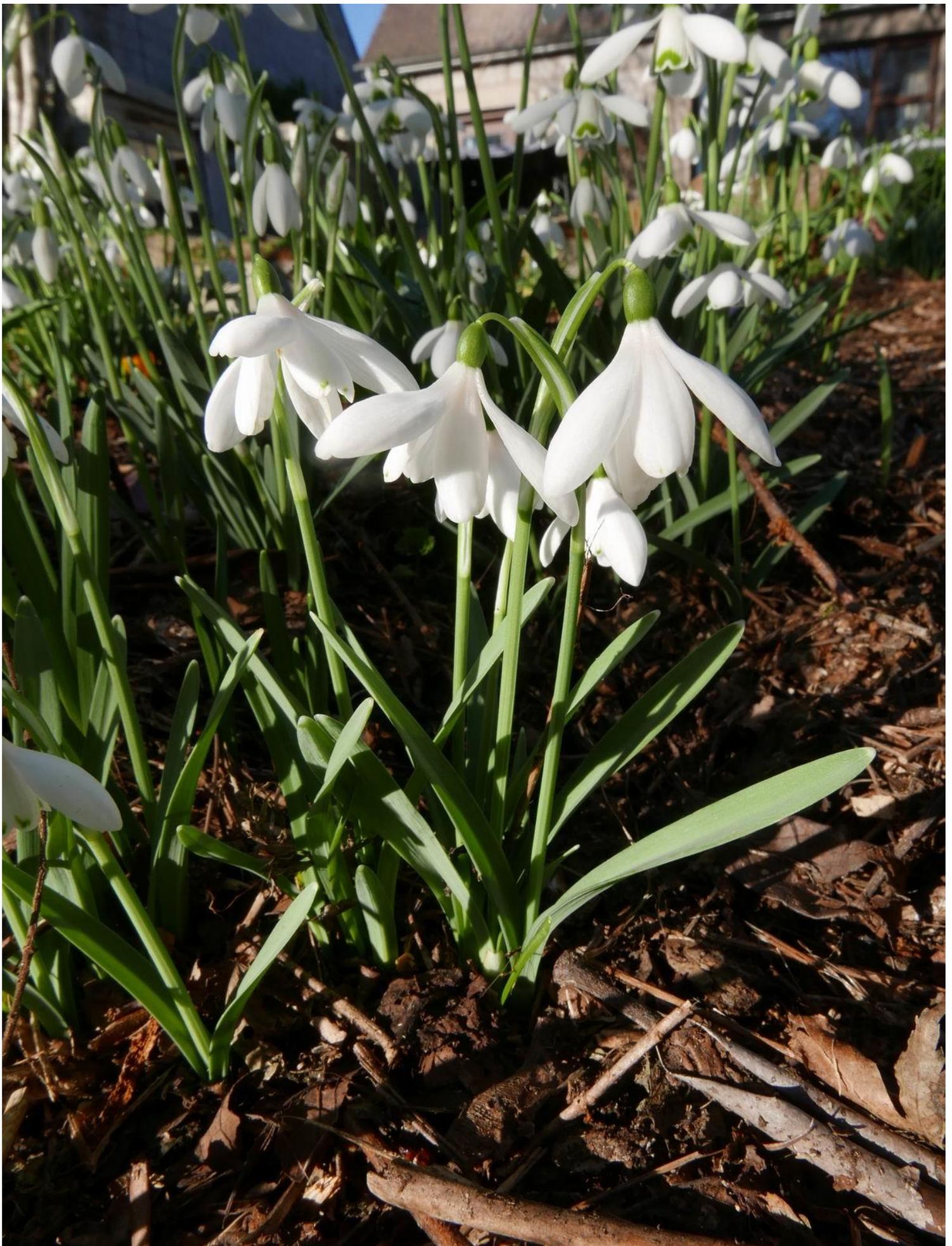
This clump of snowdrops, ex Brechin Castle, is ready for splitting and spreading out – another task for later in the season.



Above and below you can see **Galanthus 'Snoopy'** the picture below shows the features of the cartoon characters face which gave rise to its cultivar name.



Galanthus 'Snoopy'



Ian Christie has introduced a lot of very good snowdrops in recent years and as most of them were discovered growing in estates in this area of Scotland they are well all adapted to our climate as a result they have thrived in our garden. This is one of the best of a number of poculiform types he gave us where the inner segments are approximately the same length as the outers.



Here in the foreground of the bulb bed are some of the poculiforms.



View across towards the bulb bed.



The view above is looking across the Erythronium plunge, which will soon become the focus, with the rock garden bed to the right and the bulb bed beyond.

In another part of the garden more snowdrops are flowering.

The group near the base of the sculpture also features on this week's cover and is from the 'Mighty Atom' complex.



Various plicatus type *Galanthus*, all from Brechin Castle, are increasing well in the bed nearest to the house.



The flowers of *Galanthus* 'Lady Dalhousie' dance about in the breeze.



Leucojum vernum

Click the link to take a walk round the snowdrops with me in this [Bulb Log Video Supplement](#).....