



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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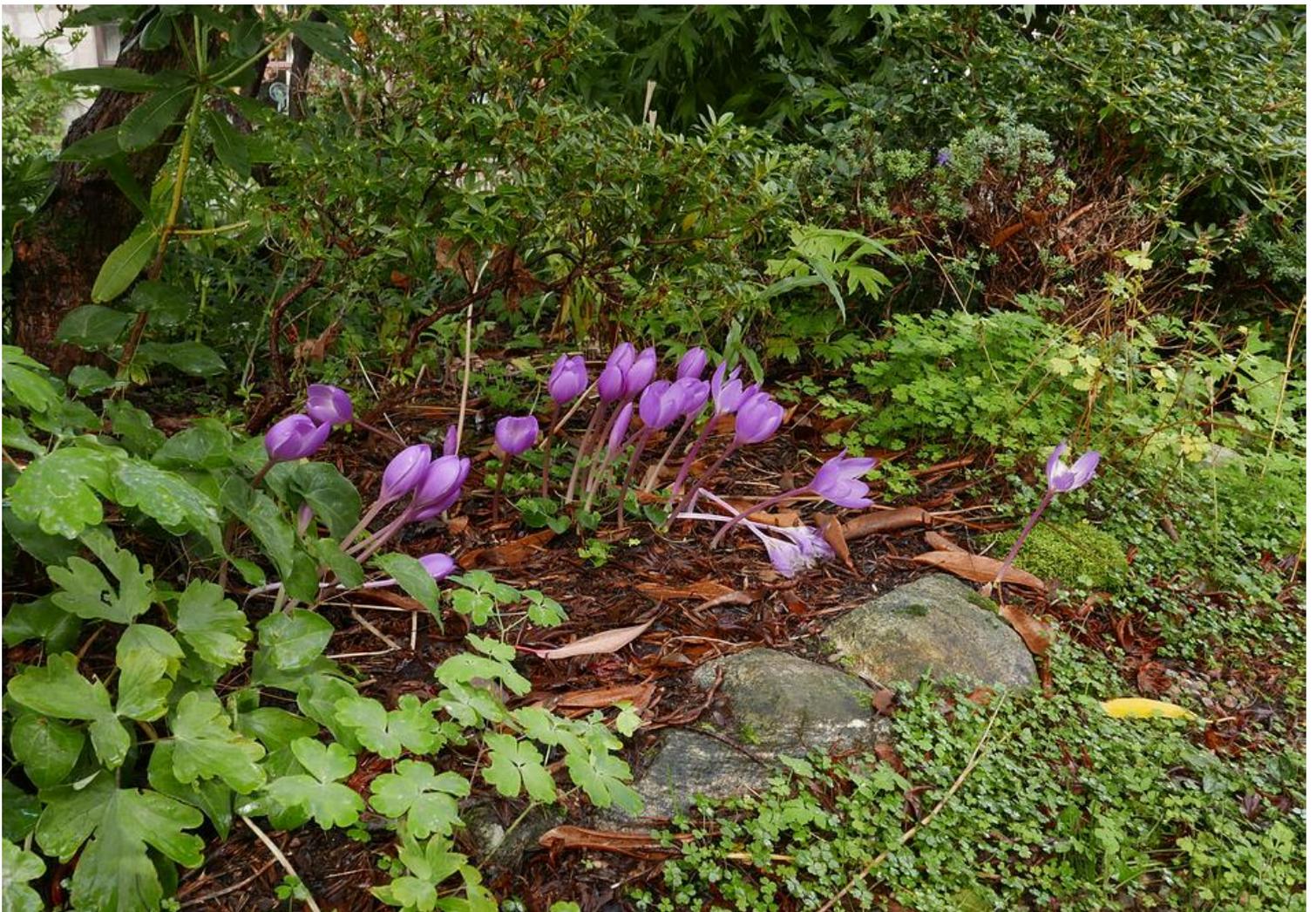
BULB LOG 38.....20th September 2017





Colchicum agrippinum

If I could only have one colchicum in the garden it would be Colchicum agrippinum - the reasons are the beautiful tessellated flowers, it has smaller leaves than many and it increases well. I am glad I do not have to make that choice so we can have a number of types with varying colours each flowering at a slightly different time to extend the seasonal interest.



A dark form of **Colchicum speciosum** where the dark colour continues down the tube.



Colchicum autumnale album flowering under the leaves of *Arisaema candidissimum*.



You can feel the seasonal change in the air as the night time temperatures drop and the mornings have that autumnal damp, chilly feel - in addition we have had almost two weeks of sunshine and showers. It has been more showers than sunshine I may add with many of them better described as downpours than a gentle shower so the ground is really wet. The seasonal change is obvious in the plants as the greenness starts to move towards the brighter colours of yellow, orange and red that we associate with autumn leaves.



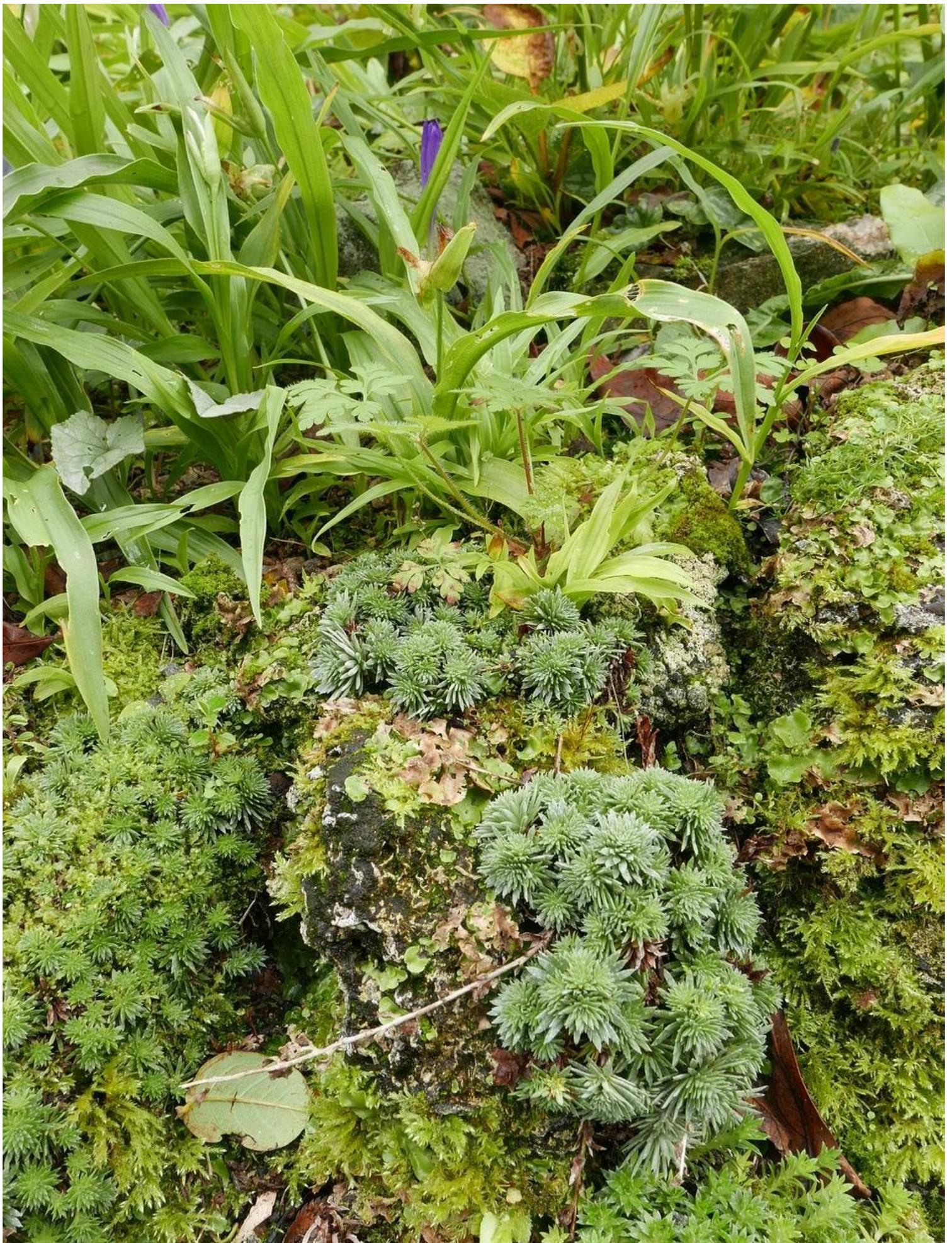
The plants in some areas are still green but they are not without interest as there are so many shades of green; each also has a different shape and texture providing wonderful contrasts if you get down and look.

At one side of the path it is the bigger ferns and grasses that first take your eye and draws you down towards the low carpet of growth where many plants merge and grow happily together.

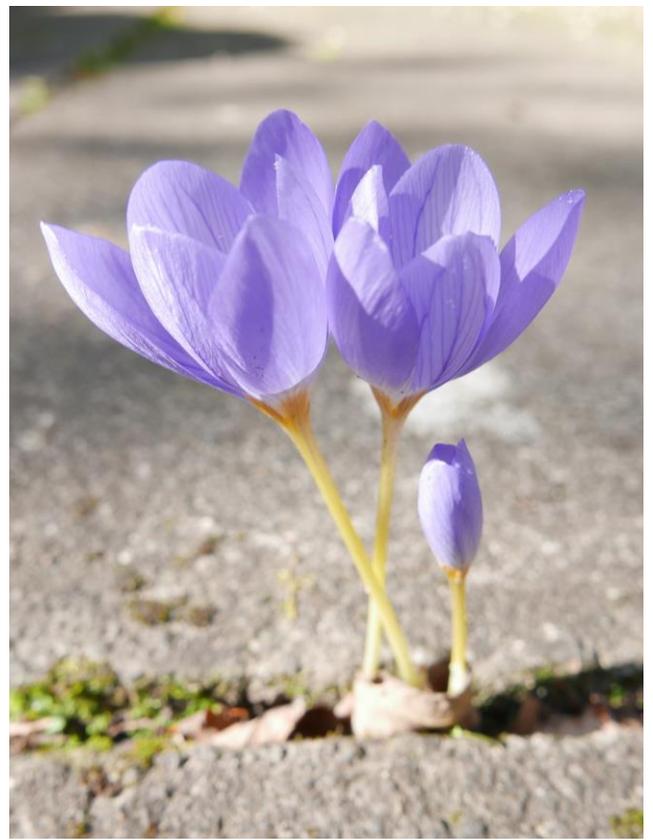
Below I show the moss covered tufa at the other side of the path.



For many years I tried to keep the tufa clear of moss before realising that in our climate that was futile so I learned to accept the growth and now I find more plants seed into the moss than did into the bare tufa.



Roscoea alpina and *R. scillifolia* seed around the top of the tufa blocks with saxifrages growing and seeding on the vertical faces.



Moving back to the slabs a little group of **Crocus pulchellus** seedlings looks lonely and isolated – it formed from a single plant that seeded in between the cracks a few years ago.



In the slab beds ever more blue flowers continue to emerge on the Cyananthus – the first flowers opened early in July and more flowers will open until the frosts come.



Cyananthus lobatus



Cyananthus microphyllus having spread out on the top is now cascading down the sides.



Hypericum reptans will be familiar to regular readers as it also produces flowers over several months –well, at least five.



A chance seedling of **Tanacetum parthenium**, feverfew, flowers in the back of one of the slab beds beside some boxes of bulbs brightening this area.



Another wild flower too often considered to be a weed is **Cymbalaria muralis** - this has been producing flowers since May.



Cyclamen hederifolium dark flowered form.



Crocus nudiflorus

I showed this Erythronium plunge bed before when it was predominantly the white forms of *Crocus nudiflorus* in flower, now the tide has turned and it is mostly the typical purple flowers that dominate.



There is only one basket of *Crocus nudiflorus* 'Orla' in this plunge bed all these flowers have arisen from stolons and or self-seeding into the baskets with Erythroniums – it is a good illustration of how plants are can share the same areas.



***Crocus nudiflorus* 'Orla'**



Autumn flowering *Crocus* and autumn flowering *Colchicum* are flowering together in the rock garden bed.



The large white flower is a white cultivar of **Crocus speciosus**: it is a fine plant that increases well. **Crocus nudiflorus** and **Crocus kotschyanus** can also be seen all growing among the leaves of smaller species of **Roscoea**.



Crocus speciosus 'Albus' cultivar.



One of the survivors in the sand bed that was not eaten by the mice is this **Crocus banaticus** – now I have covered the sand with cobbles to hinder the mice I will build up the number of Crocus again.



Crocus banaticus



Crocus speciosus hybrid



Crocus kotschyanus



The yellowing foliage of Jeffersonia starts to collapse and will slowly decompose as the plant goes underground in anticipation of the winter while the darker green Pyrola leaves are evergreen and will tough out the winter.



Further along the same bed Roscoeas leaves start to turn yellow. Meconopsis leaves on the right are already drying out while the wintergreen Pyrola runs around below them.



The **Pyrola** spreads by stolons and is easily propagated by lifting the new growths and replanting them into another bed at this time of year.



Mushrooms are appearing all around the garden in our soil which is rich in humus after years of mulching.





Mushrooms





A crop of real fungi are reflected in the antique stone mushroom (staddle stone) just visible above the granite bench.





Staddle stones make great features in a garden we have two old granite ones from Aberdeenshire.



The growth of moss on the top of this one is a good indicator of our temperate moist climate – my desire is to sow some seed of *Eranthis* and see if it will grow there.



Having flowered from May until August the *Dactylorhiza* have shed the majority of their seed and are also dying back underground until next year but before they go they have one more trick to delight us with their leaves at first

yellowing before turning brown.



Unless there is a reason to cut the old growth back I will leave it there until it collapses or until January when I start to tidy up before spreading the mulches in preparation for the new season's growth.



As well as decoration the stems and seed heads must provide a source of food if the number of Coal Tits and other small birds that regularly forage among them is anything to go by.....

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