



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

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BULB LOG 16.....18th April 2018





While it is nice to go travelling I am always reluctant to leave our garden at this time of year. I enjoyed my time at Inverewe and in being away from the garden for four days I noticed the change in growth more than you do seeing it every day.

This is the third phase of garden colour, first there was the wave of white from *Galanthus* and *Leucojum*, then my yellow

river of *Eranthis* joined in and now I have a bright warm coloured carpet of *Corydalis solida* and *malkensis* covering the beds.





The creamy white *Corydalis malkensis* seeds freely and is an essential element contrasting with the bright reds, pinks and purples of *Corydalis solida* which forms clumps as well as seeding around, albeit at a lesser rate than *Corydalis malkensis* does.



The purple seedlings are more subtle in their colour but are an essential element in the overall colour mix and tapestry effect that I am aiming to achieve.



Corydalis solida comes predominately in shades of purple, pink and red - whites are less common and then there are also very attractive bicolored forms but my aim is more for the overall effect than the individual forms.



***Corydalis* 'Craigton Red'**



It is nice that bulbs form clumps but my preference for the visual effect is for them to be spaced out individually. In addition clumps will need dividing every three to five years otherwise the competition between them becomes too intense and vigour will diminish. *Corydalis solida* has the shortest growing season of any bulb in our garden: they first broke ground a few weeks ago and by the middle of next month they will retreat back underground. With such a narrow growth window it is important that they have adequate nutrients to replace the annual tuber and stay healthy, especially the clumps, so as soon as I see their growths emerging I scatter some 7-7-7 N-P-K fertiliser

around them.

While on the subject of feeding bulbs I have added potassium in the form of white powder to all the pots in the bulb houses.



It is not too important to measure the amount precisely and I just use a small spoon and scatter a dusting over the gravel of each pot then water it in. Not all the powder dissolves in the first watering so the bulbs will receive a steady supply of the most essential nutrient for bulb and flower growth – it is as these flowers fade that next year's flowers start to form and they will be complete in every detail by dormancy where they will be sustained and protected within the bulb ready to burst into growth when they next wake up.



The *Corydalis solida* in this small bed have now extended well above the *Hepatica nobilis*.



Narcissus and *Corydalis* take over from the *Galanthus* and *Eranthis* in this small area.



There is a tendency to plant with only flowers in mind but my planting also considers foliage which features for a much longer time in the garden than do the flowers.

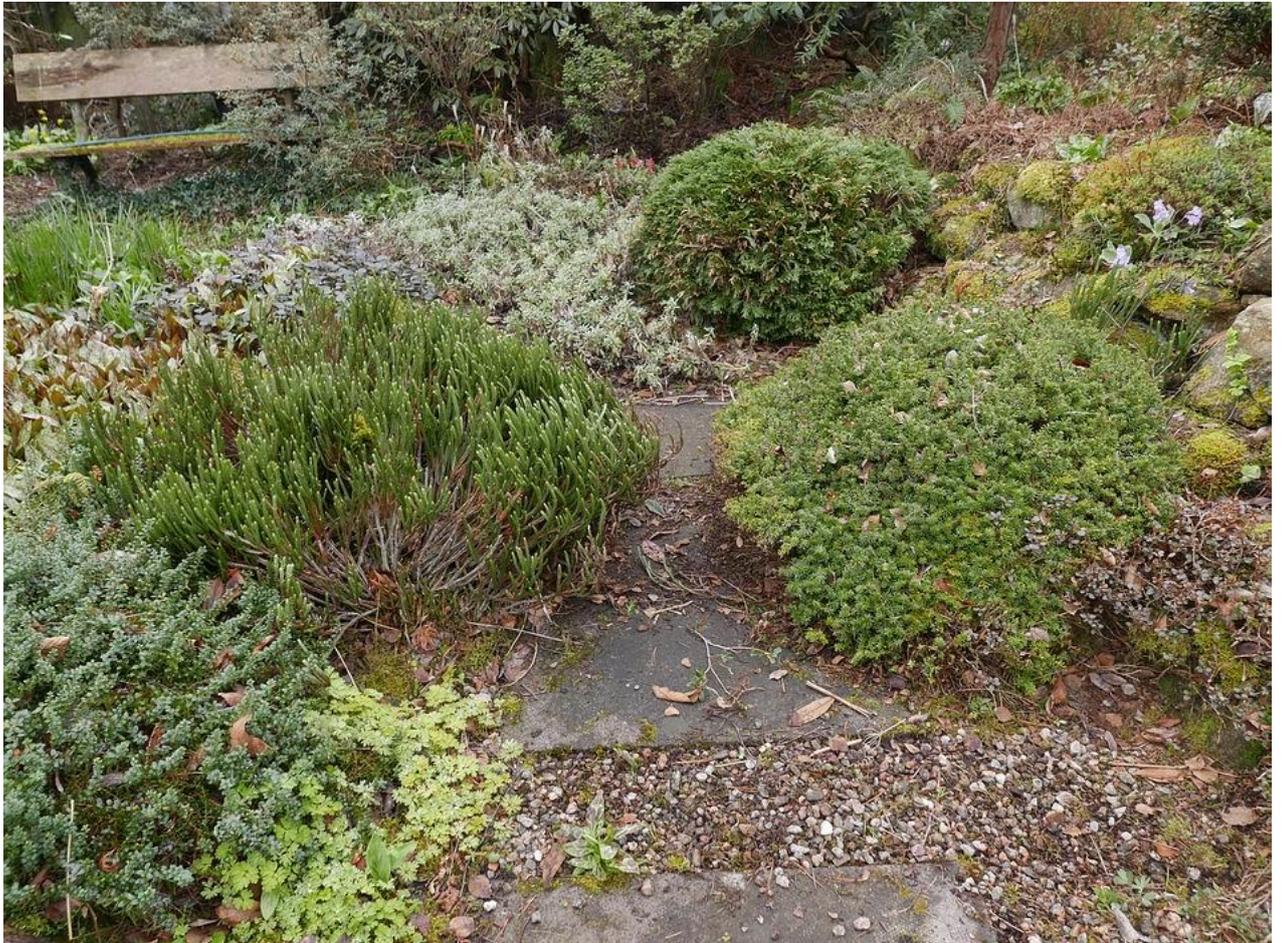


Corydalis paczoskii grows through the old brown foliage of *Hypericum reptans*.



View across the garden towards the Erythronium plunge frames which will soon be full of flowers.

I continue to work my way through the jobs I want to do and this week I cut back the large sprawling growth of this *Cassiope fastigata* x *wardi* that is overflowing the path.





While this may look a bit extreme, some of you will remember this is not the first time that I have done this with success!



Rhododendron uvarifolium and Rhododendron elegantulum.





Inverewe Garden sits in magnificent scenery on the edge of Loch Ewe with views south to the mountains of Torridon .



Looking across the loch towards Poolewe.



I do not usually like seeing Cordylines and Phormiums planted in Scottish gardens, the large strappy leaves just seem so out of place to me, however when combined like here in this large garden they sit perfectly with other New Zealand and southern hemisphere plants.



The view from the house across the lawn to the distant mountains is beautifully framed by trees.

I mostly have my camera set to manual exposure especially when the very thing I am trying to capture is the play of the light and shade - automatic exposure averages these contrasts out.

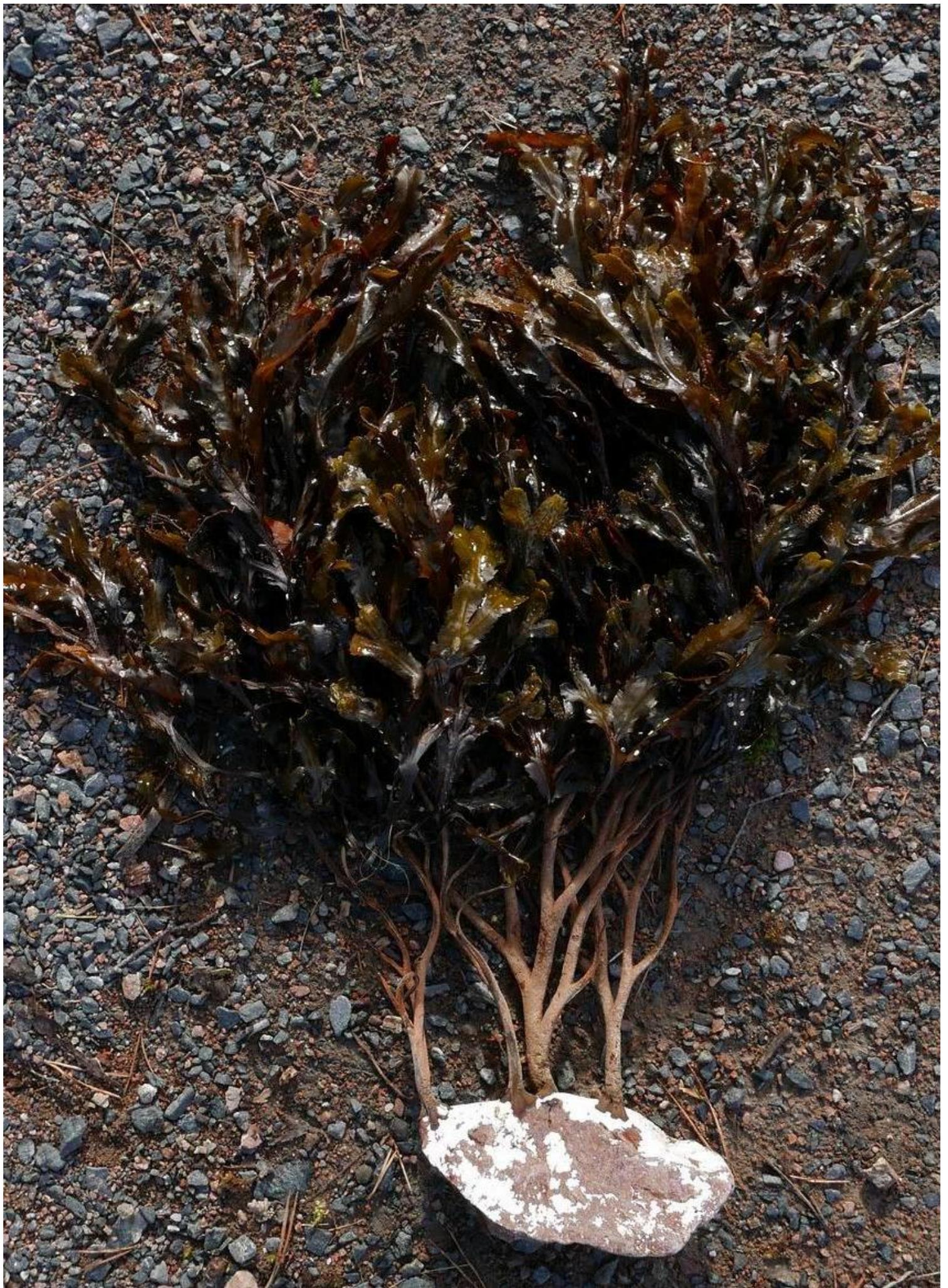


The garden sits on a peninsula so as you walk around more of these wonderful views across the loch appear between the majestic trees.

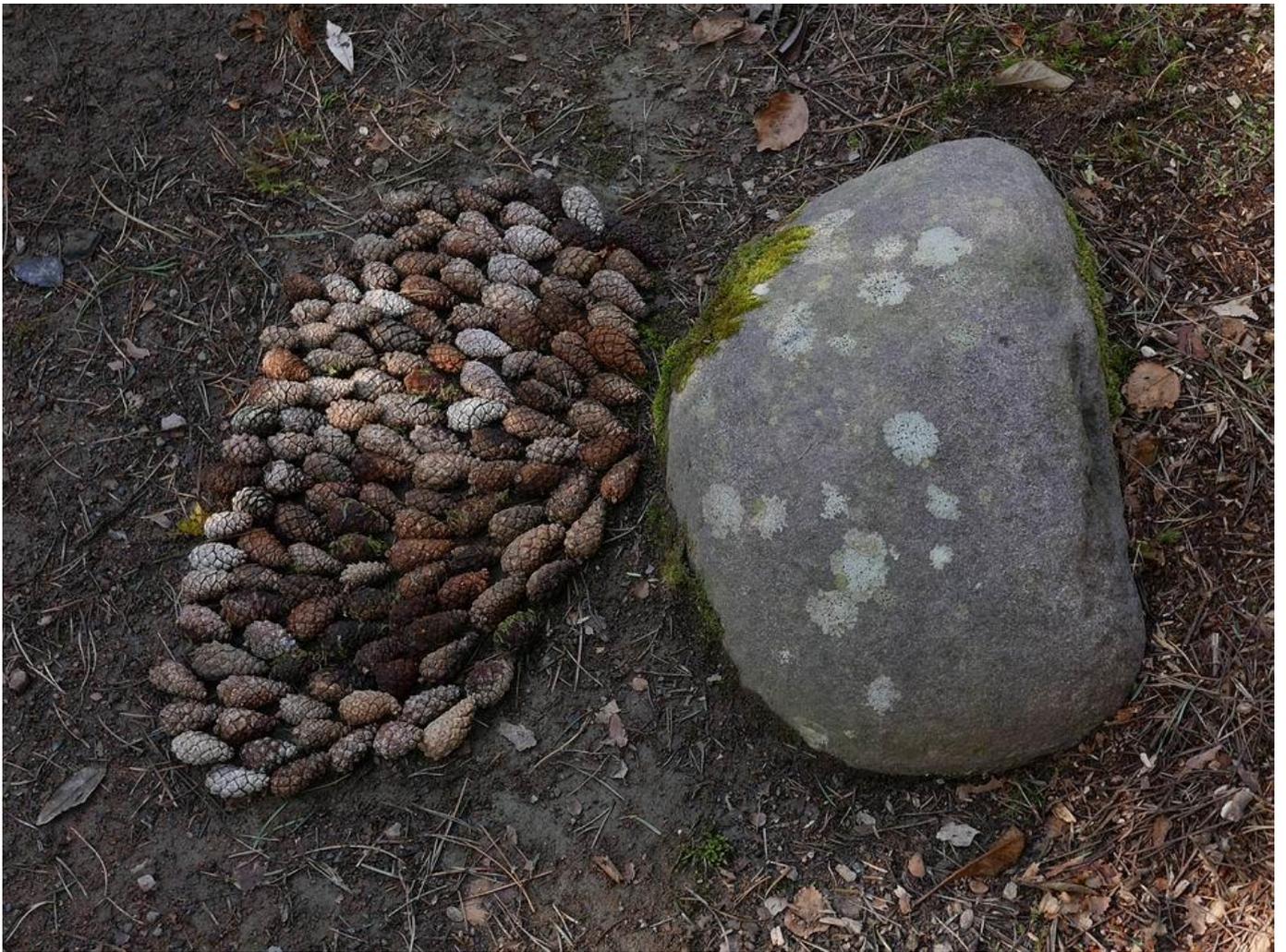




I sat a while to admire this stand of pines perched on a the rocky shore at the edge of Camas Glas.



While taking the previous picture I found this cluster of Toothed Wrack clinging to a stone which perfectly mimicked the scene I was viewing.



I found time and could not resist creating some ephemeral art works from the many natural materials covering the ground.







Erythronium revolutum

Nature is always in charge and that is never more evident than in the time when plants come into flower. This was the Erythronium Festival and most years the tens of thousands of *Erythronium revolutum* around Inverewe would



be in full flower but the plants respond to conditions not the calendar and I had to hunt the garden to find even a few flowers open. The lack of flowers did not spoil the Festival; it gave me the opportunity to concentrate more on their structure and cultivation on the walks I lead.

One plant that was in flower was **Petasites japonicus** which is perfectly suited to a large scale woodland garden.



A large part of my attraction to Inverewe is the size of the towering trees and rhododendrons which cast wonderful shadows in the bright sunshine





The group of pictures below also concentrate on shadows and trunks.





It was both the trunk and the image of the canopy projected as a shadow on to the ground that I wanted to record.







Click the link to view the latest [Bulb Log Video Dairy Supplement](#) and get a preview of what will feature in next week's Bulb Log.