



SRGC ---- Bulb Log Diary ----

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BULB LOG 42

.....14th October 2020

Painting with light



If you look up the definition of painting with light it is described as recording the movement of light whilst the camera's shutter is open but I believe the term can be applied to all photographs. In this digital age it is so easy to adjust and manipulate the images we take but I am old school, preferring to make the necessary adjustments in the camera. In the days of film if I wanted to change the film speed or colour balance I had to change to a differently rated film now with digital cameras I can simply switch the settings on the camera. Pre-digital I mostly used slide

film where I had to wait until I had exposed all 36 frames before I could rewind the film, post it in an envelope to the processors then wait for ten days or two weeks before I could review the results.

Now with digital I can get an instant preview of the image with the option to make the necessary adjustments to best represent the scene in front of me.

Note the subtle difference in the light temperature of these two views, the one on the left was taken with the white balance (WB) set on auto and the camera decided to make it a cool image but I was seeing a warm autumnal colour much closer to the image above

taken with the WB set on the cloudy setting. Using the live preview it is easy to flip through the camera's different WB settings until you find the one that best represents your vision.



Another useful feature of many digital cameras is the small on-board flash units which can be used to add light to bring out the detail of a subject in the foreground a technique I used on the cover image to light the tree trunk and here to highlight the clump of **Crocus pulchellus**.



Natural light is best especially when it picks out details such as this leaf. A leaf that would go unnoticed but for a brief moment when it is illuminated by a low ray of sunshine, making it glow like a stained glass window.



Camera metering systems are programmed to average light levels within a scene and that may not capture the vision you are seeing. One of the things that fascinates me as an artist is how we see – a camera captures a moment but our eyes dart around a scene focusing briefly on near and far objects, adjusting the levels between light and shade as well as compensating for the temperature of the light: all this information is processed by our brain to deliver the image we perceive. The vision I was seeing was much more dramatic than the image above captured by the camera on auto settings so I used the exposure compensation setting to reduce the exposure in the picture below.





Once more when I reviewed this image The warm autumn colours had been wiped out by the camera's auto settings so I switched the WB to the value that best captured the colours as I was seeing them - in this case that was the cloudy setting which I used for the image below.



It was the warm yellow/green colour as well as the shapes of the sprawling Allium wallichii leaves I was trying to capture in this image.



Potentilla pulvinaris, Geranium robertianum, Cyananthus microphyllus and Geum reptans.

I nearly always have a camera with me when I walk round the garden: it is an essential tool for this gardener allowing me not only to capture the beauty of flowers but to record the changing seasons as well as acting as an aide memoire of what grows where in each bed.



Cyclamen hederifolium

At a time when the leaves of many plants are dying back for the year the new leaves of *Cyclamen hederifolium* are just growing.





The red stems and yellowing leaves of this self-sown **Paeonia lutea ssp ludlowii** are a delight to the eye but it cannot stay here, growing on the path. The peony flowers only last a short time unlike the leaves which are present for many months before they put on one final colourful display as they prepare to drop for the winter.





Having enjoyed the flowers in the spring now the yellowing foliage of **Cardamine pentaphylla** brings more colour into the shadier parts of the garden before it disappears underground for the winter.



Cardamine pentaphylla



Leaves that for much of the season blend in with the background can jump out as they take on their autumn colours.



Autumn chaos comes to the garden.



While the majority of bulbs wrap around and protect their flower buds through the winter some such as the fall flowering Crocus are impatient and send up their flowers to take advantage of the autumn sunshine and pollinators.



More **Crocus banaticus** flowers continue emerging in this bed and across the garden.



Sternbergia sicula



As winter approaches the flowering interest shifts from the garden to the bulb houses where the bulbs are just waking up and will provide us with flowering interest through most of the winter months and into spring.



At the moment it is mostly Crocus flowers that are blooming in the sand beds but they will soon be overtaken by the Narcissus.



Crocus kotschyanus and ligusticus



Crocus wattiorum



Crocus ligusticus



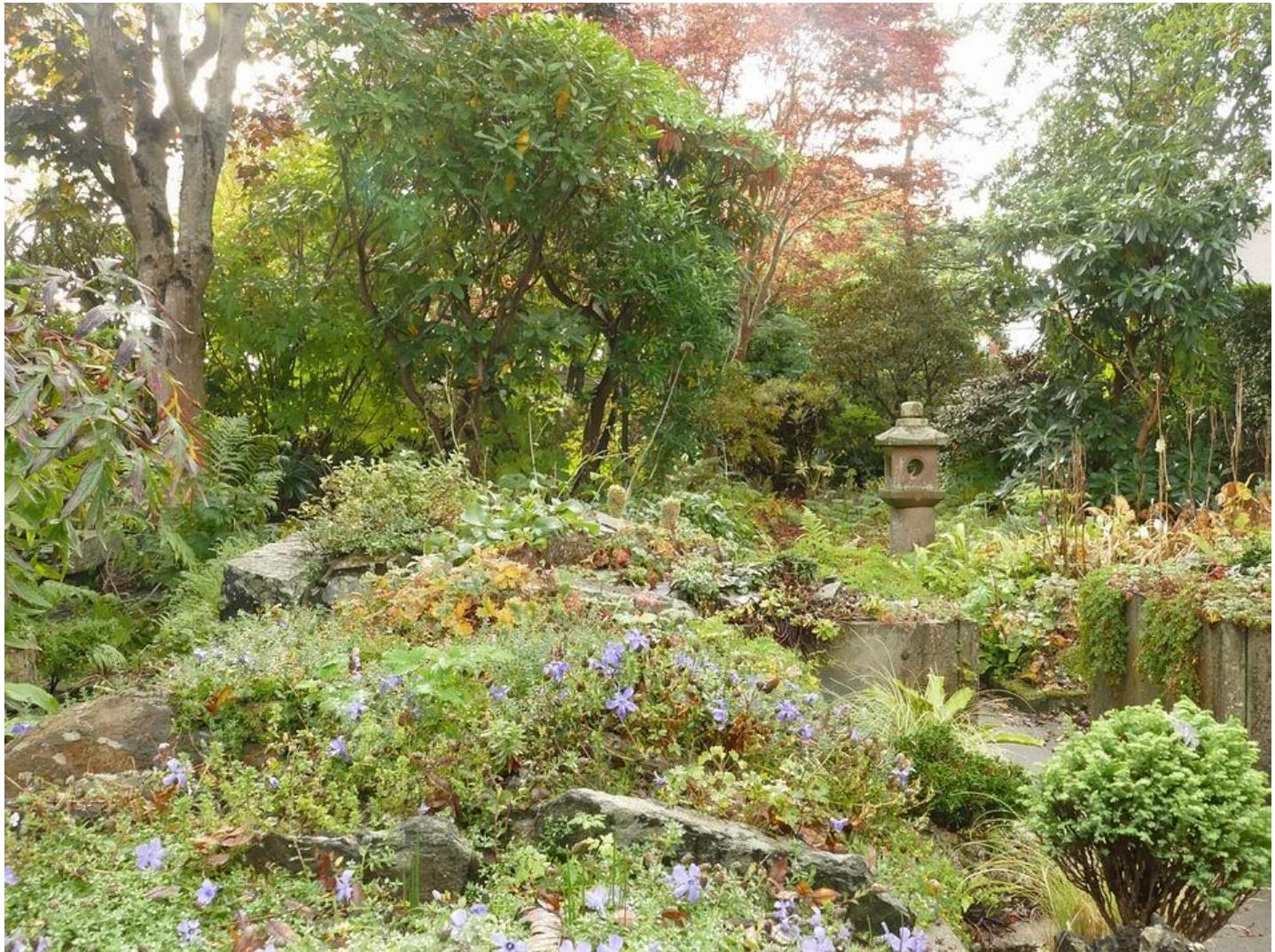
Crocus pulchellus

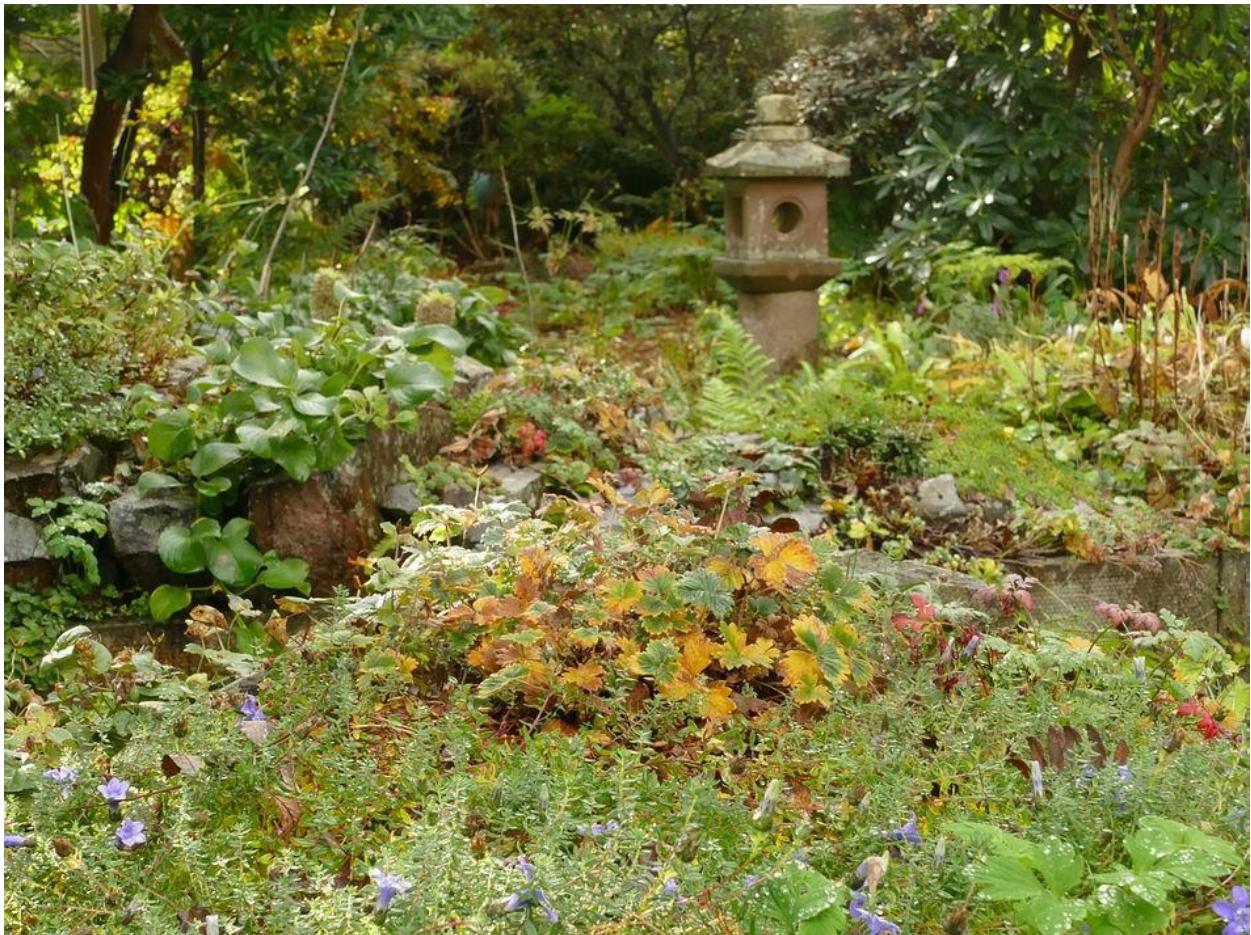


Back outside the **Crocus banaticus** shoots I showed just breaking the surface last week are now starting to flower.

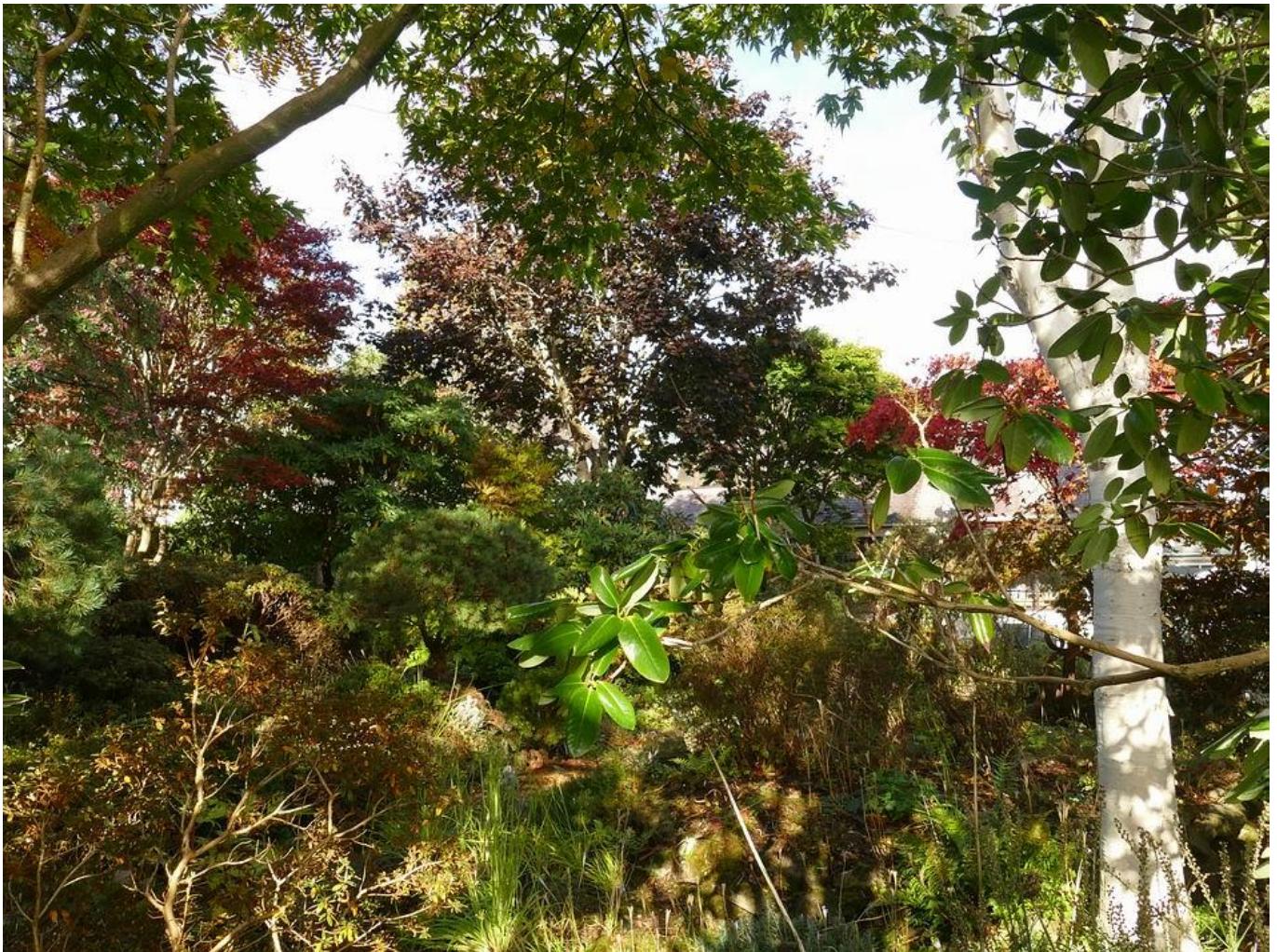


A few final pictures of the garden as the autumn colours develop and the leaves start to fall.





Trees of all sizes from the low growing Salix in the foreground , past a bonsai Yew to the full size trees beyond create a wonderful habitat for the plants, the gardeners and the wild life.



Our bit of woodland.



With all the trees and the wide range of plants we grow there is much to attract the wild life into the garden which is full of birds of all shapes and sizes including this wood pigeon feeding on the seeds dropped by the tits.....