



SRGC

Bulb Log Diary

ISSN 2514-6114

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BULB LOG 24.....16th June 2021



Meconopsis baileyi



It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words and that is the theme I am adopting this week. Summer has arrived in North East Scotland, or at least our version of it - how long it will last is not clear but for now at least we have been enjoying some very warm, up to 23C, temperatures and bright sunshine. The warm dry days have pushed many of the early plants underground to

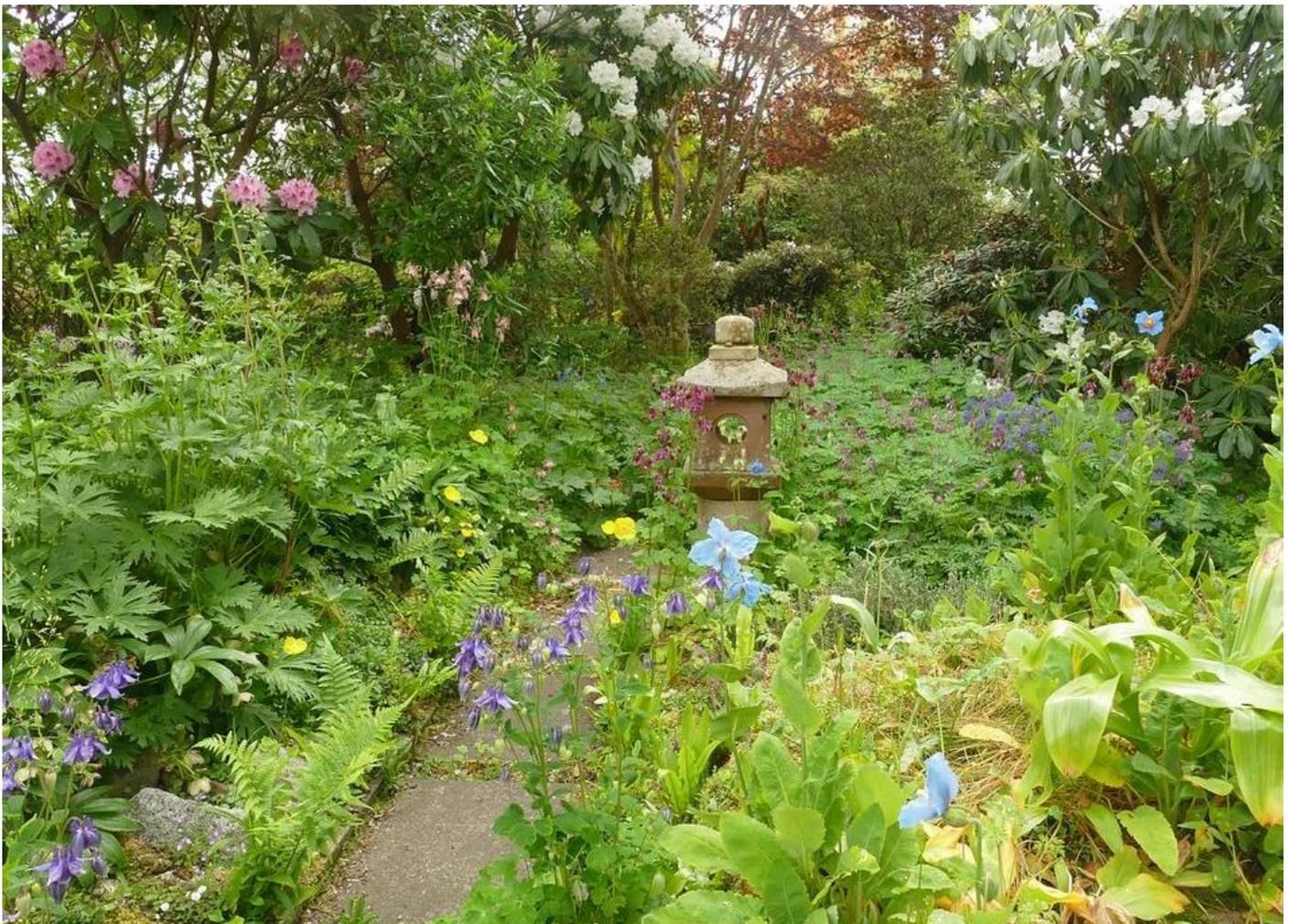
their summer retreat leaving just the yellow remains of their leaves lying on the surface as a reminder of their presence. Now the space they occupied is taken over by the lush grow of herbaceous plants, most of which we allow to choose their own place by self-seeding. To prevent being completely over-run we do exercise some control by removing the flower heads of the more prolific ones before they get the chance to shed all their seed but other than that we leave much of the planting to nature who I constantly find is a more innovative gardener than I am: as evidenced by this colony of *Meconopsis baileyi* growing in the very gritty free draining soils of the rock garden bed rather than in the cooler moister humus rich soils we have in most other beds.

This is repeated across the garden where almost without fail the *Meconopsis baileyi* seedlings appear in the rocky well drained cracks and crevices in troughs, at the edges of paths, in the sand beds.

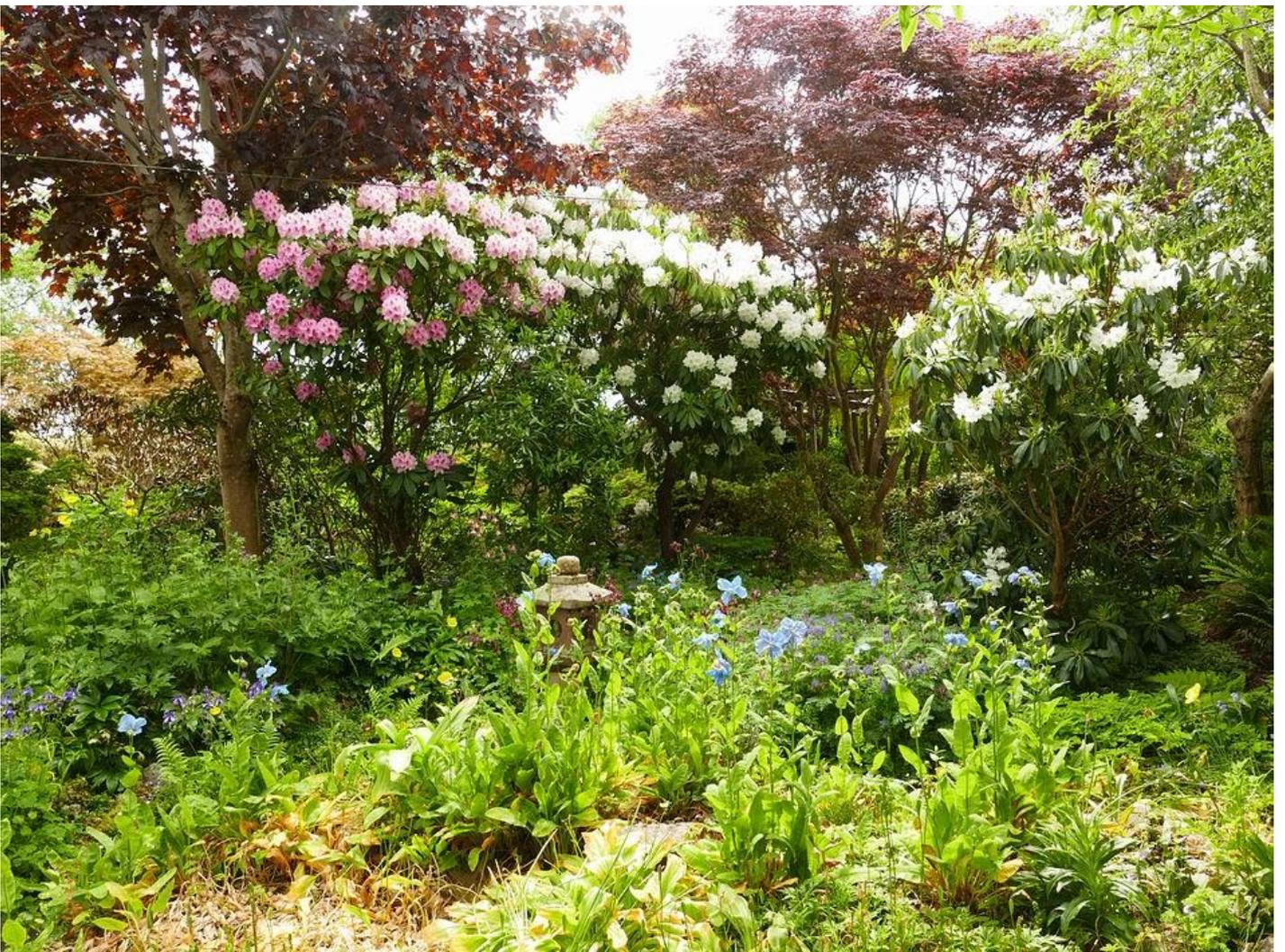




Meconopsis baileyi



View up the garden with the rock garden bed on the right and the bulb bed on the left.



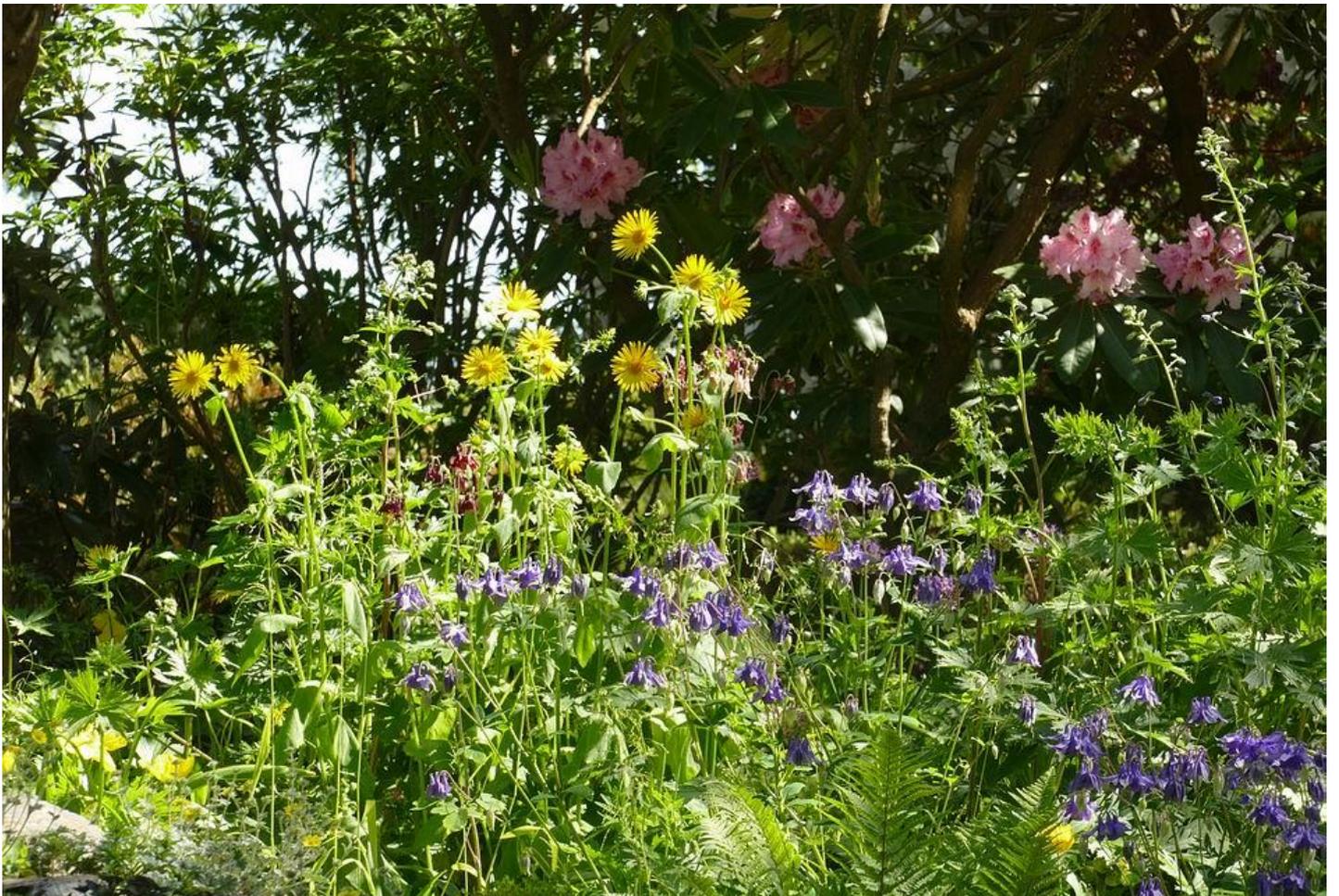
Looking across the rock garden bed to the mini-woodland beyond.



Rhododendron 'Albert Schweitzer'



The rock garden bed backs on to one of the Erythronium frames where, because very few have set seed this year, most have already gone underground again, the plunge has many meconopsis seedlings not growing in the humus rich soils in the baskets but directly in the narrow strips of sand between them.



With our sequential plantings the bulb bed looks very different now than it did earlier in the year when the first bulbs started to flower in February.



Just compare the bulb bed in early March to the same view below taken this week to see how the growth has changed and it has been through several transitions in between these two extremes.



Larger bulbs such as Alliums poke up through a mass of herbaceous growth.



Alliums in the bulb bed.

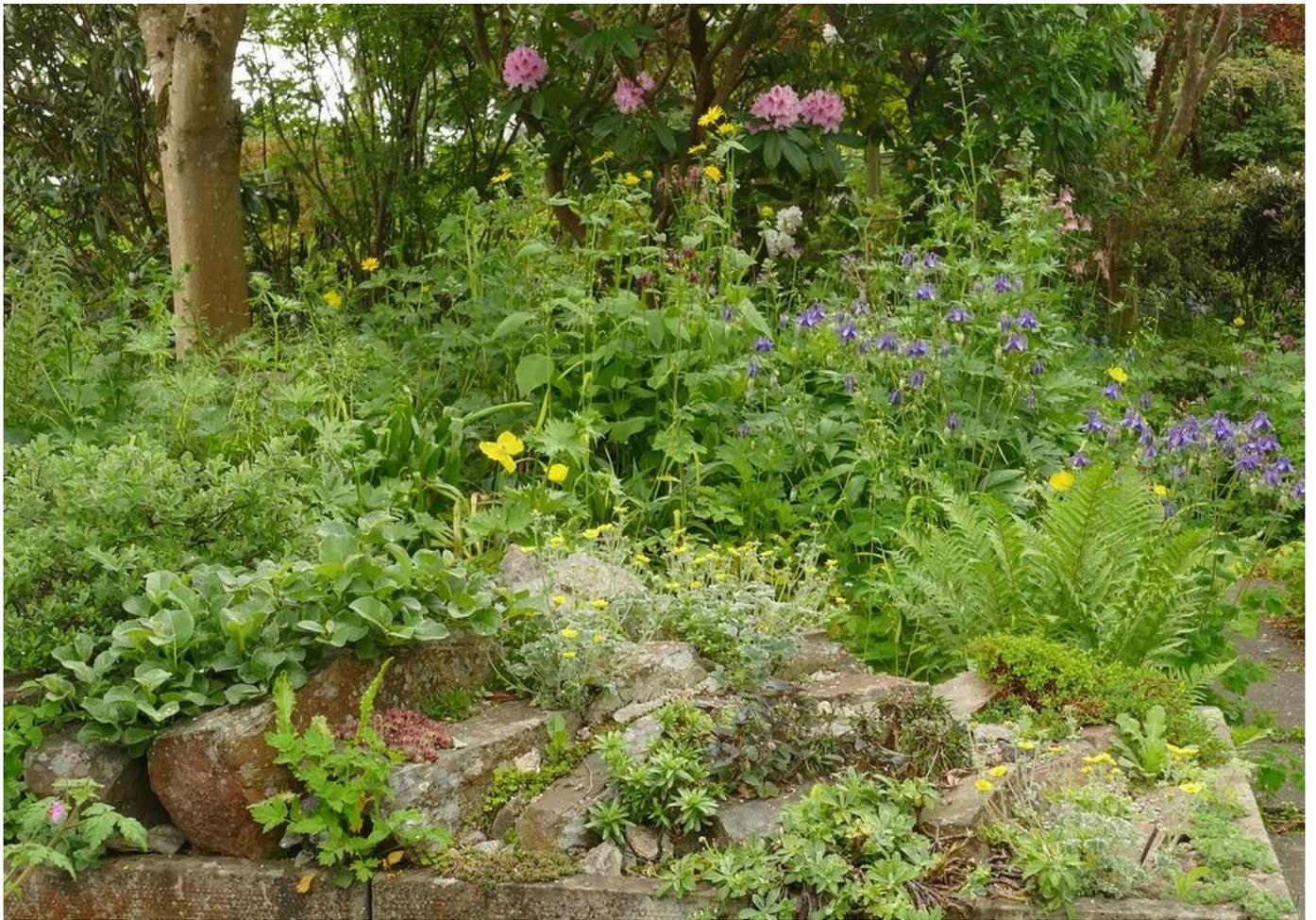




Allium Aconitum, Delphinium, Aquilegia and some of the larger Corydalis all add to the wild effect.

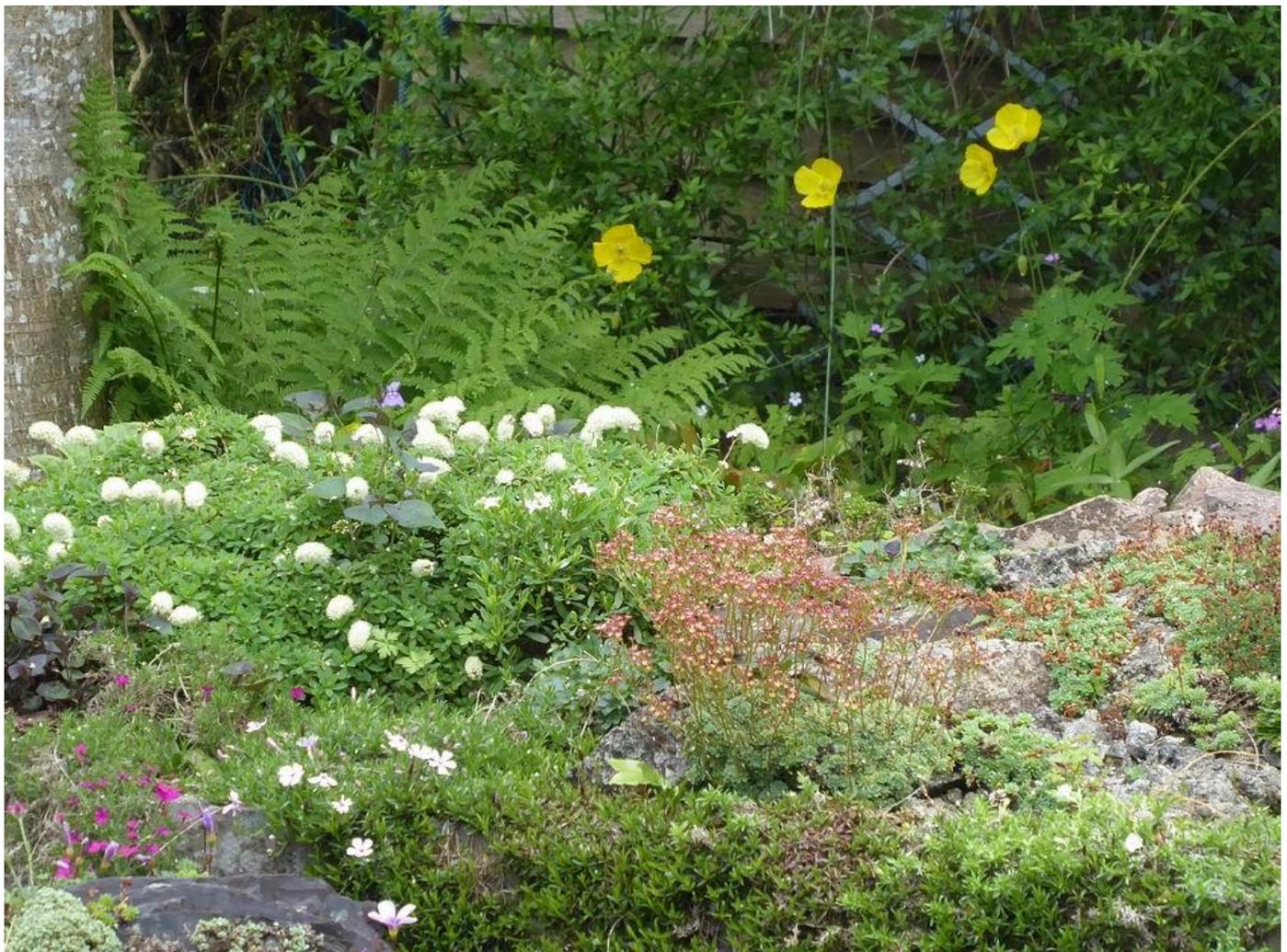


The yellow flowers of **Doronicum orientale** rise up above all the other foliage to face the sky.



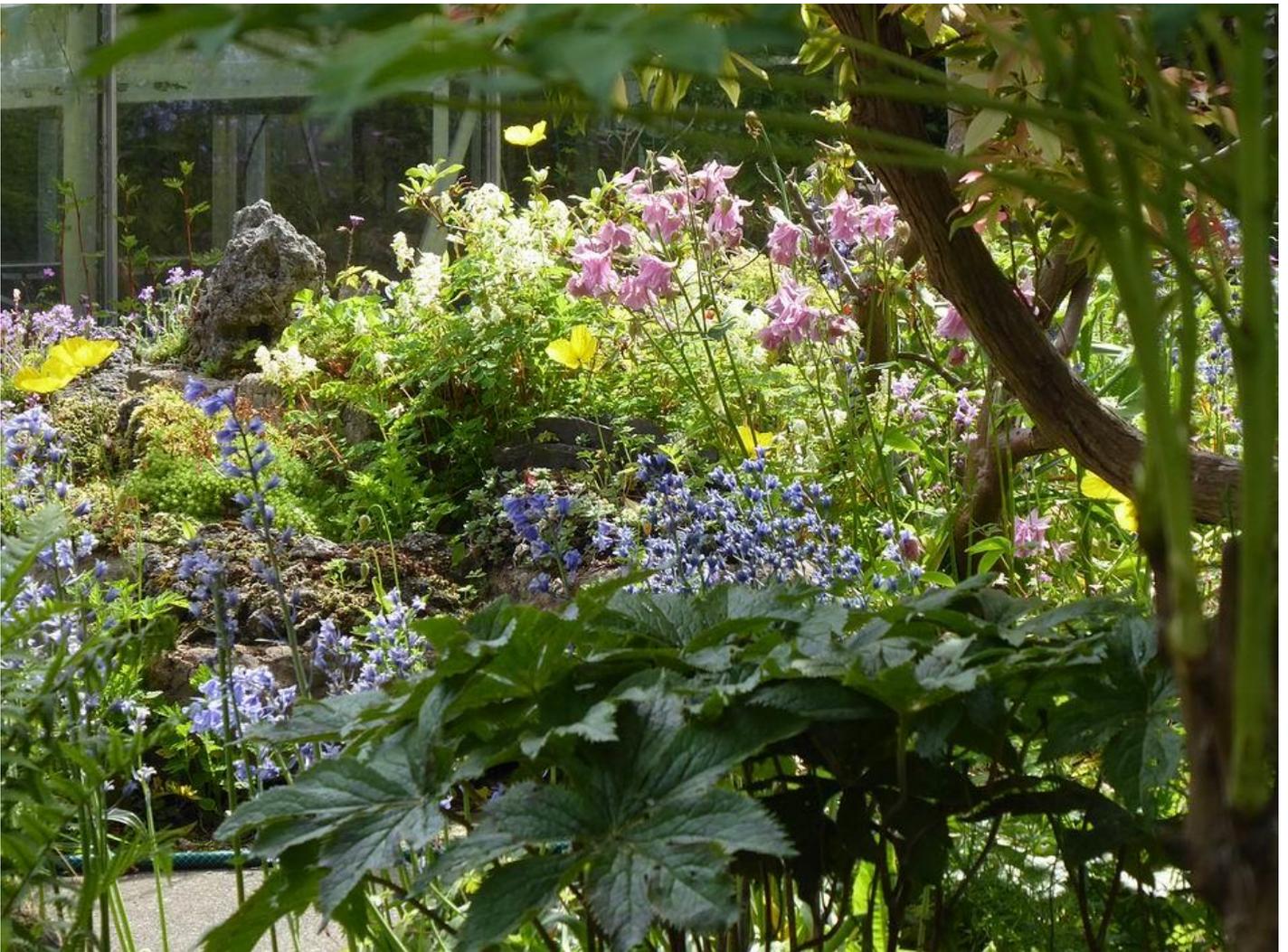
The plantings in some of the troughs and raised beds provide a similar effect, only on a smaller scale, and from some vantage points they can be viewed together with areas beyond creating the illusion of a continuous landscape.





Troughs and raised beds combine with plantings beyond.





We allowed this happy mixture of self-seeded *Aquilegia* and *Meconopsis cambrica* to stay in this corner where they soften and bring colour to an otherwise not very interesting spot.



Corydalis 'Craigton Blue' is all around the garden where it mingles very happily with the other dense plantings as does *Meconopsis cambrica*.



Dicentra hybrids and Corydalis 'Craigton Blue'



There are a few plants still in flower in the new bed beside the pond but it is in an in-between stage as we await the opening of the summer flowering blue *Corydalis*, *Dactylorhiza* and *Meconopsis*.



A single white form of *Meconopsis baileyi* has appeared from the seed of the more typical blue forms.



Like with so many of our plants this is not a single plant of **Paeonia veitchii var. woodwardii** but a group of seedlings that I planted out that are now perpetuating naturally through self-seeding.



On the other hand we never find seedlings from the **Celmisia walkerii** that spreads out in great mats.



We have plants that visually link different parts of the garden such as *Corydalis* 'Craigton Blue'.



After the season of the early bulbs it is the turn of the herbaceous plants and grasses to occupy the same spaces.



Virtually all these plants are the result of self-seeding, the *Aquilegia*, *Camassia*, *Digitalis*, even the *Paeonia lutea* have seeded from the original plant.



Aquilegia bring a range of colours from creamy white to the darkest of purple.



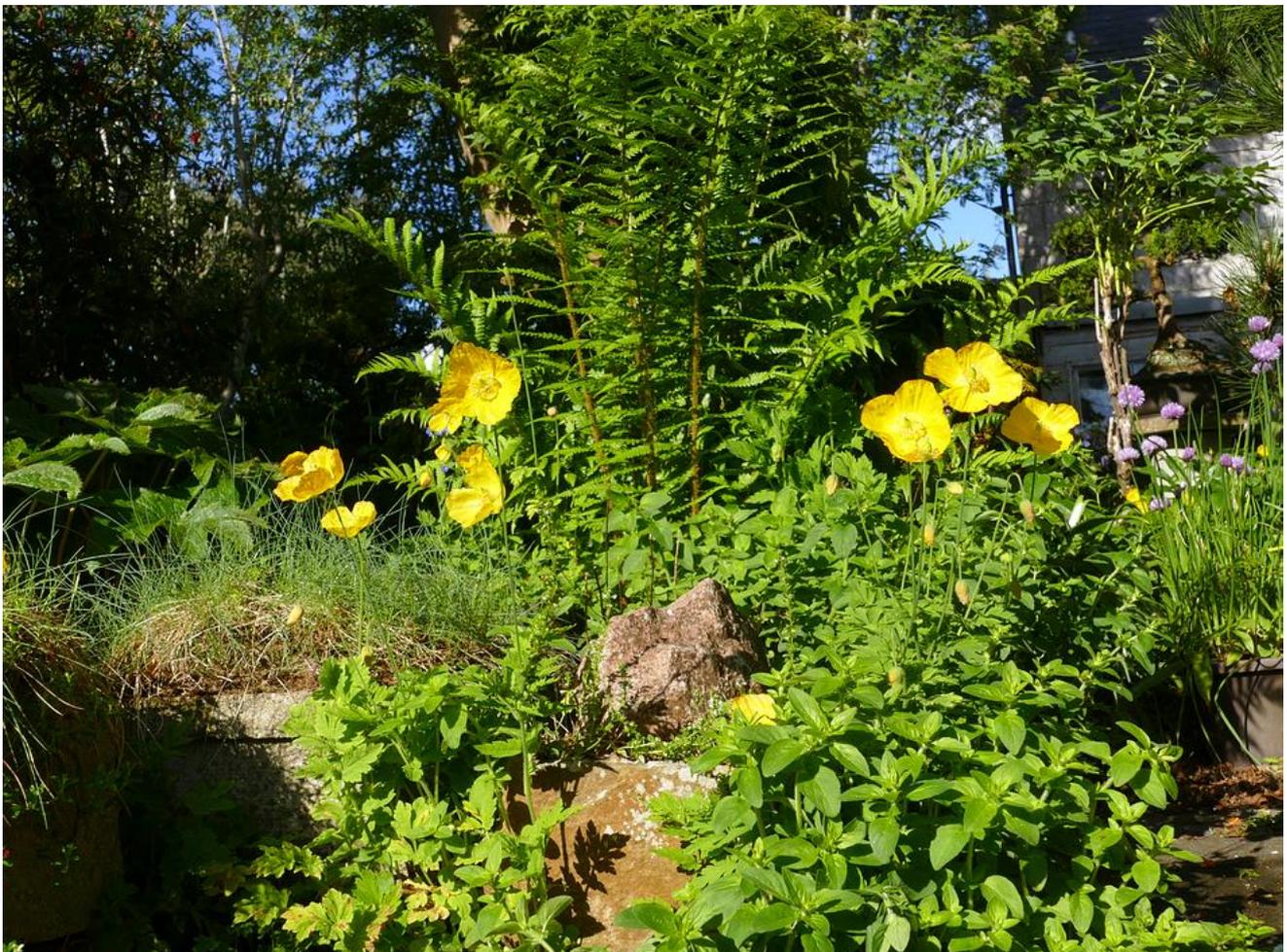
Aquliegia seedlings.



This week we experienced a partial eclipse as the moon moved across the top of the sun and a light cloud moved across just at the right time to allow me to grab an image.



My pictures may give the impression that we never get sunshine when in actual fact we get quite a lot of clear skies such as in the pictures on this page. I prefer photographing when we have high white cloud which provides flat light with low contrast which cameras can cope with much better than these high contrast images where the difference between the dark and light values is extreme.



Papaver cambricum as it is now known, although I prefer to stick with the old name that Linneus gave it **Meconopsis cambrica** is also dotted around the garden where the mainly yellow flowers provide another visual link.



Another jump back to one of the beds in early March to compare it with the same area this week shown below.



The bluebells were part of the most recent sequence of flowers but they are now passing over and are being replaced by a forest of *Arisaema*, the spikes of which can be seen rising up, and a scattering of *Meconopsis*.



Perhaps you can help us put a name to the plant shown in the final two images – I raised it from seed ex Gothenburg Botanic Garden but the label got lost along the way and the plant lay neglected in the seed frames in the original small pot until a few years ago I felt sorry for it and planted it out into the area we had opened up at the south end of the garden where it has settled in well and has been flowering for the last few years. From our researches we think it may be a *Trachelium* the full plant and leaves are shown below.



Is it a **Trachelium**? Please let us know if you now the correct name.

Here is the link to my latest [Bulb Log Garden Diary walk](#) in the garden as summer breaks out.....