



Oxenhope

Gardening Club News

November 2022

Welcome to November's newsletter.



At the beginning of October, I went to the USA to visit New Mexico, and while I was there I visited the Sante Fe Botanical Gardens. Sante Fe is the oldest capital city in the US (1610) at an altitude of 7,000 ft and surrounded by the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The botanical gardens are situated in the foothills of these mountains and are a master class in planting in an area which has low rainfall and an arid/semi-arid climate. The gardens were begun in 1987 and were established as a garden that integrated the site's natural beauty alongside environmentally- focused garden design. The plants were chosen to ensure success in a challenging climate and native plants were mixed with appropriate non-natives. The selection demonstrates the variety and richness that can be achieved even in this region of scarce water.

Among the plants I saw were many varieties associated with a desert

landscape, such as agaves, yuccas, and the Arizona cypress but there were also familiar plants like lavenders, thymes, salvias and surprisingly, roses. Unsurprisingly, grasses feature throughout the garden including festucas and the spectacular Muhly grass



Muhlenbergi montana, which was just starting to produce its spectacular pink plumes when I visited. Another species featured which is tolerant of arid environments is the Purple Threeawn *Aristida purpurea*, a low-growing prairie grass, good for erosion control on banks which also provides a root- matrix for many wildflower species.

A truly inspiring garden in a spectacular setting.

Sandra.

Making a Christmas Wreath: November



Meeting

Ruth Levery will be demonstrating how to make a Christmas wreath. Members who wish, can take part in making their own wreaths. Because of space restrictions, numbers of members able to take part are limited to 27, so it's first come, first served! Included in the £10 charge are the basic materials required to make a wreath and festive refreshments. Members wishing to take part need to bring appropriate greenery and a pair of secateurs. Members who don't want to

take part in making a wreath can enjoy the demonstration and of course, ask any questions.

Hesperantha coccinea: Plant of the month



Flowering now at Harlow Carr is *Hesperantha coccinea*, formerly known as *Schizostylis*. It is a clump forming rhizomatous perennial native to South Africa and Zimbabwe in the Iridaceae (iris family). The genus name is derived from the Greek word hesperos meaning evening and anthos meaning flower. The flowers are red, pink or white. It is also known as the 'Flag Lily' or River Lily as its natural habitat is in wet areas and beside streams. It will tolerate poorly drained soils, growing in full sun and semi shade. *Hesperantha* is

a fantastic late summer/autumn-flowering plant, its delicate flowers resembling fragile gladioli. They make an excellent, long-lasting cut flower and the plant is frost-hardy, low-maintenance and will seed itself around the wetter areas of your garden.

Stockists: Holden Clough Nursery, Clitheroe. Larch Cottage Nursery, Penrith.

Gardening news and events.

Scampston Hall. Charity Christmas Fair Sat Nov 26 – 27th

Harlow Carr. Bath House Gallery: Christmas Crafts until December 23rd

2023 Membership. If you wish you can pay for next year either in November or January.

Tea and coffee rota

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered in the past to help with the rota.



If you can help please sign the rota sheet on the refreshment counter.

Or ring Ruth if you would like to help:

- Ruth Shepley **01535.643437**

www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk