



Oxenhope

Gardening Club News

March 2023

Welcome to the March newsletter



In early 2020, I was queuing outside M & S as one did then in those Covid dominated days, and noticed they had small mimosa plants for sale.

They were such a welcome sight on a dreary day that I bought one, although without much hope of it surviving. It was planted in a pot in my back yard in Saltaire and it thrived, reaching the height last autumn of 2 metres. Somehow, the buds that appeared survived the icy blasts we had earlier this year and, this month, for the first time, it is in flower, something I never expected to see in Yorkshire.

Surely a sign of climate warming!

Sandra

A Year of Growing Dahlias:



Our speaker this month will be Andrew Cunningham. He will be taking you through a year of growing dahlias from storing tubers, making cuttings, stopping, feeding and getting ready for a dahlia show

Andrew has a passion for dahlias and has been growing them for about 10 years. He is on the National Dahlia Society Northern Committee and is a judge at the National Dahlia Society Trials held at Golden Acre Park in Leeds. Andrew is also the Chairman of the National Vegetable Society, West Yorkshire. In 2020, he sold dahlia

flowers to the public and raised £1250 for Ward 31 at the Bradford Royal Infirmary Covid ward in memory of a friend lost to Covid. He is hoping to bring some plants for sale..

Plant of the month: Crocus 'Carpathian Wonder'



The crocus featured as plant of the month is crocus heuffelianus. It is very similar to Crocus Vernus but is easily identified by the v-shaped chevron at the tip of the petal. It is found mainly in Transylvania in the eastern Carpathian Mountains where it flowers in spring in wet areas, usually resulting from snow-melt. Its colours can range from purest white through to darkest violet-purple. In cultivation it does well in any soil that does not dry out during the summer months, either in the shade of deciduous trees or in full sun. When happy it can be expected to seed itself around and, having no morals and in the company of Crocus x Cultorum

(Dutch Crocus), may well produce some interesting hybrids.

The history of the crocus dates back thousands of years. Some of the earliest references to the crocus come from Bronze Age Greece, about 3,500 years ago, as well as in ancient Egypt. The crocus is also mentioned in the Old Testament, in the Song of Solomon and in medieval Europe, monks used the saffron from the stamens of the autumn blooming crocus Crocus sativus in place of gold when illuminating texts.

Future speakers: April: Razvan Chisu will share his 'Confessions of a Plantaholic'

Gardening news and events:

With Gardening Club Members donations, an Amelanchier tree has been bought to mark the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It will be planted on the Millennium Green in Oxenhope.

Oxenhope Climate Change.

The Oxenhope Climate Change group are planning to grow Incredible Edibles in the Community Garden (formerly the Rose Garden) at West Drive, Oxenhope.

You can find out more by contacting Nick Ackroyd Tel. 07758355941.

Email. nickackroyd01@gmail.com

Events

Harlow Carr: Cyclamen Society Spring Show: March 25

NGS Open gardens:

NGS: Holmfield Fridaythorpe YO25 9RZ March 26 & April 10

NGS: Goldsborough Hall HG5 8NR April 2

NGS: Clifton Castle Ripon HG4 4AB April 2

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