

# Oxenhope

## Gardening club news



September 2018

Welcome back after the summer. September's meeting is Bring a Friend for Free. The speaker is Samantha Hopes talking about her journey as a plantswoman and she will have plants and greeting cards for sale.

Samantha initially trained and worked as a Geologist working on research projects at The University of Birmingham. Her passion was Geological mapping, which soon found her distracted by the plants growing on and around the rocks, more than the rocks themselves!

Following this growing interest, she became a student at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, studying at Pershore College in the evenings.

The following year her training moved on to the RHS Garden Wisley, where she specialised in Rock and Alpine plants. While there she also worked for short stints at Kew and Great Dixter.

After graduating she went to work alongside John Massey, looking after his Hepatica collection at Ashwood Nurseries. This became one of her passions, alongside specialist alpines and a new breeding program with Roscoeas. She left Ashwoods in 2016 to look after their baby boy.

Alongside Nigel, she has thrown herself into creating and building their own garden, propagating and growing a range of unusual plants at home to sell at their talks. The pair created their own nursery, Hopes Garden Plants, at Halesowen in the West Midlands.

In October our keynote speaker for 2018 will be Fergus Garrett from Great Dixter. Admission for members is free but £12.50 for guests. Again, plants will be available for sale.

[www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk)

## **What's on for the rest of 2018?**

**September 20<sup>th</sup>. Samantha Hopes “Her journey as a plantswoman”**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>. Fergus Garrett “An evening with”**

**November 15<sup>th</sup>. Mark Jackson, Newby Hall Head Gardener**

## **Tea and coffee rota**

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

This gives our usual stalwarts a chance to chat to friends or browse the plants.

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

Or ring Ruth or Sue if you can help:

- **Ruth Shepley 643437**
- **Sue Gibson 642684.**

## **Keep our printing costs down**

If you could read this newsletter online, please email [richard.gibson@oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:richard.gibson@oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk) and he will add you to the mailing list.



All phone numbers are 01535 unless stated otherwise.