



Oxenhope

Gardening Club News

December- January 2022

A very Happy Xmas & New Year.

Welcome to this combined December and January newsletter. The committee and I wish you all a very happy and healthy Xmas and New Year.

We are so sorry that we had to cancel November's meeting at such short notice. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, the speaker Annie from Rosa Rugosa was no longer able to attend. However, we are hoping Annie will be able to give a talk later in the year.

We will be starting our meeting on January 19 with our Annual General meeting. This is the time we ask any members wishing to join the committee to put their hands up! We are always delighted to welcome new members to the committee! Following the AGM, our speaker for the evening, John Grimshaw, will be talking about "A Plantsman's Garden in North Yorkshire".....

Sandra

John Grimshaw.



John is the Director of the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust.

The Trust is an independent charitable trust that administers the Yorkshire Arboretum. John is a

respected gardener, botanist and author

who has written several books including New Trees. His gardening interests are very broad but specialities include bulbs, ferns and African plants and John has travelled widely to see plants in their natural habitat. The subject of Johns talk will be "A Plantsman's Garden in North Yorkshire"

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Heavenly Hellebores. Plant of the month



Hellebores do best in conditions near as possible to their native habitat which is at the lower height in mountains where

the snow melts and easily drains away. They are therefore best grown in semi

shade on any soil that is not waterlogged or very dry. They are low maintenance plants, flowering from early January to middle of March, the single flowered varieties attracting bees when little else is in flower. They can be grown in pots but they need deep pots as their roots need the depth. Starting at 40cm deep for small plants eventually

needing 60cm deep pots when fully grown.

There are four main types. **Helleborus Orientalis** which originated in Greece, Northern Turkey, Georgia and Southern Russia, the original Lenten Rose. They are perennial, evergreen and can live up to 20 years.

Helleborus Niger. This is the original Christmas rose, but it actually flowers in late January and is really too fragile for the average garden.

Corsican Hellebores. They are native to Corsica and Sardinia. They can grow to 1 metre in height having pale green flowers flowering from January until April

Helleborus Hybridus

These are the most popular and covers a wide range of cultivars of Helleborus

Orientalis. There are many varieties and come in a range of colours and sizes but the Harvington series are the best being true to type. They have taken years to produce, needing significant skill which is why they are the most expensive.

It is advisable to buy from a well-respected source to avoid being disappointed. I have always been impressed with plants bought from Twelve Nuns Nursery based in South Lincolnshire. They have been propagating and growing Harvington hellebores for more than 30 years. Other firm include Ashwood Nurseries and Crocus.

Gardening news and events

Scampston Hall. Drive-in Festive Firework Spectacular. Saturday December 18

Harlow Carr. Glow. Magical lighting effects continues at Harlow Carr: Saturdays to December 18, Monday -Wednesday, 20 -29 December 4.30pm-8 pm

Harlow Carr Library. Embroidery depicting garden scenes in winter. January 4 to 31

2022 Membership. Please remember to bring your cheque books to the January meeting!

Tea and coffee rota

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



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

Or ring Ruth or Kath if you can help:

- Ruth Shepley **643437**
- Kath Batty **643592**

Keep our printing costs down

If you could read this newsletter online please email richard.gibson@oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk and he will add you to the mailing list.



All phone numbers are 01535 unless stated otherwise.

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