

Garden



Gardener's Cuttings

Sean Harkin, Head Gardener

Happy New Gardening Year

One of the special elements of the Garden is our ethos of experimentation and the desire to try new things. This is a sensitive process with the aim to build on previous successes and ensure any new experiments fit with the Garden's sense of place. For the gardeners, the new year really begins back in the autumn when we start planting what we have designed for the following year. To inform our design, we take monthly photos of all the borders, creating a visual record of how the borders look throughout the year, alongside regularly making notes to capture our observations.



Digitalis 'Camelot Rose'



Rosa 'Corvedale' in the meadow

This Year's Experiments...

This year we have experimented with the colour palette in the high borders and top meadow for early summer. Traditionally, this time of year has been dominated by pastel shades, whereas this year there are new additions to create a richer colour palette. A deep-pink foxglove named *Digitalis* 'Camelot Rose' has been chosen for the high border to pick up the stunning colour of *Rosa* 'Corvedale', one of our favourite roses in the meadow opposite.

A new *Iris* called 'Dusky Challenger' has been selected by Deputy Head Gardener, Sophie, also for the high border. A tall, bearded *Iris* with inky, almost black-purple

High Borders & Meadow
2025 - 'early Summer look'

Digitalis 'Camelot Rose' - rich deep pink, picking up Rosa 'Carvedale'



Iris 'Dusky Challenger' & Eremurus 'Romance' in hottest dry spots by Euphorbias.

elements in meadow pick up borders - odd Iris 'Benton Susan' & Tulipa 'Blea Aimable'?

desired design to look as though plants from the high border have self-seeded themselves in the meadow alongside the roses. This includes Iris 'Benton Susan' with soft yellow flowers which should look elegant with the meadow cow parsley.

flowers, it should look spectacular with the zingy green Euphorbias. Alongside this, there will be dramatic spires provided by the foxtail Lily, Eremurus 'Romance' with its long 'foxtails' of salmon pink stars planted in the hottest spots.

As the year unfolds, the garden team will once again capture in notes and photographs the successes and ideas for what to try differently the following year to ensure the Garden keeps a vitality and freshness. We hope you enjoy this year's experiments.

Also new for this year, are additions to the meadow to link to the high border, the

Garden Team, from left: Sean, Polly, Dylan, Imogen and Sophie

