

Oxenhope

Gardening club news



April 2018

Welcome to the April newsletter. I hope that by the time this reaches you, the warmer weather that has been promised, is with us: it, certainly, can't get much colder!

Over the last two years, I have been helping my son restore the garden of his Victorian house near Pontefract. During this time, we have discovered a large rockery, paths and a pond all laid down in another century, so I'm, especially, looking forward to this month's talk from Tom Attwood on the restoration of gardens!

Sandra

When the weather is good, and you don't want to travel too far then why not visit Cliffe Castle Park? It is on the edge of Keighley town centre. It was once owned by Henry Butterfield, a wealthy wool merchant and still has many of its 1887 features, restored after receiving a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, and now reflects its original design.

From the car park on Spring Gardens Lane you'll see the top of the Dome House, which contains a specimen of the original *Araucaria heterophylla* (known then as *A. excelsa*), commonly known as Norfolk Pine. The dome crowns a new series of glasshouses, which currently house a cacti collection and other frost tender plants. The upper garden is also home to the aviary and small animal house. Go to see the degus; they are very popular!

The rhododendron bank below this upper garden has been replanted to again supply the all-at-once colour first intended and forms a backdrop to the Music Garden that features cut-out beds following the original design. The rose bed gives a hint of the rose collection that was prized by Henry Butterfield. The urns have been replaced on the steps that lead down to what, until recently, was an herbaceous border. These urns provided scarlet highlights when they were planted with geraniums by the head gardener. The border is now planted with shrubs, which will grow into a tall and natural screen between the formal upper gardens and the romantic-style fountain and pond below. The pond was rediscovered almost intact when exploratory excavations were made and features a flower border all around that is edged with rockwork. The rockwork

www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk

is matched with that of the now fully-functioning fountains.

If you access Dark Lane, behind the pond you can walk along to the newly planted orchard area. This area lies next to the ornate entrance gates on Skipton Road.

It is recommended that you study the interpretation boards installed at intervals around the park, and if you want a rest there are plenty of continental-style benches to sit on. Just below the café is an excellent childrens' playground. The café has an outside seating area with wide views of the park. Finally, if you use a wheelchair, be assured there is good access.

Visit and enjoy

On Saturday 21st April there is a Community Weeding session at Oxenhope Village Hall from 10-12 noon. Bring your own tools and garden waste bag.

Bring your cheque book to the meeting this Thursday or a £10 cash deposit for the visit to Gresgarth on July 8th. Total cost will be £22 payable by May 17th.

What's on in 2018?

April 19th. Tom Attwood "The restoration of gardens"

May 17th. Plant sale. Tea/coffee and cake for £2.50

June 21st. Visit to Todmorden Rhododendrons.

July 8th. Visit to Gresgarth

The cost of this trip is £22 per person for return coach fare and admission the coach will leave Oxenhope from KWVR station car park at 9.30, returning to Oxenhope at 18.00 approx.

There will be a list to sign at next week`s meeting. £10 deposit

August 16th. Visit TBA

September 20th. Samantha Hopes "Becoming a plantswoman"

October 18th. Fergus Garrett "An evening with"

November 15th. Mark Jackson "Revamping those famous Long Borders"

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.