



# Oxenhope

## Gardening Club News

April 2023

### Welcome to the April newsletter.



**Last month I was travelling in the USA along the coast of Washington State and Northern California.**

As ever, much of the travelling focused on visiting gardens. On Bainbridge Island in the Puget Sound off the coast of Seattle, I visited the Bloedel Reserve which is a 150-acre forest garden that contains many typical Washington State coastal plants, such as the Giant Redwood forests, which are also home to incredible ferns and mosses: At the time I was there, the gardens were covered in trilliums. Further down the coast in California, in the area around San Francisco, the spectacular echium, 'Pride of Madeira',

was in full bloom, dominating gardens and roadsides in every shade from deep purple to indigo blue.

My final garden visit was to the Filoli Gardens, 654 acres on the slopes of the Californian coastal range. It is an outstanding example of Lutyens and Jekyll influenced Anglo–American design, with planting in formally enclosed spaces with brick walls and clipped hedges. When I was there, the camellias, azaleas and massed displays of tulips were in flower. However the greatest impact was from the large collection of flowering cherries which were in full bloom. A great finale to a wonderful trip. **Sandra**

### Confessions of a Plantaholic



**Razvan Chisu will be the speaker for April. The subject of his talk will be about his obsession with plants:**

Those he wouldn't be without, including his favourites and must-haves. He will also be talking about collecting, propagating and growing plants. Razvan is a garden designer and writes for various gardening magazines. Razvan grew up in Transylvania and after gaining a BSc and MSc in Horticulture he went on to work in the Herbarium of the Botanical Garden in Cluj in Romania and then to create gardens in

Transylvania and the UK..

# Plant of the Month. *Prunus serrulata* 'Tai Haku' The Great White Cherry.



Tai Haku or the Great White Cherry is a beautiful tree. It has single, pure white flowers, which in bud have a tinge of green, which contrasts with its foliage of pale golden bronze. A medium sized tree, it grows in moderately fertile soil in full sun and its history is fascinating

The plant collector, Collingwood 'Cherry' Ingram, an established authority on Japanese cherries, was invited in 1926, to address the Japanese Cherry Society on their national tree. It was on this cherry blossom pilgrimage, that he was shown a painting of a magnificent white cherry tree that had disappeared from cultivation. Ingram immediately recognised the blossom as that of a tree he had found growing in a garden in Sussex: His Japanese hosts were polite yet incredulous. How was it possible that the only surviving example of such a nationally revered tree grew in England? For the Japanese it was unthinkable that an Englishman might hold the answer. Determined to prove his identification accurate, Ingram returned home and succeeded in sending cuttings half way around the globe embedded in a potato. The scion arrived in Japan via the Trans-Siberian Express, thus successfully reintroducing the Great White Cherry, re-named 'Tai Haku', to its rightful home from which all future cultivars were derived

A wonderful tree with a fascinating history. To find out more, read Naoko Abe's acclaimed account of two contrasting cultures; of war, propaganda, astonishing beauty and one man's passion for cherry trees that ran so deep that he became known as simply as 'Cherry' Ingram.

**Future speakers: May: Jack Wallington.** Jack is a landscape gardener specialising in structured, naturalistic planting.

## Gardening news and events:

**Harrogate Spring Flower Show:** April 20 to 23

**Open Garden Skipworth Hall Selby:** Sat April 22 1300 -16.00

**Valley Gardens Harrogate Tour of Gardens:** Wed April 26 10.30-12.20

**Harlow Carr Bath House Brigantia – Work from Art, Craft and Design worker.**  
April 21 –May 21

**Tea and Coffee:** We always welcome volunteers to help with teas and coffees!

