

Oxenhope gardening club

Newsletter

November 2011

www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk

New Year... new you? Appeal from the committee

We are still on the lookout for new members to join us on the committee. It's really not that onerous. The small friendly group meets one Monday evening a month from September to April to organise and plan your club meetings and outings.

Why not start the New Year with a new interest and have your say in what we do. See one of the committee members if you want to join us.

Oudolf inspires Oxenhope garden

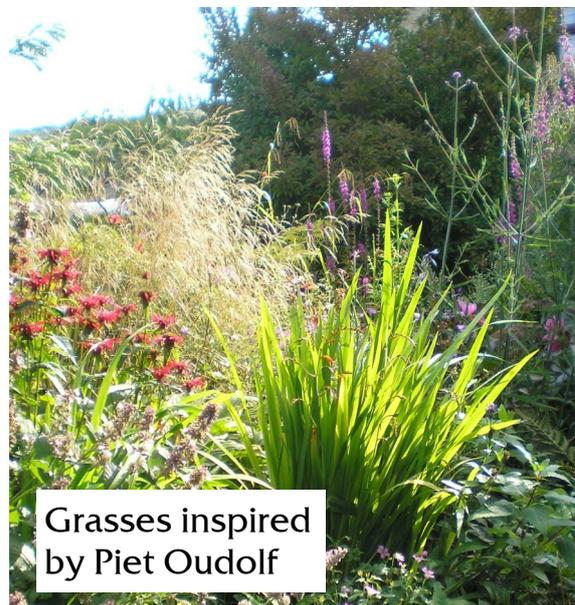
Wendy Hopkinson has sent in a lively account of how she and her husband Derrick have transformed their Oxenhope garden since moving back to his native village eight years ago. As Wendy's account was so full the editor has decided to keep some of it back for our next newsletter. Here is Wendy's account of the garden and next time we can read about the allotment.

I write if not with some trepidation my first ever contribution to the newsletter.

Our bungalow occupies a corner plot and therefore the garden surrounds it. I say 'garden', but in fact we inherited a large ornate pond, several lawned areas, some expensive but under-achieving shrubs and plants and lots of daffodil – and everything with a liberal covering of bark chippings!

Those of you who know my gardening preferences know I dislike yellow and I am not too enamoured with bark chippings either. Good start!

So there were years ahead of extremely arduous physical labouring by Derrick to work towards the garden we now have.



Grasses inspired
by Piet Oudolf

He unfortunately kept uncovering the original foundations of the abattoir where our bungalow stands. Over time the very poor soil has had copious amounts of manure and grit added to it. We have reduced the lawned areas to a postage stamp-sized lawn – just enough to accommodate the ubiquitous BBQ, a table and four chairs – and now enjoy a garden packed full with our favourite plants shrubs and grasses.

I am a fan of Piet Oudolf and find lots of his influences at Dove Cottage Nursery and garden. With the help and advice of Kim and Stephen and their daughter Katie, over the years we have managed to create a garden that is both colourful

and interesting which can withstand the very windy conditions whilst in return giving us a long flowering season. The grasses keep interest throughout the year even in the most adverse weather conditions.



We tend to grow mainly perennials but have a backbone of shrubs, climbers and trees. I love *Clematis* and grow *Clematis montana* 'Rubens' for its vigour and ability to withstand the windy site. 'Marjorie', 'Warwickshire Rose' and 'Mayleen' are excellent varieties.

We grow trees such as *Amelanchier lamarckii*, with its beautiful scent, Hawthorn Paul's Scarlet, several *Prunus*, a couple of specimen conifers, and we do have a *Leylandii* hedge as a windbreak (I can almost hear the groans of disapproval).

The perennials we grow include the stately *Verbena hastata* and *V. bonariensis* which simply floats amongst the *Eupatorium*, *Monarda*, *Veronicastrum*, *Astrantia*, *Geranium*, *Crocsmia*, *Lythrum* and *Nepeta*.

My patience has run out with hostas. For the first time ever they have been slaves to the slugs in spite of Joe Maiden extolling the virtues of Slug Gone! So I

have dug out some of the more severely damaged.

Centranthus is another favourite. I know it seeds prolifically but I find it very useful because it will grow almost anywhere. Buddlejias also do well, particularly 'Loch Inch' which was a gift from my late sister-in-law Jeanne Southam whom I have to thank for inspiring me to take an interest in gardening. I reduce their growth by half in autumn to prevent too much wind rock then prune the rest in spring.

Derrick has taken a liking to grasses and we've replanted one area at the front of the house mainly with grasses interspersed with other tall-growing perennials.

I propagate, divide and grow from seed as much as possible but cannot resist the new arrivals on offer at Dove Cottage, the RHS show at Tatton Park or other gardens. I prefer big groups of plants to make an impact and usually do not like to see soil without an occupant; weeding is then kept to a minimum.

Alliums planted in the ground remain a firm favourite – my grandchildren used to refer to these as lollipops.



Other bulbs we grow in pots which we dot around the garden. When they are finished we hide the unsightly die-back by putting the pots out of sight. We give them a little feed and leave them until the following spring.

Plants for Free

Steeton-based horticultural partnership, 'those plant people', has found us on the internet and asked if they could publicise a course they are running:

A winter propagation illustrated talk followed by demonstration of techniques.

Get to grips with propagation and fill your garden for free. Learn how to multiply herbaceous perennials, soft fruits, hardy shrubs and sow winter seed.



Saturday, 3
December from
10.30am to
12.30 followed
by a two-course
lunch at
Rolands.

Course costs £25 including lunch.

To book call 07525 379565, 01535
958001 or visit
www.thoseplantpeople.com

This is your newsletter!

Why not tell other club members your topical gardening tip or write about your plant of the month?

Email your news to Jenny via the club website or jenny.hakney@talktalk.net

Save our printing costs

To save money we are trying to cut down the number of newsletters we print. If could read it online contact Richard Gibson who will add you to the email circulation list.

richard.gibson
@oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk

Tea and coffee rota

Don't forget to offer to help with the tea and coffee rota for future meetings.



Club coffers pay for the tea, coffee, milk and biscuits. All you need to do is set up, serve refreshments and tidy up.

Please ring one of the committee if you can help out:

Chairman, Richard Berry 647974
Secretary, Belinda Marks 640607
Treasurer, Sue Gibson 642684

Club meetings

November 17

Linda Smith and her husband run Leicestershire Waterside Nursery which won a gold medal at Chelsea Flower Show this year.

Linda's talk is called *Water Gardens*.

December 15

Don't miss our Annual General Meeting followed by a Christmas buffet.

Bring a dish to share at our faith supper.



Thank you Daisy Days

Thank you to Ruth Wild of Daisy Days in Haworth for the fantastic flower arranging she did at our October meeting.

Visit the website for further details of the floral things they do all year round:
www.daisy-days.co.uk