

Oxenhope gardening club

Newsletter
2011

October

Thoughts from the chair...

We need more members to join us on the committee. We are a small friendly group, who meet once a month from September to April to organise and plan club meetings and outings. This is your chance to have your say in what we do. Have a word with one of the committee members if you want to join us.

Richard

A visit to Holehird Gardens of Cumbria

By Jenny Hakney

In September Steve and I visited these wonderful gardens near Troutbeck in the Lake District.

This 17-acre estate on the hillside above Windermere is run by the Lakeland Horticultural Society as a demonstration garden and to train students of horticulture in the practicalities of gardening in Lake District conditions.

The conditions on the day we visited were too wet and dull to enjoy a walk on the tops, so we opted for Holehird.

Neither of us knew what to expect, but we were extremely impressed by the wonderful views, the quality of the planting and the interesting layout.

The gardens are maintained entirely by volunteers who also run the information centre and small plant sale area. They also give lectures and courses, run a specialist library and operate a Meteorological Office-approved weather station.



We discovered that they keep three national plant collections – *Astilbe*, *Hydrangea*, and *Polystichum* – and most plants are well labelled which means a novice gardener like me can pick up some new plant names.



The dull weather did not spoil our enjoyment of the well maintained walled garden, *Astilbe* borders, *Gunnera* pond, cascade and

landscaped rockeries. But the magnificent *Acer* 'sango kaku' was crying out for sunshine on its flame coloured leaves.

This is your newsletter!

Don't let Jenny do all the hard work – please send in your own contributions. We'd love to hear about any not-to-be-missed gardens you may have visited, for example.

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

Jenny is waiting for you to get in touch. Email her via the club website or on jenny.hakney@talktalk.net

Events and meetings

October 20

Ruth Wild of Daisy Days Haworth: *Autumn Flower Arranging*. Ruth favours the use of British-grown flowers.

November 17

Linda Smith. Linda 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

Christmas Party and Annual General Meeting.

Tea and coffee rota

Save paper and printing costs

If you could read this newsletter online it would help us to cut down the number of paper copies we are printing. If you wish to add your name to the email list contact: richard.gibson@oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk

If you change your email address don't forget to let Richard know so that he can change the circulation list.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help out recently. Our tea rota is complete for this year. But we now need helpers to sign up for the meeting on 19 January. Club coffers pay for the tea, coffee, milk and biscuits. All you need to do is set up, serve refreshments and tidy up.



Tea, coffee and biscuits are 50p.

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

- Chairman, Richard Berry
01535 647974
- Secretary, Belinda Marks
01535 640607
- Treasurer, Sue Gibson 01535
642684

...and, finally, Jenny's potatoes

Well, I did threaten an account of me digging up my spuds if nobody contributed anything for the newsletter... so here it is!

Yield from planting one tuber of each (I have a very tiny plot):

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Red Duke of York | 1lbs 3½oz |
| Duke of York | 3lbs 11oz |
| Estima | 5lbs 5oz |
| Edgecote purple | 1lb 12oz |
| Shetland black | 2lbs 5oz |
| Pink fir apple | 4lbs 12oz |

Not sure if this is a fair average, but I love trying out the wonderfully-named varieties.