
Oxenhope gardening club

Newsletter

October 2012

www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk

Gardening club—A personal view from Jenny Hakney

Trying to fill the newsletter this month, I decided to write down why I joined the club and describe my recent experience of joining the committee.

In 2010 I was living in a terraced house in Bingley with no garden – just a tiny back yard. For the seven years I was there I filled my yard with pots of anything that would grow, hostas doing particularly well because there were hardly any slugs.

But I was yearning to grow more plants in proper soil and wanted a garden.

In the meantime I came to the club to expand my knowledge of gardening. At my first meeting I heard Matthew Biggs speak about back gardens of England. I was hooked.

At the end of that year I moved into a house with a small garden and soon became passionate about growing plants in my tiny patch of Yorkshire.

Despite being one of the newer members of the club, somehow I got persuaded to put the newsletter together, starting with the April 2011 issue. I really enjoy doing this because I feel involved in the club and hope that you enjoy reading it.

Then this autumn I find myself on the committee. I am not really sure how that happened!

Being a committee member has opened my eyes to the hard work that goes into planning the year's calendar.



All the work is done by a tiny number of dedicated people in their spare time. They plan the year's talks, book the speakers, organise summer visits, open the hall for meetings, set up the amplification equipment, bank the money, pay speakers – and that's only the jobs I know about after two committee meetings.

The impression I get, as a newer member, is that the committee is beavering away very hard – but we don't know what you want. That's why I have suggested that we ask every member for their views.

The evening talks always seem well attended and people seem to enjoy them. But we need to know if you like the talks, or are there are other speakers you would rather hear. Would you prefer practical demonstrations perhaps? Why don't many of you come to the garden party? Why don't many of you come to the summer visits? Why don't many of you write anything for the newsletter!

It's very hard to keep working without having any feedback. So, sometime before we start planning the 2014 season you will all get a questionnaire asking you what you would like the club to do. I would urge you all to give your views

because, as recession bites, the committee must spend your membership fee as you would wish.

Please do come forward in the meantime if you have any comments or questions for the committee. I can assure you we are an approachable group of people!

Thoughts from the chair

Following on from Jenny's article, just a reminder that we are always looking for new committee members. All we ask is that you can come to a meeting on a Monday evening, in the week before the club meeting.

Richard Berry

Mow or grow?



“Society is like a lawn, where every roughness is smoothed, every bramble eradicated, and where the eye is delighted by the smiling verdure of a velvet surface; he, however, who would study nature in its wildness and variety, must plunge into the forest, must explore the glen, must stem the torrent, and dare the precipice.”

Tea and coffee rota

Helpers are usually needed for the tea and coffee rota for our 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**
Treasurer, Sue Gibson **642684**

OGC dates for your diary

Make sure you don't miss the last two talks this year:

October 18

Andy Sturgeon: Making a modern garden

November 15

Michael Myers:

Dwarf bulbs throughout the year
(December: No meeting)

You can check our website for further details of all talks and visits.

It's your newsletter

Why not send in a contribution to the club's newsletter?

Tell us your seasonal tip, suggest a garden to visit or send in a photo of a favourite corner of your own garden.

Email Jenny via the club website or at jenny.hakney@talktalk.net

Keeping our club printing costs down

We are cutting down the number of newsletters we print. If you could read it online email Richard Gibson who will add you to the email circulation list: richard.gibson@oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk



All phone numbers are 01535 unless stated otherwise.