

Oxenhope

Gardening club news

April 2017



It's blossom time for cherries and magnolias

I shall be sorry to miss Christine Walkden's talk but it's that time of the year again when I'm spending part of every month working in my garden in France.

That's where I am at the moment enjoying wonderful spring weather.

The magnolia trees I planted 16 years ago, *Magnolia loebneri* 'Merrill' have bloomed spectacularly this year.

The blossom on the wonderful ornamental cherry tree that I first saw in

Beth Chatto's garden many years ago, *Prunus* 'Tai-Haku' or the Great White Cherry, is about to come out. The pure white flowers look spectacular against the bronze, ragged edged leaves as they begin to unfurl. A small insignificant tree when first planted 16 years ago but now a magnificent specimen tree.

I hope Christine's talk inspires you all to get out into your spring gardens.

Sandra

Thursday's talk: Life and Times of a Gardener

Lancastrian, plantswoman, writer and broadcaster Christine Walkden is our speaker on Thursday, 20 April.

We are sure that you will find the evening with Christine interesting and highly entertaining. Do please come

ready with questions to ask so that you get the most out of this rare chance to meet such a busy and high-profile gardening personality.



Don't forget our annual spring plant sale on 18 May

As ever, donations of seedlings, cuttings, divisions and cakes will help us raise funds to keep the club going.

This is an open evening so please encourage your friends to come along.

www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk

Summer outings

We now have more details of our summer trips – so get ready to pay up at Thursday’s meeting.

On 15 June we are going to **Slack Top Alpine Nursery and garden** where there will be a trough planting demonstration. Make your own way there and pay on arrival.

On Saturday, 22 July we are going to Linden Lodge and Breezy Knees near York. This will be by coach leaving Oxenhope to arrive around 11am.

Linden Lodge has a one-acre garden with unusual herbaceous perennials, wildlife pond, formal pond, summer house, kitchen garden and glasshouse, hens and Shetland sheep.

Breezy Knees features award-winning gardens, a specialist nursery and cafe.

The full cost is £26 with at least £5 deposit. You will need to pay Sue the full amount by the time of our plant sale in May. Cheques preferred.

On August Bank Holiday Monday, we have arranged a special look around the historic allotments at Cottingley Bridge.

An extensive part of the former Ferrand estate became **Cottingley Bridge Allotment Gardens** and were opened in 1844 by Benjamin Disraeli.

We plan to have cold drinks on arrival, followed by an unguided tour of a few key plots nearby. These will include fruit and veg, carnations, fuchsias, dahlias and a cut flower garden.

We are not charging but suggest a donation to the club funds.

There will be more information about how to find it and where to park later.

Diary dates 2017

- 20 April: an evening with Christine Walkden.
- 18 May: Plant Sale.
- 15 June: Visit to Slack Top Alpines and how to plant a trough.
- 22 July: Coach outing to Breezy Knees and Linden Lodge, near York.
- 28 August: visit to Cottingley Bridge allotments. Cold drinks and visit several key plots.
- 21 September: Gill Hodgson, Flowers for Cutting
- 19 October: Sarah Hopps, Late Summer Border.
- 16 November: Clifford Cain, Fruit Growing in the north of England.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at future meetings.

Tea and coffee rota

Thank you to those of you who have recently volunteered to help with the rota.



This gives our usual stalwarts a chance to chat to friends or browse the plants.

If you can help please sign the rota sheet on the refreshment counter.

Or ring Ruth or Sue if you can help:

- Ruth Shepley **643437**
- Sue Gibson **642684**.

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.