



Oxenhope

Gardening Club News

April 2022

Welcome to the April newsletter



Inspired by Paul Cook's talk last month, I recently visited Harlow Carr, specifically to look at the spring flowers. However, what bowled me over were the rhododendrons. I hadn't expected to see so many of them flowering so profusely at this time of year: I'm sure they are flowering earlier than they have in the past. I know March is the time to see them in Cornwall, but not here in chilly Harrogate! Among the rhododendrons that were flowering, one stood out like beacon which was this deep red one, Rhododendron Fortunei hybrid. Which is why I've chosen a

rhododendron as plant of the month. I hope you will all be able to take the opportunity to see some of these magnificent plants while they are at their best this month. **Sandra**

Rhododendron Fortunei: Plant of the month



Rhododendron Fortunei is a hardy, evergreen shrub growing to 3–12 metres in height, with fragrant flowers that bloom from April to May,

Rhododendron Fortunei is named in honour of Robert Fortune, the Scottish plant collector who discovered this lovely species in 1855. He had been sent out to China by the Horticultural Society to collect and introduce the tea plant, Camellia sinensis but he also brought back the seed of this rhododendron from the

Chekiang Province, in eastern China. Apart from the extensive collection of rhododendrons at Harlow Carr, the collection of rhododendrons at the Himalayan Gardens at Masham are regarded as being the largest collection of rhododendrons in the North of England; about 1,400 of them.

Stockists of Rhododendron Fortunei are:

Glendoick Gardens, Perth, Perthshire. PH2 7NS

Larch Cottage Nurseries, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 2DR

Millais Nurseries, Farnham Surrey. GU10 2JN

Gardening for Spring: Katy Merrington



A welcome back to this month's speaker, Katy Merrington who is the Cultural Gardener at The Hepworth Wakefield.

Katy will be talking about how to ensure that successional layers of colour can be built into the earliest months of the year, working with sweet-scented shrubs, perennials, blossoms and bulbs.

Katy will also talk about how they have planted 60,000 bulbs amongst the

perennials at The Hepworth and will share inspiring planting combinations, techniques for extending spring interest and good aftercare to encourage re-flowering.

Don't Forget!

Plant sale: May 19 I hope you are all busy nurturing plants to bring to the sale!

Club visits: Sat June 11th Renishaw Hall. The coach will cost £20 and we will be asking members who wish to join the trip for a £10 non-refundable deposit at the April meeting. RHS members will have free access to the gardens. Refreshment facilities available.

July 21 visit to Elaine Robinson's garden near Hebden Bridge.

August's (date TBC) to the Hepworth Garden at Wakefield.

Gardening news and events:

Ripon Cathedral Spring Food, Home and Garden Show. April 9

Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens York. Spring Garden Walk. April 13 10-12.00

Half Acre Farm Worksop. Pick your own tulips. April 15/16 11.00-17.00

Harrogate Great Yorkshire Show. April 21

Yorkshire Arboretum Photography Morning. April 30 8.45 -12.00

Tea and coffee rota

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



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

Or ring Ruth Shepley **01535.643437**

www.oxenhopegardenclub.co.uk