



Oxenhope

Gardening Club News

April 2025

Welcome to the April newsletter.



Mavis

I have to start this newsletter with some sad news. One of our long- standing and supportive members, Mavis Clements, died at the end of February following a fall: she was 93. Mavis had lived in Oxenhope all her life. When she met her husband- to- be, Ray, who came from Bedfordshire, a prerequisite to marrying him was for him to agree to live in Oxenhope. She was devoted to the village and had written a book about it called `No Better Place`, which was published in 2020.

After a career in teaching, she became the Head of a large primary school in Bradford. After retiring, she started gardening and became very knowledgeable and passionate about plants. She enjoyed many visits to gardens across the British Isles and opened her garden for charity every year. The plant sales she held raised thousands for charity. Mavis was a people- person, offering much support and love over her lifetime. She was a volunteer at Manorlands, doing what she called her trolley-dolly duties supporting patients and visitors with refreshments. Mavis will be a loss to the village and the committee will be very sad not to see her familiar, cheerful face at our meetings. **Sandra**

Welcome to April's speaker: Colin Hickman



Agapanthus Brilliant Blue

Colin will be giving a demonstration on the cultivation and propagation of Agapanthus, Nerines and Dieramas along with other bulbs of the Amaryllidaceae family. Hoyland Plants is a small family run nursery situated at the foot of the Pennines in South Yorkshire. It has been open for the past 35 years. Hoyland plants have the UK National Collections of Agapanthus, Clivia and Tulbaghia and they are passionate about the preservation of these beautiful plants.



Nerine Pink Triumph

Over the years they have developed many new cultivars including Agapanthus: 'Hoyland Blue' and Tulbaghia including 'Scented Beauty' and continue to trial and develop new cultivars each year.

The nursery has attended all of the large flower shows for many years and has consecutively won Gold Medals at every show for the last 4 years. They were selected as a RHS Master Grower in 2017 and received the coveted double Gold Medals in the great pavilion at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2019 displaying Agapanthus, Nerines and Clivia. **Colin will be bringing plants for sale.**

Plant of the Month. *Stachyurus Praecox*, an elegant, arching, deciduous shrub.



The beautiful bell-shaped, pale-yellow flowers of *Stachyurus Praecox* are borne on 10-12cm long, bell-shaped, pale yellow flowers. They flower in late winter to mid-spring and diffuse a wonderful, sweet scent. The flowers drop vertically from the almost bare branches, and resemble elegant strings of pearls, putting on an unforgettable sight from February to March (which are already visible on the plant in winter). The flowers are produced before, or together with,

the appearance of the young, slender-pointed ovate leaves. In autumn, the foliage turns to fantastic shades of red and purple. As the flowers fade, small berry-like, pea sized fruits appear, which may later turn yellow, adding ornamental value from July.



The genus *Stachyurus* contains approximately 20 species of woody plants, and is the sole member of the family Stachyuraceae. All members occur in eastern Asia, and all are deciduous. *Stachyurus praecox* is a Japanese, dioecious species, with male and female plants, and it is thought that the principle pollinators are hover flies and solitary bees.

Stachyurus praecox prefers a humus-rich soil, in full sun or partial shade and while tolerating alkaline conditions, it will thrive in acid soil. This versatile shrub is great for a woodland garden, shrub border or grown against a wall where it can be fan-trained

May's speaker: Jacqueline Iddon: Jacqueline Iddon Hardy Plants

Gardening news and events:

Harrogate Spring Flower Show: April 24 – April 27.

Harlow Carr: Old Bath House: The Japanese shop until May 5.

Brodsworth Hall NGS: Evening opening Wed April 30. 5.30pm-7.30pm.

NGS Garden: 7, Low Westwood: Golcar Huddersfield HD7 4ER: Sat 26 & Sun 27
11-3



Happy Visiting!



Once again, thanks to our volunteers who help with teas and coffees!

www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk