



Oxenhope

Gardening Club News

February 2022

Welcome to February's newsletter

It was lovely to see you all again last month and I shall be sorry to miss February's talk on Alpine gardening. Instead I'll be in Madeira re-visiting their wonderful gardens. It's over 20 years since I was last there but I remember being amazed at the profusion and variety of plants that were flowering together— orchids alongside roses and lilies, just in local gardens. I'm particularly looking forward to seeing

and smelling the mimosas which grow in profusion on this beautiful island. Last spring I planted a mimosa tree in a pot in my back yard which has thrived and is now in bud, so something to look forward to when spring arrives in Yorkshire. I shall look forward to seeing you all in March.

Sandra



Creating an Alpine trough and more.

February's talk will be about how to create an alpine trough and the best alpine plants to grow in this area. The talk will be given by Michael and Allison Mitchell, the owners of gold medal winning Slack Top Nursery, one of the UK's top five specialist growers of alpine plants.

The nursery is located high up in Heptonstall in a lovely setting overlooking the moors. This inspiring talk will not only be about planting in troughs but also how to grow these plants in other garden situations such as in scree beds and on gravel.

Winter Flowering Aconite: Plant of the month



One of the varieties of winter aconite that John Grimshaw illustrated at last month's talk was *Eranthis hyemalis* 'Schwefelglanz', which has pale sulphur-yellow petals surrounded by bright green "ruffs" of bracts in winter. *Eranthis hyemalis* comes from the buttercup family, and has polished yellow flowers surrounded by a collar of green leaves. It is native to chalky woodlands in central Europe and it

gets its name from its willingness to flower before everything else (*hyemalis* is Latin for winter-flowering). It flowers from early January into February, exploiting the short

period of light before the tree canopy explodes into leaf, shading the woodland floor, before disappearing back into the soil. In order to thrive, it needs to spend the rest of the year in dappled shade and in moisture-retentive soil: It is best bought as an in-the-green plant.

Stockists (Mail order) include: Edrom Nurseries Eyemouth Berwickshire.TD 14 5TZ and Kevock Garden Plants Midlothian EH18 1HXg.

Future speakers will be:

March, Paul Cook from Harlow Carr.

April: Katy Merrington from The Barbara Hepworth Garden, Wakefield.

February AGM update- see website.

Gardening news and events:



Five places to see snowdrops in Yorkshire:

York Gate Garden Feb 15 -20.

Burton Agnes Hall & Gardens: Feb 5- March 6

Goldsborough Hall Knaresborough. Feb 6-21

Fountains Abbey, Ripon:

Harlow Carr: Harrogate. Snowdrops and aconites in the woodland

And something different: Beardsworth, Cleckheaton: Tree Grafting Workshop.
Feb 12. 09.30-11.30

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**
Kath Batty **01535 643592**

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