

Oxenhope

gardening club news

September 2015



Message from the chair

Welcome back indoors! We resume our 2015 programme in the community centre on Thursday, 17 September to hear Michael Myers, lecturer in horticulture at Craven College, talk about Autumnal Interest in the Garden.

Our last indoor meeting was the June plant sale, which raised £333 for our funds.

In May we visited the wonderful Himalayan Gardens near Grewelthorpe. The long drive there was made worth it by the special nature of the gardens, the welcome we were given by the organisers and the informative guided talk.

Our July meeting was a privileged look around three very special gardens of club members in Gledhow Drive, Oxenhope.

Joan at number 6, Paula at number 11 and Mavis at number 48—had all gone to lots

of trouble to get their gardens in tip-top condition. We owe them our thanks for letting us tramp around their precious plots to admire the diversity of planting styles close up. And thanks to Mavis for letting us inside her house for refreshments.

The evening visit to Dove Cottage was a rare chance to see this atmospheric and beautiful space in privacy.

We are fortunate to have this iconic late-summer showpiece on our doorsteps.

So now it's time to come back inside for our autumn meetings.

I am looking forward to hearing professional tips on how to eke out the last rays of summer and hang onto as much interest in the garden as possible.

Sandra

Kiss me over the garden gate!

You may know that Kiss me over the Garden Gate is just one of the common names of *Persicaria orientalis*.

I first saw this eye-catching plant (hard to believe it's an annual) in the Secret Gardens of Sandwich, Kent in what was the garden surrounding the Lutyens-designed Salutation Hotel.

Towering way above the jungle planting in an exotic border, its cerise pink tassles dropped colour against the sky.

I just had to grow it in my own garden and mentally filed away its name.

When I saw it growing at Dove Cottage, soaring with bamboo-like stems from an old galvanised dustbin, I bought seeds and awaited germination. Nothing happened.

A second packet of seeds last autumn all germinated in March, rewarding me with green seedlings sprouting on red stems.

The plants are now over seven feet tall, and make a spectacular feature in a large pot on my patio. I took the picture at the top of the page in early September.

Jenny Hakney

www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk

2015 dates for your diary:

17 September

Michael Myers:

Autumnal interest in the Garden

15 October

Sue Beesley, Bluebell Cottage:

Transforming Bluebell cottage gardens

19 November

Bob Brown, Cotswold Garden

Flowers: So many plants, so little space.

December

No meeting

Full list is on [our website](#).

Tea and coffee rota



Helpers are usually needed for the tea and coffee rota for our meetings.

All you need to do is set up, serve refreshments and tidy up.

Please ring Ruth or Sue if you can help:

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

Need a lift to events?

If you would like help with transport to meetings and trips please tell either Jenny Hakney on 610599 or Ruth Shepley on 643437.

The committee decided to take a break from booking coaches because it is a huge responsibility for the organiser and we can make a loss. If you would like to organise coach transport for any of our trips, please do volunteer!

Why not send in a contribution to the newsletter?

Jenny would be grateful if you could help her fill the space (such as the one below). 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.

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