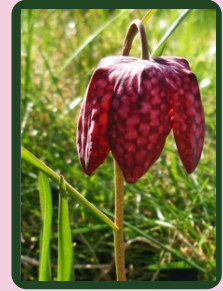


Oxenhope

gardening club news

April 2014



Growing your own vegetables



Our April talk is by David Allison who is the national editor of *Simply Vegetables*, the magazine of the National Vegetable Society.

Based locally, David is a published author and vegetable growing expert.

His talk is entitled 'Planning the season ahead' and he will bring plants for sale as well as demonstrating making a hanging basket.



Message from the chair

Welcome to April's newsletter.

We have now finalised our evening garden visit on 19 June—we are going to Landfarm Gardens and Exhibition Hall near Hebden Bridge. The arrangements are to make your own way there (contact details are in the diary dates on p3), but please do ask one of the committee for a lift if you need one and we will try to arrange it.

You should aim to get there for 7pm and the charge is £7 including a drink and entrance to the art gallery.

On 17 July we are going to Littlethorpe Hall by coach. The cost is £16 for the coach and entrance. Time of leaving Oxenhope will be confirmed but should be around 5.30pm.

Please make sure you put your name on the list and pay in advance for both trips so that we know how many of you intend to come.

Snippets

Previous speakers, Katie Rushworth and Matthew Wilson, have both sent in lists of the plants they discussed in their talks.

We are asking each speaker to submit a plant list which we will then post on our website so you can refer to them after the talk.

The image at the top of this page is *Fritillaria meleagris* snapped in Jenny's garden on 11 April.

I am gradually establishing fritillaries in my garden.

There is more success now I have cottoned on to buying them in the green.

I have left a pot in the border to see if it will set seed, then I will plant the spent flowers elsewhere to give myself two chances of those enchanting chequerboard flowers next spring.

A canal-side garden

Sandra Angadi, our chairman, has been creating a community garden alongside Hirst Lock. Here is the second instalment of her story.

Alongside the run-off from the canal was an overgrown piece of land covered in brambles, bindweed and grass. This was too much of a temptation, so I offered to clear it and turn it into a shrub garden.

Last autumn, I started the work by cutting back much of the undergrowth which I then sprayed with Roundup. Given the amount of pernicious weeds, bindweed, couch grass and brambles, this was the most practical way of eliminating them. When the vegetation had turned yellow, I started digging.

It was a bit like undertaking an archaeological dig given the variety of objects I dug up. The objects uncovered ranged from a cannon ball (where did that come from!) a lock key, the top half of a set of false teeth, various items of footwear and innumerable bottles and tin cans.

Digging was a slow process, as I also found rocks left over from the original lock construction and dense bramble and bindweed roots.

After digging was complete, I was ready to plant up the shrubs we had managed to source. Some of the shrubs, like the *Rosa rugosa* and *Berberis* were cuttings I had brought with me from France. Others came from the sale area of a local nursery – like the two wonderful *Abelia grandifloras*, a *Rhododendron luteum*, various *Buddlejas* and a *Cotoneaster simonsii* we got for the knock-down price of £2 each!

It helped having a direct speaking Yorkshire woman with me on these buying trips as she persuaded the nursery to give us a discount on the other plants we had selected (as we were a local community group).

At the same we bought 300 mixed narcissus bulbs which were added to the shrub garden. Covering it all is ten centimetres of shredded bark donated by a local tree maintenance company and the hope is that this thick mulch will suppress weeds and make it easier to maintain.

The group is about to embark on a very exciting new project which is to turn an area of land behind the garden into a nature reserve.

But that's another story....



Canalside garden before



After

2014 dates for your diary:

17 April

David Allison: Planning the season ahead. He will be selling plants and demonstrating a hanging basket.

15 May

The club's plant sale and cakes.

19 June

Garden visit: Landfarm Gardens Colden, Hebden Bridge West Yorkshire, HX7 7PJ Telephone 01422 842 260. Full details are also in the NGS Yellow Book.

17 July

Littlethorpe Manor near Ripon. Coach to leave Oxenhope approx 5.30pm but check before going. £16 in advance.

Saturday, 2 August

Open garden and coffee morning at Lower Scholes Farm, Pickles Hill, Oakworth, the home of our newest committee member, Kath Batty.

18 September

Timothy Walker: From diaz to diamonds. Oxford University's Botanic garden.

16 October

Taylor's Clematis nursery: talk and plants for sale.

20 November

Neil Huntley, Hartside Alpine Nursery of Alston in Cumbria: 'My favourite alpiners' and plants for sale.

Plant sale... helpers please

It's nearly time for our plant sale on Thursday, 15 May.



Your plants and unopened seed packets will be gratefully received. Selling will start at 7.30—no forestalling.

Grouping plants together according to price worked well last year. If you feel yours is a particularly valuable specimen please put it on the £5-and-over table.

Table posies will add to the occasion, so if you can spare any fresh blooms from your garden do bring them along.

The committee are getting ready to bake cakes but we need everyone else to get baking too!

Can you spare half an hour during the evening to help in the kitchen? If so please tell one of the committee.

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 would like help with transport to meetings and trips please tell us.

- Jenny Hakney 610599
- Ruth Shepley 643437
- Richard Berry 647974

Don't hesitate to ask for a lift. We will help if at all possible.

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.

www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk