

Oxenhope

gardening club news

January 2014



Katie, Queen of spades

Katie Rushworth, part of the successful ITV's Love Your Garden team, is our February speaker.

Katie works alongside Alan Titchmarsh to transform neglected gardens for people



who especially need some help with their garden.

Hailing from Bingley, she says "I am a fun northern girl from Yorkshire and have been self

employed as a gardener and garden designer for the past four years – running my own business The Queen of Spades. As a young mum I have built the business entirely off my own back from nothing.

"I have excellent plant knowledge and a great eye for design, function and beauty. I thrive on working outdoors in naturally beautiful habitats."

So we look forward to hearing Katie tell us about creating moods and styles using different plants.

Message from the chair

Welcome to February's newsletter.

At the time of writing this, it is still raining so I am hopeful that by the time you receive it, the weather will have improved, if only enough to get out and see the snowdrops that have flowered very early this year.

Many bulbs and shrubs seem to think it is already spring, given how advanced the growth is – let's hope we don't get a late cold spell to ruin them all!

Maybe our February speaker, Katie Rushworth, will inspire you to re-think some of your planting. Anyway, a good excuse to visit a garden centre!

Sandra Angadi

PS Last chance to collect your membership card at February's meeting.

Snippets

March's speaker is Matthew Wilson.

We are expecting a high demand for seats so if you know of any non-members wanting to attend, reserve them a ticket at February's meeting.

Parking could be difficult because there may be roofing scaffolding taking up space. Please try to park elsewhere or car-share.

The image at the top of this page is Viburnum x bodnantense 'Charles Lamont', snapped in Jenny's garden on 24 January.

I planted this shrub in January 2010 and it has flowered sparsely but earlier each year. This year it has finally been covered in fragrant blooms from New Year to Valentine's day. Just one cut flower will perfume the whole room.

A canal-side garden

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

About a quarter mile west of Saltaire along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal is a small estate called Hirst Wood, named after a nearby area of woodland. At the point where this woodland comes down to the canal, is Hirst Lock.

There were originally two houses close to the lock, one of which was a farm and the other a lock-side cottage, which at one time sold teas and ice creams. The houses were pulled down in 1962 and the site became derelict and unsightly. It was a muddy stretch of land used as a parking space which visitors, canal users and residents passed by as quickly as possible.

In 2008, however, a local community group, the Hirst Wood Regeneration Group, decided to transform this area into a place that could be enjoyed by the whole community. They raised funds from a number of sources, and the area was landscaped, a garden made and a fence and benches, donated by the local parks department, were installed. It is now a popular place for people to sit and enjoy the views of the canal and the lock.

In early 2013, I joined the group and volunteered to maintain the canal garden. Although I live in Saltaire, where my gardening is confined to some pots in my back yard, during the spring and summer my gardening activity is at my house in France.

So I was delighted to have the opportunity to look after a garden in Yorkshire. The original plantings in the canal garden were made from local residents' donations and over the years many of their more vigorous plants, like the geraniums and marguerites, had overtaken the space. Although the garden looked colourful, the planting lacked variety, so my first task was to thin out the existing plants and replace them with plants I brought back from France.

I hope that, by spring, there will be another area for the residents, canal users and visitors, maybe some of you, to sit and enjoy.

Sandra has also cleared another overgrown patch by the canal, and this will feature in a future issue.



2014 dates for your diary:

20 February

Katie Rushworth of ITV's 'Love your Garden' fame talks about creating moods and styles using plants.

20 March

Matthew Wilson: A tale of Two Gardens—Harlow Carr and Hyde Hall.

17 April

David Allison: Planning the season ahead. He will be selling plants.

15 May

The club's plant sale and cakes.

19 June

Garden visit: to be confirmed.

17 July

Evening coach outing to Littlethorpe Manor near Ripon.

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 alpinines' and plants for sale.

Publicity for meetings

Jenny is building up a mailing list so we can publicise our club more widely.

Email Jenny via the club website or at jenny.hakney@talktalk.net if you know anyone who might want to know about the club's events.

Could you volunteer to run the plant table?

We need a volunteer to look after our plant sale table at every meeting.

All you would need to do is help people pay for plants, seeds or magazines which they bring in for sale.

This will help the club to raise funds to pay for future meetings.

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.

These people have offered to help with lifts for others who need them:

- 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