

# Oxenhope

## Gardening club news



March 2018

Welcome to the March newsletter

To celebrate the arrival of spring (at last!) I thought that I would recommend a visit to Hirst Wood nature reserve which is at Hirst Lock on the Leeds Liverpool canal. I know that some of you are aware of the work of the Hirst Wood Regeneration Group in revitalizing this part of the canal, when in 2015 the Group completed the task of turning an overgrown, boggy field into a nature reserve. It will be looking really good this March as all the daffodils, primroses, hellebores and spring flowering plants and shrubs have established themselves and will be at their best. You can also watch the ducks building their nest in the duck house on the pond! You could combine this visit with a short (2.6Km) but delightful riverbank and woodland circular walk which starts from Hirst Lock. At the lock you turn west along the canal, as far as the viaduct over the River Aire, built by Thomas Telford, and then take the steps down on your right which takes you along the river bank (maybe seeing the kingfisher which lives there), back to the bridge over the river and back to Hirst Lock. There is an information board with a map of the walk, at the lock.

After all that exercise, you can indulge yourself by visiting a lovely café, Higher Ground, which is opposite the nature reserve. Opened in January 2018 by a headmaster who took early retirement, it offers a lovely place to sit and look over Hirst Wood whilst sampling the great variety of delicious homemade cakes (all baked on the premises), superb coffee from Baytown Coffee Company based in Robin Hoods Bay – he is a great barista! They also have homemade soups and breakfast rolls (sausages, bacon and egg and my favourite, bacon, avocado and brie). The café is open from Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm. There is a free car park at Hirst Lock, just below the café. Hirst Wood, the nature reserve and the café are all on Hirst Lane, BD18 4NQ. You can find more information about the nature reserve at

[www.hirstwoodrg.co.uk](http://www.hirstwoodrg.co.uk)

If, after all this, you still have the energy for some retail therapy, you can stroll the other way along the canal and visit Salts Mill.

[www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk)

**I will not be at the March meeting as I will be in my garden in France seeing what toll winter has had on it! However, I know that you will all enjoy this month's speaker, Michael Myers and be inspired by his talk on "Wild flowers with style"**

## **Sandra**

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### **What's on in 2018?**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Michael Myers "Wild flowers with style"

**April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Tom Attwood "Gardening for Bees"

**May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Plant sale

**June 21<sup>st</sup>**

Visit Todmorden Rhododendrons

**July 8<sup>th</sup>**

Visit to Gresgarth

**August 16<sup>th</sup>**

TBD

**September 20<sup>th</sup>**

Samantha Hopes "Her journey as a plantswoman"

**October 18<sup>th</sup>**

Fergus Garrett "An evening with"

**November 15<sup>th</sup>**

Mark Jackson "Revamping those famous long borders"

### **Tea and coffee rota**



**Thank you to those who have recently volunteered to help with the rota.**

This gives our usual stalwarts a chance to chat to friends or browse the plants.

If you can help please sign the rota sheet on the refreshment counter.

Or ring Ruth or Sue if you can help:

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

### **Keep our printing costs down**

If you could read this newsletter online please email [richard.gibson@oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:richard.gibson@oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk) and list.



All phone numbers are 01535 unless stated otherwise.

**[www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk)**