

Oxenhope

gardening club news

May 2014



Summer delights in store

May's plant sale is our last meeting indoors until September.

We resume in the community centre on 18 September to hear Timothy Walker from Oxford University Botanic Garden speak on 'From diaz to diamonds'.

Before then we visit Landfarm Gardens, Colden, Hebden Bridge on 19 June. The gardens have been created over a period of thirty five years, 950 feet above the Calder valley.

Eye-catching sculptures create interest around the garden and our visit costs £7

including entry to the art and pottery.

Make your own way there, but please ask one of the committee if you need a lift.

On 17 July it's our coach trip to Littlethorpe Manor near Ripon – an 18th Century manor house with four acres of formal gardens. Please make sure you have booked a place on the trip and paid in advance.

And on Saturday, 2 August Kath Batty kindly opens her garden for a coffee morning at Lower Scholes Farm, Oakworth.

Message from our chair

Welcome to May's newsletter.

I hope you are all looking forward to our plant and cake sale on Thursday, 15 May.

It's a really good opportunity to buy some wonderful plants and some delicious cakes. It's also a good chance to sit down and have a cup of tea or coffee and share garden (and cake!) experiences with those people you see every month but don't normally have to time to socialise with.

Please bring along as many plants as you can, as well as cake (or biscuits) and any garden magazines or seeds you can donate. Your generous contributions, and purchases, provide welcome additions to the club's finances, which in turn, allow us to continue to engage interesting and high profile speakers.

I look forward to seeing you all.

Sandra Angadi

Snippets

The image at the top of this page is *Tulipa 'Burgundy'* planted with *T. 'Mistress'* and *T. 'Menton Exotic'*.

I layered the burgundy, pink and peach tulips in a very large pot edged with forget-me-not seedlings and planted a central plume of *Calamagrostis arundinacea* 'Overdam'.

The delicate pink stripes in the grass reflect the paler pink tulips.

By happy accident some of the forget-me-nots came out pink and, together with the blue ones, provide a delicate frothy cloud around the base of the tulips.

Photo taken 9 May 2014.

www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk

News from a garden in France

Sandra Angadi writes about the annual rhythm of life in her garden in France.

As with every year, I return to my garden in France in mid March to cut down and remove the dead foliage from last year's plants.

I never cut back when I leave in autumn, as firstly, the seed heads provide food for the birds, and the debris shelter for insects, but also, it protects the plants from the severe frosts that inevitably happen here (regularly below minus 16 degrees).

I stay for about 10 days and then return to the UK. Cutting back is a job I dislike, so ten days is long enough. The ground is too cold to plant anything but it means that the emerging spring flowering plants are not hidden by dead foliage and I am not faced with such a daunting task when I return in April.

This year, I returned for the summer at the end of April and as it is the time when I drive over in the car, it means I can go there laden with plants! This year I took rhododendrons to add to my collection in my little wood.

Spring is when this area is at its most beautiful and as I have an acid soil, rhododendrons grow very well.

I brought over two lovely yellow ones, Rhododendron Yellow Hammer and R. Saffron Queen, which I bought at a visit I made to Bodnant just before I left for France. I also found two rhododendrons in February in the sale section at the garden centre in Otley for the knock-down price of £8 each; one of them had no label, but is going to have deep magenta flowers, the other one was R. Tinker Bird. This has proved to be an absolutely lovely variety, pale pink flowers fading to white with the most beautiful intense perfume.

My next project will be to remove some of the plants in my front sloping border which has, I think, too many plants of the same variety.

I intend to replace these with some more salvias, which means another buying trip to my favourite nursery, a lovely hour and a half's drive away to the south west through Richard the Lion Heart country.

Rhododendrons flourish in the acid soil of the woodland garden



2014 dates for your diary:

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 alpines' and plants for sale.

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.

What's Twitter for anyway?

Jenny runs our twitter account: **@OxenhopeGardenC**.

She said: "I set up the account for fun and to learn how to use Twitter.

"I send out the occasional tweet (message) to advertise our meetings and these messages can be seen by any of our followers. We now have 66 followers which are mostly local people.

"Sue Beesley of Bluebell Cottage Gardens follows us and Susie White sometimes sends a direct message asking how things are going in the gardens around here.

"But mostly I enjoy following luminaries such as Matthew Wilson, Lullingstone Castle and Chris Beardshaw. I am always thrilled if one of them re-tweets one of my messages – which happens very rarely if I mention one of them!

"I find Nigel the Dog's tweets amusing. The TV canine generally posts irreverent comments about Monty Don's large collection of trowels for example."

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**

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