

Oxenhope

Gardening club news

October 2015



Message from the chair

Welcome to October's newsletter. I hope you have been able to get out into the garden recently and enjoy the Indian summer we have been having (probably the only summer we have really had in West Yorkshire this year!)

Here in my garden in central France, it's been a completely different gardening scenario. The summer has been very hot and dry and plants, shrubs and trees have all suffered.

So while you were all praying for some sun, I was longing for rain. As ever in a garden, there have been some winners and losers.

My quince tree (*Cydonia oblonga*, variety Vranja) has never before borne much fruit, but this year has 47 pale green fruit which are ripening to a golden yellow. They can't be eaten raw, but cooked on their own, or with apples, they are quite delicious. It's a perfect tree for a small garden as, after 10 years, it's only five feet high. In spring it is covered in the prettiest large, single pale pink flowers.

I'm looking forward to joining you all again on October 14 and hearing how Sue Beesley's transformation of Bluebell Cottage garden has progressed.

Sandra



Thursday night's talk

Sue Beesley from Bluebell Cottage Gardens in Cheshire joins us on 15 October to talk about her eight years of transforming Bluebell Cottage Gardens.

Tucked away down a quiet country lane, this rural gem is one of Cheshire's best kept horticultural secrets.

Keen Tweeter and runner, Sue is a former BBC Gardener of the Year.

Bluebell Cottage Gardens, nursery, wildflower meadows and bluebell woods make a perfect half day out for keen gardeners, wildlife enthusiasts, or anyone in need of a break from the whirlwind of modern life.

2015 dates for your diary:

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 with more information about our meetings is on [our website](#).

Year round plant table

The committee decided it would be a good idea to have a plant table at all meetings – not just at the plant sale.

Our spring plant sale is a resounding success and raises valuable funds which go towards the group's activities.

But please feel free to bring any seedlings or divisions to the meetings whenever you have them to spare.

Transport to meetings

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!

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**

New-look newsletter

Have you noticed the slightly different appearance of your newsletter?

Jenny Hakney said: "I am now using a new lap-top but don't have the Publisher software that I had on my old computer. That means I have had to re-create the newsletter as closely as possible in Word.

"I hope you still enjoy reading it. Please feel free to send in contributions, however small, to help me fill it each month."

Signing in at meetings

We propose to start keeping a tally of how many of you come to meetings.



This will show the committee how many members are attending, which talks are popular and fulfil fire and safety rules.

Kath Batty will be asking you to check yourself in at the start of each meeting.

Keep our printing costs down

If you could read this newsletter online please email richard.gibson@oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk and he will add you to the mailing list.



All phone numbers are 01535 unless stated otherwise.

www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk