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# Oxenhope gardening club

Newsletter

September 2012

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

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## Season kicks off with plants in problem places



**Our first guest speaker for the autumn is Peter Foley who will talk about plants for problem places.**

Those of you who visited Waddow Lodge Garden near Clitheroe with the club in May, will remember the stunning plantsman's gardens around his Georgian property.

Peter will be giving advice on plants that will grow where other plants fail. He will cover alpines, herbaceous, grasses and shrubby plants including groundcover.

His talk also includes tips on encouraging wildlife into these problem sites.

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## Summer in the Hopkinson garden and allotments

***Wendy and Derrick Hopkinson say they have never known a summer like it for the incessant rain and mass slug invasion. Here is Wendy's account.***

I counted 16 slugs one night on my Leucanthemum alone and although they devastated the foliage, the flowers have been abundant. Hostas have been well beaten into submission!

Strong winds have been a problem for taller perennials.

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## Thoughts from the chair



**I must say that I have not done that much gardening this summer. My rain gauge stated that we had over 12 inches of rain in August this year. When we came home from holiday at the end of August we were unable to walk on either lawn in the front and back gardens. I just sank into the ground.**

I must thank my wife, Jan, who worked very hard in the build up to our summer lunch. It was she who spent hours and hours working in the garden to get it to look as good as it did that day. I would also like to thank everyone who came to share in the lunch.

We did manage to fit in trips to Ness Gardens in Mersey Side and Cambo in Fife, Scotland. Both are well worth a visit—one of course being easier to go to than the other.

At the committee meeting held last week we talked about members' commitment to both trips and to the Summer Lunch. We will be preparing a questionnaire to be circulated later in the year. The idea being that we need to know what you want to take part in.

We are also looking for new committee members. All we ask is that you can come to a meeting on a Monday evening, in the week before the club meeting.

*Richard Berry*

## Summer in the Hopkinson garden and allotments cont...

The leaves on my Hawthorns are almost completely gone – is it an early autumn or something more sinister?

In the allotment it seems to have been a year where some produce has bolted: onions, beetroot and swede being the worst affected. Rabbits have eaten their way through half a dozen allotments.



Derrick has been busy with Max, our Jack Russell, and a big stick striking fear into other allotment holders and rabbits alike. Many a time have the words “is it dead” been heard. Secure fencing is the only answer.

Plenty of potatoes but all have been fairly small except for a variety call Amour. Joe Maiden brought them when he was our guest at the gardening club. We also bought Bonnie Dundee (bright red skins) and Beauty of Bute. Both were small as new potatoes but both had a nice taste. It seems to be pretty general amongst plot holders that all potatoes have been small. No baked potatoes this year!

Our broad beans (Jade) did well; they are always a very successful variety for us. We have grown a new variety of runner beans called White Lady with masses of long tasty beans. Green bean soup in abundance. Neighbours, friends and family are being bombarded with them – they are not complaining thank goodness.

Also plenty of climbing French beans with Cobra and Isobel proving to be very successful.

Carrot germination has been problematic for many plot holders. However, ours have been the best ever. We've grown Autumn King and Nantes (bought in La Gomera, Canary Islands) and we are just starting to harvest them. All the conditions for germination must have been perfect at the time we sowed.

Tomatoes have been slow to ripen but now doing very well thanks to the good weather earlier this month. Derrick bought some tomato seed while on holiday in La Gomera and these are now producing plenty of large tomatoes. (No variety name on pack except Canaria.)

Many plot holders have extended their flower planting this year which is essential for pollination and the colours have been fantastic. The Gibsons' plot is a riot of colour; their calendulas are like balls of sunshine lighting up the allotments.



We've noted lots of frogs this year in the six ponds throughout the allotments. And Derrick regularly watches our resident weasel who has made a home in the stone wall near our plot. This could be bad news for the frogs but we hope it will feast on the mice instead.

We are hoping to have reasonable crops of Brussel sprouts, parsnips, leeks and sprouting broccoli to harvest later. We look forward to another good year in 2013.



## OGC dates for your diary

Make sure you don't miss any of our talks and events — put these dates in your diary:

**October 18**

Andy Sturgeon:  
Making a modern garden

**November 15**

Michael Myers

**(December:** No meeting)

Next year's schedule  
to be revealed soon.

## It's your newsletter

**Why not send in a contribution to the club's newsletter?**

Tell us your seasonal tip, suggest a garden to visit or send in a photo of a favourite corner of your own garden.

Email Jenny via the club website or at [jenny.hakney@talktalk.net](mailto:jenny.hakney@talktalk.net)

## Tea and coffee rota

Don't forget helpers are usually needed for the tea and coffee rota for our meetings.



Club coffers pay for the tea, coffee, milk and biscuits. All you need to do is set up, serve refreshments and tidy up.

Please ring one of the committee if you can help out:

Chairman, Richard Berry **647974**  
Secretary, Belinda Marks **640607**  
Treasurer, Sue Gibson **642684**

## Keeping our club printing costs down

We are trying to cut 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](mailto:richard.gibson@oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk)



All phone numbers are 01535 unless stated