

# Oxenhope

## gardening club news

March 2015



### Oxenhope survivors

***This is the first in an occasional series of articles by Steve Spires outlining plants which do well in Oxenhope.***

*Steve has gardened in Oxenhope for the past nine years and during that time has seen many plants struggle and fail in the sometimes harsh conditions, whilst other plants seem well suited to the conditions.*

The first plant I write about is *Spiraea*.

I hope this is of some interest to the (perhaps few) people who are not already familiar with them. Here are a couple of reliable shrubs. One flowers in summer, the other in spring and so their pruning requirements differ.

#### ***Spiraea japonica***

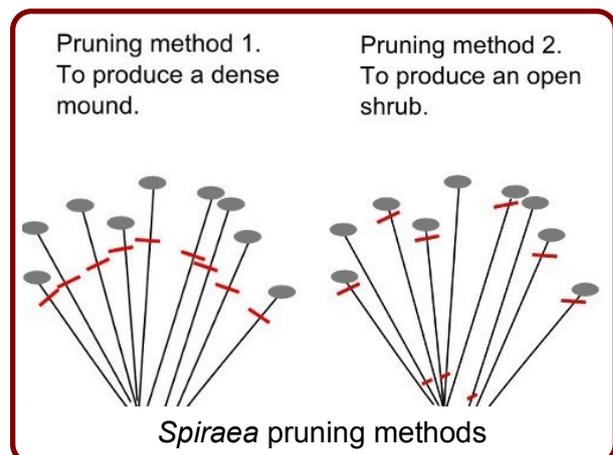
This deciduous shrub grows to 1 to 1.5 metres in height. There are several different varieties and most have mid-green leaves and flattish clusters of small purple flowers in mid to late summer.

It should be pruned in late winter or early spring before bud-burst. If just trimmed over to remove dead flower heads and a few inches of stem it will thicken up into a fairly dense mound covered in small flower heads.

A more open appearance, with fewer, larger flower heads at a range of different heights can be maintained if pruned more selectively, removing perhaps a quarter of the oldest stems down to ground level and also removing any remaining dead flower heads. The attractive yellow-leaved varieties (eg 'Goldflame') seem to be less vigorous than the green-leaved, but still survive in Oxenhope.

***Spiraea 'Arguta'*** (was known as *Spiraea x arguta*) – Bridal Wreath

This deciduous shrub grows to 1.5 to 2 metres. Its leaves are greyish-green and it produces long arching stems covered in small white flowers in spring. It should be pruned after flowering in spring. Remove flowered shoots and perhaps also cut one or two of the oldest stems down to ground level. Specimens of this plant are growing in some very exposed spots in Oxenhope.



### Message from our chair

**I am writing this in France where I returned to do my annual clear-up.**

I am earlier this year so, for the first time, I have been able to enjoy the snowdrops and cyclamen flowering in my little wood.

March is the perfect time to think about new perennials to plant in the garden and we all know it's difficult to resist buying yet another one.

How fortunate then that John Foley, this month's speaker, will be talking about perennials and bringing plants to sell!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

**Sandra**

## 2015 dates for your diary:

19 March

**John Foley, Holden Clough:**  
Fantastic Foliage

16 April

**Neil Timm, The Fern Nursery:**  
Astride the Garden Fence

21 May

**Himalayan Gardens** at Grewelthorpe nr  
Ripon. Evening visit. Make own way.

18 June

The club's **plant sale and cakes**—start  
sowing and dividing now!

16 July

**The Gardens of Gledhow, Oxenhope.**  
Evening visit to three gardens

20 August

**Dove Cottage nr Halifax. Evening  
visit.** Make own way.

17 September

**Michael Myers:**  
Autumnal interest in the Garden

15 October

**Sue Beesley, Bluebell Cottage:**  
Transforming Bluebell cottage gardens

19 November

**Bob Brown, Cotswold Garden  
Flowers:** So many plants, so little  
space.

Don't forget, the full list with dates of all  
our meetings is on [our website](#).

## Gardening club's golden anniversary—2016

**Next year we celebrate our 25th  
birthday.**

We want to make it a really special year  
for our members, so if there is a speaker  
you would particularly love to hear, why  
not pass their name to the committee?

We can't promise they will be able to  
come, or we will be able to afford them,  
but we will do our best to contact them.

## 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

## Why not send in a contribution to the newsletter?

Jenny would be grateful if you could help her fill the space. Email Jenny via the club  
website or at [jenny.hakney@talktalk.net](mailto:jenny.hakney@talktalk.net)

## 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](mailto:richard.gibson@oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk)



All phone  
numbers  
are 01535  
unless  
stated  
otherwise.

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