

Oxenhope

Gardening club news

April 2016



Chair's message

Welcome to this spring edition of the club newsletter. Last month's talk by Tom Hart-Dyke was the perfect welcome to spring – his talks are always a tonic!

I am in France as I write this, looking out onto a great swathe of *Narcissus*. About six years ago I invested in a large number of the bulbs from specialist Peter Nyssen. It seemed a huge expense at the time, but my, has it been worth it!

Every year since I've been greeted by this wonderful display which only seems to get better and better. And because I

chose varieties that flower at different times, I have a display from the beginning of March until the beginning of May.

I am hoping to extend the spring bulb display next year by introducing more varieties of tulips – particularly those that continue to flower well year on year, so I am really looking forward to Anna Pavord's visit to the club in September!

I'm also looking forward to this month's talk on dahlias to pick up some advice on how to grow them and how I can best incorporate them into the general garden design.

Happy gardening!

Sandra

Nature recovers well after Boxing Day flooding

Jenny and Steve's allotment at Cottingley Bridge, which they took on last October, is coming round nicely after the December flood water.

The deep alluvial soil is very well drained, though right on the river bank, and it is possible to work the soil even after rain.

The mature fruit trees which were washed near horizontal, were soon staked upright again and mulched with manure and new topsoil. They are now mostly in bud, with concerns for just one tree that looks diseased.

A Rochester peach tree in the old greenhouse is now in blossom – a far cry

from the deep flood water and silt earlier this year.

Jenny said: "Losing our topsoil to the flood exposed weed roots very deep in the ground, so we had a chance to get those out before topping the soil up.

"Our three mini-ponds were scoured of all but silt, and I was worried the pond life would have been swept down to Leeds, but we soon saw frogs stirring at the bottom and they have now produced huge quantities of spawn.

"And I am overjoyed that a blackbird is nesting in a low shrub, which would probably have been under water a few short weeks ago."

2016 meetings

21 April

Mike Cunningham:
A fresh look at dahlias

19 May

Club plant sale with cakes

18 June

Visit to Sue Beesley's Bluebell Cottage nursery and garden, by coach.

21 July

Open Garden: Kath Batty's garden

9 August (Tuesday)

Visit to The Grange, Carleton at 2pm.

15 September

Anna Pavord: Tulips in the garden

20 October

Timothy Walker: Plants of Tenerife – Go where Darwin did not

17 November

Kevin Pratt: "Don't go to sleep during winter."

Time to get propagating

It will soon be time for our plant sale, which is back to its usual time in May.

Don't forget to save those seedlings and divisions, rather than composting them.

Your plants and unopened seed packets will be gratefully received.

We'll be grouping plants together again according to price, so keep your rarer specimens for the £5-and-over table.

Please do try to label your contributions – the plant sellers are very knowledgeable, but we can't recognise everything!

Cakes are a terrific money-spinner, so we need everyone to get baking too.

Tea and coffee rota

Helpers are usually needed for the tea and coffee rota for our meetings.



Please ring Ruth or Sue if you can help:

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

Sign up for coach trip



Please remember to sign up for the trip to Sue Beesley's garden and nursery on Saturday, 18 June.

Please pay Sue Gibson £12 in advance to cover the cost of the coach. Pay garden entry on arrival. RHS members take your card. Leave Oxenhope at 9am.

Joan Roach is the friendly face to look out for when arriving at meetings. It helps us to know how many people attend each meeting, for fire regulations.

What's this daffodil?

Does anyone recognise this daffodil, also pictured on the masthead?



It was photographed in Jenny's garden on 14 April 2016.

It is palest yellow with a strong yellow trumpet, double in form and 18" tall.

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.