

Oxenhope

Gardening club news

February 2016



Chair's message

Looking back over a previous newsletter message from me, I realised that I had never reported on the progress that had been made on turning the boggy, overgrown field near the canal garden that I wrote about in 2014, into a nature reserve.

Well, after a lot of hard work by many members of the local community and support from Incommunities and Forest of Bradford and many donations of plants, trees and shrubs (some from members of the Oxenhope Gardening Club), the nature reserve was finally completed last

summer and opened in September 2015.

So, if you happen to be visiting Saltaire, do take a stroll along the canal to Hirst Lock and see the spring bulbs emerging to make the garden look great.

We welcome David Allison as this month's speaker who will be encouraging us to grow our own fruit. Even if space is limited, David will be suggesting ways in which we can all grow fruit. It promises to be an interesting evening.

Sandra

How does soil recover after flooding?

Jenny and Steve started cultivating an overgrown allotment at Cottingley Bridge last October, thinking how wonderful it was having a stretch of river bank where one could take a breather between bouts of digging.

They are now in a very good position to observe how long it takes flooded soil to

recover, following the 4-foot-deep tidal wave of water in the Boxing Day flood.

Indeed, where they had already loosened soil by digging, most of it was completely scoured away by the river.

Mature fruit trees were washed near horizontal, and it is not known yet how well they might recover.

Pictured on the masthead - *Arum italicum* 'Marmoratum'.



Photographed in Jenny's garden on 14 February 2016. A handsome hardy plant which produces striking leaves when there is little else in the garden. It then neatly dies back over summer after producing spikes of bright red berries – leaving plenty of room for summer perennials to take centre stage.

www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk

2016 meetings

18 February

David Allison: Fruit for All

17 March

Tom Hart Dyke
Update from Lullingstone Castle

21 April

Mike Cunningham:
A fresh look at dahlias

19 May

Club plant sale with cakes

18 June

Visit to Breezy Knees nursery and Linden Lodge, by coach.

21 July

Open Garden: Kath Batty's garden

9 August (Tuesday)

Visit to The Grange, Carleton at 2pm.

20 October

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

17 November

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

Your suggestions please!

If you have any suggestions to help the committee run the club as you would like us to do, please write them in the suggestion book which will be on the table with books and magazines.

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.

Year round plant table

Don't forget we are having a plant and book table at all meetings.

This year our spring plant sale is back to its usual spot in May – so before you know it, it will be time to start thinking about seedlings, cuttings and divisions.

Meanwhile please feel free to bring any plants to the meetings whenever you have them to spare.

Need a lift?

If you would like help with transport to meetings and trips please tell either Jenny Hakney on 610599 or Ruth Shepley on 643437.

Signing in at meetings



Please remember to sign in at each meeting you attend.

Joan Roach will usually be the friendly face to look out for.

Also don't forget: February's meeting is the last chance to pick up your new membership card.

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 cuppas and tidy up.

Please ring Ruth or Sue if you can help:

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



All phone numbers are 01535 unless stated otherwise.