

Oxenhope



Gardening Club News

January 2020

Welcome to the 2020 Programme

We hope you will feel, as we do, that we have an interesting, stimulating and exciting programme for you this year.

Among the great speakers in our programme this year, we have in February, Katy Merrington, Cultural Gardener for the The Hepworth, Wakefield who has responsibility for maintaining the new Tom Stuart-Smith garden. She is followed in March by the editor of Gardens Illustrated, Lucy Bellamy, who will be talking about the inspiration for her book, Brilliant and Wild.

If you have watched the recent production of Dracula on BBC TV, you

will be fascinated by Rezvan Chisu's talk, Plants and Castles of Transylvania!

October brings the return of our keynote speaker, Andy Sturgeon, when his talk will be on Space and Form.

Our coach trip this year will be to the wonderful Trentham Gardens which features award winning gardens by Tom Stuart-Smith, Piet Oudolf and the vast meadow schemes by Olympic Park designer, Nigel Dunnett.

We hope you will enjoy and be inspired by the programme.

Happy New Year from the committee

Sandra

The Gardens of Kenya. January's speaker, John Grimshaw



John Grimshaw is the Trust Director of the Yorkshire Arboretum at Castle Howard.

This month he will be sharing his experiences of gardening in Kenya.

John is respected gardener, botanist and author and has a wide knowledge and experience of gardening in Africa.

John has degree in botany and doctorate in African forest ecology from Oxford University and has travelled widely to see plants growing in their habitat.

John is also the Vice-chair of the RHS Woody Plant Committee.

Stewartia malacodendron



Stewartia's are the less well known members of the same family, Theaceae. This family includes camellias and the economically important *Camellia sinensis* which is, for me and much of the UK, one of the most important plants in the world – the tea plant!

Stewartia (or *Stuartia* after John Stuart, 3rd Earl of Bute), especially the Asian *Stewartia pseudocamellia* and *S. sinensis* and American *S. malacodendron* and *S. ovata*, can be

found in many public gardens but rarely available outside specialist nurseries.

All Theaceae require moist but free draining neutral to acidic soil but particularly for *Stewartia*, the soil must not dry out. Most are woodland understory shrubs although *Camellia* species flower more freely in full sun away from east-facing aspects: early morning spring sunshine after a frost will damage open flowers.

Deciduous *Stewartia* and *Franklinia* also provide autumn colour and the former has orange and often peeling bark for winter interest and hence is a real asset to any suitable garden.

Stewartias may be less well known but are well worth considering for your garden and we will hopefully have an opportunity to see *Stewartia* in flower when we visit Brooklands in June!

Thank you to committee member Dr Rebecca Slack for this article.

Gardening news and events

RHS Harlow Carr: Embroidering Harlow Carr, January 6 to February 29

National Trust. Take a walk with a ranger to learn how to identify trees without their leaves. Saturday January 25 12-15.00

2020 Membership. If you haven't already paid, please remember to bring your cheque books to the January meeting!

Tea and coffee rota

Thank you to those of you who have recently volunteered to help with the rota.



- Ruth Shepley **643437**
- Kath Batty **643592**

If you can help please sign the rota sheet on the refreshment counter.

Or ring Ruth or Kath if you can help:

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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.