

Oxenhope

Gardening club news

March 2017



Agapanthus expert to share his knowledge

I hope you all enjoy Steve Hickman's demonstration about various aspects of growing and propagating Agapanthus at our March meeting.

Steve's Hoyland Plant Centre has specialised in Agapanthus for countless years but is also devoted to the cultivation and propagation of Tulbaghia, Nerines and Clivia.

Steve, pictured right, claims to have the finest collection of Agapanthus and

Tulbaghia in the country so his knowledge and expertise should be fascinating. Steve will be bringing some of his plants for sale

Sandra



Outings to gardens and historic allotments

We can now reveal details of our two summer trips – so get ready to sign up at Thursday's meeting.

On Saturday, 22 July we are going to Linden Lodge and Breezy Knees near York. This will be by coach leaving Oxenhope to arrive around 11am.

Linden Lodge has a one-acre garden with gravel paths, borders with unusual herbaceous perennials, wildlife pond, formal pond, summer house, kitchen garden and glasshouse. As well as orchard and woodland there are five acres of developing meadow, trees, pathways, hens and Shetland sheep.

Breezy Knees features award winning gardens, a specialist perennial nursery and cafe.

At the time of writing this we don't know the full cost, but please be prepared to pay at least £5 deposit. You will need to pay Sue the full amount by the time of our plant sale in May.

On August Bank Holiday Monday, we have arranged a special look around the historic allotments at Cottingley Bridge.

An extensive part of the former Ferrand estate became **Cottingley Bridge Allotment Gardens** and were opened in 1844 by Benjamin Disraeli.

We plan to have cold drinks and a tour of interesting plots with the possibility to see others more informally.

More details in the next newsletter.

Diary dates 2017

- 16 March: Steven Hickman, Cultivation and propagation of Agapanthus, Nerines etc.
- 20 April: an evening with Christine Walkden.
- 18 May: Plant Sale.
- 15 June: Visit to Slack Top Alpines and how to plant a trough.
- 22 July: Coach outing to Breezy Knees and Linden Lodge, near York.
- 28 August: visit to Cottingley Bridge allotments. Cold drinks and visit several key plots.
- 21 September: Gill Hodgson, Flowers for Cutting
- 19 October: Sarah Hopps, Late Summer Border.
- 16 November: Clifford Cain, Fruit Growing in the north of England.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at future meetings.

Send us your tulip photos

We are all dreaming of warm spring days when our lovely new tulips, bought following Anna Pavord's talk last year, burst into flower.

The committee thought it would be a cheering idea to share photos of our tulips, when they emerge.

When your tulips are at their best send a photo to Richard Gibson by following the link to his name, on our website home page. His email address is at the foot of this page too.

Tea and coffee rota

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



We are not getting enough volunteers to give our usual stalwarts a chance to chat to friends or browse the plants.

So we are going to put a blank rota sheet on the refreshment counter, in the hope that one or two of you will volunteer to give it a go occasionally.

Please ring Ruth or Sue if you can help:

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

Annual plant sale

Don't forget our spring plant sale is in May.

Before you know it, it will be time to start thinking about seedlings, cuttings and divisions to help us raise funds to keep the club going.

So whether it's a Ballerina or a Black Hero, a Cairo or a Couleur Cardinal, send a note of the tulip variety with your picture and Richard will post them on the website so we can all admire them.



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.