

Oxenhope Gardening Club

Chair's Annual Report for the Year 2015

The programme began in January with a talk from Hannah Wilson on the plants in the Himalayan Garden near Ripon. This talk was followed up by a visit in May to the garden which allowed members to see for themselves the plants Hannah had described. Although the weather was not kind -very wet - it was nevertheless a very enjoyable visit.

February gave us the opportunity to meet up again with two of our regular speakers, Pippa and Andrew Chapman, who gave us an inspiring talk on their efforts to encourage more urban growing in Keighley. This was followed in March with a visit from another of our regular speakers, John Foley from Holden Clough Nurseries. As ever, John's talk included examples of interesting plants, many of which he bought along so that members could have instant access to them!

April's talk was a fascinating look at the fine line there is between flowers that grow in the wild and are regarded as wild flowers and the flowers that are recognised as garden plants and how blurred the definition is between the two. June was the date this year for the plant sale which again gave members and friends the opportunity to buy, for very little cost, plants which had been generously donated. It also gave members the opportunity to chat together and at the same time, sample the delicious cakes made by members. This occasion, as ever, brought much needed additional funds to the club, money that helps subsidise speaker's fees.

July and August was the occasion for visits to local gardens. In July, members had the opportunity to look round three members beautiful gardens in Gledhow Drive and also enjoy the wonderful refreshments that had been provided. It is always a treat look at what our creative members have developed over the years in their gardens. An evening visit in August to Dove Cottage Nursery and Garden gave members the opportunity to see round this very interesting nursery without the general public which made it seem a very special evening.

Our programme continued after the summer break with a talk from Michael Myers on autumn interest in the garden, which provided some thought provoking examples of plants to provide autumn colour. In October, Sue Beesley visited the club again and updated us all on how Bluebell Cottage gardens have progressed since her last visit. This has inspired the committee to ensure we programme in a visit to this garden in the not too distant future

Finally, in November we welcomed for the first time, Bob Brown of Cotswold Garden Flowers. Not only did Bob give us great and inspiring talk, but he also proved to be a very amusing speaker. As one member reported after the talk "what a high note to end the year!"

The committee hope that members enjoyed the 2015 programme and that members find the 2016 programme equally enjoyable and inspiring. Member's feedback is always welcomed and valued. Finally, a big thank you to members for their continuing membership and raffle support and donations of magazines and plants.