

OXENHOPE GARDENING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

TONIGHT WE WELCOME NIGEL DUNNETT

Notes from the Chairman

I know it's a bit of a poor do when the Chairman cannot manage to attend the meetings!

So here are a few of the issues that were raised at the last committee meeting that we feel you should be aware of.

The most important of which is that we need a new Treasurer!

Kathryn Sharp, who has undertaken long service in the post, has advised us that she intends to stand down in the autumn. Please give this post some thought and if you feel able to volunteer your services we would love to hear from you. Please speak to Kathryn, Nigel or myself.

Membership for this year is now closed. If you know of anyone who has not yet renewed their membership for this year then they will be able to attend each of the remaining meetings as a guest at the cost of £3.00 per meeting. Just for your information we have 120 members this year.

I have been informed that some members are of the opinion that the tea and coffee served at meetings are included in the cost of membership. This is not the case and there is a nominal charge of 20pence per cup to cover the cost of the drinks and biscuits. We also need a few more members to help serve the drinks. The more volunteers the less number of times in the year you have to do it.

Having got that lot off my chest here are the more pleasant parts.

A list of dates for your diaries! Yes I know they are all on your membership card but it doesn't hurt to be reminded again.

We only have 16 people who have signed up for the trip to Newby Hall on 28th June, so if you intend to go please speak to Kathryn or Nigel tonight.

16th July, the visit to "The Grange Carleton, Skipton. We are to meet at The Grange at 7.00pm so, see you there.

26th July, 12.30pm The Summer Lunch, Brookfield, Oxenhope. It is a faith lunch and I'm not sure which is better the food or the garden, they are both superb. What can I say other than miss it at your peril.

Lastly **20th August** The Open Gardens at Stepping Stones and 48 Gledhow. I've now got a major panic on because I've just been in the garage to get the dahlias out ready to start them off and I have lost them all - they are all rotten. Gordon Riggs here I come!

Richard Berry

Pams Gardening Diary

I'm sure we have all gone to the bookcase and been distracted by anything but the one we came for. One hour later I found the reference for Celmisia. I could always take or leave the small alpines and questioned the larger C.coriacea and C.semi-cordata were difficult and not suitable in my garden. An evergreen shrub was taken out and the celmisia made a fine specimen in the back garden under Circidiphyllum "Red Fox". The pure sword like leaves of pur silver come from a central root system as do the flowers. These are white daisies of good size and texture with a clean yellow centre. Michael Mitchell from Slack Top was at the East Lancs Show with C.semi-cordata for sale. He has some special hybrids. Guess what – it is here with me as custodium. I am sure I could get to like these plants.

The Hardy Plant Society, West Yorkshire Group have a stand at RHS Chelsea in 2010. As a member I have been asked to open my garden on Sunday 2nd August this year. We will open from 11.00am to 4.00pm with cakes etc. Morning Coffee to afternoon tea. Entrance will be £2.00. I hope some of Oxenhope friends might be able to provide a few plants or baking for sale. June and Brian Smith have it organised, and me – I will sit and look pretty until anyone wants a plant naming. Michael is good at knowing my plants. Last week I had my first lily beetle on a hemerocallis plant.

Finally, did anyone spot the deliberate mistake in the last Newsletter? The mistake occurred in my diary notes. I mentioned epilobiums and stated that they were always pink. Of course this is untrue . Well done if you spotted this mistake.

Pam Greenwood

Garden Open Day

I happened to read the article below recently and thought it might amuse you ...Lynda

"One Sunday, in the days of my youth, I was volunteered with my younger brother to superintend the family garden which was opening for a Red Cross Sunday. We had been weeding all morning, and at lunch time handed over to the various dignitaries who set up card tables, arrows to the lavatory, the tea tent and so on. Meanwhile my brother and I lurked in the rhododendrons, ready to tackle cutting pinchers, retrieve lost children, banish unwelcome dogs and generally see to the needs of the public. One of the first to arrive was a famous local Brigadier (retd) who had a short fuse and tended to speak in telegrams. He obviously disliked teenagers intensely, for he glared at my brother and shouted "Hostas!"

Sorry, queried my brother, who didn't know a dahlia from a damson.

Where are your Hostas? The Brigadier's face was turning crimson. Clearly with words at a premium he disliked having to repeat himself.

They're not here sir, said my brother.

Can see that! That's why I'm asking.

They've gone to India. They'll be back next week.

Good God! Said the Brigadier and strode off looking perplexed.

I looked at my brother.

What on earth did you say that for? I asked.

I thought "hosta" must be a military word for "parent". He shuffled more deeply into the rhododendrons to hide his embarrassment. Inevitably, the military gent found the hostas and strode back to berate us.

India be dammed! he roared. Down by the pond! Hostas! Dozens! Pretty sight. Lovely kalmias too! Very pretty. That boy your gardener? Useless! No clue!"

Nigel Colborn

And Finally...

Gardening requires lots of water – most of it in the form of perspiration.

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