

OXENHOPE GARDENING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Tonight we welcome Alan Wilson

*- Otley
Cherry*

February 2009

Jack Holdsworth

It is with sadness we have to report the death of Jack, in hospital, after a short illness. He was a long standing committee member, who will be remembered with affection by present and past members of gardening club committee. Jack was a constant source of information for visits and outings, happy to be in the background doing essential jobs and invariably with a smile on his face. We all remember him as a kind, lovely, gentle man. We are very grateful for all the years he served on the committee and our thoughts and prayers are with Kate and their family at this sad time. Jack will be very much missed by us all.

Jacks funeral will take place at 1.15pm at St. Luke's Church, East Morton on Friday 20th February.

Anne Collinson

Pam's Gardening Diary

The garden was deep in snow and I had been trapped inside for a whole week watching the weight of it bringing down shrubs. Miles called to take me shopping, then cleared the path and garage front. After he had gone I had to have a go with a long cane starting on the camellias as they were the heaviest. This attempt failed. Some time later with a little plastic stool and the oxygen line draped round my neck I felt like Captain Scott of the Antarctic. At least this time a few more shrubs were cleared which gave me some satisfaction. Conifers take the most damage from snow and might need wrapping round with string as they grow. Rhododendrons might be carefully lifted up from laying on the ground. The string tying the eucryphas had broken and being extremely fine leafed they were hanging over like a fountain. Both *E. milliganii* and *E. lucida* pink have fine whippy branches that

form columnar trees in summer. I cleared these before going back inside the house and felt very satisfied with myself. If you have deciduous azaleas and acers remember they are very brittle and canes can accidentally break off the flower buds. I find myself shouting at Richard when he walks past Azalea vaseyi - perhaps a bright ribbon might remind us all.

I had made up my mind, no more tulips, especially in the open garden for 2009. They do look aristocratic in a blue delft pot or terracotta bowl. Watering has been too much work when I have been busy bringing new seedlings into the world. The Rock Gardens seed has been exciting no matter how long I have tried.

A lovely clump of daffodils by the gate in the front garden has been flowering since the middle of January. They stand up well in front of the camellias. I would like some more, but like many of us the label is lost or the records are missing. My record book shows it could be one of six. Rob Potterton will have the answer if I see him at Blackpool or East Lancs show in March.

Friday 13th February and the snow is melting and lots of heads are popping up. What an exciting time. The Miscanthus flowers look as if they have been washed and put out to dry in the sun. Anxiety over the Euphorbias coming through the winter is still with me, yet they look good standing up well this morning. Several are in bud.

Euphorbia characias in all its forms looks strong and bold in the winter garden.

Finally the clematis which is flowers on the west window in the sitting room looks well. That reminds me to take some for the Plant Forum at the Hardy Plant Society tonight.

Pam Greenwood.

Two of My Favourite Flowers

The Foxglove or the botanical name *Digitalis purpurea*, relates to the German Fingerhut or Fingerhat. These brightly coloured flowers that look exotic, fascinated me as a child as I watched the bumble bee going in and out collecting pollen. I still watch them now when I sit in the garden as I have some planted under the miniature apple trees, as they encourage pollination. The foxglove flower is stout, large and strong with ring spots to lead in the bees. It also has long hairs inside the throat to deter the smaller intruders, so next time you see them on a hedge bank or a woodland clearing resist the