

Oxenholme Gardening Club

Newsletter

JANUARY 2010

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of Pam Greenwood over Christmas. We all knew her as a long term and valued member and committee member of the club whose input will be sorely missed.

The Right Way Up

Over a decade ago, in the very early days of Gardening Club, we visited a garden on Old Allen Road presided over by a very daunting lady with grey hair confined in a bun, Pam.

I was a novice gardener then and hesitated to ask my very basic questions. At the end of the visit some of us were soundly "ticked off" for picking up plants that weren't ready for selling. Pam terrified me!

Over the years I learnt that Pam's passion for plants didn't suffer fools gladly. It was important to her that the right plant must be given the right conditions and situation, and most certainly correctly identified. Woe betide the speaker who named a plant wrongly!

Pam never hesitated to voice her opinion, favourable or otherwise, on all matters horticultural. We've all learnt from her over the years. Those of us who saw her garden at Chellow Dene never failed to be impressed by her use of colour combinations. Colour was very important to her. There was no room in her life for tender plants; if it couldn't be raised and thrive outside then it was out. Cut flowers were another "no no". We used to joke that Pam had a Dunce's Corner in her garden for plants that had failed to perform!

If having Pam visit your garden was the equivalent of sitting an exam, it wasn't because she wanted to give you a hard time, but rather she must know the full correct name for every plant. We all must have seen Pam's "little black book" it went everywhere with her to record the names of desirable plants that she had seen.

Together with this passion for plants Pam had a very wry sense of humour, which enlivened many a committee meeting. We all still giggle about Pam's reaction to a speaker at Cullingworth Gardening Club who wore a belt adorned with a very suggestive silver pointing finger - you had to be there!

As well as encouraging the bird population (apart from spraying the crab apples with hair spray to deter the blackbirds from dining there), she left food out for the urban fox, which she maintained had scant food to forage on since the introduction of wheelie bins.

Yes, Pam was a person of strong opinions which she was not afraid to voice, she had a sense of humour and a lively mind and a knowledge of perennials which we will find had to replace. She soldiered on despite failing health, and I like to think that now her free spirit is skipping along the byways and hedgerows of the Dales, drifting over the two gardens of her own creation and most definitely standing at the shoulders of gardeners she had influenced in her lifetime.





The thaw has set in. However, if the snow returns I recommend a good book "Helen Dillon's Garden Book". It was an excellent Christmas present - full of good ideas, good advice, very informative and a delight to read, in true Helen Dillon style.

Helen, the doyen of Irish gardening is never afraid to make dramatic changes to her garden including removing her snowdrop collection.

The snow has gone and the snowdrops under their protective blanket have quietly developed with buds swelling, ready to announce spring really is just around the corner.

Anne Collinson



* Steve Thwaite 21.1.10
Sail from Greenlands Turf
Top Soil Supplier
at Cottisley

Tea Rota Gdn Club

Feb 18th Paula Dale

March 18th Lynne Arrowsmith
Kirsty Cocker

Ap 15th Mairi Clements
Pauline Shoffield
Kate Holdsworth

Sept 16th
Oct 21st

Nov 18th Three Day
Jeanne Runcel
Anatia Bailey