

Overhope 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 Dunces' 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.

Every time I write a plant label I remember Pam's insistence that they be written The Right Way Up, i.e. from the rounded end towards the point, so that one should not be craning ones neck this way and that to read them on a row of pots.

When you write your labels, remember, Pam will be watching!

She will be sorely missed.

Ann Barrans.

Message from The Chairman:

Looking out of the Window!

I haven't seen the garden for a few weeks. Soon the snow has got to melt! I planted the tulips in pots that I have stored in the greenhouse and they are all frozen solid. Last weeks Saturday Gardening section in the paper was talking about snowdrops, it made me wonder as to what is going on under the snow in the garden.

There are just a couple of things that you all need to be aware of. We have increased the annual membership fee from £8 to £10 per year. The increase is to meet the cost of the speakers for 2010. The bill for speakers for the coming year will be in excess of £1,300. We need 130 members to cover that cost alone. On top of that there is the room hire and other expenses. Kathryn has brought some copies of last years accounts for those of you who may wish to see them.

We need volunteers to put their names forward to be part of the tea and coffee rota. If you feel able to help with that can you please speak to Kathryn Sharp or Sue Gibson.

Due to the sad loss of Pam Greenwood who served the club for many years, we are looking to recruit one or even two new committee members. If you are interested in helping on our committee which meets just once a month please speak to either myself or any committee member. We would love to have you on board.

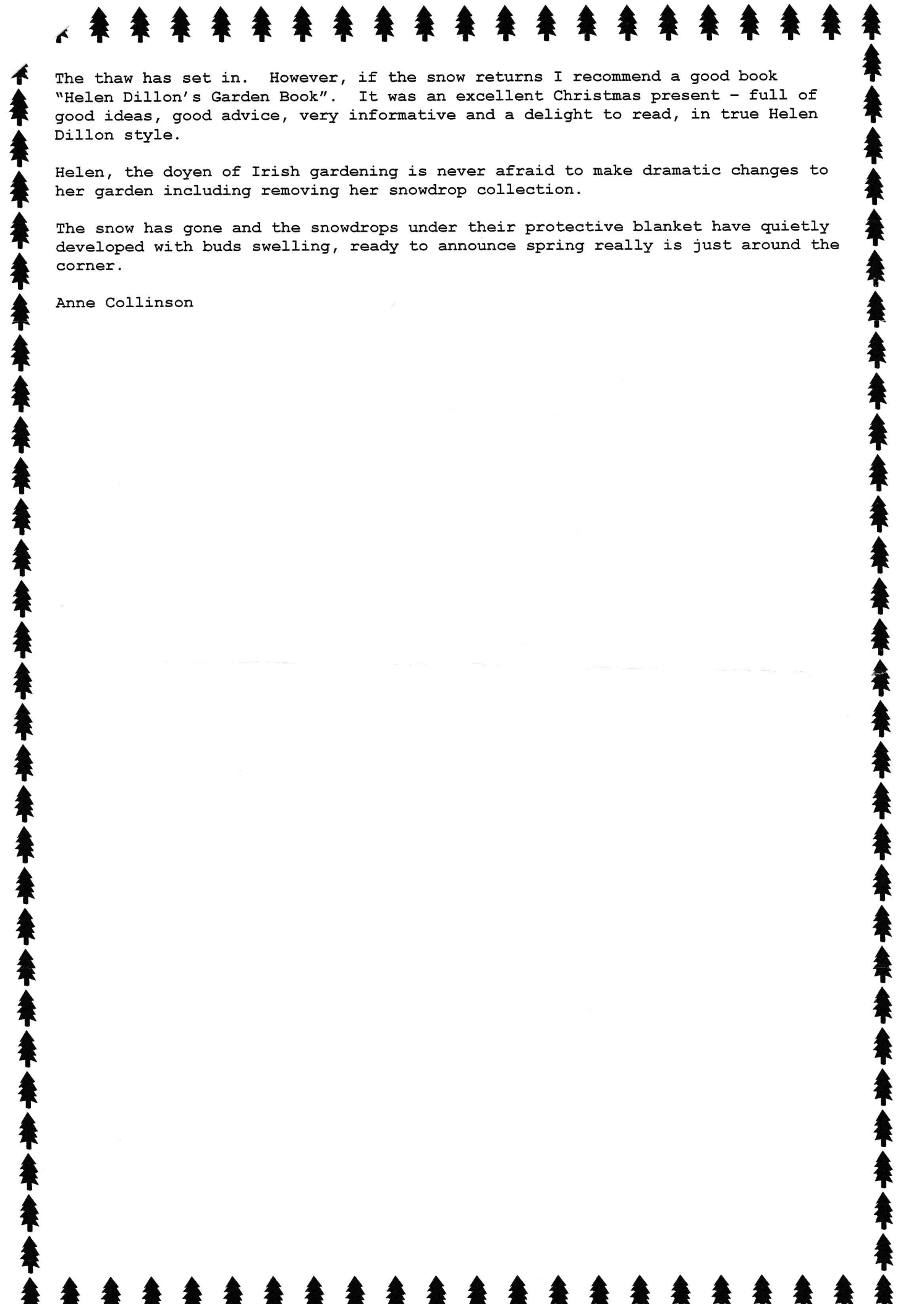
You will see from your membership card we have a full programme of great speakers and events for 2010. If you know of any other speakers that you think would be of interest to members or if you have any particular garden you would like to visit in 2011 please pass the details to Anne Collinson.

Richard Berry

Food For All in Hard Times!

Prior to December 17th 2009 we thought perhaps it might be an early spring in 2010! Snowdrops were pushing through, narcissus Cedric Morris was in flower. It will only take a sudden cold snap to slow things down, I said.

The snow came and we've seen nothing for weeks but birds fighting over the food we've put out. Fourteen goldfinches at one count, a charm indeed, desperate to eat the readily available niger seeds and sunflower hearts. Six blackbirds, two female and four male each demanding their own space to eat breakfast. Not many blue tits or hedge sparrows but three robins, two fighting while one ate, plenty of starlings scattering food far and wide, then a redwing and a fieldfare. No doubt all this activity at the feeding station alerted their main predator - a sparrow hawk which swooped down and plucked an unsuspecting goldfinch, momentarily pausing on the garden gate clutching its trophy. Now all is quiet.



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 Thorne 21.1.10.
Soil from Greenland Tuf
Top soil Suppliers
at Cottingham

Tea Rota Gdn Club

Feb 18th Paula Dale

Mar 18th Lynne Arrowsmith
Kirsty Cocker

Apr 15th Mavis Clements
Pauline Sheffield
Kate Holdsworth

Sept 16th

Oct 21st

Nov 18th Thane Day /
Jeane Ruel
Analia Bailey