



Oxenhope

Gardening Club News

March 2026

Welcome to the March newsletter

It was lovely to see you all last month at the February meeting where I saw many familiar faces and some new faces. Thank you for continuing to support the club and thank you for supporting the committee at the AGM by voting us in once again! We truly value your support and thanks to you, the club is in a very healthy position.

We hope you will continue to enjoy this year's programme- we are already planning the programme for 2027, which we have to do to ensure we can book the most interesting speakers. We will always be happy to consider any suggestions you have for speakers. Either a return of someone you would love to hear again, or someone new you would like to recommend to us. One of our meet and greet team would be happy to take your suggestions!



Earlier this month, on one of the rare sunny days we have had, I visited Harlow Carr. As many of you will also have done, I wanted to enjoy the signs of spring arriving. At this time of year, I always make a beeline to the woodland area behind the Bath House to where the rockery and woodland area are. Spring is when it really takes centre stage. I always look out for one of my all-time favourite spring woodland plants and I wasn't disappointed; the exquisite little Hepaticas were in full flower. If you aren't familiar with these plants, I recommend them to you!
Sandra

Harlow Carr

Plant of the month. *Hepatica Nobilis*:

Hepatica, also known as liverleaf or liverwort, belongs to the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae) It includes about seven species native to Europe, Asia and eastern North America and are one of the most beautiful flowers of early Spring.



The bright blue flowers of *Hepaticas* occur everywhere from Spain to the Arctic Circle and eastwards as far as the River Volga. On bright sunny days, their flowers open wide to display their simple beauty and charm. *Hepaticas* bloom early in spring, often before other wild flowers, providing a vibrant display in woodland settings. The colour range includes mainly blue, pink and white in single, semi-double or double forms with a yellow centre and a delicate, light fragrance. The leaves often remain green over the winter, sometimes turning bronze in colder weather.

Hepatica nobilis

Hepaticas are important pollinators, especially so early in the year, attracting butterflies, bees, moths, flies and beetles. *Hepaticas* need a free-draining soil with lots of organic matter to imitate their natural habitat in deciduous woodland. It grows best in partial to full shade.

Hepaticas were believed to have therapeutic value for liver disorders, which is reflected in its common name as liverwort. Native American tribes, such as the Cherokee and Chippewa used it medicinally and it continues to be harvested for herbal purposes in some regions.



John Massey at Ashwood nurseries has made massive advances with hybridising hepaticas and developing strains that come true to seed. Some of the best *Hepaticas*: *Hepatica x media* 'Harvington Beauty'. AGM-azure blue flowers; *Hepatica x schlyteri* The Bride, AGM -large white flowers. *Hepatica nobilis* var. *pyrenaica*. Cambridge blue flowers, marbled leaves. *Hepatica x schlyteri*. 'Red Max' single pink flowers.

Hepaticas Ashwood Nursery'

From Trade to Topiary: The Nabobs of the East India Company and their English Gardens.

This month's speaker is Camilla Anderson:



Lal Bagh gardens. Bangalore 1860

The subject of Camilla's talk will be the introduction and development of gardens in India during the time of the East India Company.

Camilla is researcher in Garden History. She has an MA in Garden History from the University of Bristol and is based in Derbyshire.

Future speakers: April: Kevin Pratt. Woody Plants

Gardening news and events:

Harrogate Spring Show. April 23-April 26



Farndale Daffodil Walk: Farndale, North Yorks.
March and April



Crayke Open Gardens. March 29th. Crayke, North Yorks.

Tea and Coffee: We always welcome volunteers to help with teas and coffees!