

near  
Bath Chatsworth Coldeston

# OXENHOPE GARDENING CLUB

Geoff Hambras Gdn  
Rutland.

## NEWSLETTER

November Meeting 2008

### Tonight we welcome Graeme Iddon

#### About our Speaker

Graeme's mother started the nursery over 30 years ago, as a small family run nursery.

Graeme's mother Maureen Iddon displayed roses and exhibited flower arranging at NAFAS shows. However, she found it difficult to obtain the unusual foliage and flowers she wanted to display in the Northwest of England and this situation led to her ordering plants from all over Britain to use in her flower arrangements.

The initial solution came from Graeme's father and that was to build her a small cold frame, this she used to propagate plants for her own flower arranging. Soon many of her friends at the Flower Clubs started to ask her for supplies of these unusual plants for their own use.

In fact there were soon so many people contacting her to obtain these unusual plants that she realised that expansion was the only way to prevent people being disappointed. After the first year she bought a Poly Tunnel, and a couple of years later added a greenhouse, thus her nursery grew and developed over the passing years into the professional specialist nursery that you see today.

Graeme has been involved with the development and running of his mothers "Hardy Plants" nursery for most of his life. The natural option when his mother sadly passed away in May 2000 was that he would continue her legacy. His aim to continue to build on what his mother started and further develop the breadth of unusual plants from within his own areas of interest for the enjoyment of all.

Graeme regularly displays a wide range of flowers and plants at most of the major shows.

### Pams Gardening Diary

Last Spring I decided to take away the last piece of lawn outside the front door. In one of the diaries I explain how the choice of stone looked good in the path from the garage to the front door. We eventually found the same stone and fitted it from the path to the flower bed.

This has been the year of the slug and snail. My plants are much more important so I declared war and got the pellets out. Delphiniums are the first on the list because they are eaten as they come through the soil. Kniphofias, Hemerocallis and Hostas make a lovely diet for all gastropods. The large roman snail is found everywhere. They are happy clinging to cement. I wish we could have the thrushes back.

This has also been the year of the Aconitum. They have been a joy all around the garden. They are such hungry plants so a mulch and feed would be beneficial. The first flowers is "Ivorine" ideal for the front of the border with its shorter stems and creamy white flowers. For some years I have been growing aconites from seed from Scottish Rock Garden Seed. Now some of these are fully mature and planted in the garden. If you fancy a beautiful yellow try A. Vulpan. The blues are different in height, leaf shape and colour plus time of year. A. Leonara is pale blue and yellow. It needs stakes to hold it up. In the front garden from August onwards is A. Barker's variety which is still my favourite. It stands firm and the flower colour is a clear mid-blue. The last plant is approximately 6-7" high with powder blue flowers. I don't know where it cam from but it is welcome to stay.

Pam Greenwood.

### A note for your Diary

Don't forget our next meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup> will be our AGM and Faith Supper. Do try to come along to our next meeting which is always an enjoyable night. Following the AGM we will be having a Faith Supper, so please bring along your sweet or savoury dishes for the Faith Table. The evening will also include a Team Quiz – so its always a good idea to sit next to someone who is very knowledgeable!!