



Oxenhope Gardening Club Newsletter

November 2009

Tonight we welcome Taylors Clematis - Chris and
Suzy Cocks

Pam's Diary

Tonight welcome Taylors of Doncaster who sell a wide selection of Clematis. I have bought from them since coming to Shakespeare Court. I will pick up C. Winter Beauty for a Christmas present. The friend has seen my Winter Beauty growing up the sitting room wall, it has well formed buds ready to burst open at Christmas. I am treating myself to C. Jan Fopma which was seen growing through shrubs on one of our open evenings.

The garden has quickly fallen away this Autumn. I have approximately four rules in November.

1. The flowers and plants I enjoy keeping through winter. Euphorbias, Miscanthus, ivy, Jasminum nudiflorum and aurium which has flower stems and leaves of gold. Ligularia Brit Marie Crawford has been moved to better soil, and it shows. Coming towards the front door an acer has the most beautiful coral red stems all winter. Azara has soft evergreen leaves with scented pom-pom yellow flowers in early March.
2. These plants are kept for the birds: Achillea seed heads and red berries from the honeysuckles. Thrushes and blackbirds have been fighting for the fleshy berries of Taxus baccata aurea. Small birds eat the seed of Silene fimbriata as soon as it rattles. Phlomis russeliana goes into group 1 and 2 as does Callicarpa bodinieri "Profusion". The berries are the soft mauve colour this year. Michael has one at the other side of the path and I have been told they do cross pollinate.
3. Plants that protect tender shrubs creating a micro environment through winter.
4. Some of the plants die off to a slime. The worst is hemerocallis leaves followed by hostas. Sedum flowers need attention. Richard cuts down seed heads of Campanula lactifolium as they seed too much.

Pam Greenwood.

Bits and Pieces from Vietnam

I read a book called "Message from Nam" by a young female reporter (the Americans split the name Viet Nam) which made me want to see it for myself. It's a long thin country with coast all down the east side and usually suffers 10 or more tornados every year. Just before we left it was hit by a tornado from the Phillipines and I felt sure our holiday would be off. It's a very interesting country with friendly people whose first question was always "where are your from"? - reply "from England" - beaming smiles!. I wondered what the response would have been, particularly in the south if I had said America.

The trees and shrubs were amazing. Parks in the towns and all the roundabouts were show pieces with low clipped hedges, partee style and filled with lovely flowers. The flamboyant trees had almost finished flowering but must have been quite a sight. Ixora shrubs in red, yellow and pink were lovely.

Hibiscus in many forms including a very special one H. Schizopatalus. Cyas plams and trees trimmed in bonsai style were everywhere in very large Chinese pots. I found this surprising in Vietnam but expected in China. They were beautiful - even Frangipani trees were treated this way, looking and smelling fantastic. Two of my favourite trees Caesalpinia in pink and orange and Bauhinia, the camel's foot tree with orchid flowers. There was also Senna Didymobotrya with unusual cone shaped flowers - commonly called the popcorn bush. One day in a garden a man reached up into a tree and picked a fruit. I must have looked curious because he reached up again and offered me one. I was very surprised to see it was a star fruit, a tree I had never seen. It had very pretty pink flowers. Down the centre of dual carriageways there were flooded areas with very showy Lotus flowers growing there. The stems and roots are eaten in salads and as vegetables. In the coastal areas there were masses of very pretty water hyacinths, they are considered a pest as they are so invasive. We saw Allamanda, Mandervilla, Strelitzia, Bouganvillea, large Callistemon trees (the Australian bottle brush) and many more.

Rice was the main crop in lots of areas and women were in the fields, in their conical hats, cutting it by hand. The rice having been threshed, also by hand, was then spread out on the concrete fronts of every house to dry.

In the narrowest part of the country the latest tornado had caused the most damage. Large areas were flooded, many homes had been washed away and lives lost. We saw two large tankers which had been grounded in the storm.

It is a country of contrasts - some very poor areas with homes more like poor sheds to more affluent places. The hotels were splendid serving very good and varied food with beautifully decorated desserts. The only thing I didn't like was their rice - called sticky rice - and it was! In the restaurant of one hotel you could choose your fish currently swimming around in tanks. As the lady in charge was demonstrating all this to me one little fish, a bit like a longastine, leapt from its tank into another and on into another with the lady trying to catch it! I expect it was making a bid for freedom! My favourite fish was there which I had previously only seen as a fillet the Talapia.

One of the places we stayed was on an island where we arrived by boat. There was an alternative route which we tried later by chair lift - high above the sea.

The whole island had been turned into a holiday complex with a lovely beach, swimming pools, amusement park, shopping area, organised games, gyms, saunas, etc. We wondered who had invested in it all.

The traffic in the towns was quite frightening, when we went out we tried to avoid crossing a road! Just about everybody had a scooter, sometimes with a whole family on - mum dad and two children. There were bicycles with small trailer attachments carrying anything from wardrobes and mattresses to great lengths of metal tubing stretching out 10 feet or so at both ends. No health and safety here. There were very few cars and rules of the road seemed to be non existent - they veered here there and everywhere. We rode in rickshaws amongst all this chaos - quite an experience! Having said this on one coach journey our driver was stopped for speeding and would have to pay a \$100 fine.

We saw two wonderful shows. The first one was an underwater puppet show where the puppeteers stood in deep water behind a curtain to control the puppets. This art is a closely guarded secret kept within the families and only performed in three places in Vietnam. Its origins go back to the seventeen hundreds.

The second one was a Layer Show. There were dozens of jets of water going up well over 50 feet in all directions - whirling, twisting, spiralling all in wonderful colours with music and a mountain as backdrop. Even the men in our party couldn't work out how it was done.

There was so much more but this is intended for the Gardening Club Newsletter

Hazel Belsey

BWB PLANTING Next Week

2 YR OLD PLANTS,

Gp 1 - No Pump

* ARMANDII SNOWDRIFT

Scented * BUT * Sunny / Evergreen

+ PIXIE - Ground Cover - + tubelover, only 2-3 ft spread, Aralacide

MONTANA → thin / cut back after flowers, only flower on old growth.

MONTANA W/SONN - Plant any aspect, sign no pump.

ARIMA - climber Par 6 - 40%

Gp 2 May - June Aug / Sept flower time.

* FUJI MUSUME - likes shade (via pot)

Melly Moser - Gp 2 *

Princes Alexandra Flower - double 1st then 2nd Gp 2,

Gp 2 Pine Bee all top heavy growth end of June after 1st flush of flowers cut 1/2 way.

tomato feed

In early spring cut beer to 1st pair of sharp buds, Layer stems / pin so flowers at different heights

Gp 3 Smaller - masses of flowers, some scented.

The Boulevard for patios / hanging baskets

Cerame Gp 3 May - Oct.

Angelique flower for 6 months,

Pine Gp 3 - flower on new growth so cut back
12-18" above soil. Pine Feb/March after-work of winter