



# Oxenhope

## Gardening Club News

January 2025

**The committee would like to wish you a very Happy New Year and all good wishes for your gardening adventures in 2025!**

To inspire these adventures, the committee have put together what we hope is an interesting and varied programme of speakers and subjects. **Some of this year's speakers will be new to the club and some we will be welcoming back.**

The speaker we are welcoming for the first time at the February meeting on **February 20<sup>th</sup> is Peter Savage from Bowdens Nursery.** This nursery specialises in hostas, ferns and agapanthus and has displayed continually in the Grand Floral Marquee at Chelsea Flower Show since 1996.

**You can find a list of this year's programme at the end of the newsletter and on the club's website.**

### **The Golden Isles**



As you know, I always try to share with you any garden experiences I have enjoyed, however, the experience I am sharing with you this month, doesn't fit into the garden category as such, but I hope it offers you a glimpse of something other than our grim January weather!

In November, I visited a friend in the US, and as part of that trip, we went down to a part of the South Georgia coast that I have visited many times, not far from Brunswick. The subtle colours and shades of the marshland grasses that cover this vast area of coastal waters have caused this area to be known as The Golden Isles. On this visit, it occurred to me that we gardeners use grasses as a feature to give

movement, texture and colour, but we don't often see them in their natural surroundings. In the Golden Isles, it is the vast area of grasses in their natural marshland and waterways habitat that colour and define the character of the place – a magical place, especially in the late afternoon light and at sunset.



It is a part of the coast that isn't really very well-known even within the US. It hasn't been spoilt by high rise buildings and bill boards because it's been defended from developers by its fiercely protective community who want to retain its very special character: its character and habitat which is dominated and literally coloured by its marshland grasses, the smooth cord grass, *Spartina Alterniflora*.

The US poet, Sidney Lanier was so captivated by the magnitude and beauty of these vast coastal marshes that he was inspired to write the poem, the Marshes of Glynn-  
*“the endless areas of marsh grass, shimmering streams and rivers”*

## Sandra



## Membership Subscriptions

We are taking subscriptions from **January** and we can now take subscriptions via BACs. Membership for 2025 will be **£30**.

The bank details you need to subscribe to the club are as follows:

**Bank account name: Oxenhope Gardening Club**

**Sort code: 20-45-14**

**Account Number: 10698709**

**Reference: your name**

Of course, you can still subscribe by cheque, or cash at our first meeting in February.

# **Oxenhope Gardening Club Programme for 2025**

**20<sup>th</sup> February: Peter Savage, Bowdens Nursery(& AGM)**

**20<sup>th</sup> March: Razvan Chisu, The Transylvanian gardener**

**17<sup>th</sup> April: Colin Hickman, Hoyland Plants**

**15<sup>th</sup> May: Jacqueline Iddon, Iddon Hardy Plants**

**June 5<sup>th</sup> Club Plant Sale**

**July & August, Garden visits**

**18<sup>th</sup> September: Andrew Willcocks, RHS Horticulturist**

**16<sup>th</sup> October: John Grimshaw**

**20<sup>th</sup> November: TBC**

**[www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.oxenhopegardeningclub.co.uk)**