



## Issue 2 January 2021

### TRADING HUT UPDATE

The committee has decided to delay the opening of the trading hut until 7<sup>th</sup> February – at the earliest. We will review this again at the end of January.

When we do open we will continue to operate under the guidelines we used last May. Pre-ordering via email or phone by the end of Friday before the Sunday is even more important wherever possible. Staying in cars, waiting to be served, is also essential: we **must** avoid people gathering at the door.

Contact Jane Heritage ([janeheritage2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janeheritage2002@yahoo.co.uk), 01276 600438 or 07799 315376) if you have any queries – or for placing your orders in due course.

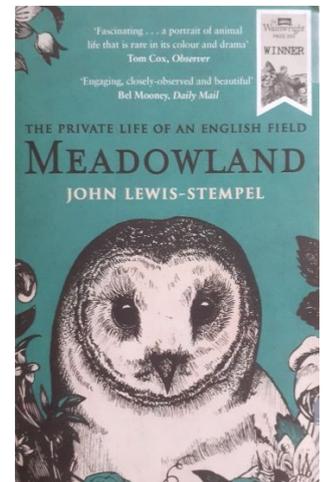
### LOCKDOWN READING

If you usually get your reading material from Charity Shops, you'll be in need of an alternative source of supply. One place to consider is [www.worldofbooks.co.uk](http://www.worldofbooks.co.uk). They have lots of quality secondhand books with no postage to pay. (They also have a lot of old detective fiction, green Penguins and the like, as well as music on CDs and vinyl – Ed.)

An example is ***The Private Life of an English Field Meadowland*** by John Lewis-Stempel. It's a gentle, close observation of a Herefordshire meadow from January to December. Learn some interesting facts about insects, birds, flowers and even mouldywarps.

'To stand alone in an English field and listen to the morning chorus of the birds is to remember why life is so precious.'

Jane Heritage



### QUIZES

#### PLANT ANAGRAMS (Answers below)

1. I AIR A GULL
2. DIRE CANT
3. RIDE A BUCK
4. RAIN A SOAP
5. ITS ALL PAUL
6. TOILET PLAN
7. U IS ALL DOG
8. GILT I SAID
9. I SNIP MATE
10. HEAL SHUT IN

#### QUINTAGRAM (ISSUE 1) Answers

1. This may make you cry (6)  
ALLIUM
2. Go walking to become this (7)  
RAMBLER
3. Gracie Fields claimed to have the biggest (10)  
ASPIDISTRA
4. A red ruler might be a variety of this (4)  
BEAN
5. Tell him to leave (5)  
MANGO

## CHARITY DURING LOCKDOWN

I thought I would let you know about a little charity project I organised in 2020.



During the first lockdown I besieged friends and family with pictures of the flowers from my garden accompanied by inspiring sayings in the hope that it would lift their spirits a little.

My aim originally had been to make charity calendars - something I had done previously - but unfortunately due to rising costs there wasn't enough profit in that to make it worthwhile. So instead I created some notebooks, to which people could add personalised sayings and names, with matching pens - and sold them to friends and family. In the process I have managed to raise £300 for Cancer Research and the local food bank, both needy charities in the current climate.



If you are interested in buying personalised notebooks, please email me at [bridgethaines@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bridgethaines@yahoo.co.uk). Price guide: £8 (notebooks) and £4 (pens) – with **all** proceeds going to charity.

*Bridget Haines*

## WINTER WALKS

We have thoroughly enjoyed the 'Winter Walks' shown recently on BBC 4 (*available on the BBC iPlayer until the end of 2021 – Ed.*). No music, just the enhanced sound of nature, beautiful countryside and interesting comments and observations by the walker.

Inspired by this and looking for things to amuse us in these difficult times, we decided to look for interesting items on our own walks and think about what we would say about them. Interestingly, the first time we did this we saw, within a few hundred yards along a woodland path: one high-heeled ankle boot (abandoned for being an unsuitable item of footwear, its owner preferring to hop away?), a mug on top of a 6ft post and a Pilates mat marked "Pam's" – any takers?



For local nature walks, visit [www.blackwatervalleynaturewalks.co.uk](http://www.blackwatervalleynaturewalks.co.uk). There's even a photographic competition to go with them.

## SPROUT SOUP

This sounds vile but is surprisingly delicious – even if you're not that keen on Brussels sprouts.

### Ingredients:

- 450g Brussels sprouts
- 1 rib celery
- 1 large shallot or small leek
- 1 to 2 tbsp butter
- ½ tsp sea salt, plus more to taste
- Black pepper
- 750ml chicken or vegetable stock

### Method:

1. Trim off and discard the stem ends of the Brussels sprouts. Chop them roughly and set aside.
2. Trim and roughly chop the celery; peel and roughly chop the shallot or leek.
3. Heat the butter in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Once it is melted, add the celery and the shallot/leek. Sprinkle with the salt and cook, stirring frequently, until the vegetables are soft but not browned – about 3 minutes.
4. Add the chopped Brussels sprouts and stir to combine. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the Brussels sprouts turn a brighter shade of green – about 2 minutes. Add the broth and bring everything just to a boil.
5. Reduce the heat to maintain a steady simmer, cover partially, and cook until the Brussels sprouts are completely tender about 10 minutes.
6. Puree until very smooth and season to taste. Stir in cream, if you like, or a little milk.

Try garnishing with croutons, grated parmesan or crumbled, crispy bacon.



Food stylist: Jane Heritage

## BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

Don't forget that this takes place over the weekend of 29-31 January this year. There's more information, including tips and advice, at [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) – and you can share your experiences at #BigGardenBirdwatch (*whatever that means – Ed.*).



## RETROSPECTIVE

The turn of the year is a traditional time for looking back as well as forward. 2020 was certainly memorable, but definitely not in a good way, so perhaps it's better to go back a little further. The following historical notes were put together some time ago by Chris Dresler to document the early days of the Gardening Club's long history – dating back to 1963.

- First subs were 2s 6d (*equivalent to about £2.70 now, based on RPI – Ed.*).
- During the early days of 1963/64 there was a jumble sale to raise money. We raised £37 but still had loads of clothes left.
- We entered a float in the Sandhurst carnival in 1965 (*and again in 1992 – Ed.*).
- We moved to St Mary's Hall in 1968.
- The Club bought a Duplicator in 1968 for £35.
- George Brown became trading secretary in 1969 and bought compost in bulk for the first time. It was sorted out in his garden! He also stored all the bulky hut stuff in his garden.
- Meetings were at St Michael's School from 1971.
- Seed potatoes were ordered in bulk from Suttons Seeds and came in big sacks. They were weighed out into smaller quantities in Chris's garage.
- Seeds: Chris collected all orders, helped by her mother.
- Bert Cole made a wonderful seed packet storage.
- In 1985 subs were £1.50 (*equivalent to about £4.80 now, based on RPI – Ed.*).
- Staged a window box at Chelsea in 1987 and won the Silver Grenfell medal.
- To celebrate moving to our present meeting place at the Community Centre, we hosted a Gardeners Call by Radio 210 in 1990.



Summer Show 1967



Chelsea 1987

## A REMINDER

The content of this Viewsletter depends on **YOU** – and we need more contributions to keep it going! Please send your items to: [members-news@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:members-news@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk). For those of you not on email, your items can be posted to:

Club Newsletter, 174B Branksome Hill Road, College Town, Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 0QQ.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. LIGULARIA; 2. DICENTRA; 3. RUDBECKIA; 4. SAPONARIA; 5. PULSATILLA; 6. POTENTILLA; 7. GLADIOLUS; 8. DIGITALIS; 9. IMPATIENS; 10. HELIANTHUS.