



Sandhurst and District
GARDENING CLUB
NEWSLETTER



Dear Member

November 2017

Autumn is officially here, with the clocks going back and a sharp frost last Monday wiping out all the Dahlias, now is the time to get our gardens and greenhouses sorted. Roll on the shortest day of the year!

Firstly though, our last proper meeting of the year on **Wednesday November 15th at 7.30pm** - 'A year in the life of a Bat'. We had this subject years ago and it was very interesting, so do come.

We will also have our usual Charity Cake Stall run by Jenny Jackson. So please bring cakes if you can, and some money to buy cakes to take home.

You will be helping two charities. One is Jenny's recommendation - DEBRA – which supports a severe skin condition, and the other is Jayne Morgan's Hedgehogs.

Jayne has been a club member for many years and is currently looking after about a hundred hedgehogs. They eat a lot, so as well as supporting the cake stall she would be grateful for Cat/Dog food (without fish in it) and paper towels, as she has plenty of newspapers. There will also be a donation tin if you would prefer to just put some money in. We are hoping she will be able to pop into the meeting. Hedgehogs are a very endangered species now, so do help if you can.

Christmas party - **THURSDAY December 14th** Tickets at the Trading Hut and Club night £8. Music, food and drink together with a super raffle to round the year off. We are having the same DJ as last year, Danny Mountain.

Finally after Christmas, subscriptions will be due on 1st January.

The last time we raised subscriptions was 1999 - but things have changed at the Hall.

Our rent has increased significantly as we are now charged for any setting up time. Last year our rent was around £1000, next year it will be around £1300.

So we are increasing the single subscription from £4 to £5 and the double subscription from £6 to £8. I don't need to tell you what tremendous value this is.

I have just completed the programme for 2018 and membership cards will be available at the January club night on Wednesday 17th. See you at the Christmas party. Chris

TRADING HUT

The hut is now open until **Sunday 26th November**. We then close for stocktaking and re-stocking, opening again on **21st January**, the Sunday after the first club night.

ANTI BIRD NETTING

We are considering stocking heavy duty anti-bird netting next year. This would be a 25mm medium black mesh made from knitted HDPE with a life expectancy of 10 years. This size of mesh will allow the bees to get through and pollinate the crops. 4m wide with price around £1.50 per metre. We will only stock this if there is enough interest as we have to buy a 100m roll. Ring Jane on 01276 600438 or email janeheritage2002@yahoo.co.uk if this interests you.

BIRD FOOD

Stock up now and be prepared for a cold spell between the end of November and when the hut opens again in January.

CHRISTMAS PARTY THURSDAY 14th December

****Please note that the party is on a **Thursday** this year****

The Christmas party tickets are now available at club night and at the hut. This year the ticket price is **£8**. Owing to the cost of quality entertainment, the increase in hall costs and the extra cost of the Kitty Dancy room we have had to raise the price. Jane Heritage keeps the tickets between meetings and hut openings so, if you need yours posting, send her a cheque payable to 'Sandhurst Gardening Club' together with a **SAE**. Address at the end of this newsletter under postal memberships. Also, if you have bought a ticket but find you cannot use it please phone Jane on 01276 600438 and she may be able to refund your money and sell it someone else.

Doors will be open at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start. Please don't arrive too early as we won't be ready. For those who have not been before we have entertainment, a wonderful selection of finger food (remember to save some room for the sweet), also a selection of wine and soft drinks to accompany the meal. **These are all included in the price of the ticket.** The evening usually ends around 10.30pm after drawing the Christmas raffle.

MEMBERSHIP

As already mentioned by Chris, there will be a small increase in membership fees next year. They are due in January and your January newsletter will contain a membership application form or you can download one from our website. You can rejoin at the hut, at club nights or by post (see back of newsletter for details). You will continue to receive a newsletter until March after which we only deliver to those who have rejoined. So, if you intend to stay a member, (be honest, it is such good value for money, even with the small price increase) join before the end of March and make our job a little easier.

ST. MICHAELS & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, SANDHURST – CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The festival is being held on **9th to 12th December 2017** in aid of The WinSpire Project which is raising funds to repair the Stained Glass Windows and the Church Spire. There will be a Christmas Fair next door in the Pastoral Centre over the weekend. The Gardening Club will be decorating a tree and this will be organised by committee member, Ruth Page.

An enormous amount of hard work goes into this event and it is certainly worth a visit so do go along and have a look.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I said in the last newsletter, four outings have been booked in 2018. As a reminder they are :

3rd March - Slimbridge -a day with the wildlife

28th April - The Gardening Museum and garden in London

19th May - A visit to Compton Acres with its stunning gardens. Slight change of plan - we will not be taking a boat trip as we have decided to spend more time in the gardens. There will be time around Poole Harbour, Town or the beautiful Poole Park

22nd September - A Charles Dickens walk with Val Pretlove

I will begin selling tickets for Slimbridge in January. Cost will be £33.00 and also The Gardening Museum which will be £26.00.

Full amount for Slimbridge in January please.

Sheila

RHS WISLEY EVENTS

Christmas Glow at Wisley - Christmas Glow returns from 1 December 2017 – 3 January 2018, bringing the winter evenings alive with fantastical giant flowers, dramatic installations and illuminated trees.

Wander the trail to see the light playing on our iconic trees, floating installations creating rippling reflections on the water, and stunning views of the Laboratory reflected in the Jellicoe Canal.

Christmas delights in the Glasshouse

Don't miss our beautiful Glasshouse display, this year inspired by the 1837 poem "A visit from St Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore.

Walk into a festive woodland glade, complete with poinsettia 'trees', ferns, red flowering azaleas and an abandoned sleigh. Can you find the missing reindeer?

Delight in the Arts & Crafts stockings hanging over the chimney, surrounded by 10 Christmas trees decorated by local schools.

Christmas Craft Fair

Looking for a unique Christmas gift? Visit the popular Christmas Craft Fair at Wisley from 22-26 November and you'll be able to browse and buy from some of the finest craftmakers in the country. With both traditional and contemporary crafts available, it's the ideal place to find festive delights.

The Christmas Craft Fair will take place within the beautiful surroundings of the garden. Normal admission applies, RHS Members and guest go free. Last entry one hour before closing.

TOP 10 JOBS TO DO IN NOVEMBER

For further information go to www.rhs.org.uk/advice

1. Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds
2. Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
3. Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
4. Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
5. Plant out winter bedding
6. Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
7. Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubblewrap works well
8. Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks
9. Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
10. Use a seasonal bonfire - where this is allowed - to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting

HELP NEEDED

A Member would appreciate help with general maintenance in her garden.

Contact Jill Hall on 01252 876564

EMAIL AND WEBSITE

Our Email address is: enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk This will direct your mail to a committee member who can deal with it or pass it on to the relevant person.

Our web page is: www.sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chairman & Coach Trips: Sheila Davenport ,10 Nightingale Gardens, Sandhurst. 01252 874361

Vice-Chairman: Len Clark 01252 654937

Hon Sec: Chris Dresler, 40 White Hill Residential Park, Liphook Road, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 9DS. 01420 768965

Trading Co-ordinator: Jane Heritage 01276 600438

Treasurer: Marilyn Grant 01344 771646

Seed and Plant orders: David Dunford 01252 656826 - dvdunford@ntlworld.com

Wisley Tickets & Newsletter Distribution: Sandra Hooper 01276 34112

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Coach Trips: Sheila Davenport 01252 874361

Cake Stall: Carol McGowan: 01276 36392

Bulb Orders: Ruth Page 01344 774539

Trading Hut Volunteers: Len Clark 01252 654937

Other Committee Members: David Hurst 01252 872506, Derek Dolling 01344 774505, Gill Clark 01252 654937.

Postal membership renewals - **Mrs J Heritage 174B, Branksome Hill Road, College Town, Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 0QQ**

Please include a SAE with your completed membership form