



# Newsletter 1 – January 2022

Dear Members,

Welcome to 2022, and a very happy new year to you from the gardening club committee. We all hope that this year will be more 'normal' than the previous two and that we will be able to have club nights, shows and trips once again.

Green fingers crossed all round...

This is a very full newsletter, with lots of important information for you about the new year, so do read it all the way through – there are some changes to membership and the hut in particular that you need to note.



We start off the new year with our first club night next week: Lyn Miles will be joining us to give a talk '**For the love of snowdrops**'. She will also have some plants to sell (weather permitting). As usual, the evening will start at 7.15 pm. Can I please encourage you all to do a lateral flow test before attending the meeting, and obviously stay away if it is positive, or you are displaying any symptoms of Covid? There will be hand gel available for you to use on entry, and clearly it would be sensible to wear face masks during the talk. We do recognise that these are a matter of personal choice though. We will once again be having tea/coffee during the break and the raffle will be drawn at the end of the evening.

We are so looking forward to seeing you all!

Julie Sheppard

## DO YOU WANT TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE?

*I am arranging a four-night visit to Warner's at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight; why not join us?*

*We are going on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022.*

*The coach will pick us up at Sandhurst Library and we will have the use of the coach for the whole five days.*

*There will be trips out to Mottistone Manor gardens, Osbourne House, Farringford House and Gardens (pictured - former home of Alfred Lord Tennyson) and the wonderful Ventnor Botanical Gardens. The latter sits on the cliff top in Ventnor with fabulous views and there should be time to walk down to the lovely Steephill Bay.*



*We also have the exciting crossing of the Solent on the ferry, which feels like going abroad without the need of a passport!!*

*We will have one day off from excursions to enjoy the facilities of Warner's and there are many - including a lovely indoor pool. In May of course the evenings will be light, so walks after our return each day are possible along the beach or to the Lifeboat Station (a very long pier to reach it).*

*Price: inclusive of trips £599.00 each (occupying a double or twin room) ensuite standard room with dinner and breakfast. A £50 non-returnable deposit required by everyone by the **20th January 2022**. No single rooms available I am sorry to say.*

**Please email me: [shethos8@gmail.com](mailto:shethos8@gmail.com) to book this fantastic holiday and pay directly into Sandhurst Gardening Clubs bank account:**

**A/C number 92029304, Sort Code 09-01-51**

**or please let me have your cheques made payable to the club.**

*If you have never been to the Isle of Wight, you are missing out on a beautiful place, once visited you will want to go again. I promise you!!*

**Sheila Davenport**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership fees are now due, £5 for an individual and £8 for a couple. We have decided we will no longer be delivering any newsletters by hand. If you want a paper copy of the newsletter & price list you must pay the postage which is increasing to £10 for the year; first class will be used. Copies of the newsletter & price list will be available at the hut and on club nights. You will note there is now the option to pay your fees by bank transfer – see the [attached membership form](#) for details of what to do.

## **TRADING HUT**

*The trading hut opens on Sunday 23<sup>th</sup> January, 9 to 10.45am. It has been restocked and, as usual, we have tried to keep prices as low as possible.*

*The new price list will be available with your February newsletter and is already on the website. There have been significant price increases for some items – mainly fertilizers and compost but they are still good value compared to garden centres, who will also be increasing prices when new stock comes in.*

## **NEW ITEMS**

**SylvaGrow Peat Free Compost (possibly one of the best on the market): £8.25 for 50L**

### **\*\*SPRING BULBS\*\***

For the first time we are stocking a limited selection of spring bulbs and they are available now. Varieties of gladioli, dahlias, begonias, lilies, nerines and some other types. Prices are, as usual, very competitive £2.99 reduced to £2.00, £3.99 reduced to £2.70

## **FUTURE OF THE TRADING HUT**

*I have already announced that I will be stepping down from the job as Trading Secretary the end of this year at the very latest. As yet, we do not have a team to take over but, at the time of writing this, we do have one member who is happy to be part of the team that organises the hut. This is a start but we are still looking for two others.*

*We would like it to be a smooth change over so, ideally, that would start as soon as possible then I could work alongside the team, helping where necessary.*

*If you are interested in getting involved then please email: [janeheritage2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janeheritage2002@yahoo.co.uk) or phone: 01276 600438.*

*We do have several members who are going to be working on the counter in the future, rather than this job always being covered by the committee. Many thanks to those.*

*The profit from the trading hut supports the many other activities of the club and it would have severe consequences if it were to close. Want to know what is involved? – ring me for a chat.*

*Jane Heritage*

## **HUT DUTY**

This is now being taken over by Lesley Williams so she will be getting in touch with volunteers via email. If your circumstances have changed and, for example, you can no longer lift, can't do Sunday am but can do Weds pm please let Lesley know when she gets in touch with you. You can contact Lesley direct by email: [johnwilliams288@hotmail.com](mailto:johnwilliams288@hotmail.com)

## **MESSAGE FROM CHRIS**

Dear Members,

*Wishing you a healthy and happy New Year from all the committee.*

*This year we are 59 years old. So firstly, we are beginning to think of ways we can celebrate our Diamond anniversary next year. Look out for further updates and if you have any ideas yourself, please pass them on to a committee member, or email us.*

*Secondly, we are going to need a lot more help from you the members because some of the committee have been with me many, many years and will probably want to retire in the not-too-distant future. One of these is our Trading Secretary – Jane Heritage who has been running the Trading Hut for 20 years and wants to give up at the end of this year. We have had a phenomenal year on sales at the Hut in the region of £15,000 and I have it on good authority we are the only club in the Surrey Horticultural Federation of 60 clubs that has a trading hut. Those of you who have been members a long time may remember the jumble sales, plant sales etc that we had to do to get enough money to match the Council's offer and to enable us to get this magnificent hut (compared to all the others we had had over the years), plus wonderful support from two councillors. PLEASE READ Jane's piece on what help she needs in this newsletter.*

*In the early days the raffle paid for the speakers, Donations and other sales paid for the rent. Now the only way we can meet all our obligations is the profit we make on the Trading Hut. Having a successful hut subsidises a lot of other events and activities in the club as well as the obvious benefits to all of us in the garden with local and cheaper products available to buy. Thanks to the hut's profits, you currently you get 8 speakers a year, 4 coach trips, 4 shows, a monthly newsletter, 60% off seed orders and a Christmas party, for just £5/£8 per annum.*

*Most of the work is done at home. I brought up 2 children, had a full-time job (often finishing late at night) and when Jane joined, I was doing nearly everything. SO PLEASE OFFER TO HELP - DON'T JUST CLOSE THE COMPUTER DOWN AND FORGET MY PLEA, LIFT THE PHONE AND RING - ME Chris on 01420 768 965, Julie on 07711 056815 or Jane 01276 600438 and do it NOW!!!! You are not committing yourself at this stage to anything. We still need people who are willing to join teams and help organise things - it may be with the hut, with refreshments or with the Shows – come on new and existing members help us PLEASE.*

*Sincerely,  
Chris Dresler.*

## **SHOW SCHEDULE 2022**

*This will be available at the January Club night. If you bought one for 2020 shows we are using the same classes for this year.*

## **RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH**

*It is the Big Garden Birdwatch weekend on 28 - 30 January. If you haven't joined in before try it this year. You only have to spend an hour counting the birds in your garden and it can be done while staying in the warm. Restock your bird food from the trading hut in preparation for the event.*

*For more information visit the RSPB website: [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch22](https://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch22)*

## **GREEN FINGERS CHARITY**

*We are still supporting this worthwhile charity with your donations for seeds, etc. at the hut. A further £35 was sent to them at the end of last year. visit: [www.greenfingers.co.uk](http://www.greenfingers.co.uk).*

## SEED ORDERS

*Thank you to those of you who placed seed orders in November. Mr Fothergills have been very efficient and many of you now have your seeds. As in previous years we comfortably achieved the minimum order level for the 60% discount on packeted seeds with orders approaching £2,200 prior to the discount. The remaining orders will be available to collect from the trading hut when it reopens. The club, in its support of the local community and to encourage gardening at the early stage of education, have continued to support two local schools providing seeds to grow as part of their education programme.*

*David Dunford*

## TENDER SHOOTS – PROGRAMME OF TALKS

Some of you may remember information we gave you last year about gardening talks being offered by the Tender Shoots Garden Network. They have just started this year's programme, and their next talk is on Tues Jan 25th 7.30pm - Andrew & Amy Skea - All about potatoes & varieties including coloured flesh spuds. Andrew & Amy will be ready to answer all your potato questions.

You can join this (and future meetings) via Zoom:

To join the zoom directly, please click the link below (or enter the Meeting ID on the zoom start screen and enter the Passcode when prompted). It's the same login for all meetings.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4043014750?pwd=SVRibE0vRW5mTUJFqdGI NblVxSjJPZz09>

Meeting ID: 404 301 4750

Passcode: bonsai

These talks are offered free of charge, but the garden network would appreciate a donation towards costs if anyone would like to make one:

Acct name: Tender Shoots Garden Club Network

Acct number: 42 42 07 63

Sort code: 30-98-97

## CONTACT DETAILS:

Hon Chair: Chris Dresler 01420 768965

Hon Secretary: Julie Sheppard 01252 870521 [juliepsheppard@sky.com](mailto:juliepsheppard@sky.com)

Vice Chairman and Trading Secretary: Jane Heritage 01276 600438 [janeheritage2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janeheritage2002@yahoo.co.uk)

Treasurer: Steve Roome [sroome@aol.com](mailto:sroome@aol.com)

Coach Trips: Sheila Davenport c/o [enquiries@sandhurstgardening club.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sandhurstgardening club.co.uk)

Seed and Plant orders: David Dunford 01252 656826 [dvdunford@ntlworld.com](mailto:dvdunford@ntlworld.com)

Wisley Tickets & Newsletter Distribution: Sandra Hooper 01276 34112

Newsletter Contributions: Steve Roome 01252 877965 [sroome@aol.com](mailto:sroome@aol.com)

Bulb Orders: Ruth Page 01344 774539

Trading Hut Volunteers: Lesley Williams [johnwilliams288@hotmail.com](mailto:johnwilliams288@hotmail.com)

Other Committee Members: Carol McGowan: 01276 36392, Derek Dolling 01344 774505, Gill Clark 01252 654937, Liz Crow 01252 693552

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.