



Newsletter I – January 2023

Dear Members,

Welcome to 2023, and a very happy new year to you from the gardening club committee. This is quite a full newsletter, not only preparing you for the new gardening year but also highlighting some changes that are being introduced to the distribution of the show schedule and also the move the club is making to on-line and card payments only. Can I also remind you that the club's AGM will be on the February club night (15th) and encourage as many of you to attend as possible.

The November club night seems a long time ago now, but I would just like to thank David Hunt for stepping in at such short notice to give an interesting talk on the National Trust's Shalford Mill. It was especially important that, given the attendance of Andrew Try from the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, we were able to demonstrate our ability to cope with change when the planned speaker cancelled at a day's notice due to the horrendous weather we were experiencing at the time. For those people particularly looking forward to hearing the talk on tropical/jungle planting, I will be re-booking the speaker but unfortunately it won't be until next year (unless someone else cancels and I can squeeze him in!). We expect to hear about the QAVS sometime in March.

Julie Sheppard

JANUARY CLUB NIGHT

Are you starting to think and plan what you could do in the garden this year? Then you definitely need to come along to the club night on Wednesday 18th at 7.15 pm and hear the renowned speaker and plant collector Pamela Holt, who will be talking to us about hardy annuals and how to use them to their best effect in the garden. I hope to see you there.

AFTERNOON TALKS

The first of these was held on Monday 9th Jan and attended by over 30 members – a super turn out. Thanks to Graham Harding for an informative and enjoyable talk about the Isles of Scilly.

The next talk will be on Monday 6th February 2023 at 2.30 pm in the Kitty Dancy room within the community hall. Nigel Choate will be joining us to talk about 'Wild Britain'. This will include plants, wildlife, insects, butterflies – a pretty comprehensive look at Britain, including photographs. I do hope you come along and support. A reminder that members can attend these talks as well as the evening meetings.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees are now due, £6 for an individual and £10 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 club nights. Please pay your fees by bank transfer – see the attached membership form for details of what to do - or by card payment at club night or at the Trading hut.

TRADING HUT

The Trading Hut opens on Sunday 22nd January, 9.00 to 10.45 am. 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 will be on the website soon. There have been significant price increases for some items but they are still good value compared to garden centres. Many prices are unchanged.

BIODEGRADABLE POTS: These are back in stock. Size: approx. 3.5" or 9cm. Price: 15p each. Environmentally friendly & biodegradable plant pots. Life expectancy is 5 years but biodegrade within 9-18 months if broken and put into waste.

SEEDS: Many of you have already received your seed orders. For those that haven't they will be available at Club Night and afterwards at the hut. Payment details are attached to your seeds.
Jane Heritage

TRADING HUT PAYMENTS

As previously mentioned in the newsletter, all payments made at the Trading Hut from the re-opening on Sunday 22nd January will only be accepted via credit/debit card. This will include payments for goods, subscriptions, seed orders, party tickets, coach trips etc.
You will also be able to pay for these items the same way at club nights.

HUT DUTY

It's that time of year again when I will be asking for volunteers to help at the hut. Still just Sundays, but if you have volunteered it would be really useful if you could make sure that my email address is in your contacts so that if I do write to you it doesn't get put in junk:

johnwilliams288@hotmail.com.

Thank you for volunteering and to all of you who have helped over the past year; the hut couldn't operate without you.

Lesley Williams

CAN YOU HELP WITH A SMALL PLUMBING JOB AT THE HUT?

During the recent cold spell some pipework behind the hut counter was damaged. No flood as we always keep the water turned off and it was only noticed when it was turned on.

If you could help repair this, please get in touch with Jane Heritage 07799 315376, janeheritage2002@yahoo.co.uk.

SHOW SCHEDULE 2023

All members who have email will be mailed a copy of the new show schedule shortly. This will reduce the printing costs and will also mean you only need to print the sections that are relevant to you. The show schedule will also be available on the Club's website.

For members who do not have email, a printed copy will only be available on individual request and can be collected from the hut or on club nights. The cost will be £1.00 – paid by card.

BURSARY

As part of the club's 60th birthday celebrations this year, we want to encourage the next generation of gardeners in a practical way, so we will be awarding a bursary of £500 towards training/equipment/qualifications in some aspect of horticulture. The recipient needs to be connected to the club in some way, either as a member or close relative (e.g., child / grandchild / niece / nephew) of a club member. More information will be available shortly.

TRIPS



The first coach trip for 2023 is to [Slimbridge](#) on Saturday 18th February. Age decides price: over 65 it is £32.81 and under £34.50. WWT members will only need to pay the coach cost £22. Coach leaves Sandhurst Library at 09.30h sharp and the venue at 16.00h.

Slimbridge is famous for the period of January to March as it offers a very large number of winter birds. White-fronted geese and Bewick's swans, both of which breed in Arctic Russia, are significant species to the WWT as they are the reason that Sir Peter Scott started the Trust. There are lots of other birds to observe including golden plovers, dunlin, curlew and lapwings to mention a few.

The Kingfisher Kitchen is open 10am – 4.30pm daily, with a selection of hot and cold food, snacks, drinks and ice cream available, including vegetarian and vegan options.

[Exbury Gardens](#) Saturday 22nd April 2023 - Departing Sandhurst Library at 09.00h and the venue at 16.00h. The cost will be £29.00. The steam train is extra and members need to book that themselves on arrival.

More than 100 years in the making, Exbury's glorious gardens, designed and curated by the de Rothschild family, have the power to delight and inspire in equal measure. This spectacular collection of landscaped woodland, herbaceous, contemporary, formal and wildflower gardens provide an ever-changing palette of colour that will entice you back to witness the seasons unfold.

[Kew Gardens](#) Saturday 1st July 2023 - Departing Sandhurst Library at 09.30h and the venue at 16.00h. Cost £33.00.

There is so much to say about Kew Gardens, they have been evolving for a very long time. To name a few areas: the Japanese gardens, the Great Pagoda, the Palm House, the Princess of Wales Conservatory (Diana not Catherine) Rock, Rose and Kitchen gardens, so much to see. So much walking to do. Good comfy shoes required. There are places to eat and drink.

[Kew Gardens Christmas Lights](#) - Thursday 30th November 2023. Information not available at the moment, but keep the date for your diary.

Please email me: Trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk to book places or see me at club night.

Payment via bank transfer please or by card at club night.

Bank details: a/c Gardening Club of Sandhurst District

a/c 92029304 and sort code 09-01-51

Please support our coach trips; the prices are reasonable compared with commercial companies. Without your support we may have to reduce the number of outings.

Sheila

PLANT SALE

We're really pleased that, following the HUGE success last year, Sunil and Gareth have agreed to hold their plant sale once again this year. It will be on Saturday 3rd June 2023 from 10.00am – 1.00pm, and take place in front of their house in Broomacres on the Longdown Estate. Clearly, it will need lots of plants to sell, so as you are starting to sow your seeds, divide your perennials and bring on your cuttings, please nurture some specifically for the plant sale. Details of what to do with them will come later in the year. In addition, they will need two volunteers on Friday 2nd to help set up and then two on the day. If you are able to help, please let a committee member know. We will remind you again nearer the time.

www.sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk



Also, the garden will be opening under the NGS and more details about those opening times will follow as well as the possibility of a private group visit. Watch this space!

RHS Card

We hold a discount card which gives members 50% off the cost of entry to any RHS garden for up to two members. If you would like to borrow it at any time, please get in touch with Sandra Hooper (details below).

SEED ORDERS

Seed orders have arrived and those remaining to be distributed will be available at club night or from the Trading Hut. Payment is by card or bank transfer. We had over £2000 worth of orders so thank you. The final cost to the club was £870. As in previous years the club has donated seeds to two local schools to encourage the gardeners of the future.

David Dunford

RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

It is the Big Garden Birdwatch weekend on 27 - 29 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](#)

CHRISTMAS PARTY

A lovely evening was had by all who attended the Christmas party last year. A few photos from the evening can be seen at the bottom of the newsletter. Thank you to everyone who was able to help, particularly with clearing up at the end of the evening – the committee members there really appreciated the help!

GOOD HOME NEEDED:

- A CompostTumbler - used but still in good working order. I have the instruction book for it (in case it's needed!) A donation to be made to the Greenfingers charity please.
- Small ex-Christmas tree, if anyone would like it for their garden.



Please contact Julie Sheppard on the secretary email address below if you are interested.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Some of you may still remember George & Kath Brown. George ran the Trading Hut when it was behind the hairdresser's in Branksome Hill Road. After Kath died in March last year her daughter, Maggie, forwarded some entries from Kath's 1982 diary. At that time, they had been members of the club for 14 years.

Wed 10th Feb 1982: Gardening Club - very good evening. "Flower arrangers garden", all slides shown by a chap from Wisley.

Saturday 27th March: cut the grass for the first time

Friday 18th June: made a hedgehog cake for the gardening club flower show raffle. Picked sweet peas ready for tomorrow.

Sunday 28th November: Gardening club coach trip to Rochford house plant nurseries. Lovely sunshine. Stopped on the way - everyone annoyed by the price of coffee, 40p a cup.

Mon 6th December: Chris (Dresler) phoned, has managed to book school hall for next year. Cancelled booking at Community hall (fees up by 150%). Quite appalling.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Date	Event	Venue
Wed. 18 th Jan 7.15pm	Talk: Hardy annuals	Community Hall
Sunday 22 nd Jan. 9.00am	Opening of the Trading Hut	Trading Hut
27 th – 29 th Jan	Big garden Birdwatch	Your garden!
Mon. 6 th Feb 2.30pm	Talk: Wild Britain	Community Hall – Kitty Dancy room
Wed. 15 th Feb 7.15pm	AGM Talk: Chickens in the garden	Community Hall
Sat. 18 th Feb. 9.30am	Trip: Slimbridge Wildlife sanctuary	Slimbridge
Wed. 15 th March 7.15pm	Daffodil Show Talk: World of alpiners	Community Hall
Wed 19 th April 7.15pm	Late spring show Talk: growing for the kitchen	Community Hall
Sat 22 nd April 9.00am	Trip: Exbury gardens	Exbury
Wed 17 th May 7.15 pm	Talk: gardening for wildlife	Community Hall
Sat 3 rd June 10am-1.00 pm	Plant sale	Broomacres, Longdown estate
Sat 17 th June	Summer show	Community Hall
Sat 1 st July 9.30am	Trip: Kew gardens	Kew
Wed 19 th July 7.15pm	Talk: Clematis & Climbers	Community Hall
Sun 30 th July 9.00am	Last day trading hut open	Trading Hut
Sun 3 rd Sept 9.00am	Trading Hut re-opens	Trading Hut
Sat 9 th Sept	Autumn show	Community Hall
Wed 18 th Oct 7.15pm	Talk: ponds	Community Hall
Wed 15 th Nov 7.15pm	Talk: Pests & diseases - LIVE	Community Hall
Sun 26 th Nov 9.00am	Last day Trading Hut open	Trading Hut
Thurs 30 th Nov	Trip: Christmas Lights	Kew

CONTACT DETAILS:

Hon Chair: Chris Dresler 01420 768965

Hon Secretary: Julie Sheppard 01252 870521 secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Vice Chairman and Trading Secretary: Jane Heritage 01276 600438

hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Treasurer: Steve Roome sroome@aol.com

Coach Trips: Sheila Davenport trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

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

Wisley Tickets & Newsletter Distribution: Sandra Hooper 01276 34112

Newsletter Contributions: Steve Roome 01252 877965 sroome@aol.com

Bulb Orders: Ruth Page 01344 774539

Trading Hut Volunteers: Lesley Williams johnwilliams288@hotmail.com

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

Online membership: Sandra Hooper membership@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Postal membership renewals – Sandra Hooper 15 Lowry Close, College Town, Sandhurst, Berks GU47 0FJ

Please include a SAE with your completed membership form.

General enquiries: enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

