



## Newsletter 3 – March 2023

Dear Members,

This month sees Jon Evans joining us to give a talk on, 'The world of Alpines'. Amongst other things it will include an overview of alpines to whet the appetite, looking at plants in the wild, in the garden and in pots at shows – I do hope you will be able to join us. Can I also ask members not to chat during the talks – it

can be very distracting and make life difficult for those folk who are slightly hard of hearing and of course for the speaker themselves. Thank you.

Also, this month is the first show of the year – the daffodil show – a real sign that things are starting to move in the garden. Please see below for further details.

Thank you to those members who were able to join us for the AGM at the last meeting and contribute to the discussions – a separate email will come about the matters raised, so do please look out for it – it relates to the 'rules' of the club and proposed changes, so is very important.

Julie Sheppard

### DAFFODIL SHOW

Full details of categories, entry requirements etc can be found in the schedule which was emailed out to everyone earlier this month (3.2.23) and on the [website](#). The pages relating to the daffodil show specifically can also be found attached to this email. Please note exhibits must be staged between 6.45 pm and 7.15 pm; judging will commence at 7.30 pm.

### MEMBERSHIP

For anyone who hasn't yet renewed their membership, this is the last newsletter you will receive as you will be deleted from the mailing list from 31<sup>st</sup> March (unless you have renewed by then). The membership form is attached to this email and can also be found on the [website](#).

While you can renew and pay at club night (card payments only), why not avoid the long queues and pay online? All bank details can be found on the membership form.

### AWARD OF A BURSARY FOR HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

In recognition of the club's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we want to encourage the next generation in the development of horticultural expertise and knowledge. This is a core part of the club's constitution: *The Object of the Club shall be... for the encouragement of expertise in and knowledge of all matters concerned with horticulture for the social enjoyment of Members.*

The bursary is for the sum of £500. It is for someone who is currently studying or due to start studying for a qualification in some aspect of horticulture during this calendar year. The person needs to live within 10 miles of Sandhurst and must be a member or related to a current member of the club. This may be child/grandchild/niece or nephew.

Some examples of how the bursary could be used include horticultural courses offered at Berkshire College of Agriculture, the RHS or Sparsholt College. It could be used for an apprenticeship, an access diploma to further advanced studies or perhaps a City & Guilds qualification. These are examples only. The bursary could be used to fund the study and/or purchase any equipment and materials needed.

It is hoped that the successful applicant will, in future, be able to attend a club night and let the members know what they have done and how this has helped them. There is no restriction on age.

Please see the attached application form for further details and do encourage any family members to consider it. Closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023. Completed applications should be returned to: [secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

## TRADING HUT

The trading hut is now open, as usual, on a Sunday morning from 9 to 10.45am. Easter is not for a while but just to remind you we open on Good Friday that weekend and **NOT** Easter Sunday. You will be reminded of the dates nearer the time.

We will be opening on a Wednesday afternoon, 2 to 3pm from 15th March but this year only until the end of May. (Not 2-4 as previously mentioned)

The hut is well stocked with the usual range of products, ready for the growing season.

**Composted Stable Manure** together with a small number of **Big Tom Grow Bags** have arrived.

Further supplies of Grow Bags will hopefully be available by the end of the month, Big Tom and Erin Supersize 35lt.

**Tomorite 1lt** concentrate is back in stock.

We still have some **summer bulbs** available at very reasonable prices: £2.99 down to £2.00 £3.99 down to £2.70 and £4.99 down to £3.20.

The new price list is now available on the [website](#). The new card reader is working well so paying is much quicker and easier.

We are still looking for volunteers to join the group we have to help with hut deliveries. If you are able to spare an hour or so now and again, please contact Beverley and Carole at [sgctradinghut@gmail.com](mailto:sgctradinghut@gmail.com). We will try and keep the number of deliveries to a minimum.

## TRADING HUT MAINTENANCE - CAN YOU HELP?

Almost all jobs at the hut are now covered by members but there are occasional maintenance jobs that will need doing. For example:

1. Purchasing and replacing a fluorescent tube/starter.
2. Clearing the guttering (ladder in hut) about twice a year.
3. Organising the painting of the black round the base of the hut including purchasing paint/brushes, etc. about every 3 to 4 years.
4. Anything else that might crop up.

Any money spent is repaid very quickly by Steve, our Treasurer.

This is not a job that would take much of your time/year and could be done whenever suits you. If you think you could help with this or would like more information please email: [sgctradinghut@gmail.com](mailto:sgctradinghut@gmail.com).

## SHOW SCHEDULES

A reminder that these are available in a number of ways:

- They were emailed out to members on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023
- Online via [this link](#) to the website where it can be found on the 'downloads' page

[sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](http://sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

- Steve Roome still has a few hard copies available if you see him either at club night, or by email: [sroome@aol.com](mailto:sroome@aol.com)

Also, for those of you who like to plan ahead, remember you can print the whole schedule off in one go, or show by show.

Any problems, please contact a committee member.

## TRIPS

[Exbury Gardens Saturday 22nd April 2023](#) - Departing Sandhurst Library at 09.00h and leaving 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 leaving 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](mailto: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

Sheila Davenport

## TRIP TO WWT SLIMBRIDGE

*We have received 2 reports from members who enjoyed the trip:*

Everyone turned up very promptly for the trip to Slimbridge so the coach set off almost 10 minutes early. The weather forecast didn't look good and there was rain on the way but, on arrival, the weather was fine, if a little windy and chilly. It remained fine throughout the day and we even saw the sun a few times. Sadly, no feeding of the birds owing to avian flu, but it didn't spoil an excellent day out with plenty to see including rare cranes and, possibly a first for the UK, a white rumped sandpiper. For those of you who have never been there are many hides from which to see wild birds, I even saw a kingfisher from the 'Kingfisher Hide'. In addition to the wild birds there are resident birds, many of which are endangered species. It was great to be able to see these birds up close and appreciate the amazing plumage of many. My particular favourite is the pintail. (right)



[sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](http://sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

The café provided a welcome break from the cold outside. Lydia made sure all went smoothly and, as usual, Mike the coach driver was great and looking forward to looking round Slimbridge as it was his first visit.

The trip was able to go ahead owing to the 7 members of the Moor Green Lakes Group who came along too. Thanks to them.

Jane Heritage

Slimbridge is the pioneer work of Sir Peter Scott who championed the cause of world wildlife conservation through growing the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and set up the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Our coach was on time and everybody prompt, which meant we got away by 9.20am with our usual driver Mike who likes to do the Sandhurst Gardening Club Trips. En route we saw banks of lovely snowdrops. We had a good journey time and after sorting tickets everyone was free to go off for the day and explore. Wow, there was so much to see and do! I started off



heading for the Kingfisher Hide passing the swans, ducks and flamingos on the way which were having to be kept inside due to bird flu. Around the grounds there were several mats to wash your feet in before entering certain areas. At the Kingfisher Hide I saw ducks and swans - sadly no Kingfishers! There were bird feeders one side which attracted lots of blue tits. I then explored the other hides



on my walk back. I listened in to the talk at the Living Wetland Theatre telling you about the different birds (it should have had birds flying but due to bird flu this was not possible). I had my lunch by a lake with some ducks and birds wanting my sandwich and soup too! After I explored the arctic adventure all about Scott exploring and what they took with them food and sleeping bags. Then the Estuary Tower which looks over the River Severn and estuary, a great big tower to climb and the views stunning when you reached the top and birds to see too. I wandered in the many hides returning

into the warmth of the indoor Peng observatory, wow so many ducks, swans, coots to see there and lovely glass display panels to see clearly. We were unable to buy bird food due to the bird flu, which is one of my favourite things to do. On returning to the main building, I climbed the spiral staircase to the viewpoint where you got stunning views all around Slimbridge, the birds and countryside. I met up with several people during the day and everyone said they had enjoyed it.

A lovely day made great by good weather and everyone being prompt for leaving and departing.

Thank you

Lydia Stonestreet



## NGS OPEN GARDEN



You came for the Plant Sale, now come for the Garden! 13 Broom Acres in Sandhurst is opening under the National Garden Scheme (NGS) for the very first time this year. Come for the cake, stay for the garden and have a wonderful time! Find us in the 2023 NGS Yellow Book or online at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk), under "13 Broom Acres". We're open on various days throughout the summer and if you would like to volunteer as a

[sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](http://sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

helper on our open days, please email us at [garden@sunilpatel.co.uk](mailto:garden@sunilpatel.co.uk) or contact a Club Committee member.

Sunil Patel

## **FREE MANURE!**

Stacy Kain, a friend of a club member, has a lot of horse manure she wants to get rid of! Her field is just opposite Potley Hill School on the Reading Road. Members would have to bring their own bags, shovel or fork. There is a wheelbarrow available. If you are interested, please contact Stacy on 07746115727 to arrange collection.

## **FREEDOM MARCH – 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

Advance warning of the Freedom of the Borough March is being held at the park on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023. This is a huge event and thousands of people are expected. Therefore, there will be no parking in the main car park or the car park by the café and there will be no vehicular access whatsoever allowed during this time.

## **TENDER SHOOTS ONLINE TALKS**

The Tender Shoots club continues to offer free online talks to anyone who is interested. I know quite a few members have joined these over the months and found them very interesting.

**March 20th Monday** – Peter Moore – ‘Plant Breeding’ - It's extremely likely you will already have one of his plants growing in your garden.

**March 27th Monday** – George Hargreaves – Notable Botanic Gardens of the UK

**April 5th Wednesday** – Monthly networking session

**April 27th Thursday** – Hilary Hutson – Patio Panache – Container planting ideas from around the world.

**April TBC** Chris Blackburn - Ultra Sonic Pest Control - Learn about the safe way to control animals coming into your gardens without the need to use harmful chemicals.

*Summer break,*

**September 25th Monday** – Lucy Hartley – Climate change and its effect on our gardens

**October 26th Thursday** – Timothy Walker (former curator of Oxford Botanic Garden) – Bordering on Insanity (creating an all-year-round border)

**November 8th Wednesday** – Andrew Mikolajski – Do Your Roots Need Doing – Good root growth is essential for healthy and productive plants.

**December Christmas Quiz TBC**

More talks TBC, further details are on the [tendershoots.uk](http://tendershoots.uk) website.

Meetings open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start and as usual there is no charge to attend so everyone is welcome. Feel free to pass it on to your gardening friends.

Zoom link is the same as usual for every meeting.

Meeting ID: 404 301 4750

Passcode: bonsai

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Many thanks

Indy



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Date	Event	Venue
Wed. 15 <sup>th</sup> March 7.15pm	Daffodil Show Talk: World of alpinas	Community Hall
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> April 7.15pm	Late spring show Talk: growing for the kitchen	Community Hall
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 9.00 am	Trip: Exbury gardens	Exbury
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> May 7.15 pm	Talk: gardening for wildlife	Community Hall
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 10am-1.00pm	Plant sale	Broomacres, Longdown estate
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer show	Community Hall
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> July 9.30 am	Trip: Kew gardens	Kew
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> July - afternoon	60 <sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration	Community Hall
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> July 7.15pm	Talk: Clematis & Climbers	Community Hall
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> July 9.00 am	Last day trading hut open	Trading Hut
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 9.00 am	Trading Hut re-opens	Trading Hut
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Autumn show	Community Hall
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct 7.15 pm	Talk: ponds	Community Hall
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov 7.15pm	Talk: Pests & diseases - LIVE	Community Hall
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov 9.00 am	Last day Trading Hut open	Trading Hut
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Trip: Christmas Lights	Kew

## CONTACT DETAILS:

Hon Chair: Chris Dresler 01420 768965

Hon Secretary: Julie Sheppard 01252 870521 [secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

Vice Chairman and Trading Secretary: Jane Heritage 01276 600438

[hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

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

Coach Trips: Sheila Davenport [trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.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, Liz Crow 01252 693552

Online membership: Sandra Hooper [membership@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)