



# Newsletter I – January 2024

Dear Members,

A very Happy New year to you all from your committee! Hopefully, you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas, and once the gardens have dried out a little, will be raring to go in your gardens. We have an exciting programme of talks planned for this year, all of which you will be able to find in your membership card. (See diary dates below for a sneak preview).

Our first talk of this new year, on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Jan at 7.15 pm, sees Kevin Tooher, also known as 'Sir Plantalot' joining us to talk about Summer bulbs. It seems a perfect time for this talk, as bulbs will shortly be appearing in the shops, so I hope many of you are able to come along. The nights are now drawing out after all...

Julie Sheppard

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

A reminder that membership fees are due in January. They will increase to £7 per person; there will no longer be a reduced price for couples, as this was in recognition of the reduced postage cost. This no longer applies and following the unfairness of single members being treated differently to couples being raised at the last AGM, it was felt that one membership fee for everyone was appropriate. Attached to this newsletter is a membership application form or you can download one from our website. You will continue to receive a newsletter until March after which we only send to those members who have rejoined.

The cost for one-off visitors coming to club nights will increase from 50p to £1.

If you are renewing your membership by post rather than on-line, please return the forms to Steve Roome: 1, Hillside Cottages, Newtown Road, Sandhurst. GU47 9EH

Thank you.

## TRADING HUT

The hut re-opens on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January. **Please note, the council have introduced a speed limit along the stretch of road from the gate down to the allotments of 10mph.** It would be something of a challenge to exceed this when visiting the hut (!), but nevertheless please be mindful of it.

The final orders are arriving, and we will have some new items in stock.

Slug Traps: we've had requests for non-chemical control.

Boltac Grease Bands.

Vitax Tree Grease (tubs)

Vine Weevil Killer (Bug Clear Ultra).

Indoor Watering Cans – long spout.

The following may be of interest at the start of the gardening year:

A range of fertilisers for soft fruit and trees and shrubs.

Fleece to warm the soil prior to sowing / planting and for plant and blossom protection.

Root trainers for sweet peas.

Rootmore Q4 to help establish newly planted bare root shrubs and trees.

Sharp Sand for water-logged lawns.

John Innes Seed Compost and Vermiculite for those early seeds.

The updated price list will be available on the website once the last orders arrive. There are some small increases which are unavoidable, but prices are still very competitive. All monies go towards running the club, help to keep membership fees low, plus we are local with a carry-to car service.

### Help needed:

- We need some more people who are able to help with lifting in relation to the hut deliveries. We have some names at the moment, but have lost a couple to long term health / injury issues and it would be good just to have a couple more. Our deliveries of stock, apart from compost centre, are on a pallet which is lifted down and then needs unloading and putting away in the hut. If you can do this, please contact us on [hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk) or [sgctradinghut@gmail.com](mailto:sgctradinghut@gmail.com). alternatively, you can give your name in to the person on the desk on a Sunday morning at the hut.
- Can you be part of a small team to help with 'bagging up'? We envisage this being a small team who work in twos to go down to the hut, check the shelves and bag up. This would probably need to be weekly during the busy season but could be less frequent at other times. Contact details in the paragraph above.

Thank you.

The Hut Team

## TRIPS

### [WWT London Wetlands Centre](#) - SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

This is an urban haven for birds, mammals, wildflowers, reptiles, amphibians, insects and people! A variety of managed habitats provides a wide range of locations for birds to breed or escape the worst of the winter weather.



Cost is £30 for coach, entrance and tip. If you are a WWT member you can get free admission but I will need to know and you need to bring your card with you. Please email or ring me and I can tell you how much the trip will cost for you.

You will need to book the trip first with me by emailing [trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk). or ringing me on 07790638411

Once that is done, please pay Steve Roome, via Bank transfer:

Account name: Gardening Club of Sandhurst & District

Sort code 09-01-51 Account number 92029304

Please use 'WWT trip' as your reference



I have booked a 53-seater coach, so book early to guarantee your place.

Please wrap up warm as you will be outside for most of the visit. There are light refreshments available in the café: hot/cold drinks and hot/cold meals. You are welcome to take your own picnic to eat around the grounds.

I will also require your mobile number for the trip and an emergency number for someone to be contacted in case of emergency on the trip.

Coach trips will now depart and return to Owlsmoor Community Centre, Yeovil Road, Sandhurst. GU47 0TF

There is a large car park behind Community Centre. Do not park at the shops as parking there is limited to 2 hours! The coach will depart from the bus stop in front of the Co-op at 9.30am, so please arrive by 9.15am. We will be leaving Barnes at 4pm arriving back at approx.. 5pm.

I look forward to seeing lots of you on our first trip for 2024.

Thank you

Lydia Stonestreet

**[MOOR GREEN LAKES NATURE RESERVE](#)** – an invitation to find out more

Club members are invited to join a walk along the River Blackwater and find out more about Moor Green Lakes nature reserve. This local reserve, situated in the Blackwater Valley beyond Horseshoe Lake, has been managed by Moor Green Lakes Group for over 30 years. It is a haven for a large variety of wildlife.



The walk will be led by Simon Weeks, Chairman of the MGL Group and Site Liaison Officer, assisted by Jane Heritage, one of 4 volunteer work party leaders.



**Date:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Meeting at the Moor Green car park off Lower Sandhurst Road, Finchampstead, (nearest postcode RG40 3TF) at 10.30 am. It is anticipated the walk will last between one and one and half hours.

Numbers are limited. For more information or to book your place email, text or ring Jane: [janeheritage2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janeheritage2002@yahoo.co.uk) 07799 315376.

To find out more about Moor Green and see some fantastic pictures of the site and its wildlife, visit [www.mglg.org.uk](http://www.mglg.org.uk)

## SHOW SCHEDULE 2024

All members who have email will be sent 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.



A great evening was had by all who attended the Kew Garden Lights. It was very magical, lots of lovely light displays to see. Food stalls and lovely mulled wine. We were extremely lucky with the weather although raining on our drive in as I carried my umbrella around all evening NO RAIN! The glass houses were lit up, arches to walk under and displays over the water. Also on the grass were really big stars lit up. Projected on to the path was Christmas at Kew. A very nice start to Christmas. (There are more pictures at the end of the newsletter)

Lydia Stonestreet

## 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](mailto:johnwilliams288@hotmail.com).

I need lifters for Sunday mornings in particular, so please consider stepping up. 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

## BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

This is taking place on the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January and is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.

Further details can be found on the [RSPB website](#), but basically it's a case of sitting watching the birds in your garden and then letting the RSPB know what you've seen. What could be simpler?

Big Garden  
Birdwatch

## SQUIRES GARDEN CENTRE

You can get 10% of plants and garden products when you shop at [Squires Garden centre](#) (Heathlands Rd., Wokingham – not far from Holme Grange craft village/coffee shop). You just have to make sure you show your membership card.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO BECOME A JUDGE?

We are a member of the Hampshire Federation of Horticultural societies (HFHS) and they are running a course for established judges wanting a refresher, but also for anyone interested in developing their skills and becoming a judge themselves. Please see below for more details; it would be lovely if the club had some judges of their own!

Please contact Caroline direct if you are interested.

### HFHS is organising a training session on Judging for Spring Shows

- **Suitable for** judges looking to increase their knowledge of judging bulbs and other spring flowers and for potential judges who would like to start their judging journey with Spring flowers.
- **The free session** will be held at Sparsholt College
- **in the morning of an April weekend** - confirmed date depends on numbers expressing an interest.

Please contact Caroline if you are interested.

[cford@mvnet.co.uk](mailto:cford@mvnet.co.uk)

## TENDER SHOOTS

Hello Folks and a Happy New Year to you all.

I hope you're all well and that you had a great Christmas break, although I do find the holidays seem to pass far too quickly, so I'm only just catching up on emails now. For Christmas I treated myself to a few new gardening gadgets and also found a new way to never lose my secateurs again (I will tell you about it later).

If you are a member of Tender Shoots or a member of one of our affiliated clubs, then the plant list handout (to accompany Sally's talk listing all the plant names) is now available to download on the private members page on our website. If you are a member of an affiliated club then your committee can also provide the handout to you.

1) Next few zoom dates in February (7.30pm start unless stated otherwise):

Feb 2nd Fri - Peonies – Alec White from Primrose Hall Peonies (Please note 8pm start time)

Feb 14th Wed – Companion Planting for a Balanced Garden - Dr Ian Bedford

Feb TBC – Snowdrops - Francesca Page-Smith

2) If you missed the recent zoom talks on the topics such as 'Good Root Growth', UK Botanic Gardens, 'Climate Change', then the recordings of these are available to watch on the private members area of our website.

3) If you're not yet a full member, then why not join up on our website now using our brand new membership system. You'll also get our 50% Suttons & Kings seeds discounts.

Many thanks

Indy 074 755 12323

[www.tendershoots.uk](http://www.tendershoots.uk)

**Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4043014750>

Meeting ID: 404 301 4750

Passcode: bonsai

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Red denotes changes/updates

Date	Event	Venue
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Trading Hut re-opens	Trading Hut.
<b>Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2024 2.30 pm</b>	<b>Talk: Private life of ladybirds</b>	<b>Kitty Dancy room</b>
Wed Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup> 7.15 pm	Talk: Summer Bulbs	Community Hall
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Trip to <a href="#">WWT London Wetlands Centre</a>	Meet at Owlsmoor community centre
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 10.30 am	Guided walk of Morr Green Lakes nature reserve	Meet at Moor Green car park, Lwr Sandhurst Rd, Finchampstead, (nearest postcode RG40 3TF)
Wed Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	AGM Talk: wellington College – grounds & environs	Community Hall
Wed March 20 <sup>th</sup> 7.15 pm	Daffodil show Talk: Cut flowers for the garden & the vase	Community Hall
Wed April 17 <sup>th</sup> 7.15 pm	Late Spring Show Talk: growing for the kitchen	Community Hall
Wed May 15 <sup>th</sup> 7.15 pm	Talk: growing and showing dahlias	Community Hall
Sat June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Summer show	Community Hall
Wed July 17 <sup>th</sup> 7.15 pm	Talk: ponds and water plants	Community Hall
Sat Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn show	Community Hall
Tues Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> 2.30 pm	Talk: Arts & Crafts gardens in the SE	Kitty Dancy room
Wed Oct 16 <sup>th</sup> 7.15 pm	Quiz night	Community Hall
Tues Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> 2.30 pm	Talk: demonstration how to create a Christmas arrangement	Kitty Dancy room
Wed Nov 20 <sup>th</sup> 7.15 pm	Talk: the Savill Garden	Community Hall
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed Jan 15 <sup>th</sup> 2025 7.15 pm	Talk: St Kilda & the Hebrides; sailing to the edge of the world	Community Hall
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 7.15 pm	AGM Talk: flower arranging on a budget	Community Hall

## CONTACT DETAILS:

**Hon Chairman:** Sheila Davenport\* [chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

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

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

**Trading Hut:** [hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk) or [sgctradinghut@gmail.com](mailto:sgctradinghut@gmail.com).

**Coach Trips:** Lydia Stonestreet [trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk) 077 906 38411

**Show entries:** Email entries are preferred. [shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk) Paper entries to 85 Pinehill Road RG45 7JP

**Show contact details:** [shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

**Wisley Tickets & Newsletter Distribution:** Sandra Hooper\* 01276 34112

**Newsletter Contributions:** [secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

**Bulb Orders:** Ruth Page 01344 774539 or Liz Crow\* [gardening@mrscrow.co.uk](mailto:gardening@mrscrow.co.uk)

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

**Online membership:** [membership@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:membership@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

**Postal membership renewals** – Steve Roome: 1, Hillside Cottages, Newtown Road, Sandhurst. GU47 9EH

Please include a SAE with your completed membership form.

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

**General enquiries:** [enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

\* Denotes committee members

