



Newsletter 2 - February 2024

Dear Members,

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year and a special welcome to any new members. Daylight time is growing and following the recent milder weather the garden is waking up. However, we need the sun to shine and the gardens to dry out a little. I am sure the vegetable gardeners will have started some of their seeds, planted shallots, and set their seed potatoes up. It is a time of year when there are plenty of jobs to do weather permitting!!

Our first club evening of 2024 went off well with an excellent speaker. Kevin Tooher who entertained us for the whole evening talking about the successional calendar in the garden. We learnt the where, when and how for each month with attention to 'structure'. Of course our members are very knowledgeable but even so tips here and there never go amiss. The members present had limited enthusiasm for grasses or conifers (non leylandi)!!! He made us laugh and he encouraged the members to join in with their own ideas. It was a very entertaining evening and we will ask him to return with another of his talks next year.

We had a bit of a problem that we could not open as planned our trading hut on the 21st January due to someone smashing the gate mechanism. This was unfortunate as we planned to sell lots of bird food ready for the Bird Watch on Friday 24th to 26th January. We did ask for the code to the combination lock on the gate, but this was refused by the Executive Officer on grounds of security. This was despite our excellent record for "always shutting the gate". We have completed our winter afternoon talks following the February event. These have proved popular with members.

This month sees the clubs AGM on the 21st February. Please come along and participate, your views are vital to the future of the club especially with respect to shows and associated costs. You should have received all the AGM documents to read before hand. Please note there will be very limited hard copies available at the meeting.

The AGM will be followed by a talk by Mark Dodd of Wellington College on 'The grounds and environs of Wellington College'. He is an excellent speaker and it is hoped we may be able to combine this with a future visit to Wellington College.

Sheila
Chairman

MEMBERSHIP FEES

A gentle reminder that membership fees were due in January. Fees are £7 per person. A membership application form is attached, or can be download from our website, or completed at the trading hut. 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 has increased 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.

TRADING HUT

Trading was brisk on the first hut opening at the end of January. With the weather finally beginning to improve it's time to think about starting some seeds. John Innes Seed Compost is available, together with a selection of seed trays, seed tray module inserts, root trainers, jiffy pellets and pots. Jiffy pellets can be used in a standard seed tray (without holes). More details on how to use jiffy pellets at <http://www.jiffypot.com/en/products/jiffy7.html>.

All of our pots and trays can be found on the shelves to the left of the door as you come into the hut, together with garden gloves and a range of other useful items. The majority of the summer bulbs are now in stock. However the gladioli still to arrive. Summer bulbs are selling quickly so don't delay. All packs are priced at £2.75. Bulb planting baskets are available in two sizes.

We've been advised by our supplier that 'Job Done' products are being replaced over the coming months. We have some stock still available, so if these are a particular favourite, now is the time to stock up. We plan to have grow bags available at the beginning of March. This year we will be stocking the 4 plant size of Clover Grow Bags, which are around 40L. If anyone needs a large number of these please contact the hut team on sgctradinghut@gmail.com by the end of this week and we can take this into account when ordering.

An updated price list is attached

The first Wednesday afternoon opening will be the 13th March.

Thank you.

The Hut Team

HUT Duty

Hut volunteers

If you have not yet volunteered but feel that you could help out, please do get in touch. We cannot open the hut unless we have people to look after the gate, help those who cannot lift get compost to their cars (there is a wheelbarrow!) and be trained up to use the card machine on the counter.

I do try to involve everyone who has volunteered and usually only have to ask each one every couple of months or so. Finding lifters is the biggest problem and I really appreciate it when people get back to me promptly with a yes or no on a request. Thank you.

If Sunday is not a good time for you, we will be opening on Wednesday afternoons 2-4 from 13th March and help will be needed then!

Contact me on johnwilliams288@hotmail.com if you can afford a couple of hours or so on a Sunday or Wednesday.

As ever, very many thanks to all those who have volunteered in the past year and continue to offer their services.

Lesley Williams

[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 15th 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 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

SHOW SCHEDULE 2024

All members who have email have been sent a copy of the new show schedule. This reduces 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, or those who request it, a printed copy will be available on individual request. This can be collected by arrangement from the hut or on club nights. The cost will be £1.00 - paid by card.

SHOWS

Next month (March) see our first show of the year. It's a fun show so bring your daffodils and have a go. It's surprising what you will learn about the myriad of categories!! And you have to "be in it to win it" so come on and have a go. There will be more details in the next newsletter about entering.



sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk



TRIPS

The next trip booked is to the Malvern Show on FRIDAY 10TH MAY. This is likely to be popular so please book early to guarantee your place.

This four day festival encapsulates the essence of Spring, with an unmissable showcase of new horticulture talent and the latest gardening trends. Explore award winning show gardens, plus a whole host of thematic zones, theatres, immersive experiences and interactive demonstrations.

With new features added every year visitors can experience fresh sights and sounds as well as the return of some long standing favorites. Visit the UK's largest Floral Marquee with over 50 leading nurseries, here you can gain valuable knowledge and inspiration from expert growers, as well as purchasing fresh blooms and plants to fill your space.

Experience a star studded line up of influential figures, from BBC Gardeners World celebrities, expert growers and chefs sharing their gardening and culinary expertise in the talks theatres.

More details and up to date information at rhsmalvern.co.uk

We will depart from Owlsmoor Community Centre at 9.15am please be there by 9am. We will leave Malvern Show at 5.30pm returning approx 7.30pm -8pm

There are eating places at the show or you are welcome to take a picnic. Please wear clothes suitable for the weather as is outside and on grass.

Cost is £50 each for this trip coach, entrance and tip money. This is likely to be a popular trip.

Please email trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk to book your place and then pay Steve your money. Please provide your mobile number and a name of someone and contact number in case of emergency.

Bank details

Account; Gardening Club of Sandhurst & District
Sort code; 09 01 51
Account No; 92029304

I have reserved 53 tickets for this trip which have to be paid for by the 22nd March so all payments need to have been paid by CLUB NIGHT on Wednesday 20th March at the latest.

Lydia Stonestreet

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

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 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', 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

Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 404 301 4750

Passcode: bonsai

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Updated calendar. New events / changes in red

Date	Event	Venue
Thursday 15 th February 10.30 am	Guided walk of Moor Green Lakes nature reserve	Meet at Moor Green car park, Lwr Sandhurst Rd, Finchampstead, (nearest postcode RG40 3TF)
Wed Feb 21 st	AGM Talk: Wellington College - grounds & environs	Community Hall
Wed March 20 th 7.15 pm	Daffodil show Talk: Cut flowers for the garden & the vase	Community Hall
Wed April 17 th 7.15 pm	Late Spring Show Talk: growing for the kitchen	Community Hall
Friday May 10 th	Malvern Spring Show (note paid confirmation if you wish to go is required by the 20 th March)	Coach leaves Owlsmoor Community Centre at 0915 prompt
Wed May 15 th 7.15 pm	Talk: growing and showing dahlias	Community Hall
Sat June 22 nd	Summer show	Community Hall
Wed July 17 th 7.15 pm	Talk: ponds and water plants	Community Hall
Sat Sept 7 th	Autumn show	Community Hall
Tues Oct. 1 st 2.30 pm	Talk: Arts & Crafts gardens in the SE	Kitty Dancy room
Wed Oct 16 th 7.15 pm	Quiz night	Community Hall
Tues Nov 5 th 2.30 pm	Talk: demonstration how to create a Christmas arrangement	Kitty Dancy room
Wed Nov 20 th 7.15 pm	Talk: the Savill Garden	Community Hall
Tues 7 th Jan 2025	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed Jan 15 th 2025 7.15 pm	Talk: St Kilda & the Hebrides; sailing to the edge of the world	Community Hall
Tues 4 th Feb 2025	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed 19 th Feb 2025 7.15 pm	AGM Talk: flower arranging on a budget	Community Hall

CONTACT DETAILS:

Hon Chairman: Sheila Davenport* chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

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

Treasurer: Steve Roome* sroome@aol.com

Trading Hut: hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk or sgctradinghut@gmail.com.

Coach Trips: Lydia Stonestreet trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk 077 906 38411

Show entries: Email entries are preferred. shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk Paper entries to 85 Pinehill Road RG45 7JP

Show contact details: shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Wisley Tickets: Sandra Hooper* 01276 34112

Newsletter Contributions: secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Bulb Orders: Liz Crow* gardening@mrscrow.co.uk

Trading Hut Volunteers: Lesley Williams johnwilliams288@hotmail.com

Online membership: 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 orders: David Dunford* 01252 656826 dvdunford@ntlworld.com

General enquiries: enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

* Denotes committee members

