



Newsletter 3 – March 2024

Dear Members,

I've started writing this on Feb 29th – this could have been viewed as an 'extra' day in the garden this year, which we gardeners will always welcome as there are never enough hours in the week, weeks in the month or months in the year to get everything done. However – it's been an opportunity for yet more rain. What can I say...

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM last month and contributed to the lively discussions that ensued, particularly around the questions of trophies. This is an important issue, hence raising it at the AGM and, as mentioned at the meeting, a final decision will be made following feedback from a questionnaire/survey that will come out to members shortly. There will be notice of it, so please keep an eye out. Can I also say a heartfelt thank once again to Graham and Helen Harding for stepping into the breach when our booked speaker fell ill. We saw some super slides and learnt a lot about the Isles of Scilly in a very short space of time!

This month (Wed 20th March) sees the excitement of the first show of the year – the daffodil show. I hope your gardens are looking better than mine; any daffs that dared raise their heads are now bedraggled and wind-blown. Still, there is still a little time until the show, so fingers crossed. Please see below for more details. As well as the show, we will be welcoming Claire Brown from the Plant Passion nursey to talk about growing flowers, particularly for cutting. This is something that has seen a huge rise in popularity over recent years, so I hope you enjoy the talk.

Julie Sheppard

DAFFODIL SHOW



Full details of categories, entry requirements etc can be found in the schedule which was emailed out to everyone in January and is also 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 FEES

A reminder that any membership fees not yet paid are overdue! You will continue to receive a newsletter until March after which we only send to those members who have rejoined. Attached to this newsletter is a membership application form or you can download one from our [website](#). You can also pay at club night by card; please bring your completed form with you.

Thank you.

TRADING HUT

First of all, a reminder that the hut will start its Wednesday openings this month, beginning on Wed 13th March 2.00 – 3.00 pm.

We have a range of items for seed sowing, together with a selection of feeds to get your plants off to a good start. If you need any details on our 'bagged up' feeds and soil treatments there's an information leaflet on the pinboard behind the desk.

Spring & Summer Lawn Granular is in stock, or if you prefer a liquid feed then you could try Doff All Year Lawn Feed together with Lawn Weedol. Lawn Weedol is available as a concentrate or as a RTU gun.

A reminder that grow-bags will also be in stock shortly.
The Hut Team

BULBS

Have you bought your bulbs yet? They are selling fast, so it is unlikely that any will be left (for those of you sneakily hoping to buy discounted ones!). Any last few might come along to club night, but you need to get in quick...

PLANT SALE

We are thrilled to say that once again Gareth and Sunil will run the **plant sale** on behalf of the club. So, as you venture into your greenhouses/conservatories/wherever and sow your seeds, take cuttings, divide plants etc please remember to put a few aside to support the plant sale. The weather hasn't exactly been brilliant for that as yet, but there's still plenty of time. Details of what to do with them will come in later newsletters. It will be held on **Saturday 25th May, 10.00**

am – 1.00 pm. Two volunteers will be needed to help set up on the Friday (from 2.00 pm) for a few hours and also volunteers on the day to help with selling and then packing away. If you are able to help, please let a committee member know, or Gareth/Sunil should you see them at club night. This sale has been phenomenally successful over the past few years, raising a lot of money for the club, so I do hope you will be as generous with your support this year as in the past.



Thank you.

BANKSIAN MEDAL



The club is delighted to announce that we will be adding the Banksian Medal to our list of awards. The Banksian Medal is one of a number of medals awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society, and is named after the great scientist Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820). It is available to affiliated clubs and will be awarded to the person who gets the most points in the Summer and Autumn shows (combined). Whoever wins it this year will not be eligible to win next year or following year. If the same person does have the highest number of points, it will be awarded to the next eligible entrant.

Good luck everyone!

CAN YOU HELP?

Do any members have any experience around dealing with leases? The committee needs a bit of advice! If you do, or have a family member who could help, please get in touch. Thank you.

chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

TRIPS - MALVERN SHOW – FRI 10TH MAY

There are still a few places available for this fabulous trip! Please see the flier that was attached to this newsletter for more details, or look at the RHS website: rhsmalvern.co.uk . You can book and pay for your place(s) either online (details on flier) or at club night. Closing date is 22nd March.

BARNES WETLANDS TRUST



A nice day was had by all at Barnes. We were lucky to have our lovely driver Mike who likes doing the Sandhurst Gardening Club Trips. We only had 25 people on this trip and a big 53-seater coach so everyone could spread out! A good journey time was made to Barnes but when we got to the Barnes bridge the coach needed to enter through the middle for the height! Well, the cars coming the opposite directions had other ideas and would not give way. They got closer and closer to the coach which could do nothing as cars were behind us by then! Even though we were bigger! In the end some cars backed up and others mounted the pavement still hoping



to get past – unbelievable. You had to be there to see it unfold. It was quite funny watching as don't know how they thought the coach would get through without them moving.

We wandered around various bird hides and saw lots of different ducks and geese. Barnes has been going for over 20 years and was made by converting disused reservoirs from Thames Water into nature lakes. This happened in 2000 and was the largest Wetland created in any capital city.



They also had otters here to see and watch them feed on their fish. Otters are related to ferrets and smell too. I think they said there were 16 different types of otter around. They have their fish meal 2 x a day and come out and swim or they go into their homes and sleep.

A very nice visit and the weather was kind to us.

Lydia Stonestreet

(more photos available at the end of the newsletter)

THE TOUR OF MOOR GREEN LAKES NATURE RESERVE

On a sunny day in February, 12 club members enjoyed a leisurely walk from the Moor Green Lakes car park round the edge of the nature reserve. Simon Weeks, Chairman of the Moor Green Lakes Group (MGLG) committee led the walk, accompanied by Jane Heritage, one of four volunteer work party leaders. Simon explained how 31 years ago this 90-acre site, formerly gravel pits, became a nature reserve and is now managed by MGLG. The aim is to preserve the area by ensuring there is a variety of habitats for the wide range of wildlife that lives on or visits the reserve.

First stop was a visit to the Colebrook Lake bird hide, one of two hides on the reserve. Here we were joined by Peter Craig, another MGLG committee member and avid birdwatcher. Members became quite comfortable, enjoying the lovely view across the lakes to Tern and Plover Islands, littered with a variety of birds.



Time to move on and, along the way, Jane pointed out numerous areas where the MGLG volunteers have worked: much can be achieved by an enthusiastic work party one Sunday a month between September and March! In addition, further work parties are run on some Tuesdays by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership. The work this season has included ensuring good views from the hides; removing some shoreline willow; clearing some areas of gorse and bramble encroaching on the wildflower meadow; repairing fences; coppicing hazel to provide stakes and binders for the hedge-laying. Work completed in January & February, repairing and laying new hedge, was admired by the members.

Further along the Blackwater Valley path, which borders part of the reserve, we reached the tree usually occupied by the resident tawny owl. It was there, mostly hidden by branches and ivy. Even with the use of binoculars many members couldn't see it. Pity it wasn't sitting in its other favourite place, just across the river in a hollow in a large tree. Courtesy of Peter Craig, Jane was able to forward photos of the owl in both locations. One was taken earlier that week when a shaft of sunlight revealed a little more of the hidden tawny. If you have never been, and for some members it was a first visit, do go and enjoy your local scenery and wildlife.



If interested, you can join MGLG for just £10 per year and have access to the two bird hides, receive newsletters, an annual report and more. Just visit www.mglg.org.uk and click on 'get involved'. The website is worth a look just for the photographs.

Jane Heritage

(photos courtesy of Sarah Elston & John Heritage)

NGS GARDENS OPEN IN SANDHURST

Once again, Gareth and Sunil are opening their garden at 13, Broomacres for the NGS. For two of these dates, they are also opening with Dorset Cottage Garden in Albion rd.

- Sunday 9th June 1:00 - 5:00 pm, opening with Dorset Cottage Garden on Albion Road
- Sunday 23rd June 1:00 - 5:00 pm, opening with Dorset Cottage Garden on Albion Road
- Sunday 21st July 1:00 - 5:00 pm
- Sunday 25th August 1:00 - 5:00 pm

They need four volunteers for each date, so if you are able to support them on any/all of the dates please contact Sunil garden@sunilpatel.co.uk

Details at www.sunilpatel.co.uk and on the NGS site at <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/44428/13-broom-acres/>

TOOL SHARPENING

On Sunday 12th May, members of California Gardening Club will once again be coming along to the hut to sharpen your tools from about 9.00 - 10.30am. There will be a fee of £2 per item. Rotary mower blades welcome but must be removed from the mower. No cylinder mowers. NOTE: Items can be left and collected later but please bag them and label clearly with your name.

HUT DUTY

A plea from Lesley Williams who does a grand job organising members to man the hut. A number of folk have volunteered to help with hut duty, which is wonderful, but when she emails you to ask about specific dates, folk don't always respond. Please get back to her asap if she contacts you. It makes organising the rotas so much more straightforward.

Thankyou

SHOW SCHEDULE 2024

All members who have email have been sent a copy of the new show schedule. This means you only need to print the sections that are relevant to you. The [show schedule](#) is also available on the Club's website.

sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

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.

As indicated in the email that came out with the schedule (17.1.24) there have been various changes to some classes this year. I have summarised them below for you:

Summer show:

7. Delphiniums - 1 spike in vase, any cultivar
13. Alliums – 3 stems in a vase
- 15 Pelargoniums/Geraniums – 1 flowering head in a vase
20. Pot Plant – Streptocarpus
34. Strawberries - dish of 6 - all with stalks attached
35. Gooseberries - dish of 6 - all with stalks attached
36. Raspberries - dish of 6 - all with stalks attached
40. Lettuce - 2 of any type
41. Any other vegetable, any number

Autumn show

Dahlias:

8. 3 Pom-Pom - 1 or more cultivars not to exceed 55mm in diameter.
10. Vase of Dahlias not less than 7 stems arranged for all-round effect. Exhibitor to supply own container.
14. Alstroemeria – 3 stems
16. Carnations or Pinks - 3 stems
- 25 Pelargonium - 1 head in a vase
42. Tomatoes - novelty - 5 with stalks attached. Examples: beefsteak, striped, coloured.
44. Any bean except runner - 6 of one kind
49. Marrow, gourd, squash or pumpkin – for quality
60. Collection of 3 Salad Vegetables
65. Plums, damsons or greengages - 4 of one kind, stalks attached.

NEW MEMBERS: GOOD FRIDAY

As mentioned at the AGM, we are holding an event at the Trading hut on Good Friday 29 March (10.00 – 2.00pm), aimed at attracting new members who are also new (ish) to gardening. Can we ask for your support in three ways:

- Please promote the event amongst friends and family members. There is a flier attached that gives more details.
- If you are able to help on the day, or for part of the day, please let the committee know by emailing Sheila Davenport chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk
- If you have any empty egg boxes (6, not 12) can you please save them and give them to me? I need about 8-10 more. You can give them to me at club night, leave them in the hut, or email me and I will give you my address to drop them off.

Thank you

Julie Sheppard

TENDER SHOOTS

The next zoom talk will be on Tuesday March 26th 7.30pm – 'A year in the life of an award-winning bee farmer making premium artisan bee products '

This talk will Beelicious, so make sure you join in. Details of how to join can be found on their website.

<https://tendershoots.uk/>

FREEDOM MARCH – 15th JUNE

Advance warning of the Freedom of the Borough March is being held at the park on Friday 15th June 2024. On Thursday 13th June the gate at the café will be locked and not re-opened until Sunday 16th June. There will be NO vehicular access whatsoever during this time. This is to allow for preparations for the event to be made safely. This is a huge event and hundreds 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.

CAN YOU HELP ONE OF OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS?



Owlsmoor Primary school is renovating a couple of greenhouses for use by the school's pupils to generate an interest in growing plants and vegetables. Can I reach out to our membership asking for help fitting out these greenhouse as we are in need of greenhouse shelving? These children are the likely future members of the Sandhurst Gardening Club, so I am hoping the membership might be able to help with any shelving they may be able to

donate as they may be upgrading their own set ups.

The costs advised so far are in the region of £600 for the fit out so any second-hand units that could be refurbished would be most welcome. I am very happy to collect anything you may have.

My contact details are:

- Tel: 07970 858070
- Email: dickyryan@aol.com

Thank you.

Richard Ryan (Club member/Owlsmoor PTA)

HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES SURREY HORTICULTURAL FEDERATION

We are a member of various local horticultural societies. As such you can sign up for their free newsletters and also see what talks are being offered by them – of particular note might be some of the 'big' names that some clubs book and then offer out tickets for. Please follow the links to sign up for/view their newsletters.

[Hampshire Federation newsletter](#)

[Surrey Federation website & newsletters](#)

WEST DEAN GARDEN

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new 2024 Garden short courses and talks!

Discover the flourishing world of horticulture and gardening as West Dean unveils its engaging gardening short courses and talks running from March to August 2024. Rooted in expertise and designed to nurture the green thumb in all of us these courses offer you the opportunity to learn more about garden design, plant care, propagation, and so much more from gardening experts and seasoned horticulturists.

See all our short courses here: <https://www.westdean.ac.uk/short-courses/courses?category=Gardening>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Red denotes changes/updates

Date	Event	Venue
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
Wed May 15 th 7.15 pm	Talk: growing and showing dahlias	Community Hall
Friday May 10 th	Malvern Spring Show	Coach leaves Owlsmoor community centre 0915 prompt.
Sun 12 th May 9.00 – 10.30 am	Tool sharpening	Trading hut
Sat. 25 th May 10.00 am – 1.00 pm	Plant sale	13, Broomacres, Longdown estate
Sun 9 th June 1:00 - 5:00 pm,	NGS Open Garden*	13 Broomacres
Sun 23 rd June 1:00 - 5:00 pm	NGS Open Garden*	13 Broomacres
Sat June 22 nd	Summer show	Community Hall
Wed July 17 th 7.15 pm	Talk: ponds and water plants	Community Hall
Sun 21 st July 1:00 - 5:00 pm	NGS Open Garden	13 Broomacres
Sun 25 th Aug 1:00 - 5:00 pm	NGS Open Garden	13 Broomacres
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

*opening with Dorset Cottage Garden on Albion Road

CONTACT DETAILS:

Hon Chairman: Sheila Davenport* 07979 917355 chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

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

Treasurer: Steve Roome* 01252 877965 sroome@aol.com

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

Coach Trips: Lydia Stonestreet 077 906 3841 | trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

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 & Newsletter Distribution: Sandra Hooper* 01276 34112

Newsletter Contributions: secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Bulb Orders: Ruth Page 01344 774539 or Liz Crow* gardening@mrscrew.co.uk

Trading Hut Volunteers: Lesley Williams johnwilliams288@hotmail.com

Online membership: membership@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Postal membership renewals – Steve Roome* 01252 877965 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

General enquiries: enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

* Denotes committee members

