



Sandhurst and District
GARDENING CLUB

NEWSLETTER



Dear Member

March 2020

I hope none of you have developed webbed feet following the inordinate amount of rain we've had recently. Hopefully with the longer spring days the sun will help dry out our gardens so we can start work in them proper!

It was lovely to see so many of you attend the AGM last month and hear from the committee what has been going on over the year. Draft minutes will appear on the website soon if any of you would like to read them. Also do please consider how you are able to help the club – Jane Heritage will need a successor(s) and is keen to support folk through a transition time, much as Chris has done (and continues to do) with me. It will make the handover so much easier. Also, Tony is still on the lookout for volunteers to help with hut duty – particularly from those who are able to help with the lifting.

As I mentioned at the meeting, I have information for anyone interested in opening their garden for Phyllis Tuckwell; please contact me via email or grab me on club night! Also, if anyone or a group of friends are interested in representing the club at the RHS Affiliated Societies 'Growing together' Flower and Produce competition, I also have more details. The theme this year is 'This is Us' and the nearest show to us is at Wisley on 8-13th Sept.

I hope you enjoyed our talk last month by Chris Stewart. While it was definitely not the talk I thought we had booked – there being no real evidence of flowers anywhere - it was nevertheless interesting to see some photographs of what is clearly a beautiful part of Europe and one that may well be worth visiting, if only to see some of the gardens for ourselves!

Our talk this month on **Wednesday 18th March at 7.15pm** is by Carol Grubler, who will talk about growing fuchsias, and also touch on the things we need to be aware of when showing. Hopefully it might inspire some of you to consider entering fuchsias in future. She will also be bringing some fuchsias and heucheras with her for sale on the night, so come armed with a carrier bag or two!

This month sees the first show of the year – it being the **Daffodil Show**. We will have the room available for you to set up your vases of daffodils from **6.45 until 7.15 pm**, when the talk will begin. Judging will take place during the talk.

I look forward to seeing you on the 18th.

Julie

TRADING HUT WORKSHOP

GOOD FRIDAY 10th APRIL at the TRADING HUT - Open as usual at 9.00am. Graham will probably arrive about 9.30am. Is there anything you would like him to do or talk about - if so ring me NOW on 01420 768 965 so I can get him organised. Leave a message if I am not there. Tea, coffee, biscuits and a free raffle. Now the weather seems to be improving you need to stock up with compost, sow seeds, you need labels, fertiliser etc.etc. The Hut is bursting with stuff.

SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that I have just learnt our lovely Jose Blunden has just died. Apparently she went into hospital and her daughter thought she would be coming home as she had improved but sadly it was not to be. Jose had been a member of the club it seems forever, always the same jolly greeting however she felt. She seemed to produce masses of flowers from nowhere at the shows and it was lovely to see all her family right down to the youngest helping set up her exhibits. She always made a big cake for the show raffle and also lots of little cakes to sell. She will be sorely missed by everyone.

Chris

TRADING HUT

*****Wednesday Afternoon Openings*****

The hut is open again on Wednesday afternoons, 2 to 4pm from 18th March until 24th June.

TOOL SHARPENING

Once again, on **Sunday 29th March**, members of California Gardening Club will be coming along to the hut to sharpen your tools from about 9am to 10.45am. There will be a small fee. We will be providing free refreshments while you are waiting so do look out those blunt tools and come along.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

After almost 20 years as trading secretary I have decided it is time to pass the job on to others. I do want it to be a smooth changeover so I am happy to stay on while that happens over the next couple of years or so. I have enjoyed the job immensely, and I've had a lot of help, but I can't do it forever. I do believe the tasks could be shared, so if you are interested in taking the job on or being part of a team then please email: janeheritage2002@yahoo.co.uk or phone: 01276 600438.

The profit from the trading hut supports the many other activities of the club and it would have severe consequences if it were to close. Want to know what is involved? Ring me for a chat.

Jane Heritage

NEWSLETTER ADVERTS

If you have an unwanted garden item you would like to get rid of (sell or give away) then place an advert in this newsletter. Maybe you are not coping with your gardening, we may have a member who might be interested in helping you. Email details to Steve Roome, sroome@aol.com or drop details off at the hut, written clearly on a card to put on our notice board. **Garden items only please.**

MEMBERSHIP ** Important Information**

Please renew your membership by the end of the month. After that we no longer send you a newsletter. You can rejoin at the hut, at club nights or by post (see back of newsletter for details). If applying by post do not forget to include a SAE.

If you joined at the end of last year (from September onwards) you will have already paid for this year. You just need to collect a membership card from the hut or a club night. Alternatively, send a SAE to Jane Heritage and she will post your card.

COACH TRIPS FOR 2020

Hole Park in Kent Saturday 25th April. Cost £26.00. Leaving Sandhurst Library at 08:30 am. All information about the event in our leaflet on club night.

Please note all payment is due by club night on the 18th March. I still have a few places on this trip if you have friends who like to come along they are welcome.

Please note if you are bringing your own lunch, there are benches near the car park, no food to be consumed in the grounds. There is a cafe.

Great Dixter Saturday 6th June. Cost £28.00. Leaving Sandhurst Library at 08:00 am. A visit to the house and gardens. All information about the event in our leaflet on club night.

Broughton Castle Wednesday 8th July. Cost £25.00. Leaving Sandhurst Library at 10:15 a.m. We will be stopping at a garden centre in Bicester for members to buy lunch if necessary or look around. All information about the event in our leaflet on club night.

Sheila

NGS (YELLOW BOOK) OPEN GARDENS

A leaflet showing various garden openings within 15 miles of Sandhurst is included with this newsletter.

This is an amazing charity that was able to donate approximately £3 million last year to various causes.

Further information can be found on their website www.ngs.org.uk which has an excellent search facility for you to look up hundreds of open gardens in the UK which is particularly useful if you are visiting another part of the country.

TOP 10 JOBS TO DO IN MARCH

For further information go to www.rhs.org.uk/advice

1. Protect new spring shoots from slugs
2. Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
3. Plant summer-flowering bulbs
4. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
5. Top dress containers with fresh compost
6. Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
7. Cut back Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
8. Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control early
9. Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
10. Prune bush and climbing roses

EMAIL AND WEBSITE

Our Email address is: enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk - This will direct your mail to a committee member who can deal with it or pass it on to the relevant person.

Our web page is: www.sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Hon Sec: Chris Dresler, 40 White Hill Residential Park, Liphook Road, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 9DS. 01420 768965

Assistant Secretary: Julie Sheppard 15 Park Road, Sandhurst Berks, GU47 9AA 01252 870521

Vice Chairman and Trading Secretary: Jane Heritage 01276 600438

Treasurer: Marilyn Grant 01344 771646

Coach Trips: Sheila Davenport ,10 Nightingale Gardens, Sandhurst. 01252 874361

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

Hut Volunteers: Tony Winter 01276 32873 - tonywinter1964@aol.com

Bulb Orders: Ruth Page 01344 774539

Other Committee Members: Derek Dolling 01344 774505, Gill Clark 01252 654937,

Carol McGowan: 01276 36392

Postal membership renewals - **Mrs J Heritage 174B, Branksome Hill Road, College Town, Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 0QQ**

Please include a SAE with your completed membership form