



Newsletter 3 – March 2025

Dear Members,

What a wonderful last week or so we've had – warm spring days and grass suddenly deciding to grow at a ridiculous rate. Still, mustn't grumble and must enjoy precious days while the weather is good, as experience tells us that it won't last and as gardeners, we must grab every opportunity to be out while we can. I hope you enjoyed some time in the garden as well.

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the AGM last month. It all went very smoothly and the draft minutes will shortly be available on the website, should anyone wish to read them. At the first committee meeting following the AGM, David Dunford and Liz Crow were voted in as co-chairs of the club. Our thanks to them for taking on this role. The AGM was followed by a very entertaining talk and demonstration of flower arranging by Janet Tattersdill. While not something that is of great interest to me, I must say how much I enjoyed the talk; Janet's anecdotes were very entertaining and, when accompanied by some super arrangements (which members were able to win as part of the raffle) it made for a very enjoyable evening. A number of other members also commented that they were surprised by how much they enjoyed the evening. Just goes to show that things aren't what you always think, and it's worth turning up even if you don't think the talk will appeal.



However, I hope that the subject on this month's talk will appeal - Julie Verity is coming to talk to us about the visionary gardener William Robinson, who developed the original garden at [Gravetye Manor](#), Sussex, in 1885, and which is now considered one of the most important historic gardens in England.

Finally, remember to bring your pot of three daffs with you on club night (18th March)!
Julie Sheppard

TRADING HUT

We are now open on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 – 3.00 pm each week.

We have new supplies of Composted Stable Manure and the Clover Grow Bags were delivered on the 11th March in time for our first Wednesday.

Bulbs: There is still a good choice of Summer Bulbs, check them out for your favourites or maybe try something new.

Hut volunteers: If you are able to spare a couple of hours on a Sunday morning or Wednesday afternoon, we would be very grateful. Please let Lesley johnwilliams288@hotmail.com know. This could be working on the counter, manning the gate or helping members by carrying items to their car.

We are also looking for people to help with deliveries, this will involve lifting, deliveries are normally a weekday. Last but not least can you spare some time to help 'bagging up'. This involves splitting the large bags in which feeds and chemicals are delivered into easy-to-handle bags for the shelves. For both of these, please contact Beverley sgctradinghut@gmail.com

The form used for recording sales in the hut has been re-vamped to make identifying the type of sale easier – please look at the example on the sheet before completing it if you are unsure.

Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their membership. You can do it in 3 ways:

- Online, by completing the attached form and emailing it to:
membership@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk
- At the trading hut on a Sunday morning
- Next week at the club night. If you choose to do this, I would recommend you complete the form and bring it with you rather than filling in the form there and then. It will make the process much quicker.

Please remember to complete one form per person joining, rather than one per couple. This will help with identifying people who have volunteered for roles in the club as well as making admin more straightforward. Membership cards can be collected from the trading hut, or on club night. You have until the end of March to renew – after that there will be no newsletters and you will not be able to access the trading hut – two very good reasons to renew if you haven't yet done so!

THAMES HOSPICE

The club made a donation of £150 to the [Thames Hospice](#) in memory of Steve Roome. Any additional donations members may wish to make will now need to be made direct to the hospice.

PROUD TABLE



Congratulations to Jill Humphreys for her prize-winning display of hellebores at the February meeting. Understandably, the number of entries during these last few months has been quite small, but fingers crossed that we'll see more of something you're proud of this month – perhaps a vase of spring flowers, a lovely houseplant or something tasty from the veg plot?

PLANT SALE

Good news! – Sunil and Gareth have agreed to host the plant sale again this year! Avoiding the Bank holiday weekend, which we think adversely affected sales a bit last year, we are going for **Saturday 10th May**, 10.00 to 1.00 pm. As always, this can't happen without your support, so can you:



- Put aside a plant or two as you divide any perennials
- Bring on some seedlings large enough to sell
- Take some cuttings
- Donate any plants that no longer fit your garden/you no longer 'love'

Plants can be dropped off with them week before the sale and Gareth and Sunil will look after them (just leave them on the doorstep). Please avoid bringing plants on the day if possible.

Usual place: 13 Broom Acres, Sandhurst, GU47 8PN

Gardeners' Question Time – BBC radio 4

I was going to let members know how you could get tickets for this event, which is being held in Crowthorne on 29th April. However, a look at the [council website](#) shows they are no longer taking bookings.... We'll have to listen to the recording instead, which is due to be broadcast 7th – 15th June.

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Start the gardening season in style at BBC Gardeners' World Spring Fair 2 – 4 May 2025 | Beaulieu, Hampshire



Would you like to go to the Gardeners' World Spring Fair for free? Well – maybe you can! We have a pair of standard adult tickets for one winner, valid Sunday 4th May, 9.30 am entry. This is a saving of £52 for one lucky winner. We will be raffling the tickets at the March club night as part of the normal raffle, so make sure you buy your tickets as you come in!

You can also get a discount of 10% on tickets bought in advance online by using the code **SAVE10***

Follow the link for more details as to what you can see/do/buy at the [Gardeners' World Spring Fair](#).

** Discount valid on adult/concessions standard entry tickets for Friday 2nd and Sunday 4th May for entry at 09:30am and 12pm only. Not valid on 1:30pm tickets, Saturday tickets, added extras, or with any other offer. Ends 23:59 on 16 April 2025. £3.95 transaction fee per e-ticket order. Details correct at time of print.*

SHOW SCHEDULE 2025/DAFFODILS

Daffodils – a reminder that this is the month for your moment of glory! Bring along your pot of three free bulbs for judging – a table will be set up at the back of the hall. Hopefully the tables will be a blaze of yellow. Wednesday 18th March

Attached to this newsletter is the new show schedule. It is also available on the Club's website. For members who do not have email, a printed copy will be available on individual request and can be collected from the hut or on club nights. The cost will be £2.00 – paid by card. **YOU MUST ORDER ONE** though – please email shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk to let Carole know you would like one. Deadline for orders is **1st April 2025** - after that, you will have to print your own. Ordered schedules will be named and available for collection from the hut.

Spring show: the schedule contains all the details of entries for the spring show, which will take place next month (April club night). Do look carefully as some of the entries/classes may have changed compared to previous years.

RHS MEMBERSHIP CARD

As an affiliated society to the RHS, there are several benefits to the club. One is a free group entry to a garden for up to 55 members each year. To take advantage of this, Lydia has arranged the trip to Hyde Hall (see below). Another is a 50% discount card into RHS Gardens for use by up to two members at a time. Sandra Hooper looks after this card - if you would like to use it for a trip to an RHS garden and save yourself money, do please contact her: sanhooper@btopenworld.com



TOOL SHARPENING

On Sunday 18th May, members of California Gardening Club will once again be coming along to the hut to sharpen your tools from about 9.00 - 10.30 am. There will be a fee of £2 per item. Rotary mower blades

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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.

TRIPS

Coach Trip to R.H.S. Hyde Hall, Chelmsford, Essex on Tuesday 6th May 2025



[Hyde Hall](#) is known for its stunning views, extensive plant collections and variety of garden styles. There is a Winter Garden with magnificent willow sculptures, Australia and New Zealand Gardens, a Dry Garden and Clover Hill. There are several cafes for drinks and food or you are welcome to take a picnic.



When: Tuesday 6th May 2025

Cost: £26 for coach

Depart: from Owlsmoor Community Centre Yeovil Road, Owlsmoor

Time: 9.15 am. Please arrive by 9 am.

We will depart Hyde Hall at 5.45 pm

Parking: In the Owlsmoor Community Centre or some of the surrounding roads; beware of restrictions on some, and don't park in front of the shops as it is restricted to just 2 hours.

Clothing: Suitable clothes for the weather and sturdy shoes for walking. Most paths are suitable for wheelchairs. It is a little hilly in places.

To book a place: email trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk and include your email address, phone number and an emergency contact number

Payment: 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

Look forward to you joining me.

Lydia Stonestreet

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Red denotes changes/updates

Date	Event	Venue
Wed. 12 th March	Afternoon opening of the hut begins	Trading hut
Wed. March 19 th 7.15 pm	Talk: 'The Wild Gardener'	Community Hall
Tues 1st April	Deadline for ordering a show schedule - email Carole Hickman: shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk	
Wed. April 16 th 7.15 pm	Late spring & daffodil show Talk: Painshill Park	Community Hall
Tuesday 6 th May 9.15 am departure, Owlsmoor community centre	RHS Hyde Hall, Essex	Hyde Hall, Essex
Sat. 10th May 10.00 – 1.00 pm	Plant sale	13 Broom Acres, GU47 8PN

Sun. 18 th May	Tool sharpening NGS Therapy Garden open 10.00 – 4.00 pm	Trading hut Normandy
Wed. May 21 st 7.15 pm	Talk: Plant propagation	Community Hall
Wed. 28 th May	Final afternoon opening of the hut	Trading hut
Sat. June 21 st	Summer show	Community Hall
Wed. July 16 th 7.15 pm	Talk: Coping with the UK weather	Community Hall
Sat. Sept. 6 th	Autumn show	Community Hall
Sun 21 st Sept.	NGS Therapy Garden open 10.00 – 4.00 pm	Normandy
Wed. Oct. 15 th 7.15 pm	Talk: Lavell's Lake nature reserve	Community Hall
Wed. Nov. 19 th 7.15 pm	Talk: Succulents & cacti	Community Hall
Tues. 7 th Oct. 2.30 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Tues. 4 th Nov. 2.20 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed. January 21 st 2026	Talk: The Itchen Way	Community Hall
Wed. February 18 th 2026	AGM Talk: Bugs that bite back	Community Hall

CONTACT DETAILS:

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

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

Treasurer: Andy Bale* andrew.bale4@ntlworld.com and Ian Hopley hopley.ian@goolemail.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 & Newsletter Distribution: Sandra Hooper* 01276 34112

Newsletter Contributions: secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

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

Trading Hut Volunteers: Lesley Williams johnwilliams288@hotmail.com

Online membership: membership@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Postal membership renewals – Ian Hopley* 24, Waterside Lane, Sandhurst. GU47 8AD

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