



Newsletter 3 – March 2026

Dear Members,

The sun has been shining, the rain has abated (a bit anyway!) and spring is definitely in the air. Hopefully many of you will be entering daffs, tulips, flowering spring shrubs or hellebore flowers in the spring show at the next meeting on **Wed 18th March**. Set up details etc are below. If you aren't entering, then do make sure you have a look at the entries (during the break please, NOT during set-up) and be inspired for next year.

The talk last month has proved very useful to at least one club member – while it wasn't necessarily the best of viewing (some of the bugs were very yukky to look at) it was absolutely fascinating – and as for useful - definitely – read the article submitted by Helen Harding below to see how pleased she was that she had seen the slides and listened to the advice...

Also interesting was the slide Andrew Halstead included about the Asian hornet. I've put it at the end of the newsletter (apologies for the quality, but it was a photo taken on the night) as the reporting information is helpful. The key 'take away' I remember is that the Asian hornets are easy to spot because of their yellow legs.

The talk this month is about Munstead Wood, which was the home of the influential garden designer Gertrude Jekyll. Now in the care of the National Trust, it is currently undergoing restoration, so this should be a fascinating talk!

Julie Sheppard

SHOWS

We can now confirm that we have a new show team! Many thanks to Jill Fenner, Di Swaddling, Carole Edge and Lori Bird (supported by Sheila Davenport) for coming forward. This means that the summer and autumn shows will definitely go ahead. The shows are such an integral part of the club that this is splendid news. You will see some of them at the spring show, as they shadow other club members to observe and learn what goes on.

DAFFODIL/SPRING SHOW

As mentioned several times this will be at the March club night on Wed March 18th. The classes for the show can be found in the [schedule](#) and the specific pages relating to the spring show are also 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. Can we please ask members not exhibiting to keep away from the tables at the back during set-up and then view the exhibits during the break. Thank you.

Raffle tickets and payment for membership/trips etc can be done at tables at the FRONT of the hall on this occasion.

SHOW SCHEDULES

As in previous years, we will print a small number of schedules for members who do not have printing facilities. They will be at a cost of £2.00 each. Please let me know by the **end of March** if you require one. secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk There will not be spare copies available after this.

A soft copy of the full schedule is attached this email and can also be downloaded from the [website](#).

AGM

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the AGM last month – there were some interesting points raised which will be discussed at committee. The draft minutes can be viewed on the [website](#).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Account name: Gardening Club of Sandhurst & District

Sort code 09-01-51

Account number 92029304

Please use SGCsub as your reference

Alternatively, you can complete a form (attached) and either take it in to the hut and pay by card machine or email it to the Treasurer Andy Bale:

andrew.bale4@ntlworld.com You will need to pay online if you do this.

MEMBERMOJO

We think we have now ironed out all the initial problems encountered with switching over to membermojo, so thank you all for your patience. If you need to amend/update any details (particularly after reading how you can help with the running of the hut – see ‘hut duty’ below) – this is the link to the site you need to use:

<https://membermojo.co.uk/sandhurstgardeningclub>

You will need to ‘edit’ your details and then please make sure you save them.

TRADING HUT

Our first Wednesday afternoon opening will be the **18th March, from 2-3pm**. We have a range of feeds and soil treatments in stock as growth gets under way. A reminder that if you need any details on our ‘bagged up’ stock there’s an information leaflet on the pinboard behind the desk which details uses, application rates and NPK details, if relevant.

Spring & Summer Lawn Granular feed is in stock, or if you prefer a liquid feed then you could try Doff All Year Lawn Feed together with Lawn Weedol. Grass seed is available for those patches and repair, both with and without rye seed.

Clover Growbags are in stock and are selling well, this is a one-off order, when sold they will not be re-stocked again this year.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Bird food prices

New stock of peanuts and sunflower hearts have been ordered, which should be in the trading hut by March 15th. BUT ... prices have risen a little for peanuts, and have risen more for sunflower hearts. So, if you want to buy any of the existing stock before the prices rise, hurry down to the hut before it all goes! Even with slightly increased prices, the bird food is still heaps cheaper than anything you will buy in shops or at garden centres!

Helen and Graham Harding

HUT DUTY

A couple of important points for people doing hut duty:

- The code for the key safe has now been changed**, so please ensure you read the email from Lesley when it comes to your turn to do duty
- The gate person **MUST** bring in the bell when they finish their session - thank you.

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A useful to re-cap what hut duty actually involves. There are four main roles:

1. Counter duty – this person collects the hut key, unlocks the main doors and then works at the counter. They add up what's being bought (there is calculator!), writes it down on the record sheet and takes payment using the card reader.
2. Lifter – is there to lift/reach heavier goods for members and take them to their car
3. Gate duty – uses the fob to operate the gate. There is a bell, so no need to stand in the cold and/or rain. On quieter days, it is appreciated HUGELY if this person can do a bit of bagging up (along with lifter and counter people if possible).
4. Bagging up – this doesn't have to be on a hut duty day; volunteers can go down to the hut any time to bag up. Most folk prefer to do it with someone and Beverley runs a WhatsApp group to support this. Alternatively, you can pop down on Sunday morning or Wednesday afternoon (from March).

Lesley is now arranging the rotas for hut duty; if you didn't say on your membership renewal that you could help and now realise that you can, please contact her asap: johnwilliams288@hotmail.com

Beverley will run session(s) in March /April for people happy to learn how to run the counter. It's really very easy!! Please contact her direct if you are willing to help: hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

TRIPS – NYMANS

Thank you to all of those who have secured a place on the coach for the Nymans trip but we still need more people to join us in order to make the trip viable. To those of you who are thinking about booking, we have now circulated to Yateley Gardening Club, so in order to guarantee your place on the trip please email trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk to book your place ASAP. The closing date for booking is **Tues 31st March**.



Brief details below and how to pay:

What: Nymans is a grade 2 listed garden with beauty, colour and interest all year round. It has a fascinating collection of beautiful and rare plants from all over the world. Nymans is a place of innovative garden design with rare and unusual plant collections of national significance. There are ruins and wonderful views of the Sussex High Weald. The house can also be visited and tells the story of the Messel family. It also has two cafes, a large shop and a plant Centre.

When: Thursday 16th April 2026

Where: depart from outside Owlsmoor community centre at 9.15 am, leaving Nymans at 4.00 pm.

Cost: £36.00 for coach and entrance fee. National Trust members: £17.00 (entry free with membership card)

Payment: either by bank transfer (details below), or by card at the trading hut or on club night.

Bank details: Gardening Club of Sandhurst & District

Account No: 92029304

Sort Code: 09-01-51

Ref. Nymans



To secure your place on this trip please email trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk with your Full Name, mobile number, emergency contact Number and Name. Also, please confirm whether you are a National Trust Member.

BUGS THAT BITE BACK

Like other club members, I attended the recent 'Bugs that Bite Back' talk, watching with great interest and increasing disquiet and itchiness!

A few days later I did some work in the garden, brushing through vegetation as I did so. The next day, while showering, I saw a small black spot on my knee which looked suspicious. It was only about 1mm in size, but raised like a small teardrop, and it could be moved from side to side, unlike a scab from a scratch which is fixed and close to the skin. I got my phone, took a picture, and zoomed in, and my apprehensions were confirmed. It was a TICK! It was swiftly removed with tweezers and dispatched.

The moral of the story: it's early in the year for ticks, I was wearing trouser and long sleeves, and my garden isn't visited by deer as far as I know. But it is always worth keeping a watch for bugs that bite back.
Helen Harding



PROUD TABLE



Congratulations to Jill Humphries who won the prize at the Proud table last month, on the theme of 'Signs of spring'. She had a lovely vase full of daffs, as you can see in the photo. I hope she has some left for the spring show this month...

There will be no theme this month, so please just bring along anything garden/plant related of which you are proud!

TOOL SHARPENING 17th MAY

We are pleased to say that Stuart and the California team will be at the trading hut on the 17th May from 0900 to 1030. This will help you to sharpen your garden implements ready for the summer. 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 and contact details.

PLANT SALE

The plant sale has become an important part of our fund raising for the club and your support is needed. With rising costs of the hall for our use and the cost of speakers, we need you to help.

Please sow some seeds or take cuttings from some of your favourites. We need as many plants for sale as possible. If you could let me know what we can expect in the way of plants, that would be wonderful. Last year Sunil and Gareth had to provide more than expected in the way of plants as we, the members did not supply many.

Email me please and let me know what to expect: shethos8@gmail.com

A big Thank you if you can help.

Sheila

JOBS AVAILABLE!

Would you like to help the club but haven't seen anything that appeals to you yet? There are 2 jobs that I currently do and would love to hand over!

- Write the quarterly piece for the Sandhurst Residents' Association (SRA) magazine. This is quite an easy job, and is exactly as it says in the brief. A short piece, just four times a year, the word

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count is limited, so never too much to write. It can be about anything related to the club and I try to use it as a way of showcasing all the things we do and also encourage new members to join. I'm sure you've read pieces in the SRA magazine in the past (at least I hope you have 😊). I can give you examples of past piece I've written if you'd like.

- Do you fancy choosing what we will have talks about each month? If so, then the job of booking speakers for each month could be right up your street! This is a job that could be done by one person, or equally easily by a couple of friends. There is a period of time when bookings need to be made but apart from that it's just a case of a reminder email each month ahead of the booking just to confirm all is ok. I'm more than happy to talk through this role in a little more detail if you think you might be interested – there will be no obligation! I would say you need to be ok sending and receiving emails though as that is how most talks are booked and confirmed.

As well as these jobs we are also looking for someone/some people to develop our social media presence – primarily on Facebook, but this could expand to include Instagram/anything else. I'm thinking maybe regular posts on the local sites (We Love Sandhurst etc) but if someone were happy to, it would be lovely if we had our own Facebook page...

If you are able to help with any of those roles, I would love to hear from you! Please ring me or email or grab me at a club night/when I'm on hut duty – whenever!

secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk 07711 056 815

Many thanks,
Julie Sheppard

FLOWERBED



Was out walking (delivering the SRA mags actually) and noticed how splendid our bed outside the community hall was looking! Thanks to Jill and Graham Coe and Pat Roome who maintain this on behalf of the club. A real inspiration for winter colour in the garden.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Red denotes changes/updates

Date	Event	Venue
Wed 18 th March 2 – 3 pm	First afternoon opening of the Trading hut.	Trading hut
Wed 18 th March 7.15 pm	Talk: Gertrude Jekyll at Munstead Wood Daffodil/spring show	Community Hall
Wed 15 th Apr 7.15 pm	Talk: The history of allotments	Community Hall
Thurs 16th April 9.15 am	Trip to Nymans	Owlsmoor community centre
Sun 17th May 9 – 10.30 am	Tool sharpening session	Trading hut
Wed 20 th May 7.15 pm	Talk: A lifetime with roses	Community Hall
Saturday May 30 th	Plant sale - details tbc	Broomacres
Sat 20 th June	Summer show	Community Hall

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Wed 24 th June 2 -3 pm	Last afternoon opening of the trading hut	Trading hut.
Wed 15 th July 7.15 pm	Talk: Greenhouses & polytunnels - year-round use	Community Hall
Sat 5 th Sept	Autumn show	Community Hall
Tues 6 th Oct 2.30 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed 21 st Oct 7.15 pm	Talk: A gardener's life	Community Hall
Tues 3 rd Nov 2.30 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed 18 th Nov 7.15 pm	Talk: companion planting	Community Hall
Dec – date tbc	Christmas party	Community Hall
2027		
Tues 5 th Jan 2.30 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Tues 2 nd Feb 2.30 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed 17 th Feb 7.15 pm	AGM Talk: Hedgehogs	Community Hall

CONTACT DETAILS:

Hon Co-Chairs: David Dunford* & Liz Crow* chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Hon Secretary: Julie Sheppard* 07711 056 815 secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Treasurer: Andy Bale* andrew.bale4@ntlworld.com and Ian Hopley* hopley.ian@googlemail.com

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

Coach Trips: Rachel Parker & Jill Humphries trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Show entries: Email entries are preferred. shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

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 – 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 chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

General enquiries: enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

* Denotes committee members

