



Newsletter 4 – April 2026

Dear Members,

The clocks have changed, the sun has come out, and it might actually seem that spring is on its way! There is much to celebrate and enjoy in the garden and much of it is reflected in this newsletter – it's certainly worthy of a careful read. We have information and/or reports about:

- The spring show
- Details of a ticket giveaway to the Gardeners' World Spring show
- A change to the Proud table - we need you to vote!
- The 'Bring a friend' initiative
- And details of the Moor Lakes open bird hide day

So much to enjoy!

Also, at club night this month we have a fascinating talk on the history of allotments – this was recommended highly by a member of a fellow gardening club, so I am looking forward to it hugely – Wednesday 15th April at 7.15 pm. Hope you will all be there! 😊

Finally, a plea for you to read the piece I wrote in the last newsletter and have included in here again regarding two of the many jobs I currently do – I'm sad to say that no-one has come forward to offer any help. Please have another look and see if you (or you and a friend) could take on one element – every little helps. Thank you.

Julie Sheppard

'BRING A FRIEND' MONTHS

Do you know someone who enjoys gardening and you think might be interested in joining the club? Then you can bring them along for **free** to either the May (A lifetime with roses) or July (Greenhouses and poly tunnels) meetings. Simply cut off and complete the form at the end of this newsletter and give it to them to bring on the chosen club night – what could be easier? Hopefully we might encourage a few of them to join the club and take advantage of everything we have to offer!

DAFFODIL/SPRING SHOW



This year's Spring Show was held at the March club meeting. The number of entrants was lower than previous years; this was mainly due to timing, as it was quite late for daffodils and a bit too early for most tulips. However, there were some beautiful blooms submitted, producing a lovely, colourful display of spring flowers. Lydia Stonestreet won the



George Brown Cup, and Peter Radband won the Barclays Bank Cup, and he also scored the highest points over all the classes. Congratulations to Lydia and Peter and well done to all the other show entrants. Thank you to the show judge, Terry Miller, and to everyone who contributed to make the show possible. You can see more pictures from the night at the end of the newsletter.

SHOW SCHEDULES

If you ordered a show schedule it will be available on club night at a cost of £2.00. The deadline for orders has now passed so no more will be printed. They are still available via the [downloads page](#) on the website and also attached to previous newsletters.

TRADING HUT

We still have supplies of Grow Bags, the Clover 4 plant size. This is a one-off order for this year so buy them while they are still available. The compost and manure supplies have been replenished and with some improvement in the weather, thoughts turn to sowing and planting.

A mention of some of our popular items:

- a range of feeds, from Blood, Fish & Bone, Flower & Veg, Growmore and liquid feeds to include the favourites Tomorite & Seaweed based feed.
- Jiffy Sowing Pellets and Pots
- Rootainers
- Hanging Baskets
- Pea & Bean Netting
- Slug Control – Pellets, Traps and Collars

Regrettably, we are seeing some small price increases on some items.

The hut has a range items to help you in your gardening. If you can't find what you need, please ask one of the volunteers at the hut or drop us a note on sgctradinghut@gmail.com

Opening times

A reminder that the hut is now open on Wednesdays as well as Sunday mornings:

Wednesday 2.00 – 3.00 pm

Sunday 9.00 – 10.45 am

Bird food

Restocked items of bird food in the trading hut are: **Supreme** and **Berry Suet** (the pink one). We will restock the **Mealworm Suet** (the beige one) in the next week or so, when there is enough space in the bins.

FYI: we checked the prices of fat balls at Wisley. Theirs are £10 for 50, or 20p each. Ours are £2.40 for 20, or just 12p each!

Helen and Graham Harding

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES FOR THE SUMMER & AUTUMN SHOWS

As the gardens come into colour, a quick reminder of the photography classes for the shows this year:

Summer show:

- Yellow in the garden
- A local scene (taken within 2 miles of the trading hut)
- My favourite flower

Autumn show:

- Pond life
- Summer colours
- 'I can **'sea'** for miles

BBC GARDENERS' WORLD SPRING FAIR 2026



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 3rd May, 9.30 am entry. This is a saving of £56 for one lucky winner. We will be raffling the tickets at the **April** club night as part of the normal raffle, so make sure you buy your tickets as you come in! The organisers will not be issuing paper tickets. Winners will be emailed a link to register online and will receive their tickets by email. Tickets are non-refundable, non-exchangeable and non-transferable, and do not include travel, accommodation or expenses. There is no cash alternative. Details of giveaway and prize correct at time of print. Ticket terms and conditions apply <https://www.immediatelive.com/ticket-terms-and-conditions/>.

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.*

PROUD TABLE



Congratulations to Lydia Stonestreet who won the prize at the Proud table last month with a beautiful dicentra, as you can see in the photo.

As there was no theme last month, there is one for April - 'Spring colour'. With all this lovely weather we're having, I'm sure there will be plenty of things you can bring along from your garden – please have a look and join in with the competition. In fact, we're asking all members to be involved in the judging of the Proud table in future – you will be given a bean on entry to the hall – please hold it tightly, have a look at the entries on the Proud table at the break and cast your voting bean accordingly! There will be small pots next to each entry for you to place your vote. Hopefully it will also inspire you to take part in the future... 😊

TOOL SHARPENING 17th MAY

A reminder 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.

MOOR GREEN LAKES OPEN BIRD HIDE DAY

Saturday 11th April 10am to 4pm



As all wildlife wakes up to spring, Moor Green Lakes are opening their Colebrook Lake hide to the public for the day, normally only open to members. Moor Green car park can be found on Lower Sandhurst Road car park, Finchampstead opposite the turning for Blackwater View (RG40 3TF). Alternatively, walk along the River Blackwater from Horseshoe Lake (posters will help you find your way).

Experienced Moor Green members will be on hand to point out species of interest. Learn about all the wildlife (bird, insects, reptiles, mammals, plants and more) that can be found at the Moor Green Lakes reserve. No need to book - just turn up and feel free to bring your friends.

The reserve was owned by CEMEX, a multi-national manufacturer of cement and aggregates, and it was put up for sale last year. It had been managed by the Moor Green Lakes Group for over 30 years. Earlier this year a generous local benefactor completed the purchase of the reserve then gifted it to Finchampstead Parish Council. It will continue to be managed by MGLG- its future secured.

To find out all about this lovely place, the work volunteers do, see some amazing wildlife photographs and find out about membership (only £10 p.a.). Visit:

www.mglg.org.uk.

Later in the year I plan to organise a guided walk along the River Blackwater talking about the reserve. Watch out for details in the newsletter.



Jane Heritage

Work Party Leader & Committee member

Moor Green Lakes Group

The two lovely pictures were taken by Peter Craig

WISLEY



We visited Wisley a few days ago. It is looking lovely. The tulips are looking fantastic. And we saw Carol Kirkwood, just after she'd had the weather station at Wisley named after her.
Graham & Helen Harding



See below for the RHS benefits, one of which is the use of the club's membership card to get reduced price entry to RHS gardens – perfect for visiting Wisley!

sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

RHS BENEFITS



As an affiliated society, the club gets some benefits which are passed on to you wherever possible. One of these is the membership card, which gives 50% discount to any of the RHS gardens for up to 2 members at a time – Sandra Hooper holds the card and if you wish to borrow it, please contact her (details in the contacts list below). We also get sent a copy of The Garden magazine each month. These are brought along to each club night for members to look at /take away to read. They are full of interesting articles and helpful advice – do please take advantage of them.

Finally, you can join the RHS Affiliated Societies Facebook closed group page. You will need to enter the name of the club and also our affiliation number: 10573910

PLANT SALE

A reminder to save some of your plants for the plant sale on **Saturday 30th May!** It 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.

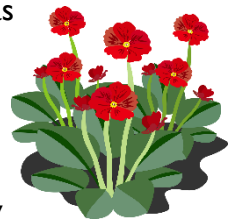
Please sow some seeds or take cuttings from some of your favourites. We need as many plants for sale as possible. If you could let me know what we can expect in the way of plants, that would be wonderful.

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 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Red denotes changes/updates

Date	Event	Venue
Sat 11 th April 10 – 4 pm	Moor Green Lakes open bird hide day	Moor Green lakes
Wed 15 th Apr 7.15 pm	Talk: The history of allotments	Community Hall
Thurs 16 th April 9.15 am	Trip to Nymans	Owlsmoor community centre
Sun 17 th May 9 – 10.30 am	Tool sharpening session	Trading hut
Wed 20 th May 7.15 pm	Talk: A lifetime with roses and bring a friend night	Community Hall
Saturday May 30 th	Plant sale - details tbc	Broomacres
Sat 20 th June	Summer show	Community Hall
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 and bring a friend night	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



'BRING A FRIEND' NIGHT - May or July (please delete)

Member's Name:

Friend's Name:

Friend's email address: