



Newsletter 5 – May 2026

Dear Members,

It really feels as if Spring is well and truly here, reinforced by the proliferation of weeds in my garden! That along with the need for regular lawn mowing really heralds the start of continual work in the garden – wonderful!

I'd like to say a huge thank you to Helen and Graham Harding who stepped in at VERY short notice on the club night last month to cover for our speaker who was taken ill at the last minute. They gave a super talk about the South Downs Way. Also, as several members have asked, I will rebook the planned speaker (History of Allotments) for next year.

The introduction of members voting for the best exhibit on the Proud table went down very well last month (somewhat embarrassing for me in that I won it!!) so make sure you collect and use your bean at May's meeting – don't vote until the break though, as you may miss some exhibits still arriving at the start – details in the 'proud table' section below.

Also, this is the first of our 'Bring a friend' initiative, so please think hard if there is anyone you could tempt to come along for free this month – and maybe become a member if they enjoy it. again, more details below.

Finally, our speakers this month (Wednesday 20th May at 7.15 pm) are from the Seale Rose Nursery and they will be talking about 'A lifetime with Roses'. They will be bringing a selection of fragrant and interesting roses, both climbers and bush and are happy to take cash or cards. Not only an interesting talk, but a chance to buy some more plants... 😊

Hope you will all be there!

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!

TRADING HUT

There has been a good level of sales at the hut, which is good news for the club.

We still have Growbags in stock together with re-stocked supplies of compost, both peat based and peat free.

The shelves are well stocked with a range of feeds for your growing plants, together with a range of pest control measures.

There are some shortages of fertilisers which are ongoing. This was originally prompted by the troubles in Ukraine and the latest issues in Iran are a further complication. Suppliers are having to change the source of supplies and manufacturers are seeking alternatives. This will likely lead to an increase in prices

and some products may not look as familiar as alternative ingredients are used. If there are gaps on our shelves, please bear with us while our suppliers continue to try to source these items.

The price list has been updated on the [website](#).

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

Bird food

As many of you may be aware, the [advice from the RSPB](#) with regard to feeding birds has changed slightly, recommending we change to feeding the birds seasonally with no nuts and seeds being put out for birds between May 1 and October 31st. However, they are also saying that suet and fat balls may be put out.

With that in mind, the committee have agreed that we will not order any more seeds and peanuts when the current stocks sell out until the Autumn, but will continue to replenish suet and fat balls. Seeds and peanuts will be reordered ready for the hut reopening after the summer break in September.

Helen and Graham Harding

SUMMER SHOW

Have you ever considered entering? The standard appears to be so high it is easy to think that you have nothing to offer. However if you look at the [schedule](#) I am sure that you will find that you do have that wonderful rose, or realise that those tomatoes that you have been nurturing are really very good. There is also the baking challenge and, if you are crafty, there is something for you too. Can you also encourage the younger ones to enter? Entry is free and, of course, you have to be in it to win it!

All details can be found on the show schedule which is on the [website](#). The deadline for entry is the Thursday prior to the show (18th June) at 12 noon. The entry forms should be emailed to shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk or delivered to the following addresses:

10 Nightingale Gardens GU47 9DQ

or

26 Burne Jones Drive GU47 OFS

or

to the Trading hut.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES FOR THE SUMMER SHOW

Photographic entries have to be in earlier by **Thursday 11th June by 5.00 pm**. This gives the judge time to see them before the show. Photos must be in JPEG format, no more than 5Mb in size and sent to secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk. Please detail which class each photo is entered for. The classes are:

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

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.

MEMBERS' SURVEY

Every couple of years the committee send out a short survey to the members to help us plan things for the club that represent what you, the members, want. This includes ideas for speakers, ideas for trips and also feedback on various questions. This year it is time to do it again! the survey is quite short and can be completed in a number of ways:

- Online, by following this link <https://forms.gle/UUpS5QjLmaCFHdYM7>
- Downloading the attached copy, completing it and emailing it back to secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk
- Completing a paper copy that will be available from either the trading hut on club night and handing it in – either to the trading hut or at club night.

The closing date for the survey is Friday 26th June, but obviously we would appreciate them back asap.

Many thanks

The committee

PLANT SALE

This is fast approaching and is a brilliant opportunity for you to:

BUY PLANTS

The Plant Sale is on **Saturday 30th May**, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at 13 Broom Acres, Sandhurst, GU47 8PN. Come along to see and buy what members have been growing, sowing, splitting and dividing. Grab a bargain or three! Find a plant for that impossible spot or just come for a friendly chat.

or

SELL PLANTS

The Plant Sale is an excellent opportunity to:

1. Get rid of those plants you never liked anyway
2. Divide your perennials and do away with the excess
3. Rescue the greenhouse from having sown too many seeds

If you would like to sell your plants at the Plant Sale, please drop them off at 13 Broom Acres, Sandhurst, GU47 8PN any time before the Plant Sale Day itself (so before **Saturday 30th May**). We will look after them. Ensure your plants are at least labelled so buyers know what they are. You can price them as well if you wish – all proceeds to the gardening club.

VOLUNTEERS

We need three volunteers to help us on Plant Sale Day (**Saturday 30th May**, 10:00 pm to 1:00 pm). You don't need to be a plant mastermind but be prepared for questions such as, "What does this look like in flower?" and "Could I plant this in a pot?" Don't worry though as we have books and internet to help figure out the answer. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch directly by emailing mail@sunilpatel.co.uk

Thank you.



BBC GARDENERS' WORLD SPRING FAIR 2026



What a fabulous day out at the BBC Gardeners' World Spring Fair at Beaulieu in the New Forest. Thank you, Julie, for letting me go with you using the tickets you won at a recent club night raffle. A good reason to go along to club nights whenever you can – you never know what you might win!

We'd been watching the weather forecast for Beaulieu all week – a few days before it looked like heavy rain all day, but as the days crept nearer the weather forecast got better and we arrived in sunshine and light cloud. And it stayed that way pretty much all day. We even got the sunglasses out at one point.

So, what to do first? We grabbed ourselves a map on the way in and over coffee planned our way around the show. We both wanted to buy some plants (surprise, surprise), view the show gardens, maybe attend a talk or two and generally have

a good look around (and try not to spend too much money).

We started off at the show gardens while it was not too busy – I particularly liked the college competition gardens, designed by students. My favourite was 'Salty Towers' based around a coastal pergola used to harvest salt. The Hillier's Garden was a magnificent riot of colour, four separate neighbourhood gardens each with its own door (picture below). We both agreed we hadn't seen many neighbourhood gardens quite that glorious.



A brief listen to the Rock Choir and we headed over to the 'In Conversation With' stage where we listened to an interesting talk on container gardening. The speaker, Jason Williams ([The Cloud Gardener](#) picture right), lives in an 18th floor flat in Manchester and he has turned his balcony (about 6 metres long and only 1.5 metres wide) into a densely planted space, complete with 3 ponds and a rose arch. Even he has slugs!



It was then time to start the serious shopping. There were geums galore, alpines aplenty and almost too much to choose from but we managed! We left at the end of the day tired, but with a car

full of plants. Now the challenge is to get them all planted up.

Sally Bennett

PROUD TABLE



All members at last month's club night were involved in the judging of the Proud table by casting their bean (given on entry) in front of the exhibit they thought should win. It was a great success, so we'll be doing the same again this month, and hopefully with a good lot of entries again! There is no theme this month, so please bring along anything gardening related of which you're proud. Congratulations to Julie Sheppard who won the prize at the Proud table last month with a beautiful vase of spring flowers as you can see in the photo.

JOB AVAILABLE!

I'm thrilled to say that a club member has stepped forward and taken on the job of writing the SRA magazine article. Wonderful news! Please have a read of what she has to say in the next edition of the magazine.

That leaves just one other job – a slightly bigger one, I agree, but rewarding and interesting to do nonetheless – please think if you and possibly a friend, would be interested in this:

sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

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.

If you are able to help with this, 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
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
Sat May 30 th 10 – 1 pm	Plant sale	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 member



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

Member’s Name:

Friend’s Name:

Friend’s email address: