



HOVE GARDENING CLUB

Issue 59

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025



JANUARY PARTY



Club events for 2025 kicked off in time-honoured fashion with an evening of fun and laughter at which members enjoyed a delicious cold buffet supplied by Rose Petal Cake Company. Brains were tested with three fiendish quizzes, Anne G's table winning overall first prize for the second year running. Fantastic entries in the table decoration competition theme of "Simply Red" made judging quite difficult but Jacky H's featuring Mick Hucknall's face with red floral hairstyle was ultimately awarded first prize. Graham D's photo of frosted foliage received most votes in the photographic competition entitled "Winter Weather", with Lyn B coming a close second (photos on Page 3). All competition entries in both categories can be found on the website Gallery. Leila's raffle raised £121 which will be donated to this year's charity, Martlets Hospice. First prize in the raffle, a ceramic strawberry planter and selection of comestibles, was won by a delighted Susan I.

Special thanks to Rose Petal Cake Company, Marion K, Pat W (quizzes), Leila P (for terrific raffle prizes) and all the Committee for organising another really enjoyable event.



*Clockwise from top left:
Raffle table, Buffet,
Raffle 1st Prize, Partygoers,
Winning Table Decorations
by Jacky H & Leila P*

Newsletter Editor
Marilyn High

Sub-editor
Pat Winter

PLANT SALE

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Saturday 17 May 2-4pm St Leonard's Hall, Glebe Villas

Last year's Plant Sale was a phenomenal success, raising over £2,000 for Club funds. We want to do even better in 2025 and to achieve this aim we need your help!

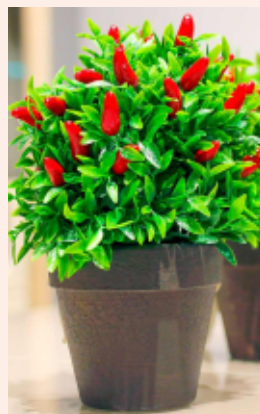
SETTING UP THE SALE Please bring all items for sale **except for baked goods** to the Hall on Friday 16 May between 6.30 and 8.30pm. Baked goods should be brought to the Hall on Saturday 17 May between 9.15am and 1pm.

WE NEED PLANTS OF ALL KINDS Perennials, annuals, shrubs, vegetables, herbs and houseplants. Please also look out garden-related bric-a-brac only (please, **no general bric-a-brac**) and plan to make baked goods such as cakes, biscuits, savoury items and bread.

VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED to help set up the Sale on Friday evening and Saturday morning and serve behind the stalls in the afternoon. There's always a mad rush of customers as soon as doors open, so many hands are needed. Saturday volunteers are guaranteed cups of tea or coffee both before and during the Sale as well as not having to pay the entrance fee. They can also buy two plants in advance of the Sale's opening.

TIPS FOR GROWING Any plant in FLOWER on 17 May is guaranteed to sell quickly and for a good price, so think seasonal. For example foxgloves, honesty, aquilegias, erigerons, sweet rocket and chives.

SPECIAL REQUEST Vegetables are urgently needed. Last year we sold out of vegetable plants very early and there were special requests for CLIMBING BEANS, CHILLIES, BROAD BEANS, COURGETTES and other SQUASHES.



PLEASE ENSURE ALL POTS AND CONTAINERS ARE CLEAN!

SPRING 2025 EVENTS

Sunday 13 April **Newtimber Place**, BN6 9BU
2-5.30pm Admission £7

At this time of year the orchard is carpeted in beautiful snake's head fritillaries.

Sat 26 and Sun 27 April **Banks Farm**,
Boast Lane, Barcombe, Lewes BN8 5DY
11am-4pm Admission £5 Nine acre tranquil
garden including ponds, orchard and vegetable
garden.

Saturday 17 May **HGC PLANT SALE**
See article above

Tuesday 20 - Friday 24 May
RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Parham House, Storrington RH20 4HS
RHS Members can gain free admission to Parham
House gardens (not the House) between 20 April
and 30 May. This wonderful garden is open from
noon till 5pm every Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday and Sunday. Admission is £12 for non
RHS members and £11.50 for over 60s

CLUB MEETINGS FOR SPRING 2025



17 March The Weald and Downland
Living Museum (pictured)

Roger Brown

14 April (note the date) My Life in Gardening

Pippa Greenwood

19 May The Fungal World: Deceivers,
Deathcaps and Fairy Rings

Steve Webster

MARION'S QUIZ

- 1) What are calcifuges?
- 2) Which tree was cut down from Hadrian's wall and how old was it?
- 3) What is stratification of seeds?



Having spent several literally fruitless years trying to grow strawberries in raised beds only to find most of the crop seriously damaged by birds and slugs, last year we decided a new plan was necessary. Plantlets obtained by pegging down runners from the parent plants were potted-up in hanging baskets, three plantlets to each basket. We used fresh multi-purpose compost that already contains enough slow-release fertiliser to keep the plants growing well for about six weeks, after which a general feed such as Tomorite can be given weekly once flowers and fruits appear. Three baskets were hung from our polytunnel's frame, meaning that birds could not peck at ripe fruits, and as for slugs - well. they just couldn't jump or crawl high enough to cause any damage. We therefore enjoyed a bumper crop of delicious, perfectly formed strawberries.

One can also buy hanging pouches suitable for trailing bedding plants, strawberries or herbs (pictured below right) and, if you have space for only one hanging basket just one of these could accommodate up to eight plants. Don't forget plants in baskets will need watering daily, sometimes twice a day in hot weather. Snip off any runners that appear while plants are still fruiting. After all fruit has been harvested, take each basket down and leave it outdoors on a level surface. Allow sufficient runners to grow and when these have produced "babies" about three inches high (pictured left), peg each plantlet onto the surface of a small pot of fresh compost. Hairgrips or folded short lengths of wire make good pegs for this purpose. As soon as each baby plant has a good root system, cut it from the mother plant and keep watering. Strawberries are fully hardy and don't

need to be brought under cover even in the coldest weather. Our "babies" have been happily sitting on top of a raised bed all winter and will shortly be potted-up in this year's hanging baskets. Strawberry plants older than 3 years are no longer very productive and should be composted. Propagation from runners each year ensures you'll have healthy young plants that will give an excellent crop of these scrumptious fruits.

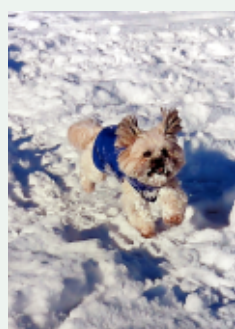
Editor's tip: Try growing other slug favourites such as lettuces, spinach and peas in hanging baskets (pictured below).



PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS



1st Graham D



2nd Lyn B

SPIG EVENT: "SPRING INTO SALAD"

Wednesday 26 March 2 - 4pm

Venue: 59 Honey Croft, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 8EZ

Join us for a friendly afternoon creating a pot that will transform into a selection of tasty and nutritious salad leaves and plants. We will provide the pots, compost, seeds and plants. You may prefer to bring your own pots or seeds. Please see the website for full details.

Cost: £5 per person to go towards supplies.

To book a place, text Jenny on 07854 503968

Speakers' Corner

Advice from our Experts

Rhod Jones (February), resplendent in one of his famous waistcoats, traced the History of Walled Gardens and Glasshouses from their earliest records until his own experiences as Head Gardener at both Ashburnham Place and Titsey Place.

Capability Brown was commissioned in 1767 to landscape the grounds of Ashburnham Place, including its walled garden, believed to be the first of its kind in the country. By 1770 Brown had created a four acre walled garden featuring an eight foot deep pond fed by a natural spring, and this pond supplied water for all the plants in the walled garden.

Titsey Place has a walled garden that was restored in 1996 to accurately recreate how seasonal crops would have been cultivated in Victorian times. As well as vegetables there is a cutting garden to supply flowers for the House.

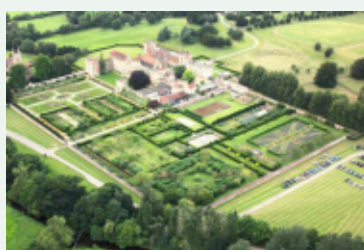
Glasshouses became popular in 1851, when the Window Tax was abolished. This coincided with the Great Exhibition in London when the Crystal Palace was a stunning example of the use of glass and ironwork. Kew Gardens' Temperate House was constructed in the 1850s, as was RHS Wisley's Glasshouse. The use of iron frameworks instead of wood enabled such large structures to be built and much later to be improved even further by replacing iron with aluminium frameworks that were much lighter in weight and rustproof. Today both aluminium and timber greenhouses are manufactured for domestic use - the choice is yours!



Titsey Place Walled Garden and Tropical House



*Ashburnham Place Orangery
Now a popular Tea Room*



*Ashburnham Place
Walled Garden*



The Crystal Palace 1851

EDITOR'S LAMENT

Sussex Prairie Garden is now no longer an RHS Partner Garden, much to the dismay of Editor Marilyn, who lives a mile down the road from this inspirational garden. It was sad to discover that Graham and I will no longer be able to enjoy free visits to admire the prairie planting and sample their scrumptious cream teas.



QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Plants that prefer acidic soils (and shun chalk)
- 2) Sycamore, and it was about 200 years old
- 3) The process of exposing seeds to a period of cold in order to activate germination

HOVE GARDENING CLUB

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