



HOVE GARDENING CLUB

Issue 60

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025



HGC PLANT SALE



Bargains galore were snapped up by two hundred happy customers at this year's Plant Sale on Saturday 17 May. A wide range of plants, home-baked treats and gardening related bric-a-brac sold like hot cakes. (The cakes, of course were at room temperature!) The Committee wouldn't be able to stage such a well organised and successful event without the help of our wonderful team of volunteer helpers and everyone who grew plants and baked cakes, biscuits and savouries for Leila's popular stall, so a huge Thank You everyone for your invaluable contribution. We are delighted to announce that the amazing sum of £2,005.12 was raised for Club funds, ensuring another year of fantastic Speakers, not to mention the January Party. Did I just mention the January Party? Have a successful summer's gardening first, though, and enjoy the sunshine before we have to put on our winter woollies again.

Please visit <https://hovegardeningclub.co.uk/gallery> for lots more photos of the Plant Sale.



MARILYN'S QUIZ

1. What's the more common name of *Viscum album*?
2. What does it mean if a flower is described as cernuous?
3. Tillandsias are also commonly known as what?

Newsletter Editor
Marilyn High

Sub-editor
Pat Winter

On a wonderfully sunny afternoon, twelve Club members gathered at Jenny's to "Spring into Salad". Sandra kindly led the session, sharing useful tips on preparing and sowing pots of various salad leaves to grow on a windowsill or in a sheltered spot in the garden. We shared seeds of basil, coriander, chives, mesclun (see note below), mixed salad leaves and other edibles. After selecting and sowing our seeds we enjoyed a delicious tea



with home-made cakes in Jenny's beautiful garden, where we even saw a slow worm. A fantastic time was had by everyone and we are now enjoying all those herbs and salad leaves!

Editor's note: Mesclun is a mixture of assorted very wide ranging young salad greens that originated in Provence, France. The traditional mix includes chervil, arugula, leafy lettuces and endive. The term mesclun can also refer to a blend that may include some or all of these four plus spinach, collard greens, Swiss chard, mustard greens, dandelion leaves, frisée, mizuna, lamb's lettuce, radichio or sorrel.

Visit <https://hovegardeningclub.co.uk/gallery> for more pictures.



PIPPA GREENWOOD - MY LIFE IN GARDENING

The Club meeting in April was attended by around seventy members, the largest group for some time. Our speaker, Pippa Greenwood, spoke for almost two hours about her life in gardening.

Here are a few of the anecdotes that kept us amused and entertained.

When about six years old, Pippa and her mother were shopping in South London and Pippa noticed a tray of bright orange marigold plants outside a greengrocer's. The next day she returned to the shop, hoping to buy the marigolds. However when she got there she noticed that almost all the orange petals had gone and the plants were smothered in caterpillars. This may have been the beginning of a lifelong interest in plant pests and diseases.

While she was working at RHS Wisley, Pippa's boss had the motto "Waste Nothing" and every piece of wrapping and string had to be saved from parcels sent in by RHS members for plant or disease identification. As a consequence, there was a drawer in the office crammed full of bits of string that nobody would ever need or want to use.

The strangest item sent for identification was wrapped in a huge cardboard box (and more string) and when Pippa put her hand inside the box she felt something she thought was a dead human hand. It turned out to be a Camellia gall.

At the RHS Chelsea Flower Show advice desk one year, gardening experts were seated at a long table that bore notices describing each expert's specialist subject. Pippa's notice just said "Diseases"! BBC Radio 4 has broadcast "Gardeners' Question Time" from various locations. For example, a nudist colony, an Open Prison and from the House of Commons. While at the last location there were several adverse comments from the panel (including Pippa) in relation to Poinsettias. After the show's recording, panellists were invited for drinks by the then Speaker of the House, Betty Boothroyd. En route to this reception Pippa and her companions passed through corridors flanked by a parade of potted Poinsettias!

Finally a tip from Pippa (or do I mean a Pip from Tippa or a Tip from Pip?): Store your harvested butternut squashes in the legs of tights, each squash separated from its neighbour by a knot. Hang up the tights and simply cut off a squash as required. That way, mice cannot nibble your precious squashes.



*Left to right:
Caterpillar munching
marigold
A proliferation of
Poinsettias
Camellia gall
(dead hand?)*



CLUB MEETINGS FOR SUMMER 2025



16 June Gertrude Jekyll's Garden
at Munstead Wood (pictured)

Caroline Ikin

21 July Late Summer Perennials and Grasses

Marina Christopher

18 August Nymans Historic Garden
Its present-day management

Joe Whelan

SUMMER 2025 EVENTS

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Wednesday 25 June

HGC Car-share visit to Malthouse Farm

Hassocks. Cost £15. Details at a Club meeting
or visit <https://hovegardeningclub.co.uk>

Sunday 6 July

Summer Plant Fair

Parham House and Gardens

Storrington RH20 4HR

12-5pm Admission £12

Monday 28 July

HGC Car-share visit to Cupani Garden

Seaford. Details at a Club meeting

or visit <https://hovegardeningclub.co.uk>

Saturday 9 August (9am-5pm)

and Sunday 10 August (10am-4pm)

Chalk Farm Flowers

Roger's Lane, Findon, Worthing BN14 0RE

Tours and talks at this sustainable 1-acre working
farm. Fresh, chemical-free flowers for sale.

Wheelchair access and dog friendly.

EDITOR'S EVENT OF THE SEASON

Town Place, Ketches Lane, Freshfield, Sheffield Park RH17 7NR

Open on 8,11,18,22,29 June and 6 July 2-5pm Admission £8

Jaw-dropping herbaceous borders, vegetable and herb gardens and a stunning
tapestry hedge are just a few delights that await you. Sadly the owners have
had to discontinue offering refreshments but don't let this put you off visiting.
Bring a picnic, settle down and enjoy this wonderful garden in all its glory.



ARE THERE FAIRIES AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR GARDEN?



Steve Webster, our May speaker captured everyone's attention with his talk "Fungal World - Death Caps and Fairy Rings". Firstly he explained the difference between mushrooms and toadstools before giving information and statistics about fungi in general. Beneficial fungi uses include: Penicillin, brewer's yeast and beer, plastic and mineral recycling, statins, carbon capture and cancer treatments. Harmful fungi found in the body may induce athlete's foot, meningitis, dandruff, nappy rash, ringworm and fungal nail infection. Harmful fungi found in the garden include honey fungus and those that cause Dutch Elm disease, fusarium wilt, blights and club root.

Did you know that:

- Mice and slugs are immune to Death Cap fungi
- Malheur National Forest in Oregon is home to the largest fungus in the world (mostly underground)
- A giant puffball can reach the size of a small sheep and contain 7 trillion spores
- The Knepp estate is one of only three UK sites where a rare symbiotic bracket fungus, *Phellinus robustus* has been found growing on three of their oak trees.
- There are about 14 types of *Magic mushroom* in the UK
- Your hands will have few fungi on them but your feet will have loads and a typical mouth contains 9 to 13 fungal species, but may have up to 101 species.
- Sometimes *Fairy rings* create a ring of lush grass, while others create a bald ring where fungi are killing the grass. They are formed by a single spore sending out its growth equally in all directions. Fruiting bodies emerge at the edge of the ring in autumn.

Finally a quote from Terry Pratchett: "All fungi are edible. Some fungi are edible only once".

Speakers' Corner

Advice from our Experts

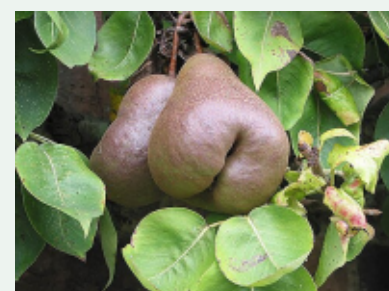
Roger Brown (March), one of the full-time gardeners at the Weald and Downland Living Museum, took us on a fascinating tour of the museum's seven different gardens. These gardens represent the social status of Sussex households between 1540-1890 and each one specialises in a particular area of horticulture. For example: orchard fruits, herbs and edible weeds, salad crops and many different types of vegetable. Roger told us Heritage varieties are grown where possible, which can be challenging, and that a number of crops are known by their common names.

Some of these are:

- Good King Henry, a spinach-like vegetable, also known as poor man's asparagus.
- Mugwort (Wormwood), Horehound and Yarrow, "gruiting herbs" good for flavouring beer prior to the use of hops.
- Coleworts, another name for brassicas (Cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli etc.)
- Fivers, a bunching onion that is easy to divide and replant.
- Alexanders, a member of the carrot family with a celery/parsley-like flavour and still found growing in Cornwall and on Shoreham beach.

Roger's Fruity Facts:

- Medlars, members of the rose family, were King Henry VIII's favourite fruit. Medlars, persimmons and quinces all need bletting (softening beyond ripening) in order to sweeten before they become edible.
- Warden pears, popular in the Middle Ages do not ripen on the tree and should be picked in October, after which they can be stored until the following spring. These are cooking pears that are best poached (in red wine, perhaps!).



Clockwise from top right:
Good King Henry
Warden pears
Coleworts
Alexanders



JANUARY PARTY 2026

Photographic Competition Categories



- A) Beach plants
B) Carpet of flowers

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Mistletoe
- 2) Its flowers hang down, for example a snowdrop
- 3) Air plants



HOVE GARDENING CLUB

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