



HOVE GARDENING CLUB

Issue 63

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026



JANUARY PARTY

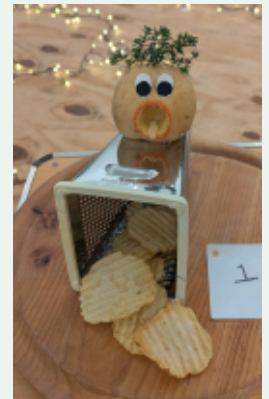


Spudface Winners

*Above: Miss Sweet Potato 2026
Right: The Chips Are Down*

Our 2026 programme of events began with a fish and chips supper provided by Bankers, followed by a tempting array of desserts and cheeses. Marilyn's three fiendish quizzes tested guests' wits and prizes were awarded to the members of Stephanie K's table for scoring the highest overall marks. Leila's raffle was a triumph, raising £110 which will be donated to MS Southwick.

Top prize in the raffle was a beautiful stained glass effect bird bath and hamper of comestibles (pictured below centre). Amongst other attendees were seven V.I.Ps, that is to say Very Important Potatoes. Our new competition *Spudface* attracted some really clever entries, making judging them tricky but in the end Chris J's *Miss Sweet Potato 2026* narrowly edged out Jacky H's *The Chips are Down* into second place. There were also some Very Important Photos in categories *Beach Plants* and *Carpet of Flowers*.



You can see all the winning photos on page 2

Congratulations to all our competition and quiz winners!



MARION'S QUIZ

- 1) What are Fluted Bird's Nest, Holly Parachute, Scurfy Twiglet and Collared Earthstar?
- 2) What's the most important thing to do when taking cuttings or saving seeds?
- 3) Which flower is named after the Greek Goddess of the rainbow?

Newsletter Editor:
Marilyn High

Sub-editor:
Pat Winter

Saturday 16 May 2 - 4 pm 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 2026 and to achieve this aim we need your help!

SETTING UP THE SALE Please bring all items for sale **except baked goods** to the Hall on Friday 15 May between 6.30 and 8.30pm. Baked goods should be brought to the Hall on Saturday 16 May between 9.15am and 1pm.

WE NEED PLANTS OF ALL KINDS Perennials, annuals, shrubs, vegetables, herbs and houseplants. Please also bring garden-related bric-a-brac (**not general bric-a-brac or plastic plant pots**) and plan to make baked goods such as cakes, biscuits, savoury items and bread for delivery on Saturday morning.

VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED to help set up the Sale on Friday evening and Saturday morning and to 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 will be provided with tea or coffee both before and during the Sale as well as not having to pay the entrance fee. They can also buy one plant in advance of the Sale's opening.

TIPS FOR GROWING Any plant in FLOWER on 16 May is guaranteed to sell quickly and for a good price, so think seasonal. 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.



PLANT SUGGESTIONS

Annuals: Amaranthus, Antirrhinum, Calendula (Marigolds), Cosmos, Cleome, Dahlia, Nasturtium, Nigella, Poppy, Sweet Pea, Sunflower, Tithonia, Zinnia.

Perennials: Alchemilla, Anthemis, Aquilegia, Bearded Iris, Bergenia, Crocosmia, Dahlia, Geranium, Gladioli, Hellebore, Japanese Anemone, Penstemon, Sedum (Hylotelephium), Solomon's Seal, Oxeye Daisy.

Biennials: Champion, Evening Primrose, Foxglove, Geum, Honesty, Lychnis, Primula, Sidalcea, Sweet William.

Vegetables: Aubergines, Beetroot, Butternut Squash, Beans - All types, Broccoli, Chard, Chilli Peppers, Courgettes, Cucumber, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Pumpkins, Spinach, Tomatoes.

Herbs: Basil, Chives, Dill, Fennel, Mint, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Thyme.

JANUARY PARTY PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

BEACH PLANTS

CARPET OF FLOWERS



Left to right
1st Leila P
2nd Lyn B

1st Leila P
2nd Lyn B

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP EVENT: EASTER POTS

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Wednesday 25 March 2-4pm

Venue: 59 Honey Croft, Hove, BN3 8EZ

Are you thinking of buying an Easter decoration or giving an Easter gift? Stop right there and come on down to the next Special Interest Group (SPIG) where we'll be delighted to welcome you.

Bring your unusual pot or container to plant up with Easter colour and enjoy an informal and friendly afternoon. Some ideas for pots might be an old kettle, teapot, colander, vintage tin, old boots or shoes. We will of course provide regular pots too. Tea, coffee and delicious cakes will be served and we ask for a nominal charge of £5 per person to cover costs.



For more information and to book a place

Contact Jacky on 07941 539121 or
jackywicks@gmail.com

Spaces are limited so don't delay

Jenny, Sandra & Jacky
Your SPIG team



SPRING 2026 EVENTS

Wednesdays and Saturdays 1 March to 31 May
Bates Green Garden, Tye Hill Road, Arlington
BN26 6SH. Walk through a wild daffodil glade
leading to a 24 acre wood. This plantswoman's
tranquil garden has been featured in several
gardening magazines. Mobility scooters can be
borrowed by experienced users.
10 - 3.30pm Entry £8

Friday 27 and Sunday 29 March
The Garden House, 5 Warleigh Road, Brighton
BN1 4NT A slice of the country in the city.
12 - 6pm Entry £6

APRIL, dates to be announced
Arundel Castle Tulip Festival
Tickets bookable at <https://www.arundelcastle.org>

Sunday 19 April 10am - 5pm
Arundel Castle Spring Plant Fair
Tickets bookable at <https://www.arundelcastle.org>

Sunday 26 April
Newtimber Place, Newtimber, BN6 9BU.
Moated house (not open to the public) surrounded
by beautiful spring gardens. Abundant Snake's
Head Fritillaries amongst the orchard's meadow.
2-5.30pm Entry £7

Sunday 10 May
Borde Hill Garden Spring Plant Fair
Tickets bookable at <https://bordehill.co.uk>

Tuesday 19 - Saturday 23 May
RHS Chelsea Flower Show

EDITOR'S PICK OF THE SEASON

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 April
Banks Farm, Boast Lane, Barcombe, Lewes
BN8 5DY. Nine acre rural, tranquil garden
Tea, coffee and cake will be available
10.30 - 4pm Entry £5



FREE COMPETITION ENTRIES!

We are pleased to announce entry to monthly
Club meeting competitions is now **FREE**.
So take a look at your Schedule for a list of
competition classes and have a go!
Whether it's flower arrangement, vegetable
growing or home baking, there's bound to be
something you could enter, with the chance of
winning a trophy and monetary prize awarded
at November's AGM.
Competition rules are printed inside the front
cover of the Schedule and all entries must be
placed on the tables to the rear of St Leonard's
Hall no later than 7.15pm. Marilyn will supply a
form that you need to complete with date, class
and your name for each entry.
Have Fun and Good Luck!

Speakers' Corner
Advice from our Experts

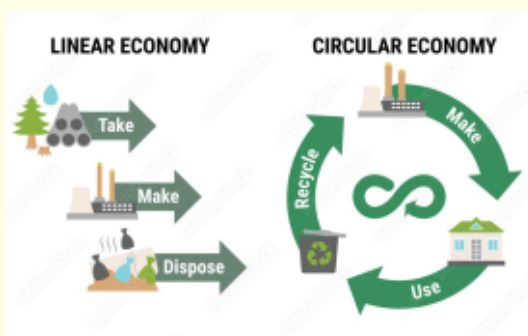
Claire Potter (February) had an interest in ecology while still a pupil at Hangleton School and aspired to a career as a marine biologist. Later on however, having studied interior architecture her thoughts returned to her love of nature and regenerative projects and she explained the differences between Circular and Linear Economies (renewable versus finite sources). Claire's Show Gardens have focused on growing edibles, recycling or repurposing landscaping materials and championing pollinator-friendly planting. This philosophy was demonstrated at the RHS Malvern 25th Anniversary Show in the spring of 2010 when Claire collaborated with 2 other designers to produce a garden that showed the *Ripple Effect of Malvern*. When viewed from above, this garden's planting could be likened to a whirlpool or water flowing down a plughole, in contrast to more conventional design layouts of rectangular beds divided by strips of paths. As well as her very successful design business and lecturing in Circular Economics, Claire is currently a volunteer gardener at Emmaus Brighton and Hove, where she implements her philosophy by encouraging planting edibles to supply the residents' kitchen with tasty organic vegetables (pictured bottom right).

Some of Claire's wisdom:

- You can trust what you grow
- When planning a new garden, ensure you incorporate sustainable drainage
- Claire champions seedy snails (see Newsletter Winter 2024)
- Edible landscapes build and support local biodiversity
- Growing your own edibles lowers CO₂ food miles



At Emmaus, they take the idea of a raised bed literally!



CLUB MEETINGS FOR SPRING 2026

16 March
Out on a Limb
Lesley Baker

20 April
Bottoms Up: Your Garden Starts With the Soil
Juliet Sargeant

18 May
The Millennium Seed Bank
Ellen Mascard

HOVE GARDENING CLUB

PRESIDENT: Chris Thornton-Clough
VICE PRESIDENT: Marion King

COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS: Stephanie Kenton, Wendy McCarthy
SECRETARY: Caroline Blaker
DEPUTY SECRETARY: Britt-Marie Karlsson
TREASURER: Jacky Holt
DEPUTY TREASURER: Stephanie Kenton
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Jenny Taylor
OUTINGS: Wendy McCarthy, Sandra Payne, Jean Hewland
SPEAKER COORDINATORS:
Maria Gardiner, Britt-Marie Karlsson, Jean Hewland
SWAP & BUY TABLE: Maria Gardiner, Lucy Watkins
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Marilyn High
REFRESHMENTS: Sandra Payne, Rita George
RAFFLE: Leila Philips
COMPETITIONS: Marilyn High, Pam Cork
WELFARE: Sandra Payne
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ORGANISERS:
Jacky Holt, Jenny Taylor, Sandra Payne

WEBSITE EDITOR: Graham Dwyer
WEBSITE: <https://hovegardeningclub.co.uk>

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Types of fungi
- 2) Write the plant's name on the container
- 3) Iris (pictured below)

