



HOVE GARDENING CLUB

Issue 64

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026



PLANT SALE



A human serpent winding its way along Glebe Villas can mean only one thing. It must be Hove Gardening Club's annual Plant Sale! More than 200 happy customers poured through the entrance, eager to snap up the many bargains on offer. There were all kinds of plants as well as a mouth-watering selection of cakes, biscuits, pasties and sausage rolls. The bric-a-brac stall boasted an "antique" lawn mower, several vintage gardening tools and contemporary curios both new and regenerated. We are thrilled to report that £1,855 was raised in less than two hours, ensuring that the Club will be able to arrange fantastic Speakers, outings and social events throughout the year. A huge *Thank You* to the Committee, volunteers and everyone who made this another great success by contributing plants and bric-a-brac, baking and helping to clear-up afterwards.

Unsold items were donated to Emmaus.

Lots more pictures at <https://hovegardeningclub.co.uk/gallery/>



We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Clockwise from top left:

*Houseplants
Home baking
Pricing plants
The punters arrive
Cash and wrap*



MARION'S QUIZ

- 1) What do these plants have in common: Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, Three cornered garlic, Rhododendron ponticum and New Zealand Pigmyweed?
- 2) What is another name for *Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*?
- 3) Which bloom, used in bridal bouquets, is the national flower of Finland?

Editor
Marilyn High

Proof Reader
Pat Winter

Professor Geoffrey Mead made a welcome return to the Club at our May meeting, giving a fascinating talk about rocks and soils under our city. An astonishing variation in soil types can be found throughout Brighton and Hove, from different types of chalk to pockets of sandy soil, gravel/flint layers and the fertile soil in the North Laine area of Brighton that was once known for its market gardens. Here's a whistle-stop tour of our basement rocks:



Pebbles and rock on Kingston beach, Shoreham

The occasional black, crumbly material found on Kingston beach is the remains of coal thrown overboard by boats. This material should not be picked up but the person in the photo hasn't read this article!



Copperas Gap

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Copperas Gap was a seaside hamlet that later developed into Portslade, copperas being the name for the iron sulphate found in this district's soil.



Chalk Pit Furlong

Chalk Pit Furlong was an eighteenth century *lost neighbourhood* located in the area now occupied by Marks and Spencer in Western Road, Brighton. It was a deep chalk quarry that was built in and originally populated by working classes and tradespeople.

Royal Pavilion Gardens

The soil in Brighton Pavilion Gardens has sandy deposits, unlike many other areas of the City. This sand/brick was originally contained in flood water that washed down from St Ann's Well Gardens near Seven Dials. St Ann's Well is an iron-bearing spring or chalybeate and its water can leave an orange-red stain on rocks.



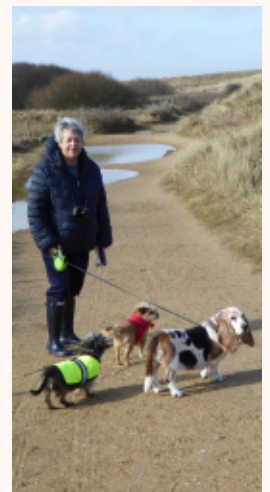
We would like thank Geoffrey for stepping in at such short notice.

CHRIS THORNTON-CLOUGH

We are very sad to announce the death of our much-loved President, Chrissie. A full tribute will be published on the website. Here are a few moments shared with her.



Right: Chrissie's AGM joke lands



At our April Club meeting Juliet Sargeant spoke about the importance of soil, in her talk entitled *Bottom Up*. Soil forms slowly by the breaking-up of huge rocks, yet if not treated as a precious resource it can easily be lost. Juliet told us that 75 billion tons of soil are lost each year due to erosion and that many farming practices destroy the structure of the soil and reduce biodiversity. Gardeners can support biodiversity by avoiding chemical fertilisers and pesticides and by embracing a *No Dig* philosophy. We should learn to love the *local look*, working with the soil we have, choosing resilient plants rather than trying to imitate RHS Wisley-style planting. A video of the making of the 2022 Blue Peter garden (below left) designed by Juliet for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show demonstrated how children were encouraged to play in the garden, a very different scenario to that of the 1974 Blue Peter garden designed by Percy Thrower. In a second, really artistic video made by a Polish animator, Zuzanna Kolodziej we saw an abstract view of microbes present in soil. This was a kaleidoscopic pattern that gave the impression of a *Fantastic Voyage* through soil. Juliet's latest book *Start With Soil*

giving simple steps for a thriving garden is available online and from the Kew Shop.



SUMMER 2026 EVENTS

Sat 13-Sun 14 June **Henfield Gardens and Arts Festival** 11am - 5pm each day.

Free admission to numerous private gardens in Henfield village, some featuring art and craft exhibitions, plant sales (cheap prices) and refreshments. Free parking on streets and in both village car parks throughout the weekend.

Tuesday 30 June **HGC Members' visit to Lynwood and Saffrons gardens in Steyning.**

Full details are on the HGC website. Please bring £14 admission charge on the day, plus £2 if you are a car-share passenger.

Sunday 5 July

Parham Summer Plant Fair 12 - 5pm Entry free with normal garden admission price.

Tues 7-Wed 8 July **Sullington Old Rectory**, Sullington Lane, Storrington RH20 4AE 9:30am - 5pm Admission £12. Pre-booking essential via ngs.org.uk as there are timed entry slots. Beautiful naturalistic country garden. Don't miss the huge wildflower meadow featuring an amazing tree house.

Sun 9 and Sun 23 August **1 Belton Close**, Brighton BN2 3RY 11am - 5pm Admission £5 A previous HGC Speaker, Steve Bustin's city garden packs colour and texture into a small space. Pre-booking essential via ngs.org.uk. Nearest (paid) parking on Princes Crescent. Buses 26, 46 and 50 stop at Princes Crescent.

Right: Steve Bustin's garden at 1 Belton Close

EDITOR'S PICK OF THE SEASON

Open for NGS on Sunday 7, 14 and 28 June Wednesday 17 and 24 June and Sunday 5 July.

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



Gobsmacking planting, including a spectacular tapestry hedge. No refreshments available and no dogs allowed, but don't let that put you off. Bring a picnic and enjoy this three acre wonderland. Wheelchair accessible. 11am - 5pm Admission £10




Speakers' Corner
 Advice from our Experts

Lesley Baker (March) regaled us with tales of the everyday life of a tree surgeon, the UK's second most dangerous occupation. Her superb delivery had Club members at times amused, horrified and astonished, making for a most entertaining evening as well as being crammed with information about how to select a tree surgeon and the safety equipment necessary when undertaking her work. At the end of the talk, Lesley gave us a fifteen minute quiz involving matching a leaf, a log and a photo of a tree to the given species of Cherry, Ash, Sycamore Eucalyptus and Birch. Many of the audience achieved full marks - well done!

Some of Lesley's tree-mendous facts:

- A tree surgeon needs the following safety gear: Chainsaw trousers, Kevlar boots, helmet, protective gloves, vizor, earmuffs, harness, poles, ropes, signs, cones and a ground team.
- Chainsaw trousers are made from sixteen layers of Kevlar, a synthetic fabric with exceptionally high tensile strength.
- Lesley's biggest chainsaw, named Mary, is a 125cc beast that weighs two stone.
- Before employing a tree surgeon, check whether they have all their digits!

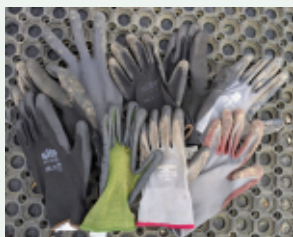
Lesley dancing with Mary, the chainsaw!



CALLING ALL LEFTIES

Are you (or someone you know) left-handed?

Graham is right-handed and wears out all his right-hand gardening gloves, leaving behind a pile of left-hand ones. If you're a lefty, do you have a pile of redundant right-hand gloves, having worn out all your left ones? If so, contact us at hgcenquiries@gmail.com and we'll pair up lonely gardening gloves with their perfect partners.



CLUB MEETINGS FOR SUMMER 2026

15 June
Love of Chillies: From Seed to Plate
Clare Kennett

20 July
Hangleton Hedgehog Rescue Group
Carole Bean

17 August
Scrumptious Sussex
Kevin Newman

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) They are all extremely invasive and banned in the UK
- 2) Montbretia (also an invasive plant)
- 3) Lily of the valley (below)



HOVE GARDENING CLUB

PRESIDENT: To be appointed
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>