



HOVE GARDENING CLUB

Issue 65

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2026



HEDGEHOGS OF HANGLETON AND KNOLL



Founded in 2014, HK Hedgehogs aims to monitor these iconic mammals in our area of Hove and to rescue injured or distressed hedgehogs and hopefully nurse them back to health. Carole Bean and four other representatives of HK Hedgehogs gave us a most informative talk on Monday 3 August, a rescheduled Club meeting due to the postponement of our July meeting. Carole told us how to make our gardens more hedgehog friendly in several ways.

One of the best things you can do to help hedgehogs is to increase their foraging territory: join forces with neighbours on your side of the road to link your gardens and set up the perfect Hedgehog Highway. In agreement with your neighbours, make an opening 5 inches (13 cm) square at ground level on each side of your garden, just big enough for an adult hedgehog to go through. Hedgehogs can then access a much-enlarged area to search for food and shelter.

Creating wild areas in your garden will encourage hedgehogs to forage for bugs amongst leaf litter and long vegetation. A log pile is an excellent home for the kind of food they love.

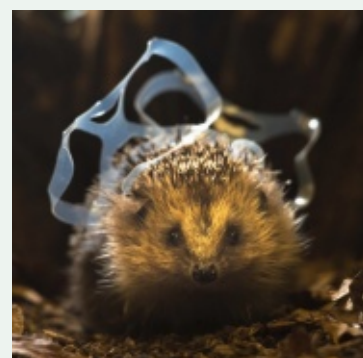
Hedgehogs have been discovered caught in chain-link fencing and inside those evil plastic ring contraptions that hold a number of drinks cans together (pictured). Please keep an eye out especially for plastic litter, netting (such as heron netting stretched over ponds) and anything that could trap a curious hedgehog.

Make your garden chemical-free and don't use slug pellets or pesticides. Let your hedgehogs eat the slugs instead!

Hedgehogs love curling up in warm bedding, so before strimming long grass or lighting a bonfire please check to see if one is sleeping there and don't leave garden machinery such as lawn mowers outside overnight.

Carol showed us an example of an easy-to-make hedgehog feeding station using a large clear plastic storage box that had a square hole cut into one side to form an entrance just big enough to admit a hedgehog but not a fox or cat. Place food inside the box but leave water in shallow bowls elsewhere in your garden, not in the feeding station.

See also Page 3



MARION'S QUIZ

- 1) What is the name for the leaves below a flower head?
- 2) About how many UK native orchid species are there 30, 50, 150 or 200?
- 3) What are trichomes?

Answers on Page 4

Editor
Marilyn High

Proof Reader
Pat Winter



Ancient Egyptians and Babylonians are known to have practised gardening according to the phases of the moon. It had already been proved by Isaac Newton that the moon's gravitational force was responsible for creating ocean tides, so many people believed that this force could also affect moisture content in soil and sap contained in plants. Ancient astronomers and astrologers were able to produce calendars showing moon phases and such calendars would instruct gardeners about optimum growing periods and also the *dormant phase*, explained below.

Charles Dowding of *No Dig* fame has conducted trials designed to test the theory of *Moon Gardening* but he reported mixed results, somewhat challenging the theory.

At Albany (Editor Marilyn's garden) we have not yet embraced moon gardening and are just beginning to research the theory. If you'd like to try it yourself, here's a summary of what to do.

Waxing moon (New moon to Full moon): Grow crops that bear their harvest above ground. For example, tomatoes, peppers, sweetcorn and melons.

Waning moon (Full moon to New moon): Plant and sow root crops, bulbs and tubers. For example, carrots, potatoes, radishes, onions, garlic and beetroot.

Important note: There is a *dormant phase* between the Last Quarter of a waxing moon and a New Moon (10:30-9:00 on the diagram). During this period sap is slowed, so do not plant or sow crops. Instead undertake garden maintenance such as pruning, weeding, mulching and dead-heading.

GREAT DAYS OUT ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE A GARDENERS' WORLD 2-for-1 CARD

Both these gardens are open from 1 September to 31 October

High Beeches Woodland and Water Garden

High Beeches Lane, Handcross RH17 6HQ

Closed on Wednesdays.

Monday, Tuesday and Sunday 12:30-5pm

Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10:am-5pm

Admission £13 2-for-1 cards not valid at weekends

This 25 acre garden has glorious autumnal colour and several small lakes (or large ponds!)

Located quite near Nymans, so why not visit both gardens in one day. Dogs welcome on Mondays.

Assistance dogs are welcome every day when open.

Takeaway drinks and snacks are available at the Garden Gate Lodge and there are designated picnic spots.

Great Dixter House and Gardens

Northiam, Rye TN31 6PH

Closed on Mondays. Tuesday to Sunday 11am-5pm

Admission £15.50 Single person entry with a 2-for-1 card is reduced to £7.75

Fergus Garrett has taken on Christopher Lloyd's vision and the gardens are truly inspirational.

Plant nursery open all year round 9am-5:30pm

The Loggia restaurant is open from 10am-4.30pm and serves home-cooked meals incorporating produce grown in the vegetable garden and delicious home-made cakes.

Picnics are not allowed in the gardens.



Kevin Newman, our August speaker and local historian gave us a wealth of amusing anecdotes and fascinating foodie facts from Sussex. Did you know that:

- Winston Churchill once lived over a Fish and Chip shop in Hove. He was also an esteemed member of the Hastings Winkle Club.
- In 1805 Jane Austen stayed at Stanford's Cottages on Worthing's Warwick Street. It's now the site of a Pizza Express restaurant where there is a blue plaque commemorating her visit.
- The lunch menu at Roedean School once boasted "Burned babies' arm"
- A churdle (pictured right) is a rare, traditional seventeenth century pie filled with chopped lamb's liver, bacon, onions and herbs. Kevin suggested that the Cornish pasty was invented in Sussex but three of our Cornish HGC members regard this theory as "heresy"!
- The World Pea Throwing Championship took place on Sunday 2 August this year at the Lewes Arms pub in Lewes. Contestants had to throw 3 individual peas (defrosted from frozen on the same day) down Castle Ditch Lane, adjacent to the pub. The all time record, set in 2003 by Danny Tear is 37.5 metres (123 ft)



FASCINATING HEDGEHOG FACTS

from HK Hedgehogs

- Hedgehogs can hear up to 85kHz. (Humans up to 25kHz, dogs up to 45KHz and cats up to 65KHz)
- Don't touch a hoglet (baby hedgehog) with bare skin or the mother will eat it. Wear latex gloves underneath strong gardening gloves.
- If taking a hedgehog family to a rescue centre, separate the members of the family or mother will kill the babies.
- A hedgehog's diet comprises predominantly beetles and caterpillars, followed in decreasing order by earthworms, birds' eggs, small mammals, slugs and snails, millipedes, earwigs, bees, birds and other foodstuffs.
- Whatever you do, please don't give a hedgehog bread and milk to eat. They're lactose intolerant. Also, no dried mealworms or bird seed should be given. Instead, buy proprietary hedgehog food or use wet or dry cat or dog food (kibbles) but no fish flavours!
- Chicken kibbles are a good choice but don't forget to also give plenty of water in shallow bowls placed around your garden.

Final words of wisdom
Hedgehogs out in the day is not ok!

SUSSEX CHURDLE PIE

Ingredients to make 4 Churdles: 1 large onion, chopped; 1lb lambs liver, chopped; 2oz bacon, chopped; 1 tablespoon chopped sage or parsley; 1 apple, peeled, cored and chopped; salt and pepper; 1oz butter; 2oz breadcrumbs; 4oz grated mature cheddar; 10oz puff or shortcrust pastry; egg or milk to glaze

Method: Pre-heat oven to 200C (180C fan) Roll the pastry into four 7-inch circles. In a pan soften the chopped onion in the butter, add the bacon and liver and cook for a couple of minutes until slightly browned. Add the apple, herbs if used and seasoning, and cook until heated through, stirring regularly.

Divide the mixture into piles in the centre of each pastry circle and top with grated cheese and breadcrumbs. Brush the edges with egg or milk to help the churdle stick together and use both hands to gather the pastry around to form a purse shape, pushing the filling down and squeezing the edges firmly together at the top.

Brush with more egg or milk and bake upside-down for 10 minutes to avoid the top splitting open. Then turn them right way up and bake for a further 15-20 minutes until crisp and golden.

Speakers' Corner

Advice from our Experts

Clare Kennett (June) inspired Club members to have a go at growing chillies and she gave us lots of great advice on the conditions required to achieve successful germination. Chillies are in the genus *Capsicum*. There are four distinct species: *C. annuum*, the easiest type to grow, even on a windowsill; *C. chinense*, such as *Purple Reaper* are amongst the hottest; *C. baccatum*, for example *Noteko*, that makes a lovely sauce or jam; and *C. pubescens*, the closest to a wild chilli, from mountainous regions of South America. Here's a summary of Clare's growing advice:

- Chilli seeds need heat in order to germinate. A heat mat (online, from about £15) is recommended. Sow seed early in the year. Clare suggested around 1 February, and seeds should take from 5 to 14 days to germinate.
- Prick out seedlings into a loose, fibrous compost when there are a pair of true leaves (not the first two seed leaves). An LED grow light (from £25) will encourage plant growth in late winter/early spring when daylight hours are restricted.
- When roots appear through the bottom of each pot, it's time to transfer plants to a slightly larger pot.
- Use half-strength chilli food weekly and position your pots on a bright, south-facing windowsill or in a greenhouse/polytunnel. Shading may be necessary for young plants if temperatures exceed 30 °C.
- Harvest chillies when they are ripe and firm to eat. Greatest heat is contained in their inner membrane, next to the seeds, and the tip of a chilli will have the mildest taste.
- Uses for chillies include drying, freezing, pickling and in sauces.
- For recipes, see <https://www.chilipeppermadness.com>

Final words of wisdom:

Don't let pods dry on the plant, as this will signal it to stop flowering.

Application of *SB Plant Invigorator* will help prevent and control red spider mites and aphids.

Chillies under LED grow lights



CLUB MEETINGS FOR AUTUMN 2026

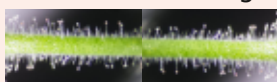
21 September
The Pleasure of Houseplants
Simon Lord

19 October
Barn Owls and Their Status in Sussex
Terry Hallahan

16 November
Annual General Meeting
Presentation of Awards, Trophies and Certificates

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Sepals, collectively they form the calyx
- 2) There over 50 native orchid species in the UK, of which 23 can be found in Sussex.
- 3) A trichome is typically a hair on the stems or leaves of plants. A liquid in the tip of some trichomes can cause an allergic reaction.



HOVE GARDENING CLUB

PRESIDENT: To be appointed
VICE PRESIDENT: Marion King

COMMITTEE

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SECRETARY: Caroline Blaker
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DEPUTY TREASURER: Stephanie Kenton
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Jenny Taylor
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SWAP & BUY TABLE: Maria Gardiner, Lucy Watkins
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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>