



Newsletter – February 2026

Dear Members,

What horrible weather we have been having lately. But like the song 'Always look on the bright side of life' It has given us chance to thorough look through our seed catalogues and form a plan of what we would like to be growing this year and how we would like our gardens to look. Please don't forget that it is Open Gardens this year and we are still looking for more gardens to be on view. It does not matter if your garden is large or small, pretty or natural, acres or pots, we would like to hear from you. The date for Open Gardens is Sunday 21st June.

The new schedule is coming along well, and it will be ready for you to collect at the Annual General Meeting on **Saturday 11th April. 10.30. In the Village Hall.** Please note that in your schedule it says that the AGM will be held in the Pavilion, but as our membership has grown so much, we have now moved into the **Village Hall.**

Floral Art Demonstration – Saturday 7th March 10.30 Small Village Hall.

Sandra Dean will demonstrate to us how to make the most of our Spring Flowers, with a view to helping us make better creations for our entries into the Spring Show. This event is FREE for Members and a fee of £5 for non-members, which I think is very good value. Please come and bring a friend with you if you can. All good fun. Coffee & refreshments will be available.

Spring Flower Show – Saturday 21st March – Village Hall

Last year we had a wonderful show with plenty of excellent exhibits. I wonder if we can beat those totals and really excel ourselves this year. When you study your schedule, you will see that we have tried to simplify things by only having one Camelia floret class, so you don't need to worry if your flowers are single or double. This should make things easier for everyone. Before the Spring Show, I will send to everyone a daffodil guide, so that you all know which type is what. Pot Plants are straight forward, but please try to make sure that your pot is clean and within the allotted size. The Cookery section has got some wonderful old favourites in it, that have been requested, so let's hope that we get plenty of entries. I am wondering if during this horrible wet winter your fingers have been creative with the handicraft section. Please tell your friends and neighbours that we have classes for pottery & woodwork this time too. It would be really lovely if we could have a few more Children's entries too this time.

Dates for your diary.

Saturday 7th March – Floral Art Demonstration - 10.30 Small Village Hall

Saturday 21st March - Spring Flower Show – Village Hall

Saturday 11th April - Annual General Meeting, with Coffee & Cake - Village Hall

Thursday 14th May – Talk with Barry Newman – Preparing for the Annual Show

Village Hall 2.30

Tuesday 9th June – Outing to Borde Hill Gardens.

Sunday 21st June - Walberton Open Gardens Sunday.

Saturday 4th July – Summer Flower Show, Dog Show & Village Fete

Saturday 19th September – Autumn Flower Show

Jobs to do in the garden

- Cut down deciduous ornamental grasses left standing over winter, before fresh shoots appear
- Divide large clumps of snowdrops and winter aconites after flowering and replant to start new colonies
- Lawns – Now is a good time to spike the lawn while it is rather damp. As soon as we get a dry spell then is the time to scarify lawns. After this, now is the time to re-seed any bare patches or where necessary.
- Cut back wisteria side shoots to three buds from the base, to encourage abundant flowers in spring
- Prune buddleia and elder to the base to keep these vigorous shrubs to a reasonable size
- With spring around the corner, February is the ideal time to prepare your allotment for some of the earliest outdoor sowings in March.
- As well as the jobs listed above there are plenty of indoor sowings you can start now, before transferring to the allotment later in the year. This includes sowing tomatoes, globe artichokes and sprouting broccoli in a propagator, while Brussels sprouts, Parsnips, Leeks & Onions and spinach can all be sown under cover.
- Possible idea. As you know we have all been delivered a new General Waste Bins. If you do not need it, yes you can send it back, or alternatively you could always use it as a new water butt.

Thank you from your Committee,

Liz Hewson (Chair), Brenda Bailey (Shows & Events), Douglas Callander, Alan Gess, Bob Rogers, Kate Dobson & Liesma Mezulis.

