



# Grayshott Gardeners' Newsletter

## January 2026

### From the Main Committee

Happy New Year to all our members.

It doesn't seem possible that we are suddenly through all the preparation and festivities, having packed away decorations, trees and finished off the remnants of Christmas fayre. It seems that what started off as an early and lengthy countdown to Christmas has come to a relatively abrupt end.

'January is the perfect balance between Winter's stillness and the New Year's potential' (unknown). It is a time to recharge batteries, to enjoy the lull of post-Christmas activities and to plan for the year ahead – above all to be kind to ourselves and watch the changing landscape around us as everything prepares for Spring. The first of the snowdrops are making an appearance and already we are able to appreciate our days getting longer.

It is a time to look forward and enjoy all that the New Year will bring us, which includes more fantastic speakers, events and shows and the opportunity to meet new friends and catch up with old friends.

We look forward to welcoming you all to Club Night on the 14th January.

Carmen Harvey-Browne  
[membership@grayshottgardeners.net](mailto:membership@grayshottgardeners.net)



### Member Photos

For any concerned readers - Sue Wheeler reports that her Amaryllis are behaving this year and flowered perfectly for Xmas!



Here's one of our members showing off his prize allotment veggies - and doing his vegan snowman impersonation - Guess Who?



*If any of you have any garden photos that you would like to share with our members then please send them to [comms@grayshottgardeners.net](mailto:comms@grayshottgardeners.net)*

# 2026 Membership Renewal

Membership Cards and Handbooks for 2026 will be available for existing members at the January Club Night

In order to collect these at that time, payment of the £20 membership fee can be made as follows:

- By cash, card or cheque on the night
- By BACS in advance, preferably no later than 12th January

BACS details

Account: Grayshott Gardeners

Sort Code: 30-93-94

Account: 00806355

Reference: Subs



## EVENTS

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

Visit to Vann Garden, Hambleton

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

Visit to Little Brook Fuchsias, Ash Green

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Visit to Apuldram Roses, Chichester

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

Visit to Pepperpot Nursery, Alton



Booking forms will be available at Club Nights from January onwards.

If you have some suggestions for future outings then please contact our events coordinator, [events@grayshottgardeners.net](mailto:events@grayshottgardeners.net).

# CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

## Many, many thanks!

Following the last Club night of the year, I had a busy but fun morning packing up all the items our members had donated at our Christmas Raffle in aid of the local Food Bank. I was delighted and amazed to see that a staggering 257 items were donated! Thank you all so very much for your support, kindness and generosity.

John & I took everything to the Headley Down Food bank which covers the Grayshott area. Pauline Firman, who runs that Food Bank, sends her grateful thanks too. She explained that our collection had come at a very opportune time as, the previous week, the food bank had been broken into and much of their stock had been stolen! In addition, a chest freezer had been left wide-open, and the frozen goods were found littering the floor – gradually defrosting! Luckily, this year the Club also donated the profit made on the raffle, so the £96.30 we raised will go towards replacing their stolen stock.



Many of our items, especially the crackers; mince pies; Christmas puddings; cakes; biscuits; savouries and chocolates were placed in the special Christmas hampers which were to be distributed at their Christmas party on 18 December. In addition, families received their regular weekly food bags, which our other non-Christmassy items helped to fill. So, thank you to one and all for bringing items and buying tickets allowing the Club to help those in need in our community.

I do hope that the lucky raffle winners are all enjoying the contents of their hamper prizes.



*cont'd*

Photos of the wonderful donations



## SHOWS

Happy New Year to you all! Most of us have renewed our Club subscriptions already and so will have received the 2026 handbook. I'm sure that the Winter will present several days when many of us, me included, won't fancy gardening in the inclement weather. So, I do hope that you take the opportunity to sit down with a coffee to look through the handbook and start planning what you might enter in the Spring and Summer shows.

Janet x



## PLANT SALES

### Grayshott Gardeners' Plant Sales 2026 – get involved and support your Club!

This year our ever popular main plant sale will be on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May**.

We will also have plant sales at the Spring Show on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April** and at the Summer Show on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July**.

As the daylight hours lengthen, the planning is already underway. We need your help to make these sales a success. We'd love to hear from you if you can:

Donate plants: if you're growing, sowing, dividing, splitting, potting up then you can help by providing good quality plants for each of the sales. Pick up some pots and trays at the next meeting and get started!

Help out on the day: volunteer to help with collecting plants, setting up the hall, sales on the day, caretaking stock between sales.

Look out for more details and sign up at the January Club night or email directly to [plantsales@grayshottgardeners.net](mailto:plantsales@grayshottgardeners.net) if you can help out or want to get involved.

Thank you for all your support in making these centrepiece events a success.



Grayshott Gardeners Plant Sales team

[plantsales@grayshottgardeners.net](mailto:plantsales@grayshottgardeners.net)

# CAN YOU HELP?



You will appreciate that the Club can only survive with the generous time given by its volunteers, both on and off the Committee.

Please consider if you can spare some time to help. There are many opportunities to do so without necessarily having to join the Committee or committing yourself on a regular basis. For example – helping occasionally in the kitchen with refreshments or to man the sign-in table or programme board. Maybe to help with one of our plant sales.



*This year, John & Janet Hall can't attend either of the shows, so the Committee needs a volunteer(s) to organise and run the tombola at both shows in 2026. These are a fun and profitable way to swell club funds and aren't too much hard work – honest! Full instructions, raffle tickets etc provided. John and Janet will still be able to run the March, September and Christmas raffles.*

The more people we have the more we can share the load and provide more for our Club members and it goes without saying that it's a lovely way to meet other members and make new friends.

Please contact me if you can help or want more information.

Graham [chair@grayshottgardeners.net](mailto:chair@grayshottgardeners.net)



## December Meeting

### 'The Secrets of Garden Design'

**Nick Turrell**



Gordon Rae, Nick Turrell, Sue Wheeler

Grayshott Gardeners were treated to a very interesting talk by Nick Turrell who is an award-winning freelance gardening journalist. His writing appears in The Sunday Times, The Guardian, The RHS magazine and Daily Telegraph.

Nick started his talk by telling the audience that it was the bone structure of a garden as to why we liked some gardens more than others. Gardens need a strong design, colour is only a small part of the jigsaw, and he set out ideas for a bone structure.

More details on the talk can be found at

[grayshottgardeners.net/](http://grayshottgardeners.net/)

Nick can be found at:

<https://nickturrell.wordpress.com/>

## January Meeting

**NOTE: A CHANGE TO THE HANDBOOK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2026**

### 'Growing a Cutting Garden' by Helier Bowling



Grayshott Gardeners is delighted to welcome Helier Bowling this month.

Helier is a Garden Designer (@garden\_goddess\_uk) based locally in Hampshire.

As well as running online courses helping people to sow and grow their own flower gardens she is also a co-founder of 'ssh scapes' recently winning RHS medals at Chelsea and Hampton Court.

Helier's talk will be about growing a cutting garden so do come along and join us to hear all about it.

The meeting will be held in

**Grayshott Village Hall**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Free refreshments**

Doors open at 7.15pm ready for the meeting to begin at 8pm.

# Jobs for this month - January

## Gardening in January

(excerpts taken from the RHS website)

### Often the coldest month

January might be the middle of winter but as the days lengthen the garden starts to grow. Now is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants. Enjoy the fresh air on dry sunny days, and check your winter protection, stakes, ties and supports are still working after any severe weather. Also put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut for a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden.

### 1. Prune apple and pear trees

Pruning an apple or pear tree can be daunting for many gardeners. Rather than be put off completely or panic and inadvertently harm the tree back by excessive pruning, instead try our easy guide and enjoy a well-shaped, productive tree.

[www.rhs.org.uk/fruit/apples/pruning-made-easy](http://www.rhs.org.uk/fruit/apples/pruning-made-easy)



### 2. Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring

Cleaning greenhouses, whether glass or plastic, greatly improves the growing environment for plants. By removing the algae, moss and grime it lets in more light and helps control pests and diseases too.



### 3. Keep an eye on watering houseplants

Indoor heating is very drying for houseplants, so check them regularly to make sure they are kept just moist, and not allowed to dry out.



## More Jobs for this month

Plant now to boost the winter fragrance in your garden

Inspect stored tubers of dahlia, begonia and canna for rots or drying out

Keep an eye on figs and olives & guard against frost by covering with sacking or old fleece in frost

Start forcing rhubarb

Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season

Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds

Cut off hellebore leaves at the base to discourage black spot disease and show off the flowers

## Date for your diary



GRAYSHOTT GARDENERS

The Function and Value of Trees

Jonathan Newell

Wednesday, 11th February 2026

Doors Open 7.15pm, Lecture at 8.00pm

Grayshott Village Hall

Visitors (always welcome) £5

Free light refreshments

[www.grayshottgardeners.net](http://www.grayshottgardeners.net)

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## Facebook

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You can find us here:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560819910610>



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## We could tell you why you should sell your home with us, BUT...

### Don't just take our word for it.

Exceptional Service from Start to Finish! We recently worked with Homes Estate Agent in Grayshott and couldn't be more impressed. The team was friendly, professional, and incredibly knowledgeable about the local area. They made the entire process smooth and stress-free, keeping us informed every step of the way. Highly recommend to anyone buying or selling in the area — truly a 5-star experience! **T Sparks - August 2025**

GOT THE JOB DONE WHEN NOBODY ELSE COULD  
I cannot recommend Kevin and his team at Homes highly enough. We had been on the market for nearly a year with less than 10 viewings, most which were of very low quality. As soon as we engaged Kevin he set to work identifying high quality viewings with potential buyers who were ready to move.

**R Apple - August 2025**

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