



# Grayshott Gardeners' Newsletter April 2026

## From the Committee

In my garden, I've been sowing  
Lots of things have been growing  
Alas for the pests  
Slugs and mice never rest  
Just hoping for some blooms for  
showing...

The Spring Show is a highlight of our Club Programme, and there's plenty for everyone to enjoy – Janet's page 4 says it all!

See you there.



Pamela Wright  
[shows@grayshottgardeners.net](mailto:shows@grayshottgardeners.net)



## Spring Show



### GRAYSHOTT GARDENERS Spring Show

with  
Floral Art Inter-Village Cup

Plants, Flowers, Vegetables & Home Produce  
Tea with Homemade Cakes, Tombola & Plant Sale

**Saturday, 11th April 2026**

**Grayshott Village Hall**

**2pm - 4pm**

**FREE ENTRY**

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

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more than houses

## In other news...

Grateful thanks to those who generously donated over 50 prizes for the Tombola at the Spring Show.



We look forward to welcoming back our President Gordon Rae at the April Club Night following recovery from his broken ankle.

## March Meeting

### *'Vegetable Growing: Ideas and Advice'*

**Barry Newman**



Barry Newman seen here with Graham Harvey-Browne

Well we all had a wonderful evening listening to Barry Newman talking all things Vegetable... So informative and loads of tips and recommendations. We had a full house for a very popular speaker.



Barry Newman doing some show judging and some photos of his immaculately tidy allotment



Congrats to all who won at the raffle, particularly Nicky Williamson who picked up 2 tickets for the BBC Gardeners' World Spring Fair.

More details on the talk can be found at:  
[grayshottgardeners.net/](http://grayshottgardeners.net/)

## April Meeting

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

### *'Plants for Shade'*

**Rosy Hardy**



Grayshott Gardeners is delighted to welcome Rosy Hardy as our Keynote Speaker this month.

Rosy has 35 years experience in commercial horticulture and is the owner/ proprietor of Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, based in Hampshire.

Rosy is Honorary Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society, has 24 Chelsea Gold Medals to her name and was awarded the RHS Master Grower Award 2021. She is also an author and broadcaster with her own extensive YouTube channel. She is passionate about perennials and will be talking to us about Plants for Shade.

***Rosie will bring plants and books for sale.  
Cash or card accepted.***

The meeting will be held in

**Grayshott Village Hall**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

***Free refreshments***

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

# EVENTS - 2026

## FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL

VISIT TO VANN GARDEN, VANN LANE, HAMBLEDON, GU8 4EF

10.30am Meet there

£20 Members including tea / coffee & cake

This internationally renowned five-acre garden is formed by a series of 'rooms' which surround and complement a family home dating from the 16th century. From the old Cottage Garden with delightfully informal planting in a formal setting, to the robust Pergola of Bargate stone by W.D.Caröe, the Arts and Crafts architect and great grandfather of the present owners, to the Water Garden, laid out and planted by Gertrude Jekyll in 1911, and the newly designed and planted Centenary Garden, Vann offers inspiration to expert and amateur gardeners alike. **Last opportunity to book and pay for this event at the April Club Night.**



**Payment details:**  
**Account: Grayshott Gardeners**  
**Sort Code: 30-93-94**  
**Account: 00806355**  
**Reference: VANN**

## TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MAY

VISIT TO **LITTLE BROOK FUCHSIAS**, ASH GREEN, GU12 6HL

2.30pm Meet there

No charge. Includes tea / coffee **(NUMBERS LIMITED TO 30)**

Guided tour of specialist Fuchsia Nursery selling over 400 different types of fuchsias from those with tiny flowers to large doubles.



## FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE

VISIT TO **APULDRAM ROSES**, CHICHESTER, PO21 7EQ

10.30am Meet there

£8 Members including tea party in the rose garden

As well as a place to browse and buy roses, it is also a lovely spot to visit to enjoy the serenity of the gardens or indulge in some tea and cake. Whether it's a beautiful sunny day or a rainy wet one, we will always find you somewhere nice to relax on our nursery following a talk by the owner.



## FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE

VISIT TO **PEPPERPOT HERBS**, ALTON, GU34 3HL

2.30pm Meet there

No charge

Commercial nursery producing over 500,000 herb plants annually. Approximately 90-minute guided tour with opportunity to purchase plants. No refreshments available.



**If you wish to sign up for any of the events listed above, please contact Carmen at:**

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

# SHOWS - Spring Show 2026



Finally, finally the days are longer, brighter, drier and warmer (mainly anyway!) than they have been for many months. We gardeners have been rewarded by seeing our gardens re-awaken from their winter dormancy – SPRING IS HERE!



With the arrival of Spring, comes our **SPRING SHOW** which will be held on **Saturday 11 April** this year.

We hope that as many of you as possible will enter. We'd especially love our new members to enter - there's always plenty of help on hand on the day for all those questions you may have. Please try a class or two or ten - believe me, it is great fun.

The various classes are listed in your 2026 Handbook: Plants and Flowers; Cut Exhibits; Pot/Container Grown Exhibits; Vegetables; Floral Arrangements; Home Produce; Craft and Photography. There really is something for everyone!

A few things to note:

## **New classes for Spring 2026:**

We always have a lot of super entries for Class 24 - Double bloom Camellias, so this year we are separating this by colour:

**24a – white, cream or yellow**

**24b – pink or red**

**24c – multicoloured**



Also, calling all male bakers to try their hand at making a Dorset Apple Cake (recipe on Pg 20 of the Handbook):

**58a - Gentlemen's Invitation cake. This is an Open Class, so you don't have to be a member to enter.**

## **Change of Rules for Home Produce**

Phew! You can now use ready-made pastry!

This new rule will be of particular importance to those entering **Class 56 – Spanokopita**, which will allow you to focus on the ingredients and seasoning rather than battling for hours to make the Filo pastry.

## **Reward for entering**

Everyone who enters the Spring Show will receive a **free** fuchsia plant – this year, it will be '**Electric Lights**'



## **Inter-village Floral Art Cup**

Best of luck to **Sue Erlen** who is entering this hotly contested competition, on behalf of Grayshott Gardeners. The exhibits will be on display during the Spring Show - which is yet another reason to go along and support your club,

**... and finally ...**

Even if we can't persuade you to enter any of the classes, please do support your club and come along to the show with your family, friends and neighbours. **It's a fun afternoon for all the community; entrance is free; there will be delicious homemade cakes and tea plus a tombola.**

Janet Hall



## PLANT SALES - 2026



We know many of you are planning ahead for the main plant sale on 9<sup>th</sup> May - whether you're able to donate plants, help with the logistics or with sales support on the day, every contribution is welcome and valued.



If you haven't yet been in touch with the Plant Sales team and would like to be involved in any of the plant sales please email Jo Smithson on [plantsales@grayshottgardeners.net](mailto:plantsales@grayshottgardeners.net) or catch one of us at the next meeting.

**The first plant sale of the year – a warm up for the main event – will be taking place alongside the Spring Show on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April.**

If you have any plants ready for the spring sales table, please do bring them, clearly labelled, to the Studio by the main hall by **midday on 11<sup>th</sup> April** when we'll be setting up in time for the sale to start at 2pm.

## BBC Gardeners World - Spring Fair Discount Code

This year's highlights include the headline Hillier neighbourhood of gardens and BBC Gardeners' World Make a Metre Matter Border, the BBC Gardeners' World Magazine Stage featuring presenters Adam Frost, Frances Tophill, Ashley Edwards and Sue Kent, food and drink tasting sessions at the Spring Table, Showcase Gardens, College competition gardens, Beautiful Borders and floral displays, the 'In Conversation with' Stage, hands-on workshops, the National Vegetable Society's planted chimney pot display, the Association of Professional Landscapers' outdoor living space and design clinic, Beth Chatto's Plants & Gardens' display border, demonstrations and talks, an exclusive Club Lounge for BBC Gardeners' World Magazine subscribers and Hillier Gardening Club members, a VIP Lounge, the Good Food Market, and plant and garden shopping galore!

The discount code for members buying tickets is **SAVE10** for 10% off standard adult/concession entry tickets. Please note the end date in the Ts & Cs below.

*\*Discount valid on adult/concessions standard entry tickets for **Friday 1st and Sunday 3rd May** for entry at 09:30 and 11:30 entry only. Not valid on 1:30pm tickets, Saturday tickets, added extras, or with any other offer. **Ends 23:59 on 17 April 2026**. £4.25 transaction fee per e-ticket order. Details correct at time of print.*

<https://www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com/spring-fair/>

## Member Photos - 'Water in your garden'



**The theme for next month will be 'BLOOM OF THE MONTH'. Photos must be taken by you in your garden. Please send your photo to [comms@grayshottgardeners.net](mailto:comms@grayshottgardeners.net) by 27th April.**

# Before & After

Hands up all those who enjoy a good before and after photo! I am a total sucker for it – nothing makes me happier which is why I spend far too much time scrolling through Instagram oohing and ahhing and declaring “well I wouldn’t have done it like that”...

We’ve been through many house renovations and by extension (*did you see what I did there!*) garden renovations ... much to the exasperation of my poor long-suffering husband (aka Under Gardener/Head Landscaper). He finally put his foot down and hung up his boots after participating in Hidden Gardens of Grayshott 2025, announcing that there was nothing more that could be built in the garden – no more bin stores, log stores, paths, ponds, beds, fruit cages, patios, pergolas or indeed any other structures that could possibly fit in our little patch in Grayshott. Apparently we are NEVER moving again... hmmm... which presents me with a problem as he is quite right – we have dug up most of the drive to convert to a front garden and most of the back garden to convert to ... well a garden... Apart from a long awaited shiny new greenhouse which will require no effort on his part his work is done... I am bereft... maybe an allotment is in my future (*very tempting after Barry Newman's talk last month*) – but very probably not.

So I will continue to live vicariously through others – **if you have any before/ afters then please send them in** so I can ooh and ahh some more.



Karen Cozens

P.s. since writing this some of our fence gave up the will to live and so the boots came back out – hope springs eternal!



Before



After



Before



After



Before



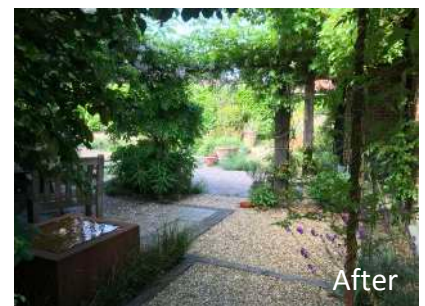
After



Before



During - whoops!



After

# Jobs for this month - April

## Gardening in April

(excerpts taken from the RHS website)

### Sunshine and showers

Spring is in full swing, with tulips and flowering cherries in bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers this month but with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the veg plot.

It's an exciting month as you start to sow outdoors. Just watch out for frosts and keep any tender plants indoors for now.

### 1. Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors

Sowing seeds outdoors is an easy, inexpensive and plastic-free way to grow new plants. It's ideal for a wide range of hardy flowers and vegetables.



### 2. Protect fruit blossom from late frosts

Most top fruit and soft fruit are very hardy but once they start into growth in spring, flowers and buds are especially vulnerable to frost and may need protection to crop well.



### 3. Keep weeds under control

Remove weeds that will smother seedlings and small plants, by hoeing or digging out.



## More Jobs for this month

Start to feed citrus plants

Increase the water given to houseplants

Plant new pond plants and divide waterlilies

Sow new lawns or repair bare patches

Prune fig trees

Divide bamboos

Last chance to prune climbing and rambling roses

## Dates for your diary



GRAYSHOTT GARDENERS

### Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, 9th May 2026  
10am - 11.30am  
Grayshott Village Hall

Fantastic array of plants for sale  
with many experts to help and advise  
[www.grayshottgardeners.net](http://www.grayshottgardeners.net)

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GRAYSHOTT GARDENERS

Christopher Lloyd -  
his life at Great Dixter  
**Stephen Anderton**

Wednesday, 13th May 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

Did you know that Grayshott Gardeners has a Facebook Page? You can find us here:

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

for any hedgehog lovers, here's a date for your April diary  
FROM HASLEMERE BIODIVERSITY



HASLEMERE  
BIODIVERSITY

B B B

Featuring Dr Sophie Lund Rasmussen,  
'Dr Hedgehog', as seen on the BBC

6.30pm, Tues 7 April  
Haslemere Educational Museum  
FREE but booking essential via  
<https://tinyurl.com/hedgehogevent>

Join us for an inspiring, practical session on how to make your garden a haven for hedgehogs. Dr Sophie Lund Rasmussen, known internationally for her pioneering work on hedgehog behaviour and survival, will join us live to share insights, answer questions and offer simple steps everyone can take. Drinks, nibbles & friendly faces provided.



Book tickets



Connecting precious habitats

B B ...

**Why This Event Matters**

Surrey is one of the most nature-depleted counties in the UK and local action is essential to arresting declines. This evening is part of a wider effort to show residents where their gardens fit in the landscape and how simple changes make big differences.

**Haslemere Nature Recovery Strategy (HNRS)**

Guests will be able to preview the HNRS; our plan to restore habitats and strengthen wildlife corridors across the area. Local knowledge is a vital part of shaping it and this session is the first step in a series of community workshops over May and June to look at local habitats and finalise the strategy.

**Every Garden Counts**

Join the growing local movement for nature recovery. We're volunteer-run and not-for-profit; donations and new volunteers help get more projects up and running, buy equipment and support expert-led work. Find out more at [www.haslemerebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.haslemerebiodiversity.org.uk)

[www.haslemerebiodiversity.org.uk](http://www.haslemerebiodiversity.org.uk)  
[info@haslemerebiodiversity.org.uk](mailto:info@haslemerebiodiversity.org.uk)



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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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