



# Grayshott Gardeners' Newsletter May 2026

## From the Committee

The month of May is all about raising plant babies...

It all started earlier in the year when oh so carefully, seeds were sown. Nervous anticipation followed, accompanied by a daily check for signs of progress.

Then the first seed leaves emerged - causing huge excitement and a reason to bore all your family and friends. Countless hours are spent worrying if they are too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry, too hungry or too sleepy.

Soon true leaves start appearing - and before long the little plantlets are making a racket, shouting let me out, let me out! So you prick them out into their own little modules - they are shy at first, but soon outgrow the space you have allotted them, clamouring for more room, more experiences, more life!

You listen, and begin tentative steps to prepare them for the great outdoors. The "In-Out" shuffle ensues, between the greenhouse, coldframe and sheltered corner - where the plantlets are convinced they don't need you anymore ... until it gets a bit tricky or cold and full on parenting is required once more.

Then suddenly by the end of May that's it - they are all out in the garden, fighting for their place in the world (and you are left wondering where did all that time go?)... You can sit back proud and happy.

## *contd*

Enjoy it... You have 6 months reprieve from all responsibilities.

And then next year you'll do it all again.

Sue Wheeler

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



## Member Photos - Bloom of the Month

We only received a few entries for 'Bloom of the Month', probably because everyone was so busy with their blooms for the Spring Show. We will be showcasing some of those photos in the Shows section and on the website so I thought that '**Best in Show**' should represent 'Bloom of the Month' instead.



Sue Erler's prize winning Rhododendron

**The theme for next month will be 'FAVOURITE CORNER IN MY GARDEN'. Photos must be taken by you in your garden. Please send your photo to [comms@grayshottgardeners.net](mailto:comms@grayshottgardeners.net) by 25th May.**

## April Meeting

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### 'Plants for Shade'

Rosy Hardy



Sue Wheeler, Rosy Hardy and Gordon Rae

Well we all had a wonderful evening listening to Rosy Hardy talk about fabulous plants for all aspects of shade in our gardens. Plants were handed round for closer inspection and copious notes taken!



A full house with lots of plants for sale and John Price at the video helm!



The refreshments team doing a fantastic job as always!

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

## May Meeting

### 'Christopher Lloyd – His Life at Great Dixter'

## Stephen Anderton



Grayshott Gardeners is delighted to welcome Stephen Anderton as our speaker this month.

Stephen was a professional gardener, concluding his career as National Gardens Manager for English Heritage. He was the weekly garden columnist of the Times for over 33 years. He now lectures worldwide.

His own garden in the Black Mountains is visited by specialist tours. Ceramics have been a fascination for over thirty years. His cabaret songs about gardening were once described as “to gardens, what *Private Eye* is to politics.”

He is three-time winner of the Garden Writers' Guild award and his books include *Christopher Lloyd - His Life at Great Dixter*, the topic of our talk.

The meeting will be held in

**Grayshott Village Hall**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

***Free refreshments***

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

# SPRING SHOW - 2026

The Spring Show was a wonderful event for all the community and there was a lovely vibe all afternoon with lots of compliments from visitors, six of whom were impressed enough to become members. Although visitors had come to see the show they all also enjoyed the delicious homemade teas, plant sales and tombola which were as popular as ever.

As I read through all the individual reports on our wonderful show, a few sayings leapt to mind:

1. 'Practice makes Perfect' – many congratulations to Sue Erler for winning the Inter-village Floral Art competition. Not only that, but she also won the 'Best in Show' with her Stem of a Rhododendron.
2. 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again' – despite their first attempt at the Jamaican Ginger cake which exploded into a sticky mess in their oven, Pamela and Alan persevered and went on to win the Home Produce cup.
3. 'Be brave and dip your toes into the water' - many thanks to our three new members who decided to enter the show. I do hope that you enjoyed the experience and are now inspired to enter future shows.

The Show was a huge success and the village hall looked glorious with 219 entries on display. Many thanks to all our 27 entrants – without all your hard work there simply wouldn't be a show. The Judges were hugely impressed with the very high standard of the exhibits, in particular the camelias and thought that it was a lovely show.

## PRIZE WINNERS

Prize	Event	Classes	1 <sup>st</sup>
Inter Village Floral Art Cup			Grayshott
Gladys Wilmott Cup	Home Produce	53-58	Pamela and Alan Wright
Gentlemen's Invitation Cake	Home Produce	58a	Alan Wright
Denyer Cup	Floral Arrangements	50-52	Tie – Sue Erler and Gill Purkiss
Craft	Craft	59	Diana Peat
Photography	Photography as voted by visitors	60	Doris Marjoram
Spring Cup	Plants & Flowers	1-22	Judith Rae
Gardeners Cup	Cut Exhibits, Pot Grown/Container Exhibits, Vegetables	23-49	Judith Rae
Novice Cup	First time winner Across all entries	1-58	Sue Wheeler
Whitehouse Cup	Across all entries	1-58	Pamela and Alan Wright
Best in Show Plate	Best Exhibit	1-49	Sue Erler – Class 25: Stem of rhododendron



L-R: Sue Erler, Diana Peat, Gill Purkiss, Alan Wright, Pamela Wright, Doris Marjoram, Sue Wheeler, Judith Rae

Most of the classes had clear cut winners – here are the close seconds:

The Gardeners Cup was very hotly and closely contested: Pamela and Alan had the same number of points as Judith, but as Judith won more classes, she won the cup! Gill Purkiss and Gill Foster came second with only one point less! Gill Purkiss has been showing for many years with beautiful exhibits while Gill Foster has only recently joined in and is doing so well – hooray! The Novice Cup was won by Sue Wheeler, who has exhibited for some years, both Gill Foster and Lesley Benson were only one point behind! Gill Foster as above, and Lesley started showing last year.

Finally, behind every successful show is a very hardworking and dedicated team. Many, many thanks to Pamela and her show team who did a brilliant and professional job in staging the show and even found time to enter exhibits themselves. They now only have a few months respite before it'll be time for the Summer Show on Saturday 11 July.



# SPRING SHOW - 2026 *contd*



Janet Hall

## Inter-village Floral Cup

The inter-village clubs hold several competitions each year, including for Floral Art. Hosting the competition rotates around the clubs, and this year it was Grayshott's honour.

Sue Erler took the lead, even though she'd not planned a competition before. Sue set the title of 'Ever Decreasing Circles', and a special dedicated space was set up in the Village Hall on Spring Show Day. Four clubs indicated their interest

beforehand, and one surprise entry arrived on Friday evening! It was such a great turnout, especially as three of the other clubs also had their Spring Show on Saturday. The judge was very impressed with all the entries, saving her best comment for the winner - "Amazing" – which was Grayshott. So, as well as organising the competition, Sue won it for us too – hurray!

Many thanks to surrounding villages for entering; Thursley came 2nd, Tilford 3rd, Headley 4th, and Churt was Highly Commended.



# PLANT SALES NEWS



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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A **big thank you** to everyone who supported the plant sale at the Spring Show in April. We had some really generous plant donations, a great team of volunteers running the sale and of course very many happy customers keen to buy the quality plants on offer. There was very little leftover stock and that was all saved for the big plant sale in May. The April sale was a real success and now we're looking forward to the main event on

**Saturday 9th May.**

If you have plants to donate, please drop them off (clearly labelled) at the Small Hall at Grayshott Village Hall between **6pm and 7pm on Friday 8th May** when the team will be setting everything up for the sale on Saturday morning.

Contact Jo

on [plantsales@grayshottgardeners.net](mailto:plantsales@grayshottgardeners.net) if you have any questions or need any assistance or can offer any help.

The plant sales are a lovely way to get involved in your club and to meet other members. They are really important and popular fundraisers for the Society, helping us to continue to attract high quality speakers and to organise visits and events throughout the year, as well as raising our profile in the community.

Do come along and support us in any way you can. *Please note - cash payments preferred.*

**Saturday 9th May, Village Hall 10am - 11.30am.**

Thank you

Plant Sales Team



L-R: Jan Bebbington, Vanessa Thompson, Amanda Earnshaw-Darg, Jo Smithson, Liz Brown in background

# VISIT TO VANN GARDEN - 17th April 2026

We had a lovely morning at Vann Garden in Hambledon. The first challenge being to find it!

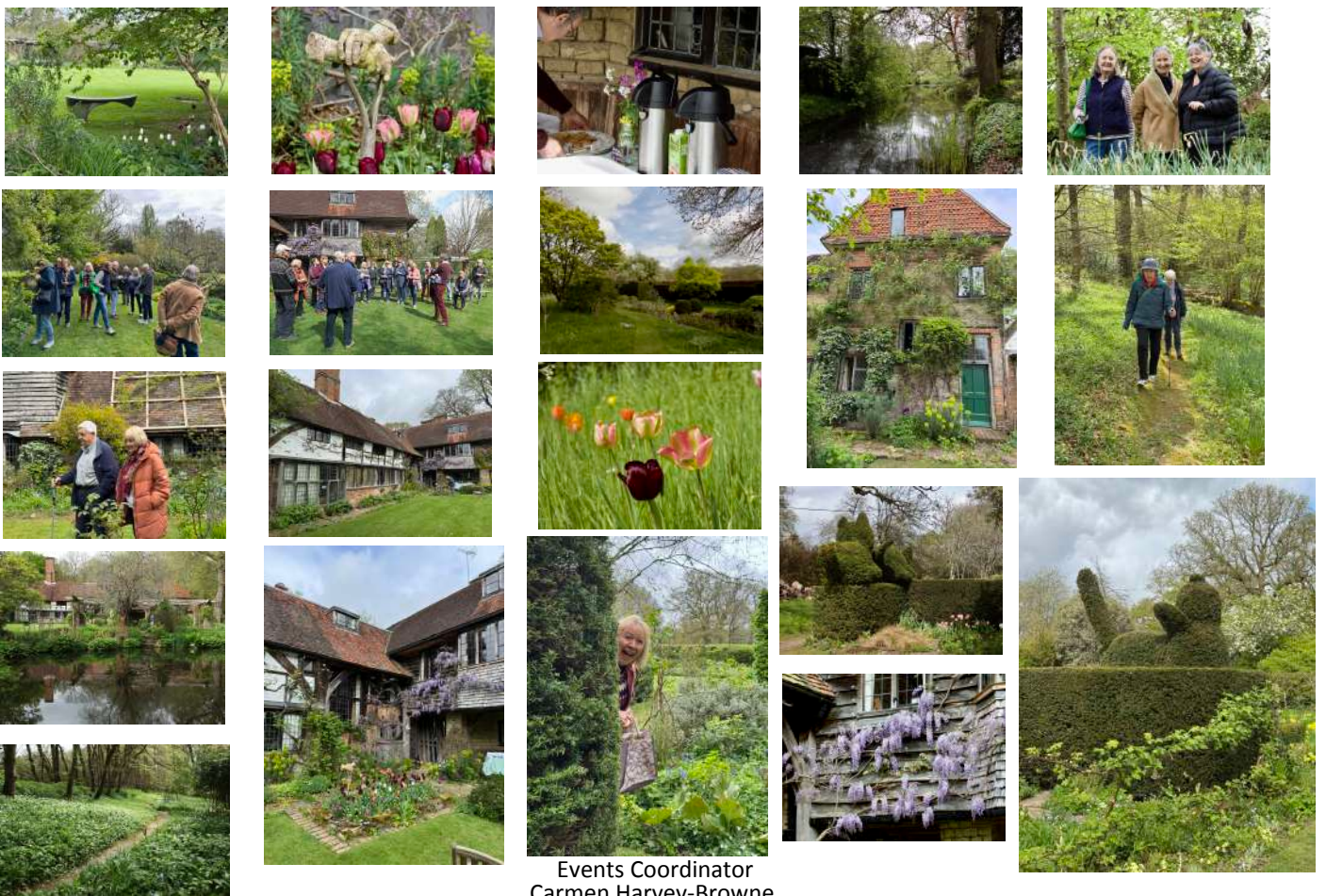
The garden and house have a very rich history which was shared with us by Oliver Caroe, current owner and 5<sup>th</sup> generation Caroe. He gave us all a snapshot of its origins and how it has evolved over the centuries, including its industrial heritage of glass furnace excavation and iron extraction through to agricultural production. It was formerly a pleasure-seeking escape from the sooty City where fashionable parties were frequently hosted, whilst retaining respect and care for the old and historic, resulting in its Grade II listing.



Oliver Caroe

The garden was shaped around the house and planned around water, which is where Gertrude Jekyll, friend and neighbour was instrumental in the development of the valley beyond the pond dam. With her help and guidance, the Water Garden was created and showcases her subtle integration and seamless transition from a constructed garden to a natural garden, blending in with the surroundings. In fact, many of the existing plants in the Water Garden were introduced and supplied by Jekyll. The garden was an absolute delight to walk around and enjoy, enhanced by the warmth of the sun and birdsong.

It is a very special place with a strong sense of emotional attachment to the past and its evolution over the centuries, whilst retaining a real sense of being a family home and garden.



Events Coordinator  
Carmen Harvey-Browne

# EVENTS - 2026

## 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)

## Tulips & Camassias at Wisley



At the beginning of April my husband and I visited RHS Wisley wondering if the Camassia might be out. Unfortunately they were only just starting to open, however the tulips were absolutely stunning. The two swathes alongside the canal in front of the Old Laboratory building were so colourful and vibrant. There were also beds with two or three colours, orange, yellow and white, then pink, white and mauve - all in all they were breath taking. Over 100,000 tulip bulbs had been planted to give such an impressive display.



We returned last week, thrilled to find the Camassias were out in full!



Alison Lang



# Jobs for this month - May

## Gardening in May

(excerpts taken from the RHS website)

### Summer's on its way

As bulbs fade and herbaceous borders grow in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can begin, depending on when the last frost is in your area, and you can take softwood cuttings. It's also time to let the lawn grow long and get a buzz from seeing all the insects that arrive to feed on the flowers

#### 1. Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants

Frost can affect many plants, and is particularly damaging to tender new growth and blossom in the spring. The risks of frost damage can be reduced by taking some simple steps to protect the plants in your garden.



#### 2. Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining

Potato plants need 'earthing up' as they grow, to protect early shoots from frost damage and ensure the developing potatoes aren't exposed to light, which turns them green and poisonous.



#### 3. Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)

Bedding plants provide a temporary decorative seasonal display for containers, hanging baskets, beds and borders.



## More Jobs for this month

Water early and late to get the most out of your water, recycle water when possible

Hoe off weeds in vegetable patches

Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days

Mow lawns but consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife, or mow less often so flowers can bloom

Check carefully for nesting birds before clipping hedges

Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs

Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs and remove by hand if causing damage

## 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

### How to commit the perfect murder

(and how to put the body to use in the garden afterwards)

Guy Deakins

Wednesday, 10th June 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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## Matt Biggs VMH

Matt Biggs has been awarded a Victoria Medal of Honour by the RHS.

<https://thedirt.news/quiet-influence-lasting-legacy-matthew-biggs-awarded-historic-64th-victoria-medal-of-honour/>

Normally, there are only 63 recipients of the VMH, but in a special recognition of the contribution made by Matt, the RHS has awarded a 64<sup>th</sup> for the first time.

Matt was a Keynote Speaker at our club in September 2024, speaking about "What makes a great gardener".



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**Mr Davies**

"Highly recommend Homes Estate Agents. They have been so helpful through the whole process from arranging viewings right the way through to completion. Ross in particular was extremely helpful and kept us in the loop from the offer being accepted through to exchanging contracts. We are looking forward to completing next week and appreciate all of the help the team has provided. "

**Mrs Shoubridge**



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