



# Hordle Gardening Club Newsletter February 2025

*Hello Everyone,*

*While it doesn't feel like it yet,... spring is only around the corner and now is a perfect time to start picking up those small plug plants at the garden centre to nurture and grow them into lovely strong plants for those summer boarders.*

*I also feel that there was something magical about growing plants from seeds, seeing them spring into life and then get their first true leaves before potting them on, where they start to really take off,... and take over every windowsill and sunny spot in the house!*

*What are you growing this year?*

## **Friday 28th Feb — Talk**

Next Friday we welcome back one of our favourite speakers, Roger Hirons, who will be helping us 'wake the garden up for spring'

## **Membership renewal for 2025**

Many of you have already renewed your membership for this year - thank you. If you haven't yet renewed, the annual fee is £8, and you will find a PDF copy of the Membership Form attached to the same email as this newsletter. Hard copies will also be available at the meeting on Friday if you don't have a printer. Payment can be by cash or cheque.

## **Events for 2025**

### **Skittles Evening— Wednesday 2nd April**

We have now booked our annual skittles evening for Wed 2nd April. The signing up sheet and menu will be available in the Feb and March meeting. The cost is £10, so please make sure you pay when you sign up.

### **Trips for 2025**

#### **May—Carey Secret Garden**

Planning is in full swing for this trip which we are aiming to do on Friday 16th May. More details will follow in March, and we are aiming to have the sign up sheet ready for the March & April meetings.

**Club meetings** are generally held on the 4th Friday of the month, doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start, at the Hordle Pavilion.

## **Diary Dates**

### **Friday 28th March - talk**

'Bonsai'

with Colette Harrison

### **Friday 25th April - talk**

'Alpine gardens' with Ray Broughton

### **Friday 23rd May - talk**

'Camellias and their cultivation' with Tom Clarke

### **Friday 27th June - talk**

'Unusual Perennials' with Bryan Madders

### **Friday 25h July - Closed show**

(Members only)

### **Friday 26th September - talk**

'Small glass house' with Wilf Simcox

### **Friday 24th October - talk**

'The wonder of the walled garden' with Gillian Taylor

### **Saturday 29th November—talk**

Annual Christmas Buffet

web: [www.hordlegardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.hordlegardeningclub.co.uk)  
email: [hordlegardeningclub@outlook.com](mailto:hordlegardeningclub@outlook.com)  
tel: 01425 621305

## Sep—Heale Garden & Plant Centre

We hope to share dates and details for this trip at the May meeting. Please note both trips will have a mini bus available, which hold 16 people. We are also aiming to offer discounted places for those that are able to drive themselves there, enabling the maximum amount of members to enjoy these trips.

### Plant Sales Table

This month sees the return of our plant stall. So, if you have any spare please bring them along on the night. Also, if you have collected seed and have some spare, we will also have some small envelopes which you can use to put your excess seeds, to donate to the plant stall—please to label the envelope!

### Members open gardens

Following last years very successful members open gardens, we would like to do the same again this year.

The sign up sheet will be available from the Feb meeting so sign up and get to know other club members and please don't be worried about the odd weed here or there (mine had plenty!)

We only ask you to provide tea/coffee at 50p and for funds raised to go to the club.

### Jobs in the garden in March

**Pruning:** Tidy up heathers. Cut back Forsythia after flowering. Remove the thick gnarly stems from rambling roses. Remove old sedum stems.

**Sow under glass:** Sweet peas can now be sown outdoors. Chillies, aubergines, salad leaves can all be sown this month, but cover new plants on cold nights.

**Plant:** Start to plant early perennials—but introduce them to outdoor temperatures over a few days. Start off onion sets in cell trays in a sheltered spot outside.

**Divide:** Now hostas are just in growth this is the perfect time to divide any large clumps. Lift and divide snowdrops.

**Pot up:** Grow lilies in a pot

**Move:** Any evergreen shrubs in the wrong place and water them in well.

**Bugs:** Keep an eye out for vine weevils—legless, creamy-white grubs. Also chafer grubs that feed on grass roots.

**And,.....**

Mow the lawns if the weather is dry, but keep blades high for the first few cuts.

Look out for small bindweed shoots and pull them out while the soil is soft.

Take hardwood cuttings from dogwoods if the buds haven't burst yet.

Start to put out your supportive frames for stakes for perennials.

### What Happens at our Meetings

Doors open at 7pm with the talk starting promptly at 7.30pm. Time for you to look at the plant sale table and buy your raffle ticket/s.

Following the talk **coffee/tea** will be served (50p please) and the Raffle drawn. Donations of raffle prizes are always gratefully received.

We have various **gardening magazines** available for you to take - usually in front of the bar shutters. Keep an eye out here for other items.

### Information Board

Check out the club's black Information Board which will show upcoming trips and event details, and the relevant booking sheets on clipboards. **Please pay when you put your name down for a trip/event.**

### Plant Sales Table

Your donations of plants for the sales table will be very welcome each month we have a speaker. Funds raised contribute towards our talks and events. Please name your plants if you know what they are... we will have labels available at each meeting.

### Raffle Table

We have a raffle table at every meeting with a speaker, so remember to buy a few tickets. Your contributions of raffle prizes are always very welcome too.

All monies raised go to club funds and towards future events and trips.