



# Newsletter 6 – June 2022

Dear Members,

A super talk last month from Ray Broughton on the subject of various growing mediums, and the feedback from everyone on the night reflects that not only was it very informative, but also highly entertaining! At the meeting, he referred to a fact sheets, which I have now received. They can be found on the website via this [link](#), but are also attached to this newsletter for you. Well worth a read!

No speaker this month, but we do have the excitement of the summer show!  
Julie Sheppard

## SUMMER SHOW – Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>

I think we are all looking forward to the summer show this year after a break of 2 years. Please read the details of how to enter and also help that is needed please . If you haven't exhibited before, have a go; it is fun and rewarding and there will be someone on duty to help you.

- **Entries** must be in handed in, with the fee, by 12 noon on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Entry forms can be found in the show schedule (still available from the Trading Hut).
- **Entries** can only be handed in either at the Trading Hut or delivered to one of the following addresses:
  - 10 Nightingale Gardens, Sandhurst, GU47 9DQ
  - 174B Branksome Hill Road, College Town, Sandhurst, GU47 0QQ
  - 16 Oaktree Way, Little Sandhurst, Sandhurst, GU47 8QS
- **Staging** is from 9.00 am until 12 noon on the Saturday morning. There will be tables in the hall with all you need: vases, etc.
- **Water supply:** We will be providing water near the set-up tables but if you need very little, you may like to bring a plastic bottle from home. We are trying to prevent members fetching water from the kitchen and risking spillages and anyone slipping on a wet floor.

The show will be open to all club members and visitors from 3.00 pm. If you are able to support the club by bringing along cakes for refreshments that would be lovely. In addition, chutneys, jams or garden produce (eg rhubarb) would be very welcome to be sold on the produce stall.

Chris will be contacting some of you for help over the next couple of weeks as usual to help with the show. *'It will be really lovely to have our wonderful shows again. See you there Chris'.*

### **Cups and trophies**

If you haven't yet done so, please return cups and trophies (for the summer show only) as soon as possible, preferably to the Trading Hut, ensuring they are cleaned and polished first!

### **TRADING HUT**

The hut continues to be open on Wednesday afternoons, 2-4pm, until 29<sup>th</sup> June. Then Sundays only, 9.00 to 10.45am through July apart from the 3<sup>rd</sup> when we are unable to use the access gate. The hut is then closed throughout August.

**SB Plant Invigorator:** Back in stock at £8 for 250ml.

SB Plant Invigorator (SBPI) is a unique, environmentally friendly 3 in 1 pesticide, mildewcide and foliar nutrient feed that is bio-degradable and non-toxic. Used by professional and amateur growers and gardeners worldwide.

### Compost

Owing to fuel surcharges and delivery charges being applied to our deliveries this year we are finding it difficult to restock small quantities and are having to wait until we have large value orders. Due in soon: **Foremost Peat Reduced Compost: £5.50 for 60L** and **Westland Evergreen Compost: £5.95 for 60L.**

**No Clover Compost at present.**

**\*\*\*A REMINDER THAT THE HUT WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY \*\*\***

### UPDATE ON FUTURE OF THE HUT

We are moving forward slowly with this. The appeal in the May newsletter for extra volunteers to help with deliveries didn't result in any new helpers. Involvement in this may only be an hour, 3 or 4 times a year. It's your club; the hut's survival is up to you. Also, there are no volunteers to help take stock to club nights or shows so these activities are likely to be dropped in due course.

Jane Heritage

### PLANT SALE



What a stupendous success this was! Thank you to everyone who supported it, either as a helper and/or a customer, but most especially thanks must go to Sunil and Gareth. Not only did they organise the sale, but they also offered their lovely house as the venue, and as anyone who sat on their patio enjoying a delightful cake will know, it was just glorious! And so to the big question: how much was raised?

The grand total for the both the plant sale and the refreshments was a staggering £916.40!! This is far more than we could ever have made during one evening at club night, so thanks again to everyone involved.

It is proposed that this is divided equally between:

1. Greenfingers charity donation
2. Club Jubilee celebrations next year
3. Club funds, but to be ring-fenced for something in particular (undecided yet).

If anyone has anyone suggestions as to what this could be, please let a committee member know.

*Some club members enjoying the lovely cakes on the patio*



## TRIPS AND OUTINGS

### A Holiday to the Isle of Wight

We left on the morning of Monday 16th May, travelling to Basingstoke to pick up one lady before catching our Red Funnel ferry to West Cowes. Once we had climbed the many steps to the passenger deck (there was a small lift) we could relax for the hour's crossing. We were joined on this journey across the Solent by two or three coaches of schoolchildren on their way to Wootton Creek for their adventure holiday. We were to meet them again on the return journey, boisterous but well behaved.

Once on the other side, we were taken to Quarr Abbey for a lunch break and a look around. A very plain abbey and some delightful pigs did not take up too much time, but then it was a quick break before our hotel. Unfortunately, it rained and some of us got very wet.



Our driver Nathan took the coach right up to the door of the Warner's Hotel where we were met by staff, handed over our keys and were soon in our lovely rooms able to unpack before dinner. My sister Maris and I had a delightful room at the back of the hotel overlooking the shrubbery gardens and a fountain. The photograph shows a lovely wisteria that was in the grounds.

We were able to sit in mixed groups of eight at dinner which gave us all a chance to get to know one another better. Lots of chat and laughter could be heard, well at least from my table. I sat next to Sunil and I was able to discuss at length the plant sale we were having on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

The next day we left late, unfortunately, to go to Shanklin, so we only had half an hour there: just time for an ice cream, before leaving for Ventnor's Botanic Gardens! A guide was laid on for us and I believe lots of our party went on the walk which took over an hour. My sister and I decided to revisit Steephill Cove as a reminder of our childhood. Only problem was we could not buy a cup of tea so back to the very pleasant cafe at the gardens. I think people had lunch there.

The Botanic gardens are amazing as they are so protected from the elements by the undercliff so all types of plants grow there. Beautiful palms trees, which I have photographs of from back in the 1970s, are situated in a lovely garden. There are gardens from all parts of the world within the whole garden. Of course, the gardens did not start out as a pleasure place for the general public - it was once the Royal National Hospital for the Diseases of the Chest and remained so for a hundred years until penicillin came along and then the hospital was no longer needed and was pulled down in 1969. The buildings had been a quarter of a mile long with bedrooms facing the sea and I remember the nurses in their purple uniforms and white frilly caps. A tunnel runs under the road to the nurses' home opposite.

If you are ever in the area and want to go on a ghost walk around the gardens with an expert guide you will be amazed by what you will be told. You might also get to walk through the tunnel which ends at the cliff edge. Not for the faint hearted!! I loved it.

From the gardens we went to the Donkey Sanctuary at Wroxall, one of my favourite places to visit. They take in unwanted donkeys and really look after them. They have a whole family of French

donkeys rescued from the slaughter place in France and they did this during the pandemic. We had a guide who was so interesting and I learnt a lot about the donkeys even though I have been visiting for over 30 years. Well worth a visit and they need donations.



The hotel laid on entertainment in the way of a live band and singer in the evening plus a beautiful dance floor. One night we had an excellent comedian and he was funny and very clever. There was also entertainment in the main lounge/bar area. We also had the chance to walk on the beach as the tide was always out it seemed. Two high tides, one when we were out and the other at night whilst we were there.

Wednesday was a day off from the coach and we all did our own thing.

On Thursday we went beyond Ventnor to the Blackgang Lookout. Unfortunately, a mist had rolled in and we could not see the otherwise lovely view across to Freshwater. However, we then drove to the Mottistone Gardens which everyone seemed to love. They are beautiful and well worth a visit. From there we travelled to Freshwater and the gardens of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. They were quite beautiful and we were also able to look around his house. Lots of problems however with dropping us off there as the coach was not allowed on the premises.

After a quick visit to Osborne House on Friday morning, we travelled onto the ferry and the journey home after a wonderful holiday on the Isle of Wight.

Sheila Davenport

#### Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in Romsey

Coach trip to Harold Hillier Gardens on Saturday 17th September 2022. Cost of the outing £28.00 The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens is an arboretum comprising 72 hectares accommodating over 42,000 trees and shrubs in about 12,000 taxa, notably a collection of oaks, camellia, magnolia and rhododendron.

There are still places still available - booking form attached.

Sheila Davenport

### **SANDHURST ALLOTMENTS TOUR**

Sandhurst Allotments have, once again, very kindly offered to provide a guided tour of the allotments with refreshments afterwards. Details as follows:

- Date: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm
- Venue: Sandhurst Allotments (gate at the end of the road past the hut)
- Parking: Either Pistachio's Café or the Community Hall car park. Members on the tour will not be covered by the Allotment group insurance. There are no toilet facilities on site.

Refreshments will be available for a voluntary donation to the allotment funds.

If you would like to book then contact Jane Heritage – details at end of newsletter. Numbers will be limited

## MEMBERSHIP CARDS

If you paid your membership fee online there is a membership card waiting for you at the trading hut and at club night. This gives all the club night and show dates, also the trading hut opening times and dates throughout the year. Please come and collect yours.

## CONTACT DETAILS:

Hon Chair: Chris Dresler 01420 768965

Hon Secretary: Julie Sheppard 01252 870521 [secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

Vice Chairman and Trading Secretary: Jane Heritage 01276 600438

[hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

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Trading Hut Volunteers: Lesley Williams [johnwilliams288@hotmail.com](mailto:johnwilliams288@hotmail.com)

Other Committee Members: Carol McGowan: 01276 36392, Derek Dolling 01344 774505, Liz Crow 01252 693552

Online membership: Sandra Hooper [membership@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:membership@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)

Postal membership renewals - Mrs J Heritage 174B, Branksome Hill Road, College Town, Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 0QQ

Please include a SAE with your completed membership form.

General enquiries: [enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk)