

Dear Members,

In the absence of the opportunity to hold an AGM this year, the committee thought it best just to email you all a short update as to what has happened this year along with the accounts. Therefore, please find attached reports from Chris (in her role as Acting Chair), Jane (Trading Hut) Steve (Treasurer) and me (Secretary).

Secretary's Report

You'll be pleased to know there isn't a great deal from me – Chris and Jane have covered nearly all the club's activities in their bits. I must say it was a surprising amount considering we have been under lock down conditions for more time than not.

It has been a very strange year, but one that has seen the club react magnificently to all the restrictions and seen the advent of a Viewsletter (thank you John Heritage), Zoom meetings (thank you David & Penny Dunford) and of course the support from all of you in buying things from the hut and joining the Zoom meetings. I would also like to add my thanks to all of you who sent in your photos for the 'lock-down' slideshow that was meant to be shared at the AGM. We will fit it in somewhere as there are some lovely photos.

Hopefully, it won't be too long before we can meet again in the flesh (so to speak) and the club will be able to become the sociable meeting place we know and love.

In the meantime, please consider Chris' plea for help, and if you do not want to be a committee member, but are willing to help in other ways please let one of us know. I have a number of small, relatively onerous-free jobs I would be more than happy to handover!

Julie Sheppard,
Secretary

Trading Secretary's Report

Last year was a challenging time for all of us. The hut was open until 22nd March then it closed until 24th May. Stock was low but after a delivery the following week sales on the 31st May reached a record £993. For many of you at that time a visit to the hut was your first outing for weeks and it was lovely to give you the opportunity to continue doing what we all enjoy – our gardening.

Total sales for the year were £14,346 including sales of £1119 to California Club, our second best year ever. Purchasing for California helps us, and them, get the best prices. We welcomed several new members who were either new allotment owners or just passing by on a walk and didn't know we existed. Profits were £1355. This was lower than 2019 but during 2020, when some prices were beginning to creep up, it was easier to just leave them as they were giving you all a better deal.

Owing to being unable to mix inside and social distancing I decided it was best if just John (who very conveniently finished work last June) & I do most of the hut duties with help on the gate. The new 'email & collect' system worked well, enabling us to serve many in a short space of time. Eventually, other committee members were able to continue with hut duties. Thank you all for your patience and kind words.

Although we haven't been able to use many members who have signed up for hut duty we hope this will change in the next few months and Tony Winter will be in touch to arrange this.

At the AGM in February 2020 I announced that I would be stepping down as Trading Secretary in February 2023. This is still the case but this last year didn't seem to be the right time for a recruitment drive. It doesn't have to be just one person; a small team could do it. If you are interested do let me know, Feb 2023 is not really that far away.

A big thank you to Graham & Helen Harding who have taken over the bird food job, also Liz Crow who will be helping Ruth with the bulb order.

Finally, thank you all for supporting the club and everyone who has helped.

Jane Heritage,
Trading Secretary

Chair's Report

As I write this (on March 23rd), I cannot believe a whole year has gone by since our first lockdown. In all our 58 years we have never had anything like this. From memory I think we have only ever cancelled one meeting when snow prevented us from having a club night. None of us, I am sure, thought that a year later we would still be in lockdown.

Of course, everything has had to be cancelled: meetings, shows, coach trips etc. etc. and we could do nothing about it except, wait, watch and hope.

Now in March 2021 there is a light at the end of the tunnel, but the club cannot operate under any state of normality except for the Trading Hut which has been magnificently run by Jane and John Heritage with Tony Winter co-ordinating all our lovely helpers.

There will be no workshop on Good Friday and no late Spring Show, but we are hoping Graham Talbot can do something for us later in the year. What we have done is to move as many speakers as possible into 2022 and those that couldn't we will try and pick up later.

We haven't been idle; we have had Zoom meetings which have had up to 58 people joining – fantastic. We have kept you informed by newsletter as to what we are trying to do and we have had your own Viewsletter which has been very popular, all beautifully put together by Julie Sheppard and John Heritage respectively. We are hoping for, but not sure, if we can have a July club night and our Autumn Show may have to be scaled down a bit. Everything rests with Boris, the infection rate and the vaccination rate and then the guidelines from Sandhurst Town Council.

Sheila is hoping the Great Dixter Coach trip on 3rd July will go ahead, but again we will have to wait and see what the guidelines say.

You will see I have taken over the position of Chairman since we lost our wonderful Len Clark. This club is successful because of its excellent committee many who have served for a long time. Before I retire, I want to hand this club over with a new Chairman and some new committee members. Our Trading Secretary wants to retire in 2023 after nearly twenty years and if we are not careful, we will go the way of many other clubs if we don't get new blood. The Chair is not an onerous job: as a minimum it is one

committee meeting a month, one club night a month and helping at the Trading Hut. Other aspects of the role are being covered by committee members at the moment, but that is always up for negotiation. The club is fun and rewarding and lots of you love it if numbers at zoom meetings are anything to go by and the huge amount of trading we are doing. We are the biggest and most successful club in the area. SO PLEASE THINK ABOUT JOINING US – WE NEED YOU! Ring me Chris 01420 768 965 or Julie 07711 056815 or Jane 01276 600438.

Chris,
Chair

Treasurer's Report

The Accounts for the year were significantly different to previous years due to the lack of activities caused by COVID. The major changes between 2020 and 2019 are:-

Hut sales (excl. the sales to California of £1,119) were up by £500 or just under 4%, however profit decreased from £1,661 to £1,355 because the margin fell from 13% to 10% as explained by Jane in her report.

Subscription income decreased by £102.

Some expenses were significantly lower than last year due to COVID with the largest falls being in Stationery, phone & postage from £597 to £282 and Trophy engraving from £290 to £0. Sundry expenses fell from £534 to £247 mainly due to expenditure last year of £216 on car stickers. Other expenditure was broadly inline with last year.

The deficit on activities fell by £527 (Deficit of £45 compared to £572).

There was no Christmas Party or Coach Trips and a small surplus on Shows of £18 from schedule sales. The deficit on Club Nights fell by £442 due to the reduced number of meetings.

Overall, income over expenditure moved from a deficit of £399 to a surplus of £685.

The cash balance increased from £16,507 to £17,927.

Steve Roome,
Treasurer

If you have any questions, queries or comments on the above reports or the accounts please send them to me (sroome@aol.com) and I will ensure they are answered by the relevant committee member.

The Gardening Club of Sandhurst & District

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 November 2020

<u>Income</u>	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Hut Sales		14,346.36		14,094.74
Less sold to California at cost		<u>-1,119.25</u>		<u>-1,368.04</u>
Hut Sales to Members		13,227.11		12,726.70
Cost of Sales				
Stock at 1 Dec	5,404.06		5,858.72	
Purchases	13,028.98		11,979.01	
Less stock purchased for California	<u>-1,119.25</u>		<u>-1,368.04</u>	
	17,313.79		16,469.69	
Stock at 30 Nov	<u>-5,441.30</u>		<u>-5,404.06</u>	
		<u>11,872.49</u>		<u>11,065.63</u>
<u>Trading Profit</u>		<u>1,354.62</u>		<u>1,661.07</u>
Subscriptions		1,407.00		1,509.00
Build Soc Interest		1.04		1.06
Other Income		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>
Total Income		<u>2,762.66</u>		<u>3,171.13</u>
<u>Expenses</u>				
Insurance		220.72		221.73
Affiliation Fees		45.00		69.00
Stationery, Postage & Telephone		282.07		597.46
Hut Maintenance/Equipment		91.23		95.80
Donations & Gratuities		203.94		152.25
Trophy Engraving		0.00		290.00
Sundry Expenses		247.18		534.16
Depreciation of Trading Hut		845.00		845.00
Depreciation of Equipment/Trophies		<u>97.35</u>		<u>193.35</u>
Total Expenses		<u>2,032.49</u>		<u>2,998.75</u>
<u>Surplus/(Deficit) on Activities</u>				
Club Nights		-62.78		-504.85
Christmas Party		0.00		-126.48
Summer Show		9.00		-346.58
Autumn Show		9.00		-335.02
Coach Trips		0.00		741.25
Total Activities		<u>-44.78</u>		<u>-571.68</u>
<u>Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure</u>		<u>685.39</u>		<u>-399.30</u>

Prepared & Audited by S.E.Roome
12-Jan-21

The Gardening Club of Sandhurst & District

Activities Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30 November 2020

Income

Club Nights

Visitor Admissions	0.50
Surplus on Raffles	168.21
Surplus on Refreshments	42.51
Surplus on Plant Sales	0.00
	<u>211.22</u>

Xmas Party

Ticket Sales	0.00
Surplus on Raffle	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>

Summer Show

Admission Fees	0.00
Entry Fees	0.00
Surplus on Raffle	0.00
Surplus on Refreshments	0.00
Sales of Show Schedules	9.00
Sales of Produce	0.00
	<u>9.00</u>

Autumn Show

Admission Fees	0.00
Entry Fees	0.00
Surplus on Raffle	0.00
Surplus on Refreshments	0.00
Sales of Show Schedules	9.00
Sales of Produce	0.00
	<u>9.00</u>

Coach Trips - Ticket Sales

0.00
<u>0.00</u>

Expenditure

Hire of Hall	133.00
Speakers & Judges Fees	141.00
Deficit	<u>-62.78</u>
	<u>211.22</u>

Food & Drink	0.00
Hire of Hall	0.00
Entertainment	0.00
Misc. Expense	0.00
Deficit	<u>0.00</u>

Judges Fees	0.00
Hire of Hall	0.00
Prizes	0.00
Misc. Expense	0.00
Surplus	<u>9.00</u>

Judges Fees	0.00
Hire of Hall	0.00
Prizes	0.00
Misc. Expense	0.00
Surplus	<u>9.00</u>

<u>Coach Trips - Coach & Entrance Fees</u>	0.00
Deficit	<u>0.00</u>

Total Surplus/(Deficit) from Activities

-44.78

The Gardening Club of Sandhurst & District

**Balance Sheet as at 30 November
2020**

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets</u>				
Trading Hut		7605		8450
Equipment		0		0
Trophies		389		487
		<u>7,994</u>		<u>8,937</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>				
Stock	5441		5404	
Refund Due Hall Hire	165			
Hall Hire Indemnity	250		250	
Pre-paid Expenses	166		161	
Building Society Account	10324		10323	
Cash at Bank/In hand	7603		6184	
	<u>23,949</u>		<u>22,321</u>	
<u>Current Liabilities</u>				
Creditors & Accruals	0		0	
Income in Advance	0		0	
	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
		23949		22321
<u>Net Assets</u>		<u>31,944</u>		<u>31,258</u>
<u>Accumulated Fund</u>				
Balance at 1 December 2018		31258		31657
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		685		-399
<u>Balance at 30 November 2019</u>		<u>31,944</u>		<u>31,258</u>