



Newsletter 9 – October 2023

Dear Members,

Summer show done and dusted, autumn show done and dusted – where is the year going? I'm in the middle of securing the speakers for next year's talks and can't believe that I've written Jan/Feb 2025 in my planning book already! Thank you to everyone who has made suggestions for speakers, whether to me direct or via the survey that came out (more of which later). While I will try and satisfy everyone's suggestions, they will not all be possible next year. However, they will stay on the list and be addressed at some point – providing I can find a speaker of course. For instance, tropical gardens/plants has come up again and it's incredibly difficult to find anyone who talks on that subject. I will keep trying though!!



Scattered throughout this newsletter are some photographs from the autumn show for you to enjoy. All the photos will be on the [website](#) in the next week or so, so do please have a look at them – especially if you were a winner and had your pic taken with the Mayor!

Our speaker this month is another change I'm afraid (apologies for this, but I book so far ahead I think it is inevitable that sometimes arrangements have to change). Good news though - we will be welcoming Graham Talbot to talk about 'Autumn in the garden' – this will cover fruit/veg/flowers, what needs to be done in the garden and what is of interest at the moment – and anything else he thinks of!! Many of you will know Graham and what an entertaining and informative speaker he is, so I am sure you will look forward to this as much as I am.

Julie Sheppard

AUTUMN SHOW

Please see below for the overall results. The full results are attached to the email that this newsletter came on – too big to include here!

Annual Cup Winners		
Sandhurst Town Council Cup	Overall Winner highest points in the shows	Peter Brockway
June Hurst Memorial Trophy	Roses	Betty Wilson
John Chuter Cup	Fuchsias	Peter Brockway
Fred Stapley crystal Vase	Flowers	Peter Brockway
George Brown Salver	Hanging baskets	Steve Roome
Josie Blunden Salver	Highest points fo classes 12 and 22	Betty Wilson
Fred Brant Trophy	Fruit And Veg	Peter Brockway
Floral Vase	Floral arrangements	Ruth Page
Waitrose Cup	Culinary	Marilyn Grant
Doug Hammond trophy	Photography	Beverley Morgan

The Autumn show: Lori and I had been preparing for this for weeks.

Cups	tick
People to help	tick
Results spreadsheet	prepared
presentation	organised by Liz and Steve
refreshments	Liz is in charge
Raffle	organised
Judges	awaiting confirmation

What could go wrong? Well actually.....the judges turned out to be a problem at this show.

Two weeks to go and we are without our 4th Judge. She has been ill and has double booked herself. But Lori is on the case and persuades Graham to do the judging for us.

Monday 4th September I only have 5 entries. Not to worry they all come in at the last minute. Steve Roome sent me an email asking if I had received his entry form. No, it wasn't in the inbox nor in the junk. I emailed David Hunt can we track emails? No comes the reply. I start emailing people I know said they would be entering. I need not have worried all of a sudden, it seemed, loads flooded in and by Thursday we had 225 entries!



Friday night set up went smoothly. We were leaving by about 5.45 when the alarm went off. No one seemed to be taking a blind bit of notice so in the end we just left, with the alarm still blaring.

Saturday morning came and I was up early checking I had everything - checking the cups for the umpteenth time. Have I remembered the string, the scissors, the scales etc? People start turning up with their exhibits. Betty Wilson came in, in a fluster, her husband had eaten her prize tomatoes! Not to worry Betty I'm sure you'll win a prize with your beautiful flowers. It's hot and getting hotter; all the doors, fire doors included, are flung open.



By 12 o'clock the hall was looking great with a wonderful display of exhibits. For the first time ever, the Committee allowed a School to enter the show. Oaklands School in Crowthorne had 3 exhibits, one of which won a first prize.

Judges would be arriving soon. Graham and the Floral Art judge arrive just after 12 and after a cup of tea get to work. 12.30pm the handicrafts judge arrives and tells us that there is a traffic jam on the M3. 1pm and no sign of any other judge. Next to arrive was the

culinary judge, saying she had been delayed by traffic. Not to worry we still have plenty of time.

By 2pm we are seriously worried that the judging wouldn't be completed on time. 'I'll start judging the flowers' says Graham. What would we have done without him? Sometime around 2.30pm the Flower judge arrives in bit of a state. She had been stuck in a traffic jam for 3 hours!! Lori plies her with tea and I provide the sympathy. She takes over from Graham, but it is now 3pm and the public are due to come into the hall. We have to put the numbers into the spreadsheet and calculate the winners of the Autumn Show, but then we have to calculate the Annual awards. Steve is now pacing the floor wondering when he can allocate the prize money. We manage to get everything done, just in time for the presentation at

4.30. The audience, who had been partaking of refreshments in the Kitty Dance Room, admiring the presentation of photographs that Julie had put together and buying items from the Trading Hut stall, were now shooed into the main hall. The presentation went well due to the forward planning of Steve and Liz. Lots of people stayed to help put it all away and by 6pm we were leaving the hall as we had found it on Friday.



My thanks go to Lori Bird for always calmly listening, when I am panicking. Our thanks go to everyone who helped out with the show, and to the people who provided the exhibits. We believe it was a resounding success.

Carole Hickman and Lori Bird

The committee would like to congratulate the Show committee on the end of their first year running four successful shows – we know it wasn't without the odd moment or two of stress, but has been a very good year. We look forward to next year...

QUIZ NIGHT

A few weeks ago, the intrepid trio of Pat Roome, Carole Hickman and yours truly took on the mantle of representing the Gardening Club at the area's inter-club quiz. It was held at Henry Street GC, an eminently suitable setting. Well, all I can say is thank goodness for Pat and Carole and their near-encyclopaedic knowledge off all thing gardening, because wow, were some of the questions tough! As you might be able to see, the rounds on sport and general knowledge weren't exactly our forte, but we made up for it on plant identification, which meant we just stole a march on Heath End club and came away as winners. An enjoyable night though, and thank to the supporters who turned up to cheer us on!

Julie Sheppard



Club	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Final	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Total
Heath End	8	4	12	24	4	4.0	3	17.0	52.0
Shirfield	5	1	8	14	4.5	4.0	7	18.5	48.0
Burghfield	5	0	6	11	0.5	3.0	2	17.0	33.5
Sandhurst	14	3	5	22	3.5	5.0	4	19.0	53.5
Wokingham	5	4	10	19	3.5	5.5	5	16.0	49.0
X Arborfield	4	0	8	12	1	1.0	3	15.0	32.0

NO OVER OVERTAKING !! Henry Street Incorporated Charity is "Prentiss"



TRADING HUT

We're planning to do the stock take at the trading hut on Tuesday 5th December, from 9.30am. If you can spare a morning to help out it would be appreciated. Please contact us on sgctradinghut@gmail.com

Hut closures: Sunday 29th October

The gate at the café will be locked as 12pm on Thursday and re-opened on Sunday 29th October (around lunchtime). There will be **NO** vehicular access whatsoever allowed during this time. This is to allow the safe set up and removal of the stage for the Fireworks event on Saturday 28th October. The car park at

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the café will close at 12pm on Saturday 28th October and will re-open following the fireworks. The main car park will not open at all on Saturday 28th October.

Sunday 12th November

The access road will be used for parking for the Remembrance service at 11.00am, therefore the hut will be open on Saturday 11th Nov instead of the Sunday.

The Trading Hut Team

SEED ORDERS

Good news! You can now order seeds in three different ways and without the hassle of filling in a paper form and having to get it to the hut AND you still get the massive 50% discount! You can:

- Collect a catalogue from the hut and complete the order form. You can add additional order lines on a separate piece of paper. Then you can post this.
- or order directly on line via www.mr-fothergills.co.uk quoting the promotional code **F242**
- or call Mr Fothergills on 03337773936 to place the order again quoting promotional code **F242**

The catalogues are available from the hut; however, it is significantly smaller than in past years and is mainly onion sets, potatoes etc. If you place your order through the catalogue individually it attracts a seed order discount of 50% (apart from 99p seed packets). There are other beneficial discounts (potatoes, onions, shallots, garlic etc and also 25% off Darlac garden tools) with free postage and packaging which appears to apply to everything!! This is equivalent if not better than the normal Gardening Club scheme and your order will be delivered directly to you.

This means that you have to place your own individual orders directly with Mr Fothergills. We will not use the usual Gardening club scheme.

As the catalogue contains only a fraction of their seed and sundries range, you may need to access the internet site www.mr-fothergills.co.uk to view the complete range and prepare your seed order.

If you want to request a catalogue to be posted to you, please do so either via the website www.mr-fothergills.co.uk or by calling 03337773936 and complete as above.

From experience calling Mr Fothergills directly and quoting the promotional code is often the most effective method when you have decided what you would like to order. Please confirm with the sales person the discounts / offers have been applied by quoting the promotional code **F242**.

Using the telephone or online ordering system routes will ensure you have applied the correct discounts prior to payment.

Happy seed ordering

David Dunford

BULBS

There are a few packets of bulbs left now, but going fast - just daffs, tulips and a few prepared hyacinths (as of 2.10.23). If there are any left, they'll be brought along to the club night.

Liz Crow

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Following the hugely successful 60th Birthday celebration, and notwithstanding the huge amount of work this involved, we have decided not to hold the Christmas party this year. In the survey feedback we received, a number of people also indicated that they might prefer a change of format and/or have it in the afternoon. We have therefore decided to revisit it again next year, possibly with a change of format to 'freshen it up'. Any suggestions will be welcome – please let a committee member know.

HUT DUTY

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered at the hut. As always, additional volunteers are always welcome and in particular I struggle to get lifters – it tends to be the same few people all the time. Please consider if you could help with any aspect of the volunteering but as a lifter would be a big help. There is a wheelbarrow to help, so no distances to carry things.

Please contact me on: johnwilliams288@hotmail.com if you can help

Thank you

Lesley Willimas.

SURVEY FEDBACK

Thank you to the members who replied to the survey that was sent out earlier this year. There were helpful suggestions regarding speakers, trips (passed on to Lydia) and the Trading hut (passed on to the trading hut group). Apart from that, it all seemed quite positive! Do remember though – this is your gardening club and if you can think of ways we can improve, you need to let the committee know, or even volunteer yourself!

Julie Sheppard

TRIPS

This trip is now full and with a waiting list, which is excellent news. I am busy planning next year's trips and have lots of exciting ideas, so look out in future newsletters.

Lydia Stonestreet.

FREEBIES!

We have had the following message from a local gentleman:

Due to health issues, I have some gardening equipment that could be put to better use. I don't want any payment but would ask that if anyone takes anything they pop into the Sandhurst Day Centre (on Yorktown Road) and make a donation to this worthwhile charity looking after the older members of our community. Items up for grabs as follows: -

Petrol Sovereign Lawnmower (with manual) – probably needs a service (petrol flush and oil change)

Galvanised wheelbarrow

Rake

Lawn Rake

Shovel and Fork (seen better days)

Various bits of plant lattice support

Electric corded strimmer

Pressure Sprayer

I would prefer this went in one go (so you need a large car/van)

Contact: Peter at: ahlingsmith@gmail.com

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WANTED – GARDENER

We have also had this request from a home based in Crowthorne:

We are an age 65+ block of 32 private apartments in a 2.25 acre plot with less than one acre of that plot as a car park, access roads and cultivated gardens.

We currently budget costs annually and employ a contractor to maintain the gardens. However, we find the unskilled labourers on his payroll are exactly that... with resulting ongoing widespread disappointment in the end result of this unprofessional attention.

We are currently investigating other contractors but it occurs, as an alternative, that say two part-time proper-gardeners (perhaps retired and with time on their hands?) could be engaged (say 6-8 hrs per week each?) to agree the necessary annual maintenance and to cover each other in the event of holidays etc. All gardening equipment would be provided and we would expect to pay the going rate for the job. It's likely each person would raise a personal invoice for his/her services to be paid monthly but personal insurance/public liability would need to be discussed to satisfy our landlord. You'll see the obvious attraction of two 'actual gardeners' sharing the palpable enthusiasm of so many of the residents.

If you are interested, please contact Alan Anning direct on: al.anning@btinternet.com



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Red denotes changes

Date	Event	Venue
Wed 18 th Oct 7.15 pm	Talk: Autumn in the garden	Community Hall
Sun 29 th Oct	Trading hut closed	Trading hut
Tues 7 th Nov. 2.30 pm	Autumn at RBG Kew	Kitty Dancy room
Sat 11 th Nov	Trading hut open	Trading hut
Sun 12 th Nov	Trading hut closed	Trading hut
Wed 15 th Nov 7.15pm	Talk: Pests & diseases - LIVE	Community Hall
Sun 26 th Nov 9.00 am	Last day Trading Hut open	Trading Hut
Sunday 19 th Nov	Trip: Christmas Lights	Kew
Tues 2 nd Jan 2024 2.30 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Tues 6 th Feb. 2024 2.30 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room

CONTACT DETAILS:

Hon Chairman: Sheila Davenport* chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Hon Secretary: Julie Sheppard* 01252 870521 secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Treasurer: Steve Roome* sroome@aol.com

Trading Hut: hut@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk or sgctradinghut@gmail.com.

Coach Trips: Lydia Stonestreet trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk 077 906 38411

Show entries: Email entries are preferred. shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk Paper entries to 85 Pinehill Road RG45 7JP

Show contact details: shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Wisley Tickets & Newsletter Distribution: Sandra Hooper* 01276 34112

Newsletter Contributions: secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Bulb Orders: Ruth Page 01344 774539 or Liz Crow* gardening@mrscrow.co.uk

Trading Hut Volunteers: Lesley Williams johnwilliams288@hotmail.com

Online membership: membership@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Postal membership renewals – Sandra Hooper 15 Lowry Close, College Town, Sandhurst, Berks GU47 0FJ

Please include a SAE with your completed membership form.

Seed and Plant orders: David Dunford* 01252 656826 dvdunford@ntlworld.com

General enquiries: enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

* Denotes committee members

