



Newsletter 7 – August 2024

Dear Members,

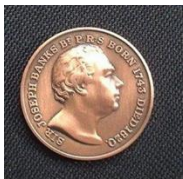
I've looked back at introductions I've written in previous August newsletters and they all seem to revolve around one thing – the weather. No real surprises there I suppose; it's either too hot/not warm enough, too wet/not enough rain - as gardeners we're never really satisfied. Still, that's what makes gardening such a challenge and also so enjoyable. The summer show was definitely affected by the vagaries of the weather and although the number of entries were down, the quality was most definitely there – all credit to us!

Hopefully, the improved weather situation will mean we'll once again have a good lot entries for the Autumn show this year. An email has already come out about the photography entries which need to be submitted to me secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk by 5.00 pm Thursday 29th August (file size no larger than 5 Mb). Other information about the show can be found below. The schedule for the Autumn show is also attached to this email.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the show!

Julie sheppard

AUTUMN SHOW - Saturday 7th September



At our Shows this year there is to be a new prestigious award. We have received a Banksian Medal and Certificate from the RHS, to be awarded to the person with the highest points in the Horticultural Classes of all the shows throughout the year. A new incentive to encourage everyone to have a go at entering our shows.

Entry Forms should be emailed to shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk by 12.00 noon on **THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER**. They can also be delivered/posted to:

- 85 Pinehill Road Crowthorne RG45 7JP or
- 15 Lowry Close, College Town GU47 0FJ or
- 15, Park Road Sandhurst GU47 9AA or
- left at the Trading Hut the Sunday prior to the show – Sunday 1st September. I will be there to collect them

Entry to classes is free. No late entries will be accepted. When you enter, you are agreeing to abide by the rules and confirming that you have read the show regulations, both of which can be found on page 6 of the schedule. Paper and email entries to contain your name and address and the classes you wish to enter. The classes can be found on the website in the show schedule page 23 onwards.

Staging: Exhibits must be staged between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon on the morning of the show.

- There will be tables in the hall with all you need: vases, etc.
- Water supply: water will be provided 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 success of the show depends on members entering. Don't worry if you don't know what to do, there are plenty of people around on the day who can give advice, help, guidance. Vases are provided for

most flower classes and paper plates for veg and fruit. For instance, if it says 3 cucumbers, then you need 3 cucumbers and they all have to (nearly) match.

If you have any problems send an email to the address above.

Carole Hickman
Show Secretary

BULBS

I'm sure your gardens are full of late summer colour but it's almost time to think about planting bulbs for beautiful flowers next Spring. The Club's bulb order will be arriving soon and a selection will be on sale, in the Kitty Dancy room, at the September show. Hopefully there will be something to tempt you amongst the different daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinths and more. To see the full range, visit the hut on the first or second Sunday of reopening as popular varieties sell out quickly. And remember all bulbs are sold at a discounted price giving you a significant saving compared to local garden centres.

Liz Crow

TRADING HUT

The hut has been re-organised and re-stocked where possible ready for opening on **Sunday 1st September**. If you can't find what you need, please ask the volunteers. If there's anything that you'd like to see stocked, please let us know via our email sgctradinghut@gmail.com and we'll see what we can do.

Available now:

Evergreen Peat Based Multi-Purpose Compost Autumn Lawn Feed
Peat Free Sylvagro & Westland Compost Lawn Weed, Feed and Mosskiller
Composted Stable Manure Bulb Planting Baskets & Bowls
Woodland Mulch Hanging Baskets & Liners for Autumn Displays

Potatoes, Onions & Garlic

This year the trading hut will have supplies of Autumn Planting Onions, together with Shallots & Garlic. These are due in during September and there is no need to order these as they will be available in the hut while stocks last.

Onions – Autumn Champion & Senshyu, 200g bags at £3.50 each
Shallots – Golden Gourmet & Red Sun, 400g bags at £4.25 each
Garlic Thermidrome – this is a white soft-neck variety, fully hardy in the UK, £2.00 for 1 bulb.

We are also offering Seed Potatoes, Garlic, Shallots and Spring Planting Onion Sets, available to order, paid for at the time of order. These will be delivered to the hut during January and will need to be collected from the hut. There will be no postage or packing charge on these. The potatoes are being ordered through one of our normal suppliers, with the potatoes being supplied by Jamieson Brothers / JBA Seed Potatoes UK.

Hessian potato sacks and potato fertiliser are also available to order, these will not be hut stock items.

The deadline for receipt for orders and payment is Sunday 27th October 2024. Order forms can be left and paid for at the hut or they can be emailed to sgctradinghut@gmail.com and paid for by bank transfer. Any bank payment for potatoes, onions or garlic are to be paid with a reference of **SGC - Pots/Ons**

There is an order form attached to this newsletter and it will also be available as a download from our website.

The Trading Hut team

SEED ORDERS

As we near the end of this year's growing season it is time to think about next year's seed orders. The club plan to order from DT Browns who are a sister company of Mr Fothergills and one I have used successfully for many years. It is anticipated that discounts will be similar to previous club order years which, depending on overall order size, should attract discounts of 50-60%. More details will follow when seed catalogues are available to members (currently expected mid-September).

David Dunford

BIRD FOOD



News from Graham and Helen: The bird food is all restocked, all four bins are full, and it's ready for the hut re-opening. And, yippee, we can get into our hall again! (see photo...) Graham and Helen Harding



AN OPPORTUNITY TO FEEL PROUD!

A number of years ago, the club used to give members the opportunity to bring things along on club night and show/share with people. We are re-introducing this, with a slight update.

Each month, members are invited to bring along something from their garden/they have grown that they are particularly proud of and place it on a table at the front of the hall. It could be a plant/bunch of flowers, a vegetable – up to you. The speaker for that night will choose the best one in their opinion, (and we recognise this may be purely subjective); that person will be rewarded with a voucher to be spent at the hut. We do hope many of you will join in this bit of fun – the first one being the October club night, which is also the night of the quiz (more of which later).

TRIPS

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT LEONARDSLEE GARDENS - SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER



ONLY 14 PLACES LEFT FOR THIS SUPER TRIP!

The Christmas lights trip this year is to [Leonardslee Lights](#) at Leonardslee Gardens, Horsham. See the wonder of the woodland awash with light, sound and colour. Leonardslee lights are set to bring a fun winter experience for all the family.

Tour starts at 5.30pm and should take 60 - 90 mins to walk around. Seasonal food and drink are available before or

after trail as well as a Christmas Market. The trail is outside on gravel pathways through the gardens and is suitable for most all terrain mobility scooters but WHEELCHAIRS are not advised. There is one steep slope towards the end of the trail.



Depart: Owlsmoor Community Centre 3.30pm (be there at 3.15pm for prompt at 3.30pm departure)

Return: depart the gardens 8.30pm arriving back around 10pm

Cost: £37.00 per person (includes coach, entrance and driver's tip)

If you wish to go on this trip please email: trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Payment via bank transfer please or by card at club night.

Bank details: a/c Gardening Club of Sandhurst & District

a/c 92029304 and sort code 09-01-51

There are 14 people who have booked a place but not paid; please ensure payment is made as soon as possible.

Thank you

Lydia Stonestreet

MEMBERS' SURVEY

Thank you everyone who completed the members' survey this year – we heard from over 50 members this year. The results are currently being collated and we will feed back on the decision regarding the Christmas party, shows and trophies in the next newsletter.

HUT DUTY/SPARE TOOLS

Lesley is currently filling in the hut duty rotas for the next couple of months. Rather than wait for her to contact you, why not help things along and email her? I know she'd appreciate it!

She has also said, *'Winkworth Arboretum are asking for old gardening tools for one of their themed events, needed by Nov 1st. I am doing the hut duty on the 1st of September if people want to bring anything along. Thank you.*

CLUB NIGHT – OCTOBER '24 IS QUIZ NIGHT!



The club night in October will be a quiz for all members to join in. Lots of interesting rounds – literature, geography, languages, general knowledge – all revolving around the common theme of gardening. Start brushing up on you gardening knowledge! Don't worry though – questions won't be too hard, and the aim of the evening will be to have fun, albeit in a slightly competitive way... Teams are a maximum of 6 – you can either turn up with your team ready formed, or join with folk on the night. Please bring your own nibbles and drinks.

DAFFODILS!

And yet another new thing...

We'd like to encourage more members to have a go at showing, so will be offering members three free daffodil bulbs to plant up – with the hope that you will then show them next year. There will be a special class just for these daffodils. All the bulbs are the same and will need to be planted in pots with a **maximum** diameter of 8" (203mm). they will be available to collect from the hut and we ask that members are honest and only take their one allocation of three bulbs.

If nothing else, it will be a wonderfully cheerful display in the hall come spring!



EARLSTONE MANOR WEDNESDAY 24TH JULY 2024

A lovely day was had at Earlstone Manor. We left just after 10.30am as one person was waiting at Sandhurst Community Centre and wondered why no one else was there! Please read notes where the coach departs from. We used Hodges coaches for this trip and a very good service even driving down the very narrow drive to Earlstone Manor lined with trees, brushing right against the coach and negotiating

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the drive through two automatic gates as well! Our first stop was to the Carpenters Arms for our lunch, a lovely sunny day. Our tables were laid for inside but some people sat outside to eat lunch on the patio overlooking the large garden. Lunch was served just after 12.30pm and the variety of orders was amazing! But oh, somehow people forgot what they had ordered – good job I kept a copy of all the orders I had sent to the pub. Everyone got their correct orders with chips or soup and one person had a pudding too! There was time left and people visited the [Sandham Memorial Chapel](#) which was just across the road and should have been closed Wednesdays but due to school holidays was open. The chapel has a series of paintings by the modern British artist Stanley Spencer who wanted to express his military experience during the Great war in paint. The 19 paintings that cover three walls of the chapel took six years to complete. After we had all had a relaxing lunch with drinks or coffee, we set off for Earlstone Manor.

On arrival we were welcomed and gathered in the barn to have a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake or a homemade biscuit. We took a seat and were then talked to by the owner of Earlstone Manor. He told us he has had Earlstone for the last 30 years and how he has transformed it; everywhere you look you get a different view. The owner is passionate about English Box and he showed us how a box hedge is first drawn out and then built, very detailed and a long process. We saw slides of the gardens and the bridges built, structures to provide height and interest to different areas. We were then set free to wonder and discover the



gardens at ease. Wow so much to see and take

in every part of the gardens. A walk by the river. Arches cut out of hedges, ornaments, a Chinese garden, formal gardens and ponds.

Circles to look through giving you wonderful views beyond, a man made out of clay pots and a mound to climb very narrow in places but a fab view looking down on the garden below. So much seating to stop and have a rest and admire the wonderful views of this hidden gem of a garden. Not usually open to the public. A good find. A safe journey home was had, arriving back around 6pm.

There are more photos from this lovely trip at the end of the newsletter.
Lydia Stonestreet

CONGRATUATIONS TO...

Sunil and Gareth! Not only do they do a fantastic job hosting the annual plant sale, opening their lovely garden for the NGS but they have now come 3rd in the Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies' Peter Maunder Garden competition. They were visited in July and their garden judged on five different categories including suitability of plants, visual impact and suitability of design. Sunil said, *'the two judges arrived and walked around the garden unsupervised for about half an hour, occasionally nodding and writing on an ominous-looking clipboard. We met up for a brief chat when they were done. They asked a few questions about the soil conditions, the original state of the garden, the squirrel defence and who the bones in the compost heap belonged to. They liked the humorous touches, large borders and the masses of seedlings and cuttings being propagated for next year's Plant Sale.'*



SPARE POTS/SEEDS?

Sheila Davenport is collecting clean pots (approx. 5"- 6" diameter) and any viable flower seeds that members may have to give to people living in care homes/care settings. If you can help, please pop any donations in to the hut by the end of October. Thank you.

SUPPORT FROM YOU, THE MEMBERS

Urgent – help needed (fourth time of asking)

As was recognised by many members in the survey (and the thanks are much appreciated!), there is a lot of work involved in making the gardening club successful. We are now looking to enrol new members, who will become the future of the club. To help this, we recognise we need to increase our on-line presence so are specifically looking for members who can help us in this. If you look at Facebook/use Instagram fairly regularly, you may be just the person.

Are you willing to act as admin and/or be able to post regularly? If this could be you, do please get in touch and we can have a chat about what it might entail.

secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Thank you

Julie Sheppard

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Red denotes changes/updates

Date	Event	Venue
Sat Sept 7 th	Autumn show	Community Hall
Tues Oct. 1 st 2.30 pm	Talk: Arts & Crafts gardens in the SE	Kitty Dancy room
Wed Oct 16 th 7.15 pm	Quiz night	Community Hall
Tues Nov 5 th 2.30 pm	Talk: demonstration how to create a Christmas arrangement	Kitty Dancy room
Wed Nov 20 th 7.15 pm	Talk: the Savill Garden	Community Hall
Sun Nov 24 th	Xmas lights at Leonardslee Gardens	3.30pm departure
Tues Jan 7 th 2025	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed Jan 15 th 2025 7.15 pm	Talk: St Kilda & the Hebrides; sailing to the edge of the world	Community Hall
Tues Feb 4 th 2025	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed Feb 19 th 2025 7.15 pm	AGM Talk: flower arranging on a budget	Community Hall

CONTACT DETAILS:

Hon Chairman: Sheila Davenport* 07979 917355 chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

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

Treasurer: Steve Roome* 01252 877965 sroome@aol.com

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

Coach Trips: Lydia Stonestreet 077 906 3841 | trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

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: Liz Crow* gardening@mrscrow.co.uk

Trading Hut Volunteers: Lesley Williams johnwilliams288@hotmail.com

Online membership: membership@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Postal membership renewals – Steve Roome* 01252 877965 1, Hillside Cottages, Newtown Road, Sandhurst. GU47 9EH

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

