



Newsletter 9 – October 2024

Dear Members,

I hope you have all seen the email sent out yesterday with the very sad news that Steve Roome passed away peacefully on Monday. Our thoughts are with Pat and the rest of his family.

This always feels a bit like the start of the new year to me, when we return to gardening and the gardening club 'proper' after the summer break. Exciting times with bulbs to plants (hope you've been quick off the mark buying yours as they're going fast, at hugely discounted prices – see below). I'm bang in the middle of finalising next year's speakers, so that is also something to look forward to.

It was good to see so many entries at the autumn show. Typically, my dahlias are now looking super, having been resolutely in tight bud at the time of the show. I'm now hoping they will still be looking good for the next club night in October (Quiz night – hope you're bringing a team!) – when I hope to be able to bring a few along to be judged at the 'proud of something table' (we need a better name, but you know what I mean). Please don't let me be the only one with something to bring along! Still on the autumn show, Carole has written an entertaining and informative article below, which just gives a flavour of what has to happen to make the show as successful as it is, so thanks again to her and her large team of helpers.

Julie Sheppard

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).

AUTUMN SHOW

As usual I was panicking about entries, on the Monday' I had 3 people and about 15 entries, but by Wednesday I had 28 people and 223 entries!!

Everyone turned up on Friday night to set things up in the hall and the Kitty Dancy room and we were finished by 5.30 pm.

Lori and I were there at 9.00 am on Saturday, John Bird adopted his position on the gate, and we waited for people to arrive. The Judges all came early this year and had time for a natter and a cup of tea. Nina Cron quickly adopted her new role as a steward; I think she enjoyed it, at least I hope so, because I intend to ask her again!! Lori managed to find a second fruit and veg judge who was excellent. Did you know that when judging the longest runner bean, it is measured from stalk to tip directly. If it happens to be curly it is not measured along the curly bit!! Our judges were all very complimentary about the standard and quality of the exhibits.

Then Liz Bolger and the refreshment team turned up and swung into action, I'm never quite sure who bakes the cakes, but there always seem to be enough. Ruth produced a lovely floral display to go on the entrance table.

Carole Edge was everywhere doing everything I asked and more. Oh! No! the internet is not working very well and all the Autumn results have to be calculated by hand. Luckily, I had printed off all the results for the summer and spring shows beforehand, so I was able to calculate the Annual results.

Soon the public were allowed in and the place became busy. Julie's presentation of the photographic competition was very well received.

The final presentation of the cups and awards went off without a hitch, hosted by Julie and Liz, and soon it was time to clear up and put it all away. My thanks go everyone who cleared away and especially to Jane and John Heritage who sorted out the tables in the cupboard by the stairs; I seem to remember these being a problem last year. Thanks also to Sandra who has the ability to pack a great deal of equipment onto the small shelves in the cupboard up on the stage. I wonder if she would come round and have a look at my kitchen cupboards!! The results have been posted on the website and congratulations go to all our winners and to Liz Crow for winning the Banksian Medal.



My thanks go to everyone who helped make the show a success.

What a team I have, I am so lucky.

See you all next year

Carole Hickman

Show Secretary.

The overall results for the year are below, and the full results for the autumn show are attached to this email, as they are too big to include here! A few of the photos are also at the end of the newsletter, with the rest being on the website.

| Annual Cup Winners 2024 | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Sandhurst Town Council Cup | Overall Winner highest points in the shows | Beverley Morgan |
| June Hurst Memorial Trophy | Roses | Sylvia Tansley |
| John Chuter Cup | Fuchsias | Carole Killick |
| Fred Stapley crystal Vase | Flowers | Carole Killick |
| George Brown Salver | Hanging baskets | Steve Roome |
| Josie Blunden Salver | Highest points in Classes 12 and 22 | Carole Killick |
| Fred Brant Trophy | Fruit And Veg | Beverley Morgan |
| Floral Vase | Floral arrangements | Ruth Page |
| Waitrose Cup | Culinary | Beverley Morgan |
| Doug Hammond trophy | Photography | Beverley Morgan |
| Banksian Medal | Highest points in horticulture classes over all the shows | Liz Crow |

BULBS



I'm sure your gardens are full of late summer colour but it's now time to think about planting bulbs for beautiful flowers next Spring. The Club's bulb order has arrived and they are now available from the hut. Hopefully there will be something to tempt you amongst the different daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinths and more. And remember all bulbs are sold at a discounted price giving you a significant saving compared to local garden centres.

Liz Crow

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%. The catalogues are now available to members and can be collected from the trading hut.

David Dunford

TRADING HUT

Autumn Bulbs are at the trading hut, they are selling well, but there is still plenty of choice. Shallots, Garlic and Autumn Onions are available to buy now.

A reminder that anyone interested in buying seed potatoes, spring planted onions and garlic that the deadline for order is **Sunday 27th October**. These are not connected to the seed order in any way, so will need to be paid for on order with collection from the hut in January. No postage will be charged on these. Order forms are available to download from the website and there will also be a small supply at the hut.

Lastly, the time is approaching for the annual hut stocktake, the last opening day will be Sunday 24th November. We plan to carry out the stocktake on **Monday 25th November**. If anyone can spare a couple of hours that morning to help it would be appreciated. It's just a matter of counting the remaining stock and recording it on the stock sheets. If anyone can help, please let me know, you can email sgctradinghut@gmail.com or ask to leave your name in the book at the hut.

CHANGES TO HUT OPENING TIMES

Sunday 27th October: The hut will be **CLOSED** on this day as there is no access to the site following the fireworks.

Sunday 10th November – Remembrance Sunday: We will be opening on Saturday 9th November **NOT** Sunday 10th. Usual time, 9 to 10.45 am.

HUT DUTY

Thank you to the volunteers who enable me to get the rotas for September and October done in record time! I am looking to fill dates in November, especially lifters on Saturday 9th, Sundays 17th and 24th, so if you feel able to help, please let me know on 01276 33062 or email johnwilliams288@hotmail.com

Please do let me know if you would prefer to be 'blind copied' into reminders that I send? A number of people have commented that it is nice to know who they are on with, but I do know that others prefer to keep their emails private.

Lesley Williams

TRIPS

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT LEONARDSLEE GARDENS - SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

All places have now gone for this trip.

If you are booked on this trip please can you email me: lydia.stonestreet@yahoo.co.uk with details of your mobile number and someone who can act as an emergency contact while you are on the trip in case anything happens.

Thank you

Lydia Stonestreet

MEMBERS' SURVEY

Thank you very much to everyone who responded to the survey – we had over 50 responses this year, the vast majority being online with under 10 being paper copies – all responses appreciated though.

We asked three main questions, and I've tried to summarise the results and the decisions made below. If anyone would like a full copy of the collated results, they are more than welcome to have them – they come to over 7 pages through, hence not including them here! Please email if you would like them:

secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Q1 - We currently have 30 cups/trophies/salvers etc that are awarded on an annual basis. The current cost of engraving these is approx. £350 pa. It is also a very large number of trophies!

Members are asked to consider:

- 1. To continue as we are or*
- 2. To continue to award trophies, not to engrave them and record the names in a special book for the purpose or*
- 3. To reduce the number of cups and continue to engrave as now*
- 4. Any other suggestion.*

There was no clear-cut choice here and taking into consideration the feelings expressed at the AGM last year, the decision has been made to continue as we are.

Q2 - Should we continue with daffodil and spring show, or combine the 2 into one show?

If we do combine, should it be in March or April?

This was much clearer – an overwhelming vote for combining the two shows into one, endorsing the feeling at the AGM. There was a very mixed feeling about March or April, so the decision has been made to go with April. It can always be revisited in the future.

Q3 - Christmas party

We are seeking your views as to whether to continue to hold a Christmas party. Traditionally, this has been one evening, at the end of November/early December. There is some sort of entertainer/singer/musician with buffet style food., attendees pay for the evening.

There are many different options; continuing with the Christmas party as it is (held on a Saturday evening or moved to a different day), move to a summer party which could be mid-week or Friday or Saturday.

At its most basic, we need to know if you would or would not like a Christmas party, which days(s) of the week you would prefer and what time (afternoon/ evening)

The only clear, overwhelming vote here was 'yes' for some sort of Christmas 'do'. Many varied options of day/night/day of week etc were put forward. The only thing that was clear was that there was no consensus as to when! We have therefore decided to try a 'Christmas gathering' this year, and see how it works. More details can be found later in the newsletter.

Finally, we received lots of suggestions for possible places to visit and also some good ideas for subjects for future talks, many of which I have tried to include in the coming year's programme. The committee also appreciated the thanks that were expressed by many members.






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 your 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. Tea and coffee will NOT be available on the night, although we will be running the raffle.

CHRISTMAS GATHERING

As mentioned in the survey section, we are going to try something different this year for Christmas. This will be on Wednesday 4th December at 7.15 pm in the community hall. There will be:

-  a Christmas jumper competition
-  a Christmas quiz
-  a Christmas raffle
-  a singalong (hopefully)
-  nibbles provided – sausage rolls, mince pies etc.



We will ask members to contribute £5 on the evening and more details will follow, but do put the date in your diary.

DAFFODILS!



Have you remembered to collect your three free daffodils from the hut, to enter in the show next spring? 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 are available to collect now and we ask that members are honest and only take their one allocation of three bulbs.

Already looking forward to a super display of daffs!

Julie Sheppard

SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The committee is always pleased to hear suggestions from members regarding the club. It was felt it might be useful to let the whole club know the response to a few of them:

- Minutes: can these be put on the website for members? There is nothing confidential about the minutes and the committee is more than happy to share them. However, they do contain information which might make the club vulnerable, particularly regarding the hut and its contents. The minutes also have an update from the treasurer, again something that probably isn't best shared on the website. However, if any member would like the minutes, either as a one-off, or regularly, please email me and I'll create a distribution list. They will be one month 'late' as they will need to be approved at the next meeting before being shared.

secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

- Club nights through the summer months: a request was made for something to happen in June, August and September when there aren't club nights. Suggestions included guided walks, BBQ, plant swap, open gardens – all these ideas sound super and the committee is more than happy to support anyone who would like to organise anything! Just get in touch:

secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

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.

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 |
| Sunday 27th Oct | Hut closed because of Firework clear-up | Trading hut |
| Tues Nov 5 th 2.30 pm | Talk: demonstration how to create a Christmas arrangement | Kitty Dancy room |
| Sat. Nov 9th | Trading hut OPEN | Trading hut |
| Sun. Nov 10th | Trading hut CLOSED (Remembrance Day) | Trading hut |
| 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 |
| Wed 4th Dec 7.15 pm | Christmas gathering | Community hall |
| 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* 07711 056 815 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



CAPTION COMPETITION:

No prize as such, just the pleasure of you seeing your name along with your suggested caption as to what these two could possibly be saying!

Entries by the end of October, in time for the next edition:

secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Thanks (I think) to Lori Bird for the photo! Taken during the prize giving at the autumn show.

(For members who aren't sure who these wonderful individuals are, it's Liz Crow and Julie Sheppard)

