



Sandhurst and District Gardening Club

Minutes of the 62nd AGM held at Sandhurst Community Centre on Wednesday February 19th 2025 at 7.15 pm

1.	Welcome & Minutes of 2025 AGM	Sheila Davenport
	All members were welcomed to the meeting.	
2.	Apologies & approval of minutes for 2024	Julie Sheppard
	Apologies were received from: Richard Cox, Kevin Roberts, Lesley Williams, Anne Read, Jackie Glover and Rachel Parker. The 2024 AGM minutes were accepted as an accurate record Proposed: Hilary Corio Seconded: Jane Heritage	
3.	Matters arising	Sheila Davenport
	Sheila recapped the outcome of the members' survey with regard to trophies and the daffodil/spring show: all trophies will continue to be awarded and engraved as in the past. The daffodil/spring shows will be combined as one and will be held in March one year and April the next, and continue alternating.	
4.	Proposed rule amendment	David Dunford
	The proposed change to rule 3 was accepted: <i>The Club shall be managed by a Management Committee consisting of a minimum of six members and maximum of 9. The Management Committee can co-opt additional members in year as required.</i> Proposed: Peter Radband Seconded: Gill Clark. There were no objections	
5.	Chairman's report	Sheila Davenport
	2024 will be remembered I think for the rain, a very wet spring followed by an almost non-existent summer. Not something us gardeners were hoping for. However, our shows in June and September went ahead, although perhaps a little smaller than usual, but nevertheless of our usual high standard as the judges remarked. Sadly, our treasurer Steve Roome passed away towards the latter end of the year. Steve was instrumental in bringing online banking and a cashless system to our club by also inducing a card reader. Steve contribution to the club was immeasurable and we miss him greatly. Without a treasurer and unable to access our bank account to pay bills we were up the creek so to speak without a paddle. However, Liz Crow and David Dunford stepped in to save the day. They both spent hours and hours working their way through receipts and bills etc. We as a committee are very grateful for all the work and time they spent putting us back into the black.	

	We had three coach trips which were very successful. One to Barnes Wetland, the Malvern Show in the Spring and Earlston Manor. All well supported by our members. Sunil and Gareth once again provided their garden for a plant sale which was very successful and we like to thank them for their kindness. Instead of a Christmas party, we tried a gathering with a quiz, light refreshment and music provided by a Ukulele band. I could see members were tucking into the refreshments and singing along to the band, so I believe it was a success. Looking forward to this year 2025, whether we like technology or not, it is here to stay and we need to embrace it. Our website needs to evolve and a presence on social media is urgently required. We are being left behind. However, it will all cost money and this year we have to look into ways of raising more funds. Finally, I am standing down again, I think I have held the post of chair for about ten years with a break, so time to go. However, I will remain on the committee and I would like to thank you, the members for supporting me over the years. Proposed by: Nina Cron Seconded: Gini Cope <i>There were no questions from the floor.</i>
6.	Treasurer's report Liz Crow
	Sadly, with the passing of Steve we have unfortunately been unable to access the original spreadsheets, but as mentioned we've attempted to reconstruct the accounts from paper records and receipts. I hope you've all had opportunity to look at the figures and there are a few points I'd like to highlight for the year ending 30th November 2024. As in previous years we continue to lose money on activities. • For Club Nights, including the afternoon talks, the deficit increased from £806 to £915 due once again to increasing costs of hall hire and speakers. It should be noted that for afternoon talks there is very little difference in the cost of speakers compared to evening talks. Thanks to those that donated a pound each for attendance at the November afternoon talk. It really is a case of a small contribution does help as this covered the hall hire on this occasion. • Shows also made a loss but not as much as the previous year due mainly to an increased net income from refreshments and the raffles. A total of £344 compared to £243. Thanks to all who support the club by enjoying cake and a cup of tea or buy a raffle ticket during the Summer & Autumn shows, and for that matter at Club nights too. Income from membership was up by £308 and higher interest rates have also helped with the club earning £128 compared to £87 on our deposit account. It is the trading hut that continues to provide the main source of income, and sales were up by £748. After costs profit rose by £902 from £2253 to £3156 for the year. Total income from all sources increased by 31%, a reduction compared to 37% in the previous year, rising to £5325. Despite this we made a loss on the year which continues the recent trend. If we look back to 2022, we made a loss of £530, in 2023 the loss was £2853 or £1373 excluding the one-off cost of the 60th party. For 2024 the deficit was £489. The observant amongst you will notice I have not mentioned coach trips or the figures at the very bottom of the accounts. We do not aim to make a profit on coach trips but rather to break even. That said the trip to Leonardslee was very popular meaning we were set to make a surplus of £198. The

	weather put a stop to this and, a decision made after year end to make a full refund to all those who purchased tickets, leads to an adjusted deficit for the year of £688. Bank balances remain stable at almost £12000 or £11744 after liabilities, and the club remains in a good financial position but as previously noted relies on the trading hut to subsidise other activities. I'll end by encouraging members to continue to support the trading hut, plant sale, raffle and refreshments both to offset rising expenses and to ensure we have a contingency fund to call upon if necessary. And with that I'll do my best to answer any questions. Proposed by: Pat Roome Seconded: Jane Heritage	
7.	Trading Hut report	Beverley Morgan
	I wanted to start by thanking all of those who help with the trading hut whether that is organising the rota, helping when we are open, bagging up and with the frequent deliveries. Lastly for the support of club members by your purchases. The trading hut is a vital part of the club, generating funds that support the various aspects of the club. Without the income generated we would need a significant increase in membership fees to maintain the club in its current format Last year we had good sales generally and particularly of all things slug related! As you can see, we had an increase in income, some of this is accounted for in an inevitable increase in prices but still shows an increase in support from club members. Some sales figures. Bagged composts etc. be they peat based or peat free, last year we sold just under 1200 bags, due to the obvious space limitations, this is a lot of deliveries. Space limitations are also the reason why, on occasions, your favourite item might not be available. We are unable to order until we know that we have the space to store it and at the time that we stock grow bags in particular, something has to give. The amount of feeds and chemicals which we bag is around 1500kg of goods each year. We have to adapt to changes that are coming in. There will be some changes to some of the weedkiller products that we currently stock. The planned expiry for products containing Glyphosate is December 2025. Weed killer products are being updated to a range of different ingredients and new orders that we make will be based on these formulations. Probably most of those available in garden centres and DIY outlets will already be the new formulation. Going forward there are to be changes around peat-based products, this is currently going through Parliament as a private members bill. It's at early stages and the earliest that it's likely to go forward is the end of 2025. We will keep members updated on these issues, as once these changes come in, we will not be able to sell these items. We carry a wide range of goods but if there is anything which you would like to see stocked please contact me via the hut email and we'll see if it is something that we could stock. Please keep supporting the trading hut in any way you can, whether that's by hut purchases or helping in one of the ways already mentioned. If you do wish to volunteer, please use the space on the membership form or email me on the hut email sgctradinghut@gmail.com Proposed by: John Heritage Seconded: Nina Cron	
8.	Election of committee	Julie Sheppard
	It was proposed that Andy Bale, supported by Ian Hopley be appointed as Treasurers	

	There were no other nominations from the floor to join the committee. The current committee were willing to re-stand and duly re-elected. Proposed by: Jane Heritage Seconded: John Heritage	
9.	Nomination of Trustees	Sheila Davenport
	Richard Cox, Liz Crow and John Heritage were nominated as Trustees Proposed by: Marilyn Grant Seconded: Andy Bale	
10.	Nomination for Life membership	Sandra Hooper
	The committee wishes to nominate Jane Heritage to become an honorary life member of the club. Along with her husband John she has been a member for more than 34 years and has provided invaluable service to the club. Jane has served on the committee for over 30 years, stepping down in 2023. Without doubt the success of the trading hut is due to Jane's management and the running of it. In 1998 the new hut was opened for business and following the resignation of Bob Smith, Jane assumed the day-to-day running of it. Under her management the sales soared, the range of stock increased, bird food was introduced and continues to sell well to this day, unquestionably, flourishing hut sales contribute to the financial well-being of the Club. In addition to the management of the hut, Jane was a very proactive committee member, recording and writing up the minutes of every meeting. She was very much involved with the preparation of the Club's submission for the King's award. Always at the forefront of Club activities, especially the catering of the Christmas and Anniversary parties, organising the club shows. If something needed doing, Jane would do it. Throughout, Jane has been supported by her husband John, who the committee wish to thank for his support to both Jane and the club. John remains a trustee of the trading hut and club. John assisted the club treasurer at the Summer & Autumn shows over many years, ensuring the exhibitors received the correct prize monies and trophies. Finally, we must not forget that for many, many years, John selected and served the wine, enjoyed by many at the Christmas & Anniversary parties. Jane herself stated that as well as making the hut a great success, one of her greatest achievements was organising with John, a click & collect service from the hut during Covid, thus ensuring the Clubs gardeners were able to carry on doing what they loved, gardening. The committee whole heartedly and unequivocally recommend that Jane Heritage becomes an honorary member of the club. Proposed by: Claire Shenton-Taylor Seconded: Carol Hickman	
11.	AOB	Julie Sheppard
	Hilary Corio gave her thanks from the floor to the committee for all the work identified earlier in the meeting and everything above and beyond that.	

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm