



Newsletter 6 – June 2026

Dear Members,

Well, the weather is making it hard for us once again – searing heat one moment and then rain with high winds the next. Let's just hope it all settles down in time for the show next weekend! I do hope you will have a good look at the [schedule](#) (attached) and think about what you can enter. As said before, no-one is an expert, it's all about having a go – be it for a pretty rose, and favourite veg, a lovely item of handicraft or your ability to follow a recipe and produce a cake/whatever – it's always worth a go!! See below for details of how to enter (NOTE: the deadline for photographs has now passed).

We were pleased to see some new faces at the last meeting, so thank you to those members who brought along a friend for free with them; hopefully they will have enjoyed the evening and become members. The next opportunity for this will be at the July meeting so if there was someone who wasn't around for May, bring them along in July!

There has been a slight change to the July talk – the subject matter of 'Greenhouses and Polytunnels – Year-Round Use' remains the same, but the speaker has now changed. Graham Talbot, a long-standing friend, judge and speaker for the club has now stopped doing all these things – a big loss for us! However, we have another speaker, Janey Parker, who was recommended by Ray Broughton.

Hope to see you all with many exhibits at the show!

Julie Sheppard

SUMMER SHOW

Just a short time now until the Summer Show.

All details on the show can be found in the schedule which is on the website The deadline for entry is the Thursday prior to the show (18th June) at 12 noon. Entry forms should be emailed to:

shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

or delivered to the following addresses:

10 Nightingale Gardens GU47 9DQ

or

26 Burne Jones Drive GU47 OFS

or

May be left at the Trading hut before it closes on Sunday 14th June

Entry is open to all members - you don't have to be an expert. Perhaps some seeds have come up rather well or you fancy trying to make black bean brownies? Surprise yourself and you could be winner!

The Show Team look forward to welcoming you all to the Show on Saturday 20th June.

Your friends and family are welcome to come and see all the wonderful exhibits too! Entry from 3 pm. See you there!

COULD YOU HELP AT THE SHOWS AS A STEWARD? TRAINING AVAILABLE...

The Show team would like to train up a few more people to act as stewards at the various shows. The job is not difficult and just involves being at the show for an hour or so while the judges go round the exhibits doing their judging bit. The main tasks are shown below. If you think you might be able to help

sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

with this in future and could come along to the summer show to shadow/work alongside an existing steward, do please get in touch with the show team - shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

- Assist new exhibitors and ensure that all exhibitors have put the right exhibit in the right class
- Ensure all class cards have been turned face down so that exhibitor names are not showing
- Welcome your allocated judge and introduce yourself as their steward
- Keep a discreet distance from the judging – no comments should be made except to answer any administrative queries
- Ensure that all exhibits have been judged and complete 1st, 2nd & 3rd certificates
- Check for comments from judges and ask for clarification if necessary
- Check that judge's card has been fully completed and signed and return it promptly to the show secretary
- Ensure judge has chosen 'best exhibit' and award rosette accordingly
- Turn all class cards over to reveal exhibitor's name

TRADING HUT

We have recently had a delivery of multi-purpose compost; both peat-free and peat-based are in stock. A reminder for those of you who are dahlia growers - all of the products mentioned by Graham Talbot at his last dahlia talk are currently available at the Trading Hut: Sulphate of Potash for July feeding, Jeyes Fluid to help with earwigs, SB Plant Invigorator for general plant protection and lastly 4' canes for supports. Tomorite and Doff Tomato feed are available, as are treatments for slugs and snails. There are a variety of slug pellets and also a supply of slug traps and slug collars, especially useful for cabbages and lettuce.

The Trading Hut is again planning to offer seed potatoes, onion sets and shallots towards the end of this year. The seed potatoes will be from Jamieson Brothers, all available in 2kg bags. Based on the information currently available there will be a choice of around 30 varieties. All potatoes, onions and shallots will be on an advance order and payment basis only. As they will form part of the end of year hut order there will be no additional postage costs. More details will appear in the newsletter as soon as they are available.

- There are new stocks of berry suet available
- The hut cannot take donations of plastic pots, so please recycle them at one of the local garden centres.
- Please ensure you bring your membership card with you - it can then be shown to the person on gate duty and well as assuring the person on counter duty that you are a member. Thank you.
- Lastly, the decision has been made to no longer offer honey at the trading hut as the local supplier already supplies a number of outlets in the village.

Bird food

Some people appear to have missed this message re: bird food.

As many of you may be aware, the [advice from the RSPB](#) with regard to feeding birds has changed slightly, recommending we change to feeding the birds seasonally with no nuts and seeds being put out for birds between May 1 and October 31st. However, they are also saying that suet and fat balls may be put out.

With that in mind, the committee have agreed that we will not order any more seeds and peanuts when the current stocks sell out until the Autumn, but will continue to replenish suet and fat balls. Seeds and peanuts will be reordered ready for the hut reopening after the summer break in September.

Sandhurst music festival - parking

There will be no parking/access to the hut on Sunday 19th July because of the festival. However, the hut will still be open. Please either walk, or park just outside and walk in. Perhaps visit the hut the week before or week after if you want compost/anything large!

WADDESDON MANOR AND GARDENS TRIP – 23rd OCTOBER 2026

A trip to view this beautiful French Renaissance-style château with an extensive art collection, landscaped gardens, aviary and woodland playground. Include in the ticket is entry to see the impressive [Standing with Giants exhibition](#):



'This visually powerful and deeply moving display brings home, in the most immediate way, the scale of sacrifice made on D -Day'

Details:

What: Waddesdon Manor, House, gardens and exhibition

When: Friday 23rd October 2026. Depart Owlsmoor shops 9.15 am, leave Waddesdon approx. 4.00 pm.

Cost: £43.00 (includes coach and full entrance). **RHS Member** – Free Entrance Garden Only (with membership card) - Coach and House: £31.50 per person **National Trust Member**. Entrance free (with membership card). Coach only: £20.00 per person.

Payment: Either via Bank transfer (below) or by card at club night or the Trading Hut.

Bank details: Gardening Club of Sandhurst & District

Sort Code: 09-01-51

Account No: 92029304

Ref: Waddesdon

More information can be found on the attached flyer. To secure your place on this trip please email trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk with your Full Name, mobile number, emergency contact name and number. Please confirm if you are a National Trust Member or RHS Member. It would also be helpful if you could advise what payment method you intend to use when booking. The closing date for the trip is **Monday 21st September 2026**.



SANDHURST ALLOTMENTS TOUR

Have you ever wondered what goes on at the end of the road past the Trading hut (apart from football that is)? Well, if so, we have the answer for you - Sandhurst Allotments can be found there and club member Peter Radband has kindly agreed to provide a guided tour of the allotments. Details as follows:

- Date: Tuesday 21st July at 2pm

sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

- Meet: at the Trading hut
- Parking: Either The Café on the Park or the Community Hall car park.

Please note, members on the tour will not be covered by the Allotment group insurance.

No booking is necessary – just turn up on the day.

PLANT SALE

Amazing, wonderful and overwhelming!! I am talking about your response to providing plants for the sale in Sunil and Gareth's front garden.

I went along with my offering early afternoon on the Friday and I think there was barely any room left for more plants. Gareth had to have a bit of a move around to accommodate mine, what a wonderful situation to be in!

Just over £840 was raised for our club, which is much needed in order to keep our membership as low as possible and to pay for speakers, our shows etc.

Thank you on behalf of the Committee for responding so well to our request.

I would also like to thank Sunil and Gareth for once again allowing us use of their garden for the sale, not forgetting all the volunteers who helped on Friday and again on Saturday.

Sheila

MEMBERS' SURVEY

If you have not yet completed the survey, this is a BIG plea for you to do so - it helps the committee in many ways, from ideas for speakers and trips to guide the future direction of the club. PLEASE complete it in one of the following ways:

- Online, by following this link <https://forms.gle/UUpS5QjLmaCFHdYM7>
- Downloading the attached copy, completing it and emailing it back to secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk
- Completing a paper copy that will be available from either the trading hut on club night and handing it in – either to the trading hut or at club night.

The closing date for the survey is Friday 26th June, but obviously we would appreciate them back asap.

Many thanks

The committee

TRIP TO NYMANS GARDEN



My heart sunk a little bit when I opened my front door to leave the house to be confronted by rain, but thankfully the sun did eventually put his hat on!

We had booked our wonderful driver Mike, but sadly he has been poorly, due to being knocked off his bike last year. So we had a new Driver, Chris, who I think kept us entertained, was very friendly and extremely knowledgeable in running coach trips; we were in safe hands.

The M25 was kind to us, this meant we made good time to arrive at Nymans just after 10.30 am. We were greeted by two lovely NT staff members who boarded the coach to run through various things to do and see whilst at Nymans for the day.

So, our first stop was to sample the tea and pastries! Nymans had done a great job of staffing the café, no long queues!

We then walked the pretty route to visit the House, with beautiful views across Downs as it sits at 500ft above sea level. Walking past the 160-year-old Cedar of Lebanon, which we were told could survive a forest fire as the trunk was very springy! A highlight for Nymans currently was the Handkerchief tree (*Davidia involucrata*) native to China, in bloom with its pretty white flower bracts that flutter in the wind. We entered the House to be greeted by a very enthusiast NT volunteer who relayed the story of how the fire started back in 1947, an ill-advised blow torch to some frozen pipes during the bleak winter of '47, which was thought to have started the fire. Anne Messel occupied what was left of the house until her passing in 1992. Such stories of great gatherings whereby to this day there are the champagne cork marks and sprays of champagne on the ceiling!

There was also an exhibition of Winnie the Pooh celebrating 100 years with a link to the Messel family a friend of the illustrator E. H. Shepard.

The gardens had lots of Rhododendron and Azaleas which were looking particularly spectacular as they were just coming into their best for the time of year.

The Rose Garden was still to be developed and looking particularly sad due to the poor soil. Nymans are still looking to a solution to improve the soil to re-plant with new roses.

The time seemed to fly by so a quickly with a brief look in the plant centre/gift shop to purchase a couple of plants /gifts. Then back on the coach for our return journey.

Thankfully, as we were the only coach visiting Nymans that day we had no extra passengers this time!
Rachel and Jill



PROUD TABLE



Once again members at club night were involved in the judging of the Proud table by casting their bean (given on entry) in front of the exhibit they thought should win. The next Proud table (July) will see the beans being handed out during the interval to prevent premature voting, before all entries arrive! proud. Congratulations to Peter Radband and his cactus who were voted as best by all of you. Sorry, no pic of the cactus, but there is one of Peter!

JOB AVAILABLE!

Still hoping that someone/some people will step up for this; it's exactly the perfect time of year to handover/work alongside me:

Do you fancy choosing what we will have talks about each month? If so, then the job of booking speakers for each month could be right up your street! This is a job that could be done by one person, or equally easily by a couple of friends. There is a period of time when bookings need to be made but apart from that it's just a case of a reminder email each month ahead of the booking just to confirm all is ok. I'm more than happy to talk through this role in a little more detail if you think you might be interested – there will be no obligation! I would say you need to be ok sending and receiving emails though as that is how most talks are booked and confirmed.

If you are able to help with this, I would love to hear from you! Please ring me or email or grab me at a club night/when I'm on hut duty – whenever!

secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk 07711 056 815

Many thanks,
Julie Sheppard

sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Red denotes changes/updates

Date	Event	Venue
Sat 20 th June	Summer show	Community Hall
Wed 24 th June 2 -3 pm	Last afternoon opening of the trading hut	Trading hut.
Fri 26th June	Closing date for members' survey returns	
Wed 15 th July 7.15 pm	Talk: Greenhouses & polytunnels - year-round use and bring a friend night	Community Hall
Sun 19th July	Hut open as normal, but no access for cars	Trading hut
Tues 21st July 2.00 pm	Tour of the Sandhurst allotments	Meet at Trading hut
Sun 26th July	Last hut opening before summer break	Trading hut
Sat 5 th Sept	Autumn show	Community Hall
Tues 6 th Oct 2.30 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed 21 st Oct 7.15 pm	Talk: A gardener's life	Community Hall
Fri 23rd Oct 9.15 am	Trip: Waddesdon manor, gardens and exhibition	Depart Owlsmoor
Tues 3 rd Nov 2.30 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed 18 th Nov 7.15 pm	Talk: companion planting	Community Hall
Dec – date tbc	Christmas party	Community Hall
2027		
Tues 5 th Jan 2.30 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Tues 2 nd Feb 2.30 pm	Afternoon talk	Kitty Dancy room
Wed 17 th Feb 7.15 pm	AGM Talk: Hedgehogs	Community Hall

CONTACT DETAILS:

Hon Co-Chairs: David Dunford* & Liz Crow* chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Hon Secretary: Julie Sheppard* 07711 056 815 secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Treasurer: Andy Bale* andrew.bale4@ntlworld.com and Ian Hopley* hopley.ian@gmail.com

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

Coach Trips: Rachel Parker & Jill Humphries trips@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Show entries: Email entries are preferred. shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Show contact details: shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Wisley Tickets: 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

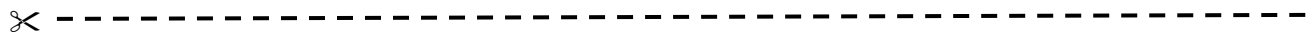
Postal membership renewals – Ian Hopley* 24, Waterside Lane, Sandhurst. GU47 8AD

Please include a SAE with your completed membership form.

Seed and Plant orders: David Dunford* 01252 656826 chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

General enquiries: enquiries@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

* Denotes committee member



'BRING A FRIEND' NIGHT - July

Member's Name:

Friend's Name:

Friend's email address: