



Newsletter 8 – August 2026

Dear Members,

As I always do, I looked back at the paragraph I'd written at the introduction to the newsletter last August: *'I have just heard on the news that this summer is set to be the hottest on record'*. I think the only difference this year is that we know it's the hottest summer; we don't need any statistics etc to tell us, our gardens are doing it: brown lawns, drooping plants and sad looking pots. It could sound like a real tale of woe, apart from the fact that we gardeners are nothing if not resilient and we're not going to let a few dry months beat us. 😊

So, with the Autumn Show fast approaching, don't be put off by a few brown leaves or smaller-than-expected fruit and veg. Take heart in that we are all in the same boat and the Autumn show is all about showing what you are growing. Your fruit, veg, and flowers may not be as big as you would like, but they might be bigger/better/more colourful than other folk! Gird your loins, be determined not to be beaten by the weather and be part of the gardening club's determination to have a good number of entries at this year's show. To paraphrase Lord Kitchener:

YOUR GARDENING CLUB NEEDS YOU!

So do please enter things for the show; your best at show time may just be the prize winner (not that it's all about prizes... 😊)

Can I also take this opportunity to wish club member Margaret Schaap a very happy birthday! She celebrated her 111th birthday this year, as you can see in the photograph. A ballroom party was put on for her in the community hall.



Julie Sheppard

AUTUMN SHOW

Our biggest show of the year, The Autumn Show, will be on **Saturday 5th September**. Do you have the date in your diary?

Even with the hot weather have you managed to grow some wonderful vegetables or some gorgeous flowering plants? The show entry is for all members - how about encouraging the youngest members of your family to enter the children's classes? As well as all the growing classes, have you considered entering the crafts, culinary or photographic classes? There are lots of options, take a look in the schedule (available on the [Club website](http://sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk) and also attached) and join in the fun.

The deadline for entry is the **Thursday prior to the show (3rd September)** at 12 noon. Your entry form 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

Staging: Exhibits must be staged between 9.30 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.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES FOR THE SUMMER SHOW

Photographic entries have to be in earlier, by **Thursday 27th August by 5.00 pm**. This gives the judge time to see them before the show. Photos must be in JPEG format, no more than 5Mb in size and sent to secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk. Please detail which class each photo is entered for. The classes are:

- Pond Life
- Summer Colours
- "I can **sea** for miles"

And finally...

From 3pm onwards on Show Day, bulbs will be offered on sale at the usual reduced prices. Get yours early to avoid disappointment.

Hope to see you there 😊

The Show team

TRADING HUT

The hut re-opens on **Sunday 6th September** until our last Sunday opening on **29th November**. Any changes to openings because of events in the park will be notified to you.

The hut is well stocked; we are currently awaiting top-up deliveries of bagged manure and bark ready for the autumn. Thinking of colder weather, we are able to supply greenhouse bubble insulation if anyone is interested. This is the large bubble type, UV stabilised, with 3 ply double skin. This is not a standard hut item as it's difficult to store, but is available in rolls 1.5m x 50m at a cost of £105. This would be delivered with our normal orders so would not be liable for any postage charges. If you would like to order a roll (alone or with friends!) please contact us on sgctradinghut@gmail.com. We can also supply the twist clips if you need them.

Seed Potatoes, Onions & Shallots

We are offering seed potatoes and spring planting onions and shallots again this year. The potatoes will be provided by our regular hut supplier in January; they have been provided to them by the well-known potato supplier Jamiesons. Both International Kidney and Pink Fir Apple are available again this year. I'm pleased to be able to confirm that there is no increase in price on seed potatoes, onions and shallots from

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last year. They are competitively priced, with the added bonus that there are no postage charges. An order form is attached to this newsletter and will be available to download from the website. There will be a limited number of printed copies available at the hut. Please make sure you complete your details and method of payment.

All orders will need to be paid for in advance and the deadline for orders and payments is Sunday 25th October 2026. These will be to order only, there will be no general stock at the hut. If paying by bank transfer please use your name and POT as a reference:

Bank details: a/c Gardening Club of Sandhurst & District
a/c 92029304 and sort code 09-01-51

Seed Orders

Following requests from members the club will consider a club order in the autumn for members. This has been very successful in the past with packet seed only discounts of up to 50% which, with the increasing price of seeds, could attract a significant saving. The amount of discount is linked to the monetary order we place. It would help to understand how many members are likely to place an order. If you are interested in placing a packet seed order, could you please send an email to me at chair@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk preferably by the 5th September to decide whether it will benefit you as members.

David Dunford

Bird food

The bird food has arrived (see full car photo on right)! Restocked items of bird food in the trading hut are: Supreme, Nice'n' Clean, Soft Bill, and Sunflower Hearts. Fat Balls, Suet and Peanuts were stocked just before the hut closed at the end of July. All prices remain the same, except for sunflower hearts which have gone up in price by 15p per kilo.

Graham & Helen Harding



ARE YOU BIT OF A HANDYMAN?

If so, could you help? The wooden gantry that holds the hanging baskets at the shows is somewhat large, high and unwieldy. Coupled with this, floral judges have sometimes asked to see the top of the hanging baskets, which is impossible without a step ladder. We therefore need someone to reduce the height of the gantry by half. It is made of wood, so hopefully will be relatively straightforward. Its size means that it is stored at the back of the club's cupboard in the community hall. Therefore, if anyone will undertake this work the best time to get the gantry will be either on the Friday night before the show or on the Saturday as the show finishes. If you think you might be the one, can you please get in touch either with a member of the Show team or with me:

shows@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

There will be no mad rush to get it completed, as it won't be needed again until the summer show next year.

Thank you!

Julie Sheppard

WADDESDON MANOR AND GARDENS TRIP – 23rd OCTOBER 2026

Have you booked your place yet? There are still some places available, but these will be offered to other clubs and societies after **31st August**, so to be sure of having your seat guaranteed to see not only the magnificent 'Standing with Giants' exhibit, but also the amazing house, you need to book your place NOW!

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 Sandhurst library, Yorktown Rd bus stop 9.15 am and

Owlsmoor Shops, Yeovil Rd bus stop 9.25 am

Leave Waddesdon approx. 4.30 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** although it will be offered to other clubs after 31st August.

The Trips team

SANDHURST ALLOTMENTS TOUR



About 20 club members joined Peter Radband for a very pleasant, entertaining and informative tour of the Sandhurst allotments back in July. There were a wide variety of allotments – some big, some small, some packed to the gunnels with fruit, veg and flowers (some particularly impressive sunflowers), and others laid out more like a small garden. There were sheds, greenhouses, and other structures. Recycling was a key theme, and impressively one large frame had come from a nearby royal residence! Considering the difficulty in keeping things watered this summer you could see these were really a labour of love for many people. As one member said it was ‘most interesting and enjoyable, with a real sense of community’.

Thank you, Peter.

Sally Bennett

CHRISTMAS (yes, I know...)

It's as difficult for me to type that as it is for you to read it, but we must plan ahead. A date has been agreed for the Christmas event this year (Wed 9th Dec). However, we don't know what this event might look like and having done a variation on a quiz theme for the last few years, we thought it would be good to throw it open to you, the members. Have you any good ideas? Would you be willing to run something? The committee will of course support you and you would only be expected to do the 'entertainment' side of things. Please have a think – variety is the spice of life they say and a bit of variety this Christmas would be lovely! Please let me know if you can help or would just like a bit more information/want a chat:

secretary@sandhurstgardeningclub.co.uk

Thank you,

Julie Sheppard

PROUD TABLE



The theme for the July meeting's Proud table was 'Your garden edibles'. Club members placed their beans with much thought given to their judging and decided that Liz Crow's impressive basket of edibles should be the winner! Congratulations to Liz, who you can see her with her basket of edibles.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Red denotes changes/updates

Date	Event	Venue
Thurs 27 th Aug 5.00 pm	Deadline for submission of photographic entries for show	
Thurs 3 rd Sept 12 noon	Deadline for submission of show entries	
Sat 5 th Sept 3.00 pm	Autumn show	Community Hall
Sun 6 th Sept 9.00 am	Trading hut re-opens	Trading hut
Mon 21 st Sept	Closing date for trip to Waddesdon manor	
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 23 rd 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
Wed 9 th Dec	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@googlemail.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