



SGAA

88th Autumn Community Show Schedule

Date: 5th September 2026

**St Nicholas Parish Church
Rectory Lane Stevenage SG1 4DA**

**Doors Open 2pm
Entrance is FREE**

Classes for:

**Vegetables, Flowers, Floral Art, Cookery,
Photography, Juniors & Handicrafts
Produce Stall, Refreshments and Tombola**

www.sgaa.co.uk



A Very Warm Welcome to the S.G.A.A. Annual Show

2026!

We're delighted to welcome you to this year's show, and we're especially excited to announce a new venue for 2026, chosen to make it easier for more people to join us and enjoy the day.

This year's schedule includes a number of new classes, reflecting the creativity and enthusiasm of our growing community. We'd love to hear your thoughts, your feedback helps us make each show better than the last!

Thanks to a mild winter and a glorious spring, we're hopeful that this year's growing season will be one of the best yet. Whether you're showcasing your produce, baking, producing crafts we wish you the very best of luck.

Let's look forward to another successful show and hopefully a sunny day to match!

Finally, a BIG THANK YOU to our amazing committee, judges, and helpers. Your hard work and dedication are what make this event such a success year after year.

Warmest wishes,
The S.G.A.A. Show Team

2025 Class Winners:	
Best Kept Allotment	Rebecca Cartey
Scarecrow	Frank Herring
Tallest Sunflower	Maureen Mott
Novice	Geoff Chambers
Fruit:	Emma Smith
Flowers	Naomi Mitchell
Home Produce	Frank Herring
Heaviest Veg	Alex Fletcher
Site Tray	Steve Castle
Lady with Most Points	Naomi Mitchell
Gentleman with Most Points	Frank Herring

Allotment Show Rules

Entry Deadlines

All entries for Sunflower, Scarecrow, Best Kept Allotment, Best Front Garden and Best Hanging Basket must be submitted by **8th August**. Judging for these categories will take place on **15th August**.

All other entry forms should be handed into the shop when open or emailed to events@sgaa.co.uk no later than **30th August 2026** when entries close.

Entry Format

Photography entries to be 6x4 in size and backed on white paper. Please ensure your items are clearly labelled with the entrant's name and class number on the back. Please remember to bring your items on the show day so they can be displayed between 08:30 AM and 10:30 AM.

Staging

Entries must be staged between **08:30 AM and 10:30 AM** on show day. Late entries will not be accepted.

Judging

Judging will take place from **11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**.

The judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Conduct

All participants are expected to behave respectfully and support the community spirit of the event.

Any form of misconduct may result in disqualification.

Removal of Entries

Entries may be removed after 4:00 PM, once the Trophy Awards have concluded.

Photography and Media

By entering, participants agree that their entries may be photographed and used for SGAA promotional purposes unless otherwise stated.

Show Day Timings:

Staging of Entries:

08:30 AM – 10:30 AM: Participants must bring and set up their entries during this time.

Judging:

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM: All entries will be reviewed by our panel of judges.

Show Opening:

2:00 PM: The event officially opens to the public with stalls, displays, and activities.

Trophy Awards Ceremony:

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Winners will be announced and trophies presented.

How you can help:

Please help by contributing cakes, and savouries for the Refreshments area prior to the day.

We would also welcome contributions for the Tombola, during the weeks before the Show. Please bring them to the Shop during opening hours.

Please consider helping, even in a small way, with preparations for the Show:

- setting up tents and stalls,
- Tidying common areas,
- Putting up notices,
- Manning the stalls on the day.

It can be a lot of fun and you meet your fellow plot holders! We will be putting out a list of jobs that you can sign up for nearer to the time of the Show.

If you are interested in helping please email events@sgaa.co.uk

Showing Hints – How to Impress the Judges!

- Check the S.G.A.A. website and Facebook page for updates, advice, and examples of past exhibits.
- Ensure the plain side of your entry card is displayed during judging (your name must not be visible).
- Judges prioritise quality and uniformity, not size alone.
- Use white paper plates to display produce where suitable; spares will be available.
- Use sand or onion rings to stage onions and shallots — sand will be available on the day.
- Present entries neatly; avoid overcrowding in vegetable collections.
- Label varieties where possible to help judges and add interest.
- Check your entry carefully before leaving the staging area.

Hints for Specific Vegetables

Vegetable	Judging Criteria
Beans (Runner or Dwarf)	Long, straight, even pods; fleshy and brittle with stalks.
Beetroot	Uniform size, deep shape, small tap roots, well-coloured, 3" (7.5cm) tied stem.
Cabbage	Medium size, firm hearts, clean well-formed leaves, 4" (10cm) stem.
Carrots	Medium size, even form, clear skin, bright colour, no side shoots, 3" (7.5cm) stalk.
Cauliflower	Medium size, firm, rounded, white and clean, 4" stem, free from stains.
Marrows	Medium size, approx. 9" (23cm) long, 3" (7.5cm) diameter.
Onions	Clear skin, globular shape, solid, neck tied with raffia, no splits or over-skinning.
Peas	Large, well-filled pods, deep green with bloom, clean and rust-free.
Potatoes	Medium size, disease-free, few shallow eyes, clear and fresh skin.

Vegetables- Novice (This section is open to S.G.A.A. members who have not won a first prize in either the Members or Open sections)

Class 1	3 root vegetables of different kinds
Class 2	2 onions of a similar size shown on a plate
Class 3	2 chillies of the same variety.
Class 4	2 courgettes same variety of equal size
Class 5	3 potatoes of the same variety and the same size
Class 6	1 Cabbage any variety
Class 7	1 Cauliflower

Open

Class 8	3 onions, shown on plate with sand or on onion rings, all to exceed 225g weight
Class 9	3 onions, shown on plate with sand or on onion rings, not to exceed 225g weight
Class 10	3 white potatoes of equal size, shown on a plate
Class 11	3 coloured potatoes of equal size, shown on a plate
Class 12	5 runner beans with stalk, of equal size
Class 13	5 French beans with stalk, of equal size, shown on a plate
Class 14	2 sweetcorn shown on plate. Cobs should be displayed a quarter stripped
Class 15	3 large tomatoes of equal size, shown on a plate with variety clearly labelled.
Class 16	5 tomatoes of any kind and colour, equal size, shown on a plate with variety clearly labelled
Class 17	9 small or cherry tomatoes, equal size, shown on a plate with variety clearly labelled
Class 18	1 truss of small or cherry tomatoes, shown on a plate
Class 19	2 squash, same variety, of equal size
Class 20	2 courgettes, same variety, of equal size
Class 21	2 cucumbers , same variety and of equal size
Class 22	3 sweet peppers, shown on a plate
Class 23	3 chilli peppers, same variety, shown on a plate
Class 24	1 cabbage, any variety
Class 25	3 carrots, same variety, of equal size, shown on a plate
Class 26	3 beetroot, same variety, of equal size, shown on a plate
Class 27	3 of any other vegetables not in this section
Class 28	1 plate of any 4 vegetables
Class 29	1 pot of 3 kinds of mixed herbs.
Class 30	SGAA Growers Site Tray. For three or more plot holders to show produce & flowers grown on their plot/site. Will be judged on quality & variety of produce;. Display to be arranged on SGAA Growers green tray available from Lawrence Avenue Shop.
	Flowers displayed in a SGAA Growers green vase

Novelty Vegetables	
Class 31	The longest Runner Bean
Class 32	The longest carrot, as grown with foliage intact
Class 33	A peculiar shaped vegetable
Class 34	Heaviest Pumpkin
Class 35	Heaviest Marrow
Class 36	Heaviest Cabbage
Fruit	
Class 37	9 Blackberries with calycles attached, shown on plate
Class 38	9 Raspberries with calycles attached, shown on plate
Class 39	3 apples with stalks shown on a plate
Class 40	3 pears with stalks shown on a plate
Class 41	3 of any other fruit shown on a plate
Flowers	
Class 42	3 roses; single bloom
Class 43	One single stemmed rose
Class 44	1 vase 3 bloom dahlia
Class 45	Sunflowers; 3 blooms
Class 46	Three Sprays of Chrysanthemums
Class 47	Asters x 3 stems
Class 48	Largest Sunflower Head flat on table
Class 49	3 Dahlias - Small Decorative or Semi Cactus 11 cm to 16 cm in size
Class 50	1 Gladioli Spike
Flower Arranging Classes (Novice)	
Class 51	A Great Story design to interpret a book title of your choice. Title to be stated and accessories allowed
Class 52	A small round table centre piece using own choice of flowers and foliage
Class 53	Flower arrangement 'in a teapot' space allowed 42cm width, 30cm depth
Class 54	Flowering pot plant up to 230mm diameter pot from seed, bulb, corm or cutting
Class 55	An exhibit in a shoebox accessories allowed
Flower Arranging Classes (Advanced)	
Class 56	Exploding Wreath
Class 57	Floral headdresses
Class 58	Autumn Shower Display
Class 59	Sustainable Floristry Innovation
Class 60	Edible Floral Arrangements

Home Produce	
Class 61	Apple Pie (with pastry top and bottom)
Class 62	Victoria Sponge any filling
Class 63	4 scones, sweet or savoury
Class 64	4 brownies or blondies
Class 65	Jar Marmalade of any flavour
Class 66	Jar of Jam any fruit
Class 67	Jar of Chutney
Class 68	Jar of pickled onions
Class 69	Jar of Piccalilli *Recipe included on next page
Adult Photography *Photo maximum size 40 x 30 cm	
Class 70	Reflections
Class 71	Wildlife on the Plot A photo capturing insects, birds, or other wildlife visiting the allotment.
Class 72	Life on the Plot A candid photo capturing daily life, work, or leisure on the allotment.
Class 73	Seasonal Beauty A photo showcasing the allotment in a particular season (spring, summer, autumn, or winter).
Class 74	Harvest Highlights A photo featuring freshly harvested produce in an artistic or natural setting.
Garden Classes	
Class 75	Best Front Garden*
Class 76	Best Hanging Basket
Adult Craft	
Class 77	A hand knitted item of clothing - free choice
Class 78	Crocheted Item using “Granny Squares”
Class 79	Cross Stitch or tapestry item (please label if kit or freestyle)
Class 80	Set of Christmas Tags using any medium
Class 81	Set of 3 Greeting Cards
Class 82	Handmade Paper Flowers or Decorations
Environmental Excellence	
Class 83	Upcycled Garden Creation
Class 84	Best Wildlife Habitat

Children's categories	
Class 85	Illustrated Alphabet: "A-Z of the Allotment" (e.g. A for Apple, B for Beetroot) (Ages 4–8)
Class 86	Veggie Monster (Ages 4–8)
Class 87	Collage of a Garden Scene (using torn paper, magazines, tissue paper) (Ages 4–8)
Class 88	Folded Paper Caterpillar or Butterfly (Ages 4–8)
Class 89	Download and colour a poster for next year's show (Ages 4–8)
Class 90	Handprint Flower Bouquet (painted or cut-out hand shapes) (Ages 4–8)
Class 91	Painted Pebbles or Stones (nature or allotment theme) (Ages 4–8)
Class 92	Homemade Bird Feeder (using recycled materials) (Ages 9–14)
Class 93	Origami Garden (minimum 3 items: flower, insect, animal) (Ages 9–14)
Class 94	Recycled Paper Sculpture (e.g. bird, tree, vegetable) (Ages 9–14)
Class 95	Illustrated Storyboard: "A Day on the Allotment" (4–6 panels) (Ages 9–14)
Class 96	Poem: "A Day in the Garden" – Any style, up to 12 lines (Ages 9–14)
Class 97	Flower Arrangement in a mug (Ages 9–14)
Class 98	Painted Pot Competition (Ages 15–17)
Class 99	Vegetable Inspired Bake (Ages 15–17)
Class 100	Design a Dream Allotment (Drawing or 3D Model) (Ages 15–17)
Top of the Crops	
	Tallest Sunflower
	Best Kept Allotment *
	Best Scarecrow

* Criteria for the *Best Kept Allotment* and *Best Front Garden* categories can be found on the SGAA website.

Piccalilli Method

1. Put the vegetables into a non-metallic bowl. Sprinkle the salt over the top, toss together, cover and leave in a cool place for 12 hours.
2. The next day put the vinegar into a large saucepan or preserving pan, add the spices and bring to the boil.
3. Drain the vegetables and rinse well under running water for 3-5 minutes. Add to the simmering vinegar, cook over a low heat for 20-25 minutes or until the vegetables are tender. Add the sugar and continue to simmer for a further 1-2 minutes.
4. Mix 2 tbsp of cornflour with a little water and blend into the hot vegetables. Bring back to the boil and cook for a further minute, the mixture should be glossy and thick. Add the remaining cornflour in the same way if necessary.
5. Remove the piccalilli from the heat and leave to cool for 15 minutes. Spoon into the hot jars and cover with a disc of wax paper and a screw top lid, wipe the jars and label. Store in a cool dark place for 3-4 weeks before eating.

Ingredients

- 450g/1lb each pickling onions, peeled, cauliflower florets and de-seeded cucumber and topped and tailed French beans, all chopped into bite-sized pieces
- 340g/12oz coarse rock salt
- 750ml/1¼ pint white malt vinegar, cider vinegar or white wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp each English mustard powder, ground ginger and ground turmeric
- 1 tbsp whole yellow mustard seeds
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 175g/6oz light muscovado sugar
- 2-3 tbsp cornflour
- warm large sterilised jam jars with screw tops

Frequently Asked Questions – Exhibiting at the SGAA Show

Who can exhibit in the show?

The show is open to everyone, you do not need to be an SGAA member to enter. Whether you're entering a vegetable, flower, craft, or baking item, the only rule is that you must have grown it yourself or made it yourself. There will be show stewards available to help with staging if it is your first time!

Must I have an allotment to take part?

No! We welcome entries from gardens, balconies, and even window boxes. If you've grown or created something with care, we'd love to see it.

Do I need to live in Stevenage?

Not at all. You can be from anywhere and still take part in the show.

I don't think I'm good enough...

Yes you are! The show is all about celebrating participation and community. Many first-time exhibitors go on to win awards. It's the taking part that counts.

Do I have to pay to enter?

No – entry to the show is completely free for all exhibitors.

What if I'm unsure which class my item fits into?

Don't worry – we're happy to help.

You can email us or speak to a steward on the day. We'll make sure your entry is placed in the correct class so that it's judged fairly.

How do I enter?

Class details are available on the SGAA website.

Entries open 12 weeks before the show and can be submitted online,

Need help or have more questions?

We're here to support you. If you have any questions or need guidance with your entry, please get in touch at: events@sgaa.co.uk



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We are very proud and privileged to be part of the
Stevenage Allotments' Annual Show.