



Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

Hello Everyone and a Happy Christmas to you all

It seems an age since our last meeting but it's just how the Wednesdays work out sometimes.

I hope you have been enjoying the festive season so far despite the appalling weather at times and have managed to avoid the usual germs going around. I finally planted the last of my tulips last Tuesday but still have some anemone blanda and alliums to go in. The lawn just squelches so they will have to wait until it's fit to stand on and I can access the flower beds. I have several garden jobs that need doing but I've decided to give December a miss this year and have some time off!

It's our **Christmas social next week on Wednesday 20th** and this year we are having it **in the afternoon from 2.45 to 4.15 pm**. It's a chance just to socialise and chat to other members, relax and have a break from the tearing around that seems to happen in the run up to Christmas.

The layout will be a little different this year as the Committee room is no more so there will be tables in the main hall for food contributions. As usual, we ask you to bring a small plate of sweet or savoury finger food i.e. small things such as sandwiches, sausages, cheese bits, mini tarts, anything chocolate or marzipan, things that are your favourites.

We will be providing crisps and savoury nibbles and as ever, Richard and Anne Bickle will be serving drinks, a glass of sparkling wine this time. In addition, tea and coffee will also be served.

I have quizzes prepared and Iris thought you might like another chance to see the club "archive" boards so I will be bringing those as well.

Don't worry if you didn't sign up last month, it was only to give us a guide for potential numbers. We will be pleased to see as many of you as possible who can make it and let's enjoy a happy afternoon spent with like-minded people.

You will find the details of next year's programme overleaf and arrangements for paying fees. We have a terrific programme for next year and I do hope you will want to rejoin.

If you are unable to make the Christmas social we hope to see you on January 24th, which is the 4th Wednesday, due to the staging of the panto.

With all good wishes for a happy, healthy Christmas and a great year in 2024.

Sue Crabb, Chair



December 2023

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 20th December
2.45-4.15pm

Christmas Social Afternoon

Wednesday 24th January
please note date

Clematis and climbers

Pip Bensley, award-winning floral designer

Wednesday 21st February

AGM followed by Gardening

for our wildlife communities
Bob Lord, Chairman or Friends of Ballard Water Meadows

Wednesday 20th March

The land and the No Name Nursery
Steve Edney

Wednesday 17th April

Seasonal herbaceous perennials
Rosy Hardy

Wednesday 15th May

Merton's Dream Garden: the story of Russell-Cotes
Phil Broomfield, Russell-Cotes Museum

Full programme overleaf

Club meetings are normally held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at **Milford Community Centre**, aka The Bridge, unless otherwise stated. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. Refreshments available from 7pm.

Subscriptions for 2024

£25 per person. You can pay by any of the following methods:

- Bank transfer to **Milford Gardeners Club, Sort Code 40-30-36, A/c no 21213644**, quoting your name as the reference (*preferred option as cheapest for the club*)
- Cash at the next meeting
- Cheque payable to **Milford Gardeners' Club**. **Important:** *please add 40p to cover our bank charges.*

Please don't pay by bank transfer until 1st January - it makes the end of year accounting easier!

There is no need to complete a form as long as your contact details are unchanged.

Many thanks

Clare Johnston, Treasurer

Programme for 2024

January	24 th	Clematis and climbers <i>Pip Bensley, award-winning floral designer</i>
February	21 st	AGM followed by Gardening and our wildlife communities <i>Bob Lord, Chairman of Friends of Ballard Water Meadows</i>
March	20 th	The land and the No Name Nursery <i>Steve Edney</i>
April	17 th	Seasonal herbaceous perennials <i>Rosy Hardy</i>
May	15 th	Merton's Dream Garden: the story of Russell-Cotes <i>Phil Broomfield, Russell-Cotes Museum</i>
June	19 th	The rejuvenation of Athelhampton House and Gardens <i>Speaker to be confirmed</i>
July	17 th	Out evening Woodpeckers Care Home garden, Sway Road, Brockenhurst, SO41 7RX. NB 6.30 pm
August		No meeting
September	18 th	Beautiful English gardens <i>Andy McIndoe</i>
October	16 th	Wildlife in a village (tbc) <i>Mike Read, wildlife and landscape photographer</i>
November	20 th	Camellias and their cultivation <i>Tom Clarke, Exbury Gardens</i>
December	18 th	Christmas Social

Committee members still required

Do you come to most of our monthly meetings?

Are you keen to see the Gardeners' Club continue to thrive?

Do you have a little spare time?

We will be **three** committee members short after the AGM and it would be great to have some new committee members. We still don't have a secretary and currently Clare and I cover the secretary's role between us. This means that minute taking at our meetings is rotated around the committee members. We are managing but it's not ideal.

We have about 5 meetings a year:

Usually **January** to discuss the AGM and any other issues arising.

March/April to make arrangements for the plant fair and further planning for the year ahead.

June, a wash up of the plant fair/discussion of arrangements for our evening and **tea and cake in Sue's garden!**

September start of winter programmes and looking towards the end of the year and following year.

November for planning for Xmas social.

I always try to keep the length of meetings to a maximum of 2 hours. I like to rattle through things if I can; I am not a great "committee person" - life is too short!

What is involved

You need to attend the majority of club evenings and be there by 6.45pm to help set up/help where needed and generally mingle and get to know the members. Also, be available to help at the plant fair and our evening and any other events but **this is not set in stone. I know that people have busy lives outside of the club and can't always be available.**

Role of Committee member

- Oversee the activities of the club and make decisions on spending.
- Make sure we are running the club according to our rules.
- Make decisions on the day to day running of club meetings and special events.
- Feed ideas and suggestions for speakers, our evenings and any other activities to the Chair.

Committee meetings are usually on a Monday afternoon at 2.30 pm.

At least 6 of the committee, myself included, are now well into our seventies and it would be really good for the club's future if some younger members considered joining the committee so please have a think about it and contact me if you want to know more.

Sue Crabb, Chair



**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year**