



# Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

## Hello everyone

What a brilliant start to our 2020 programme! I think we were all a bit dubious about having a 'TV personality' but not only was David Domoney very personable, he was also a very entertaining and knowledgeable speaker. I, for one, was very impressed by some of his imaginative design concepts and I think everyone was thrilled by his hints and tips at the end of his talk and I have included some of them overleaf.

I know the Plant Fair isn't just yet but over the next month or so I am sure you will be splitting up plants and sowing seeds so please earmark a few for the Fair. Also, if you have a lot of snowdrops, primroses or hellebores in your garden that you wouldn't mind sharing, we are looking for some for the Copse where quite a large area has been cleared and needs replanting. If you can help, let me know.

Despite the awful weather recently, spring flowers are emerging and the evenings are getting lighter. If you fancy braving the weather, Hilliers have a Winter bulb and snowdrop exhibition on this coming weekend (Friday to Sunday) and the Winter garden was looking lovely a few weeks ago. There's lots to see and enjoy including some fabulous daphnes and witch hazels.



*Sue Crabb – Chair*

## Charity nominations for 2020

Don't forget that you have until March 4<sup>th</sup> to put forward charity nominations, along with some information about the organisation. We like to try to support smaller, local causes who are really boosted by some extra funding.

## AGM agenda and minutes

The agenda and minutes of the last AGM are available on the [website](#).

Email: [milfordgardeners@gmail.com](mailto:milfordgardeners@gmail.com)

## February 2020

### Monthly Meeting Dates

#### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February

AGM followed by "Will there be enough cake?" Mary Hayter, NGS (NB. Change of speaker)

#### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

*Fabulous foliage and tempting tenders* Steve Edney

#### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

*Hanging basket demonstration* Sue Berriman and Anne McMurtry

#### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

*Flowers of reserves and roadsides in the local area* Gerald Ponting

#### Wednesday 17th June

*Plight of the Bumblebee* Gill Perkins, Bumblebee Conservation Trust

#### Wednesday 15th July 6.30pm

*Out evening* Mabel's Café, Shallowmead Nurseries

#### Wednesday 16th September

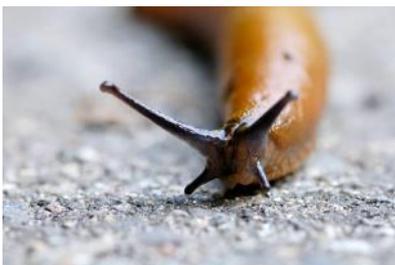
*Late summer flowers and ornamental grasses* Marina Christopher

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

Website: [www.milfordgardenersclub.co.uk](http://www.milfordgardenersclub.co.uk)

## Some of David Domoney's garden club gleanings. I'm sure there were more!

Bananas skins are very good for roses (potassium). [Get more tips by clicking here](#)



Slug deterrents included: Spruce needles, gravel, eggshells microwaved for 2 minutes then crushed, copper coins on soil in pots, sandpaper wrapped around the rim of a pot.

Grated soap mixed in layers of compost in pots deters squirrels from digging bulbs up.

When planting bulbs using a trowel, push and twist them down into position so there isn't a space underneath.



Pine cones super-glued together and hung up make a safe home for ladybirds. [Click here for ladybird and other insect hotels](#)

Cut a CD-sized hole in the bottom of a fence for hedgehog routes. [Click here for more hedgehog tips](#)



Milk can be used to clean the leaves of pot plants with leathery leaves such as rubber plants or monstera and a little mayo can be used to shine up the leaves.

A cut-off lemonade bottle, up-ended in a hanging basket makes watering easier and helps keep the compost moist.

Wine corks make very good 'feet' for standing pots.

Tights stretched across the bottom of the down pipe before it goes into a water butt act as a filter.

Check out David's website for more useful tips. [www.daviddomoney.com/blog/](http://www.daviddomoney.com/blog/)