



# Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

## Hello Everyone

It's a New Year and we are already halfway through January! Despite the cold of the last few days, I hope you have been able to get outside, even if only for a little while, to just enjoy the sun and living by the sea. Driving along the cliff top this morning I was so uplifted by the view and thought, as I try to do every day, how lucky I am, to live here. 😊

Gardening is pretty much still on hold. A couple of days this week I have done an hour around 2.00-3.00 pm but after that the temperature seems to plummet but it is getting noticeably lighter in the evenings. So make plans, dream your dreams, plot your escapes! It won't be long before things change.

I'm looking forward to our talk next week. Pip Bensley gave us a great talk to start last year and I'm so pleased we have her back again. We also have some top-class speakers in this year's programme for you, so do come and support the club.

I was delighted that the Christmas social was the best we have had for several years. Fifty-two people came and having canvassed everyone, they were unanimously in favour of an afternoon meeting in December instead of an evening one, so that's what will happen in future. It's all sorted. 😊

Subs are due this month. If you have yet to pay, details are provided overleaf. You can pay online or bring cash or a cheque to next week's meeting.

Next month will be our AGM and I still have committee vacancies. If you think it's something you could help with, please get in touch with me. You could always attend a committee meeting on a trial basis. Details about what is involved are included again in this newsletter.

**I also urgently need a volunteer with some secretarial skills to take minutes at the AGM.** Clare and I will sort the preliminary paperwork, but we need someone to record what takes place at the meeting.

Lastly, you have until early March to nominate a charity for the coming year. The vote will take place at the March meeting. I'm going to nominate Honey Pot again but you may know of other small local charities doing worthwhile work and in need of a cash boost to keep going.

That's it for now, I look forward to seeing you all next week.

*Sue Crabb, Chair*

## January 2024

### Forthcoming meetings:

#### **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*

**Wednesday 19th June**  
The rejuvenation of Athelhampton House and Gardens  
*Speaker tbc*

**Club meetings** are normally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Many thanks to those who have already paid their subs. If you haven't yet, here are the details again:

£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.

There is no need to complete a form as long as your contact details are unchanged. Membership cards will be available at the next meeting.

Many thanks

Clare Johnston, Treasurer

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## Programme for 2024

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

# 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*

