



Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

Hello Everyone ...

and welcome to another year of garden talks and activities.

The weather through December and into January so far has not been the greatest for getting outdoors and tackling jobs. It's either been wet and squelchy underfoot or the ground has been freezing. I live in hope that this year will be kinder to us than last year which was pretty tricky for growing things, with rain and warmth all at the wrong times.

Never mind, we are now a third of the way through January, evenings are definitely lightening up a bit and there are signs of early spring bulbs poking through. Travel hopefully!

I'm looking forward to next week's talk about Holme Gardens, having visited in 2019 with the club and it was super then. It will be interesting to hear how it was developed and I am sure Simon will have some great pictures to show us. The committee is discussing whether we will have a visit there sometime later this year.

The Xmas social was enjoyable and around 40 people came. Thanks to Richard and Anne Bickle for manning the drinks for yet another year. It was unfortunate that another event was taking place in the village the same afternoon so our numbers were down from last year. I guess that's the downside of living in a village with so many things on offer; choices have to be made! But aren't we lucky to have all these events to go to?

Annual subscriptions are now due and still at the same price as last year. Details for paying are provided overleaf. I'm hoping you will all rejoin, as our numbers are shrinking. If you have friends or neighbours who have gardens or know someone who has recently moved to the Village who might be interested, please encourage them to come along.

Not only are the membership numbers shrinking but so is the Committee and we will be down to six after the AGM. Just about enough to keep things running but not ideal. If you think it's something you could help with, please get in contact with me. You could always come along to a committee meeting on a trial basis. Details about what it involves are included in this newsletter but it won't make huge demands on your time.

Lastly, it's time to think about our charities for the coming year. You have until early March to nominate a charity and the vote will take place at the March meeting. You can give details and information about any you wish to nominate to me, or any of the committee, at the next two meetings or you can email us.

That's all for now, I look forward to seeing you at next week's meeting, which is on **January 22nd**, the fourth Wednesday of the month, not our usual third Wednesday because of the pantomime.

Sue Crabb, Chair

January 2025

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 22nd January

The making of a new public garden *Simon Hopsack, Holme for Gardens*

Wednesday 19th February

AGM followed by Sustainable growing practices on the allotment *Gill Hickman, Pennington Allotments*

Wednesday 19th March

How we made the Down House garden *Mark Porter*

Wednesday 16th April

Clever ways to grow vegetables *Martyn Cox*

Wednesday 21st May

Hanging baskets and pots - demonstration *Ray Broughton*

Wednesday 28th June

Inspiration from Tresco Abbey Gardens *Ben Turner*

Wednesday 16th July 6.30pm

Out evening to Oakhaven Hospice

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.

Email: milfordgardeners@gmail.com

Website: www.milfordgardenersclub.co.uk

Subscriptions for 2025

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their subs by BACS. If you haven't already paid, please use one of the methods below. If you can't remember, email me at milfordgardeners@gmail.com and I can tell you!

In spite of rising costs, we have been able to keep subscriptions to **£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 January 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.

Many thanks

Clare Johnston, Treasurer

Programme for 2025

January	22 nd	The making of a new public garden <i>Simon Hopsack, Holme for Gardens</i>
February	19 th	AGM followed by Sustainable growing practices on the allotment <i>Gill Hickman, Pennington allotments</i>
March	19 th	How we made the Down House gardens <i>Mark Porter</i>
April	16 th	Clever ways to grow vegetables (in small gardens and containers) <i>Martyn Cox</i>
May	21 st	Hanging baskets and pots - demonstration <i>Ray Broughton</i>
June	18 th	Inspiration from Tresco Abbey Gardens <i>Ben Turner</i> *Plants for sale*
July	16 th	Out evening Oakhaven Hospice, Lower Pennington Lane, Lymington SO41 8ZZ NB 6.30 pm start
August		No meeting
September	17 th	Attracting beneficial wildlife to your garden with flower power <i>Marina Christopher</i>
October	15 th	The history of Furzey Gardens <i>Julia Baker</i> *Plants and handicrafts for sale*
November	19 th	Grasses and Ferns <i>Chris Bird</i>
December	17 th	Christmas Social NB afternoon event



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.

Most of the committee, myself included, are now well into our seventies or more 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