



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. 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, though I have looked at the forecast for the next couple of weeks and it's looking rather wet and grey. Hmm.....

The Christmas social was very enjoyable and around 40 people came. Thanks to Richard and Anne Bickle for manning the drinks for yet another year. Everyone brought delicious food and the quizzes were enjoyed by all. It was a very congenial get together for our last ever Christmas social. As you will see from next year's programme there will be no meeting in December 2026 but we have changed January 2027's meeting to the first week in January so there isn't too long a gap between meetings.

Annual subscriptions are now due and still at the same price as last year. Details for paying are provided below. I hope 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, do some active recruiting!

Not only are the membership numbers shrinking but so is the Committee. We have just about enough people to keep things running but it's not ideal. I have had one new volunteer to join the committee in 2026 but it would be lovely to have another younger member. Do think hard about whether it's something you think you could help with, it won't make huge demands on your time. We only have about 4 business meetings a year and a social get together in the summer.

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 those you wish to nominate, to me, or Clare at the next two meetings or you can email us.

January 2026

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 21st January

Sea Spring seeds - how to choose the right variety for your needs *Joy Michaud*

Wednesday 18th February

AGM followed by The road to Winchester *Pip Bensley*

Wednesday 18th March

The genius of the Georgians *Janette Merilion*

Wednesday 15th April

Glorious gardens of France *Rosemary Legrand*

Wednesday 20th May

The English garden - a quest for paradise *Gillian Taylor*

Wednesday 17th June

Plants and landscapes of the Western Cape *Ben Turner*

Wednesday 15th July

Out evening - Countryside Education Trust, Beaulieu

Wednesday 16th September

Scotland's western islands *Mike Read*

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.

That's all for now, I look forward to seeing you at next week's meeting, on Wednesday **January 21st**, which *is* actually the third Wednesday because of how the days fell this year. Our speaker is Joy Michaud talking about vegetable seeds and how to choose the best ones for your needs. We have had her before and this should be an excellent and informative talk. She will be bringing interesting seeds to sell, a chance to try something different.

Sue Crabb, Chair

Subscriptions for 2026

Thank you to those who have already paid their subscription and a special welcome to new members.

To the rest of you, we hope you enjoyed your membership last year and will rejoin. In spite of rising costs, we have been able to keep subscriptions the same at **£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 2026

January	21 st	Sea Spring Seeds - how to choose the right variety for your needs <i>Joy Michaud</i>
February	18 th	AGM followed by The road to Winchester <i>Pip Bensley</i>
March	18 th	The genius of the Georgians <i>Janette Merilion</i>
April	15 th	Glorious gardens of France <i>Rosemary Legrand</i>
May	20 th	The English garden - a quest for paradise <i>Gillian Taylor</i>
June	17 th	Plants and landscapes of the Western Cape <i>Ben Turner</i>
July	15 th	Out evening Countryside Education Trust, Beaulieu NB 6.30pm start
September	16 th	Scotland's western islands <i>Mike Read</i>
October	21 st	A brief history of garden design - 4000 years in 60 minutes <i>Helen Milne</i>
November	18 th	Edibles outside the vegetable plot <i>Roger Hiron</i>