



Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

Hello Everyone

We're still enjoying long light evenings, but the sunshine is playing hide and seek at the moment. We got used to being warm and having sunshine day after day and I know I wasn't the only person caught on the hop on our recent holiday! It was a bit colder up north but vests in July? I for one didn't have one and wished I had! We had a fabulous time thanks to Jenny's brilliant organisation, research into places to visit and her ongoing enthusiasm for doing these trips (though this one threw up a lot of problems.) Thanks, Jenny, and I hope we never take your efforts for granted.

I'd like to say a big thank you to those members who opened their gardens. Chris Twyford, Sheila Collyer, Maggie Welsh, Pat Higgins and Carol Chesters all made their gardens available to visit and it was lovely that they were all so different. As a trial run, I think it worked pretty well. I was a bit disappointed in the numbers who visited but I realise that June is always a busy time. We have raised another £114 in donations for the club charities and I understand some more gardens may open before the end of the summer so watch this space.

I'm looking forward to our out evening, details of which Jenny has provided below. About 60 people indicated that they might come so please try to car share. There is parking but if all 60 of you come potentially there may be 15 cars!

That's all from me for this month but there's lots more to read below. Look forward to seeing you next week.

Sue Crabb, Chair

Out Evening to Folium & Flos Wednesday 19 July

Directions: Folium & Flos, Meadow Farm, Sway Rd SO41 6FR. Head to Hordle along Everton Road to petrol station and up Vaggs Lane. Turn right at top and Folium is on right. There should be signs.

Time: 6.30 until approx 8-8.30pm. Refreshments will be served (most provided by our hosts).

This is a wholesale nursery (ask about retail) who provide large plants for Chelsea, Hampton Court and many biggish projects across the UK.

Parking: there is parking but please share if possible.

Chairs: if you need a chair to sit on please bring a folding one, as few are available. Surface is rather uneven, so wear suitable shoes.

Lets hope for a sunny warm evening.

Jen Spenser

Email: milfordgardeners@gmail.com

July 2023

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 19th July 6.30pm
Out evening to Folium and Flos

Wednesday 20th September
Wildlife in common: Martin Down and New Forest commons *Pete Durnell*

Wednesday 18th October
Container planting with bulbs for a year of colour *Tim Woodland*

Wednesday 15th November
Plants for problem areas
Roger Hiron

Wednesday 20th December
Christmas Social Evening

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.

Website: www.milfordgardenersclub.co.uk

Holiday 2-6 July 2023

We had another successful holiday, this time to the SW of the Peak District. No one got lost and we came back with the 33 we set off with. With a delightful and excellent driver, Mark, our holiday went well. The hotel, Shrigley Hall, appeared to have become much larger since our last stay many years ago but enabled us all to have walks around the estate and watch the golfers looking for their balls in the rough!

Gardens lived up mostly to expectation. Our first stop at Stone House Cottage and Nursery was a lovely cottage type garden with some unusual plants in the nursery. This was really the only opportunity to buy, though our visit to the new RHS Bridgewater Garden had some expensive offerings. The garden there is still developing and might be worth a revisit in 5 years, but the highlight for many was meeting up with Jean Robinson, who was our secretary for many years... oh Jean, on so many fronts you are truly missed.

We were warmly welcomed at Gawsworth Hall by two brothers Jonny and Rupert, who were on hand to pour tea and give us a history of the beautiful 15 century house and their mum gave a great insight as we toured the building.

A first for many of us was the National Trust Biddulph Grange garden..... very Victorian, with grottoes, natural stone mounds and Italianate borders.

For some the best was kept until last – no true garden but a national memorial set in a sweeping 150 acres of arboretum. With too little time we were packed into a 'land train' with an excellent commentary over the loudspeakers telling the harrowing stories of bravery from our armed forces. This is really worth a second longer visit. Following a long journey home, we were back in Milford, in glorious sunshine, in time for Marigold to go bellringing!!

Next year? Just watch the newsletter later this autumn.

Jenny Spenser

