



Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

Hello Everyone

As I write, the rain has stopped..... for now. What unsettled weather we have had so far this summer and how tricky it has made gardening, especially for vegetable growing. My roses have been the worst ever. I never spray them and usually feed and a good mulch with horse compost early on keeps them healthy. This year they have been plastered with greenfly and some are now starting to get black spot. We have at least another two months of peak growing time to think about so let's hope things settle down a bit.

We were fortunate with the weather on our 2-night trip to Devon and the break was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone; more of that further down.

Out evening

This will be next Wednesday evening, July 17th, as usual a "members only" event. We are going to see the gardens at **Woodpeckers Care Home in Brockenhurst, meeting there at 6.30 pm.**

There will be limited parking at the home but it's not far from the primary school so if you are able to walk easily, park there and try to car share as much as possible.

The easiest route from Milford is up the Lymington to Brockenhurst Road and turn left just before the Filly Inn, signposted Sway and come into Brockenhurst down Sway Road past the golf club. Woodpeckers is on the left hand side, near the school. There are plenty of side roads to park in.

There may be some plants for sale and I have been informed that they may wish to take some photos which may go on social media or internal literature promoting the home and its activities. If you do not wish to be photographed just stay out of the picture.

Hope the weather is kind and we have a good attendance. Drinks and nibbles will be provided as always.

Garden Club holiday to North Devon

We left Milford promptly at 8.30am but then followed a tortuous journey to get to our first garden, Burrow Farm. It should have taken

July 2024

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 17th July 6.30pm
Out evening at Woodpeckers, Brockenhurst

Wednesday 18th September
Beautiful English Gardens
Andy McIndoe

Wednesday 16th October
Wildlife in a village *Mike Read*

Wednesday 20th November
Camellias and their cultivation
Tom Clarke, Exbury Gardens

Wednesday 18th December
Christmas Social (afternoon)



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.

no more than a couple of hours but there were diversion signs out on the A35 at Dorchester. I'm still not convinced the road was closed but we followed the diversion signs and finally, after a brief pit stop, arrived at 12.00.



Burrow Farm Gardens is delightful with borrowed landscape of distant hills. There are a number of distinct areas to the garden including roses, grasses, perennial borders and many mature trees. There's a lovely walk to a lake and a meadow just to mention a few features. The whole garden feels relaxed and calm, it was full of colour but not over-manicured and had lovely planting and colour schemes. Add in a cafe, small shop, plant sales and ornamental garden features to buy in stone and ironwork and you had some happy gardeners. If you are heading that way or down to Devon or Cornwall, I can't recommend it more highly for a break in the journey. It's not far from Axminster.

The hotel caused a few problems. We arrived at 6.00 pm, they were expecting us for dinner at 6.00! However, it was moved to 7.00 which was just as well because they had one lift which only took 4 people and there was no help to get luggage upstairs. The last of us got to our rooms at quarter to seven, no time for anything except a quick turn round.

Our whole day visit to Rosemoor the following day was excellent. It only took half an hour to get there from our hotel so we were there soon after 10.00. The roses were spectacular! They were obviously a little later blooming than up our way and they were mostly at their peak. The scent and colour was sublime. Added to which the weather was warm and dry, perfect for exploring the full extent of the



garden. Some of our party opted to go outlet shopping in Bideford at 3.00pm whilst the rest were picked up from Rosemoor at 4.00pm and the driver picked up the shoppers on the way back to the hotel. And yes, money was spent!

Back at the hotel in the evening there was entertainment from a singer who had been a backing player in some well-known bands and half a dozen ageing gardeners hit the dance floor for a while with much laughter between us.

We left the hotel at 10.00am the next day and headed for the Dartington Glass factory shop at Torrington, only half an hour away. More money was spent and then we went on a cross country route to Hestercombe, our final garden stop. I have to say the route from Torrington was not what I would

have chosen but I was delighted as we went through lovely countryside and villages I knew as a child and South Molton, where I grew up. We even went past the house where my dad grew up and I saw my old primary school. Oh what excitement!

Hestercombe is an historic house and garden which encompasses 50 acres. It had a kind of faded elegance with some formal gardens on a terrace overlooking more formal beds. A trust was established in 1996 to oversee the gardens and try to preserve them using the old garden plans of Edward Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll who were involved in the original layout. Sadly, they don't seem to have enough volunteers so progress is slow. I think those people who were able to explore the grounds and see the lake had the best of the visit. There were areas where the terrain was rough and there were a lot of steps to negotiate. It's a very interesting place but you really need to spend a whole day there.



So, many thanks to Jenny for organising this one and to Clare for sorting out the money and payments. As ever it was hugely enjoyable with good company, three very different gardens and chances to spend money....and not just on plants! I'd say it was a great success.

We won't be organising a holiday next year, but I will investigate some day trips which are do-able.

Lastly, (or nearly) I hope we may have a couple of open gardens, but it will be very much weather dependent and seeing how things are growing in these tricky weather conditions. We'll keep you posted by email.

We don't normally meet in August, but I am proposing an informal picnic at the community meadow, arrangements and date will be in the August Newsletter.

I have an article in the Village Voice about the Meadow, which I have decided I can no longer manage so if you know of anybody who is young and enthusiastic about the Meadow, please ask them to get in touch with me.

That's all for now, hope to see lots of you next week.

Sue Crabb, Chair

