



Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

Hello Everyone

Finally, we are moving towards Spring! Yes, it's still raining but the days are getting longer and even on dull days the sky feels lighter and it's getting warmer. It's anybody's guess though what the weather for the coming months holds but we will manage and adapt to whatever is thrown at us!

The deadline for charity nominations has passed and we have had 3 nominations: Honeypot, Lymington Basics Bank and Olivia Inspires. As last year, there will be a voting box for each charity which will be labelled and counters will be available for you to cast your vote. You may only vote for **one** charity. At present we have decided to stick with 2 charities, as we have done in the past, so whichever two have the most votes will be chosen. (See page 3 for details of charities.)

I have been busy working with the WI on a joint outing in May, details of which are attached. I do hope lots of you will sign up to go, as the places we are to visit are all fantastic and it will be a full day out at a lovely time of year. If you can't make next Wednesday's meeting but are interested in going, please email us on the club email address, milfordgardeners@gmail.com.

The daffodils on the green are coming into flower. We were late planting them but I think they will be in full bloom by the Easter weekend. Unfortunately, some at the top corner have been trampled on, possibly by people taking a short cut in the dark. Josh, who cuts the grass, knows not to cut them for 6 weeks after they have flowered so hopefully they will bulk up for next year. In the meantime, they are starting to look good and there are 3 different varieties to look out for.

Up at the Meadow we have cleared quite a large area to the right of the path and I am in the process of organising some wild flower turf for it. This will contain at least 30 species of wildflowers and if we get it laid and established properly, it should be blooming in June. Exciting times to look forward to. If you haven't yet found the Meadow, do go and have a look; it's through a metal gate off the path behind the Church leading to the road out of Milford

I will not be at next week's meeting as I have the opportunity to be away with family for a short break, but I know my stalwart committee will manage admirably and Steve Edney is an inspiring speaker.

Have a Happy Easter and I will see you all in April.

Sue Crabb, Chair

March 2024

Forthcoming meetings:

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*

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*

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

Proposed joint outing with Gardeners' Club and WI

Date: Thursday May 23rd leaving Milford at 9.00am

To [Houghton Lodge](#) near Stockbridge. This is a fabulous garden with a peony border, herbaceous border, a newly created Japanese garden and walks through meadows down to the River Test. Here from 10.30 to 12.30

Then on to [Longstock Park](#) nursery owned by John Lewis. It has a cafe and food area with interesting food and deli items, not the usual stuff. There is a wonderful plant nursery with a garden beyond the wall with an herbaceous border, espaliered apple tree walk with clematis and a picnic area with some tables.

Here 12.45 to 2.45pm.

Then on to a garden called '[Terstan](#)' just outside Stockbridge, which is owned by Penny Burnfield who is a textile artist who has exhibited with the "62 group" (for those of you who have an interest in these things!) Her design skills and eye for colour are reflected in the garden. **She is in the NGS yellow book but is doing a private opening for us.** Here 3.00 to 4.00pm then returning to Milford. Probably back by 5.00 or soon after.

Timings are approximate but more or less as above.

Cost

If we get over 31 people, Houghton Lodge is £10.50 per person.

Terstan is £8.00 but we can have tea and cake there for £5.00 which makes that £13. When I visited last year the local WI had made the cakes!

If we get 45 people, coach will cost £11.44 including £1 tip for driver.

Total likely cost if **45** people go: **£35.00**

If **40** people sign up: **£36.25**

For an extra £3 a head we can have tea/coffee in the Orangery at Houghton Lodge, but they have a very tiny cafe and we would need to pre-order.

There will be sign-up sheets to show interest at WI this week and Garden Club next week (please don't sign up twice!)

We will be asking for confirmation and payment 6 weeks before the outing which will be April 11th. Details to follow.



Houghton Lodge



Longstock Park



Terstan

Charity nominations

We have received three nominations for this year's charities. You will have the opportunity to vote for **one** at the March meeting, and the two with the most votes will receive a share of the profits from the Plant Fair.



Honeypot Children's Charity

This charity is well-known to members as we have supported it before. They do invaluable work in providing support and respite breaks for young carers, especially those aged 5-12.

Honeypot House is in Blackfield in the New Forest.

You can read more about their work at honeypot.org.uk.



New Forest Basics Bank

This food bank is based in Lymington and provides food and other essentials for people in need across the New Forest.

You can find out more at basicsbank.org.uk.



Olivia Inspires

A truly local charity, it was set up in memory of 20 year old Milford resident, Olivia Burt, who tragically died in 2018.

Olivia Inspires assists children and young people aged 11 to 18 years, whose families live in the New Forest District Council area and who are facing financial hardship. Grants of up to £500 are available to provide items or services to enable them to achieve their potential in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), the arts and sport.

Find out more at oliviainspires.org.uk.