

# Milford on Sea Gardeners' Club Newsletter



## Hello Everyone

We have certainly experienced some challenging conditions for gardening in the last few weeks. Sky high temperatures over Easter, cold nights this past week and precious little rain! Well, it does keep us on our toes..... and watering, already!

This is such a lovely time of year. Trees are looking beautiful in soft, new greenery, birds delight us with their song and the light evenings mean we can garden for even longer! Make sure you get out there and enjoy it as much as you can.

As promised, I have included the garlic recipe for spraying and a few other tips from John Baker, who talked to us about growing hostas a year or so ago.

We won't have members' plants for sale this month due to the Plant Fair, but there will be plants to buy from the speaker.

*Sue Crabb – Chair*

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## Plant Fair – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May

**Helpers list** - this is filling up nicely but there is still room for more, please! 7-9am, 9-11am, and 11am- 1.30pm. I shall bring the list to the 15th May meeting to see who is interested to give a hand – it's not onerous, in fact if the sun shines it's positively fun. Email: [jspenser@talktalk.net](mailto:jspenser@talktalk.net)

**Plants to sell for the Fair** - I hope everyone is dividing, growing (veg & flowers), and tending plants to bring for selling. They need to be well labelled please and can be delivered to the Green as early as convenient from 7am onwards.

If you cannot do any of the above remember to come and shop and tell all your family and friends. The money goes directly to two local charities - Bumblebee Conservation Trust and the MoS Community Library. Both will have stalls.

*Jenny Spenser*

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## Outing on 6<sup>th</sup> June

There are still some places available on the coach to two gardens near Bere Regis on Thursday 6th June, price £25 to include entry to the gardens and tea & cake in the afternoon. Please see Iris at the monthly meeting next week or ring her if you would like to go but are not going to be at the meeting. Those who have already booked and not given your lunch choice to Iris, please see her next week or phone, 01590 641495.

## May 2019

### Notice Board

#### Plant Fair - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May

*Please sign up to help at the Plant Fair.*

#### Sway Open Gardens – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>

**June 11am-5pm** Tickets: £6.50 in advance; £7.50 on the day.

### Monthly Meeting Dates

#### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May

*All there is to know about orchids at home and orchid production at the nursery Malcolm Gregory, Double H Nursery, New Milton*  
**Plants for sale**

#### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June

*The history of the cottage garden*  
Neil Lovesey, Picket Lane Nursery, Dorset

#### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July

*Out evening at Ivy Bank, Vinegar Hill, MoS.* A glass of wine and wander round this beautiful garden. (NB 6.30pm start; members and their guests only)

NB: There is no meeting in August.

### Club meetings are normally held

on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at **Milford Community Centre**, unless otherwise stated. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. Refreshments available from 7pm.

## Holiday to Ireland: 30 May-4 June 2020

This is starting now to 'take off'. 21 people have paid a deposit - there is still time to join us. Email me for details: [jspenser@talktalk.net](mailto:jspenser@talktalk.net)

*Jenny Spenser*

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### Protecting your hostas from slugs...

#### Garlic spray recipe

Crush 1-2 whole garlic bulbs and put in a pan with 1 litre of water. Bring to the boil and boil for 3-4 minutes. When cool, pour through a sieve and bottle the liquid. Store in the fridge.

**Dilution rate** is 2 tablespoons of concentrate to 1 litre of water, in a can or sprayer. Neil Lovesey suggested adding 1 or 2 drops of washing up liquid to this mix as it helps the mix to cling to the leaves. Spray top surface and underneath. If it rains, you will need to repeat this.

If growing hostas in pots, keep the surrounding area free of all debris, clearing it in the autumn and again in February. This will remove any snail eggs which may be under stones, leaves and in cracks.

Coffee grains may be an effective deterrent. Also, slug wool pellets are effective in protecting emerging leaves if used as soon as new shoots appear.

Holes in the middle of leaves are caused by slugs and snails but beware if there are cuts on the outside edges. This is due to vine weevils and can be a particular problem if growing hostas in pots.

