



# Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

Hello everyone

May 2020

When I started to think about this newsletter I felt that nothing much had changed from last month but news that Stewart's and Everton Nursery will be open from Wednesday is exciting. Please DO follow their instructions to stay safe, we are one of the few areas in the country doing well in this Covid crisis and we need to keep it that way.

## Monthly Meetings

All meetings have been cancelled until further notice....

I also understand that the tip at Efford re-opened today but over 70's were strongly advised not to go! Leave it for a week or so to let the rush die down.

It would have been the plant fair this coming weekend. Kim and Derek Durham have done really well in selling plants from their gate, raising £250 for NHS charities. Well done to both of them - a great effort. Other club members do have plants available but we are moving towards a cashless situation so most are on offer for free! Do check out the [Milford Gardeners' Club Google Group](#) to see what is available (details on how to join overleaf).

This is the time of year when gardens should be open, RHS shows and garden events should be on and all the lovely National Trust properties open, but not this year. If you have a computer or tablet there are some lovely "virtual tours" of gardens available. Check out the NGS website for links or just type in "virtual garden tours" on Google. There's lots out there to look at.

I had started to formulate some ideas for club open gardens but "in house" for members only, maybe next year, but, **there is a gallery on the club website** so if your garden is looking lovely or you have some fab plants blooming, **please, please**, send some photos or videos to the [club email](#) and Clare will put them in the gallery. It's one way to try and stay connected. We need a "Gardens of the Garden Club" selection, rather like the village front doorstep blog on David Long's site! Let's share what's going on in our gardens.

I've been up to the Community Garden on my exercise route a few times and tidied up one of the raised beds. I didn't see a soul for a whole hour while I did some weeding. It's a lovely space if wildly overgrown just now. There are loads of red champions, grasses and abundant bird song. If you haven't found it yet and just need a quiet place to go for a little while, do go and have a look. It's very tranquil. The entrance is through the yew hedge just before the boundary of "Old Walls", where we have previously had an "out" evening.



Lovely borage in the community gardens



Red campion



Echimium in Sue's garden

**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.

I'm thrilled with the news from Jen that she is still prepared to organise holidays for the next year or two. Let's hope that will be a reality next year!

I'm not looking too far into the future at the moment in terms of planning things for the club. The "how and when" of club activities is still full of uncertainties so I am just taking things a few weeks at a time, (well 3 mostly!)

In the meantime, enjoy the bonus of this lovely sunshine and let's continue to be thankful that we live in such a lovely area and can get out to enjoy it.

I look forward to seeing some of your gardens via the gallery!

*Sue Crabb – Chair*

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## **Future Gardeners' Clubs Holidays**

I am very disappointed that our Irish Holiday will not take place this year – and even more so, that through intransigence by Greatdays, we all lost our hefty deposits of £175.00. Thank you that some of you wrote to complain.

So where do we go next? I mean our normal coach trips that have been running for many of the 23 years that the Club has existed. Here are a few thoughts of mine and if any of you would like to email back ([jspenser@talktalk.net](mailto:jspenser@talktalk.net)) with ideas or comments, please do.

I am hoping that by 2021 we should be able to rely on a home spun trip. My thoughts have be:

1. Visit Chatworth Flower Show – early June – onto the new RHS garden Bridgewater nr. Manchester as the highlights with various gardens/nurseries in between. Maybe 4 nights away by coach.
2. Do a similar trip as planned this May to SE Ireland but travel by coach the whole way. This is a long journey to get to a port and then a ferry – not everyone choice I am sure. But I will not be responsible for flying.
3. Another trip to Cornwall, or Wales or any ideas from members? Maybe later in the year?

As this difficult Spring passes and life slowly gets back to some normality, I would expect to start planning in August/September. All this depends on the government's decision to exit from lockdown, so there are factors which could easily change our plans.

I write this as I wanted to assure members that I will still arrange holidays for the next year or two, or three! And I hope some of you will support the idea.

Keep safe and happy.

*Jenny Spenser*

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## **MGC Google Group**

A few weeks ago I set up a Google Group for members to allow you to communicate directly with each other to share plants, resources, information etc. So far 39 members have joined and it seems to be working well. I realise now that some invitations may have been flagged as spam and so not been seen so I will send them out again. If you would like to join the group but haven't received the invitation, or the link doesn't work, email me at [milfordgardeners@gmail.com](mailto:milfordgardeners@gmail.com) and I'll add your address manually.

To email the group please use [milfordgardenersclub@googlegroups.com](mailto:milfordgardenersclub@googlegroups.com). You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking the link at the bottom of group emails.

*Clare Johnston*