



Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

Hello Everyone

It feels as though winter has arrived despite the continuing warm temperatures. I think it's the effect of gloomy evenings with the lack of daylight because of all the rain. The wet of recent weeks has been challenging in terms of getting things done outside. My tulips are still on hold, my pelargoniums are thriving, not many flowers but lots of healthy green growth and my aeoniums are huge! I keep thinking I must get them under cover before it starts to get cold..... hmm.

Despite the rain, we had a good attendance at our last meeting. Tim Woodland had updated his talk since 2019 and gave us excellent pictures, ideas and information regarding bulb planting, not just for spring but throughout the seasons - lots to inspire us.

There is quite a lot of information in this newsletter so please read it carefully!

I have a **request for new committee members**. Please see **page 2 for full details**.

See page 3 for next year's programme and information on subs.

I have a provisional date of **Thursday November 16th for daffodil planting on the Green**. It's likely to be from 11.00 am onwards as some preparations will need to be done first. If you think you might be able to help, please speak to me at next week's meeting when I will be able to confirm if this is going ahead.

Finally from me, a reminder that the **Christmas social will be in the afternoon on December 20th, 2.45pm to 4.15pm**. Details of arrangements will be in next month's newsletter but there will be a sheet out at next week's meeting to sign if you intend to come, just to give us an idea of numbers.

I hope to see lots of you next week when Roger Hiron will be focussing on planting for coastal conditions.

Sue Crabb, Chair

November 2023

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 15th November
Plants for problem areas
Roger Hiron

Wednesday 20th December
2.45-4.15pm
Christmas Social Afternoon

Wednesday 24th January
please note date
Clematis and climbers
Pip Bensley, award-winning floral designer

Wednesday 21st February
AGM followed by Gardening for our wildlife communities
Bob Lord, Chairman or Friends of Ballard Water Meadows

Wednesday 20th March
The land and the No Name Nursery
Steve Edney

Wednesday 17th April
Seasonal herbaceous perennials
Rosy Hardy

Full programme overleaf

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.



Do you come to most of our monthly meetings?
Are you keen to see the Gardeners' Club continue to thrive?
Do you have a little spare time?

We will be **three** committee members short after the AGM and it would be great to have some new committee members. We still don't have a secretary and currently Clare and I cover the secretary's role between us. This means that minute taking at our meetings is rotated around the committee members. We are managing but it's not ideal.

We have about 5 meetings a year:

Usually **January** to discuss the AGM and any other issues arising.

March/April to make arrangements for the plant fair and further planning for the year ahead.

June, a wash up of the plant fair/discussion of arrangements for our evening and **tea and cake in Sue's garden!**

September start of winter programmes and looking towards the end of the year and following year.

November for planning for Xmas social.

I always try to keep the length of meetings to a maximum of 2 hours. I like to rattle through things if I can; I am not a great "committee person" - life is too short!

What is involved

You need to attend the majority of club evenings and be there by 6.45pm to help set up/help where needed and generally mingle and get to know the members. Also, be available to help at the plant fair and our evening and any other events but **this is not set in stone. I know that people have busy lives outside of the club and can't always be available.**

Role of Committee member

- Oversee the activities of the club and make decisions on spending.
- Make sure we are running the club according to our rules.
- Make decisions on the day to day running of club meetings and special events.
- Feed ideas and suggestions for speakers, our evenings and any other activities to the Chair.

Committee meetings are usually on a Monday afternoon at 2.30 pm.

At least 6 of the committee, myself included, are now well into our seventies and it would be really good for the club's future if some younger members considered joining the committee so please have a think about it and contact me if you want to know more.

Sue Crabb, Chair

PROGRAMME FOR 2024

January	24 th	Clematis and climbers <i>Pip Bensley, award-winning floral designer</i>
February	21 st	AGM followed by Gardening and our wildlife communities <i>Bob Lord, Chairman of Friends of Ballard Water Meadows</i>
March	20 th	The land and the No Name Nursery <i>Steve Edney</i>
April	17 th	Seasonal herbaceous perennials <i>Rosy Hardy</i>
May	15 th	Merton's Dream Garden: the story of Russell-Cotes <i>Phil Broomfield, Russell-Cotes Museum</i>
June	19 th	The rejuvenation of Athelhampton House and Gardens
July	17 th	Out evening Venue to be confirmed
August		No meeting
September	18 th	Beautiful English gardens <i>Andy McIndoe</i>
October	16 th	Wildlife in a village (tbc) <i>Mike Read, wildlife and landscape photographer</i>
November	20 th	Camellias and their cultivation <i>Tom Clarke, Exbury Gardens</i>
December	18 th	Christmas Social

Subscriptions for 2024

Due to rising costs of everything from speakers and the hall to the price of milk and biscuits, subs will need to increase in January (subject to agreement by the committee). We are proposing £25 per person. I'm sure you will agree that this is still very good value for nine speakers, free refreshments at meetings and free drinks at the Out evening and Christmas social.

I'll be sending out details of how to pay in December. In the interests of keeping the accounts simpler, please do not pay before January 1st!

Clare Johnston, Treasurer