



Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

Hello Everyone

What a relief to see a glimpse of sun today. It's certainly starting to feel as though we are heading towards winter with the dark evenings coming thick and fast. Never mind, in 6 weeks' time we will be past the shortest day and up to now it's been warm..... but it does look as though that might be about to change!

Last month's meeting was well attended and turned out to be a super talk about local wildlife and how gardens are sustaining it, though I had some trepidation when we started off with signs to Ringwood! In the event, it was a delightful talk - calm, contemplative, with superb pictures and plenty for us to think about with regard to our own gardens. Something a bit different.

Next month will be our Xmas social and I'd just like to remind you that it's in the afternoon. I'll have a board out at next week's talk for you to sign if you intend/hope to come. It's just to give the committee an idea of numbers but you are not committed if you sign up. The format will be the same as previous years and all the details will be in the December newsletter.

Our speaker at next week's meeting is Tom Clarke, the head gardener at Exbury. I'm really looking forward to this, having heard him elsewhere. If you grow or love camellias you are in for a treat.

This time last year, I put out a plea for some new committee members and nothing has changed except that the existing committee are all now a year older! At some time in the future, someone has to come forward if the club is to continue. I know some of the younger members have other commitments but if it's something you might consider in a year or so, even if you can't right now, please let me know. If you think you might consider joining the committee for 2025/26, we have a meeting at my house on Monday, November 25th at 2.30 pm and you would be welcome to come along and see what happens. (I always provide tea and cake!)

Clare is including next year's programme in this newsletter and will put details of subs and payment in the December newsletter.

I am looking at the possibility of one, maybe two, outings next year as we have no club holiday and we will be discussing this at our committee meeting.

I hope to see lots of you next week and in the meantime stay warm and busy. It may be time to dig out the thermals!

Sue Crabb, Chair

November 2024

Forthcoming meetings:

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

Wednesday 18th December
Christmas Social (afternoon)

Wednesday 22nd January
The making of a new public garden
Simon Hopsack, Holme for Gardens

Wednesday 19th February
AGM followed by Sustainable growing practices on the allotment
Gill Hickman, Pennington Allotments

Wednesday 19th March
How we made the Down House garden
Mark Porter

Wednesday 16th April
Clever ways to grow vegetables
Martyn Cox

Wednesday 21st May
Hanging baskets and pots - demonstration
Ray Broughton

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 or more 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 2025

January	22 nd	The making of a new public garden <i>Simon Hopsack, Holme for Gardens</i>
February	19 th	AGM followed by Sustainable growing practices on the allotment <i>Gill Hickman, Pennington allotments</i>
March	19 th	How we made the Down House gardens <i>Mark Porter</i>
April	16 th	Clever ways to grow vegetables (in small gardens and containers) <i>Martyn Cox</i>
May	21 st	Hanging baskets and pots - demonstration <i>Ray Broughton</i>
June	18 th	Inspiration from Tresco Abbey Gardens <i>Ben Turner</i> *Plants for sale*
July	16 th	Out evening Oakhaven Hospice, Lower Pennington Lane, Lymington SO41 8ZZ NB 6.30 pm start
August		No meeting
September	17 th	Attracting beneficial wildlife to your garden with flower power <i>Marina Christopher</i>
October	15 th	The history of Furzey Gardens <i>Julia Baker</i> *Plants and handicrafts for sale*
November	19 th	Grasses and Ferns <i>Chris Bird</i>
December	17 th	Christmas Social NB afternoon event