



Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

Hello Everyone

What a change in the weather since the last newsletter! I hope that in spite of all the rain and strong winds, you still have some late flowering plants and grasses to enjoy in your gardens.

Looking around, berried plants seem to be doing very well and pyracanthas seem especially loaded this year. At Mottisfont earlier this week they had a most amazing display of pumpkins and gourds, lots of them dangling down from pergolas. The revamp of the kitchen garden has been completed and it looks amazing; well worth a visit if you get the chance.

I'm looking forward to next week's talk by Rosemary LeGrand, having been fortunate enough to go to New Zealand myself. Besides being an excellent speaker, she always has great pictures. With the darker evenings a little escapism will go down well!

It is also my intention to handover the charity cheques at the next meeting.

I hope to see lots of you there.

Sue Crabb – Chair



October 2019

Monthly Meeting Dates

Wednesday 16th October

Exploring the South Island of New Zealand Rosemary LeGrand

Wednesday 20th November

All aspects of rose care Stewart Pocock, Pococks Roses. Rose products for sale.

Wednesday 18th December

Christmas social

The programme for 2020 will be announced shortly.

Club meetings are normally held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at **Milford Community Centre**, unless otherwise stated. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. Refreshments available from 7pm.

Website

I hope you like our 'new look' website. I think it looks great and feels 'updated'. If you haven't had a look recently, please check it out. If you are using a tablet or phone, tap the 3 horizontal lines at the top left of the home screen and that will take you to the list of other pages. I would like to say a huge thank you to Clare Johnston for doing this; she has worked very hard to get the website sorted and up and running again.



Welcome to Milford Gardeners' Club

Milford Gardeners' Club began life over 20 years ago in 1997.

We exist for the gardeners of Milford on Sea, providing a succession of interesting speakers and demonstrations for our members. We also try to function as a social and meeting place for like-minded gardeners and everyone is welcome to visit. If we don't make your visit enjoyable please let us know!

Email: milfordgardeners@gmail.com

Website: www.milfordgardenersclub.co.uk

2019 Holiday

For the last 20 years the Club has managed to organise many coach holidays and this year we went to Sussex and Kent, staying in Tunbridge Wells. We had an early pick up from Sea Road Car Park, but as the weather was warm and sunny and our driver Bob kept us entertained, the journey to Durrance Manor in Shipley was fine. This first garden was beautiful with lovely views over the South Downs and some amazing planting. Our host, Gordon, was very apologetic when he couldn't find any cups for our refreshments, so in true gardening spirit we all rolled up our sleeves and did vast amounts of washing up and tea making! Sussex Prairie Garden followed which had the added bonus of an unusual plant fair and plant buying opportunity.....



Durrance Manor



Hever Castle

Hever Castle was a real eye opener and so much better that we had envisaged (it had been 26 years since I was last there!) While walking round the lake some of us even saw Jude Law filming a new series called 'The Third Day', so if you get a chance to see it later, you'll know some was filmed at Hever. If you have a chance to visit it's a great day out. Steve Edney of The Salutation in Sandwich had also invited us to see both his home and the hotel's gardens. Sam, Steve's deputy gardener, stepped in to show us around - if you want jungle exotic, these are the places to visit and we loved it.

My highlight of the trip was Great Dixter. It was my first chance to see the inside of the medieval house, which has an Arts and Craft wing designed by

Lutyens. The garden was splendid, again very exotic and excitingly planted, and the nursery was excellent (and well priced). Unfortunately, it did rain on our visit and I did not allow long enough...my fault I planned the day! In the afternoon, which changed to warm and sunny, some of us were dropped off at a charming garden and nursery called King John's which also had super food. The other half were dropped in Tunbridge Wells for a wander in the Pantiles.

So to the last day: Wisley & their Autumn Plant Fair... yet another plant buying opportunity. Poor Bob had warned us that there was no more room in the luggage part of the coach for more plants, so when we arrived back laden they all ended up in the space at the back by the sink. The Fair was really well laid out and there is a new visitors' entrance and shop. It was all much improved from the last time we visited in November.

So I think this was our 15th or even 16th holiday. Good comments flew around so I think this trip was enjoyed, certainly by me. As many in the Club know, Ireland, flying from Bournemouth, is booked for 2020 and I am thinking Chatsworth Flower Show and the Peaks for 2021 - but thinking is as far as I have got. Unless someone else would like to arrange a trip??

Jenny Spenser

More photos are available on the website—www.milfordgardenersclub.co.uk/gallery



Great Dixter