



Milford Gardeners' Club Newsletter

Hello Everyone

They always say that time seems to go faster as you get older and it seems no time at all since last month's newsletter. When I started writing this I was thinking it was 3 weeks until the clocks change but it's only two and a half! Better get on with those garden jobs pronto.

Last month's meeting was well-attended and Andy had some lovely images, many of places we had been to on club holidays.

I was a little disappointed that only five of us went to visit Honey Pot House, it seems that everyone has very busy lives! I had been before but came away inspired yet again by their passion for what they do and all the fantastic things they provide to support young carers and give them a wonderful respite experience. Can you believe that children as young as 5 and 6 are doing things like washing clothes, getting food, feeding a parent or sibling, or waking up at night to check that a parent is ok?

I've been enjoying Jamie Oliver's "What to cook now" programmes on Channel 4 TV celebrating seasonal produce. (I've tried two of his recipes 🍴). This set me thinking and I had a delve into the club archives. Back when the committee were in their 60's and feeling young and energetic, we did several harvest suppers for the October meeting, I'm sure some of you remember them. I'm hugely impressed by what we were offering and I know the tables all had seasonal flower arrangements on them. The last one we did was in 2015 and we had 75 people! We even had printed menus which I will share below. Ah, those were the days. Currently I'm thinking about the Christmas social and what fiendish quizzes and other activities I can come up with! As last year, it will be in the afternoon.

Next week's talk is by Mike Read, a wildlife and landscape photographer who comes highly recommended and I am sure he will have fabulous images to share.

There will not be a club holiday next year, but Jenny is thinking about 2026 and sent a survey to those who have been on previous trips, for their thoughts on various aspects. If you've not received it, it is included in this newsletter and she will have a few hard copies at next week's meeting should you want one. She'd like feedback by the end of November as she intends to spend the winter months planning. If you have never been on a club holiday but fancy going, do fill in the survey, it's very short!

October 2024

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 16th October
Wildlife in a village *Mike Read*

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

Wednesday 18th December
Christmas Social (afternoon)



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.

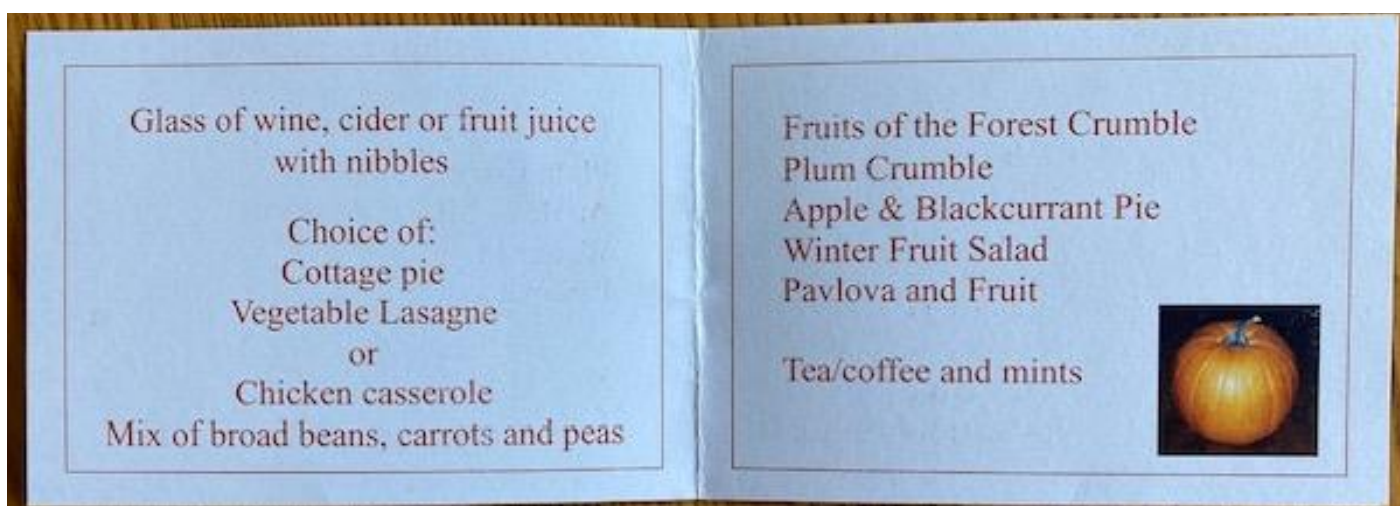
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Let's hope that despite all the rain, we get some Autumn colour to enjoy as we move into November. Exbury and Hillier's both have stunning acer collections and if you fancy venturing a bit further afield, West Dean has a fabulous winter garden.

Hope to see lots of you next week,

Sue Crabb, Chair



Survey for future Gardeners' Holidays

Hello everyone, if you can help me to find a holiday for 2026 and beyond, perhaps you'd just answer some of the following questions:

Method of travel.

- Stick to same format eg: stay in UK, travel by coach, perhaps try and upgrade hotel from 2024 offering, but travel just as we have now for a number of years.
- Try flying again: In UK but include Ireland/Scotland/Chanell Islands or go to Europe
- Fly but go further afield – even somewhere like Japan or South Africa

Length of holiday.

- 2024 was only 3 days/2 nights
- Any preference for another 4/5 night/days
- For further away, a week or 10/12 days.
- Of course bear in mind length of a trip could depend on how far we travel.....

Cost of Trips.

- Coach will cost £400 upwards and the longer we stay may well be nearer a £1000 in the future.
- European trips, still using coach with ferry crossing £600 to £1200 depending on length of stay and destination.
- Further afield the cost will be £3000 upward

So I have given a few ideas based around type of travel/destination and cost – would you either tick the lines below or write out your answers with some further info on what you would prefer. Tick as many as you wish, please be honest and I'll do my best!!

Jen Spenser

- Short trip 2/3 nights
- 4/5 nights
- Longer please state length

- Coach travel
- Coach travel with ferry to Europe
- Fly – in UK or abroad

- Stay in UK
- Stay in Europe
- Stay abroad – any preference

- Pay around £600
- Pay £1200
- Pay to go further £3000+