Hello everyone …

What a long hot summer, we have had! To say it's made gardening difficult is a bit of an understatement. By the beginning of July we were all trying to water and keep things going but by the end of the month it was getting desperate.

I have 2 water butts but carrying water isn't easy these days and taking half full cans takes twice as long. I started saving "grey" water as well and had a bucket outside my back door for it but in the end I just watered a few new shrubs and let the rest take their chances. I'm sure we will all have lost plants this summer and I urge you to think carefully about what you replace them with. I think dry summers are the future.

But today, writing this, we have lovely, soft, straight down rain and it's been going for the last 2 hours or more so hopefully it will have a chance to do more than wet the surface.

Our last meeting in July was the annual "out" evening and we went to the Countryside Education Trust at Beaulieu. About 40 people came, it was very hot but we had a talk in a lovely air-conditioned building before we looked around.

Things have changed a lot since we last went. The focus is more towards the environment and sustainability of ponds, rivers and woodlands and they offer training schemes for young adults wanting to have a career in that kind of area. They still have children to stay but apparently, since covid, they are a lot more anxious being away from home so instead of full weeks at the CET it's now a couple of days so it's not such an immersive experience. They offer a lot more day events for adults and families as well. Their website is well worth a look.

Next week's speaker is Mike Read who is talking about Scotland's Western Isles. He has presented us with stunning photographs in the past. I am really looking forward to this talk, especially as it's somewhere I haven't got to and it's becoming increasingly unlikely that I will in the future, so armchair travelling with a fantastic photographer has to be good!

Next year is the 30th anniversary of the club which is pretty amazing and we have lots of exciting events and hopefully some extras in the pipeline for next year. The highlight of course will be Adam Frost coming in September but we have some other great speakers lined up. We will be kicking off the year in January with

September 2026

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 16th September
Scotland's western islands *Mike Read*

Wednesday 21st October
A brief history of garden design - 4000 years in 60 minutes *Helen Milne*

Wednesday 18th November
Edibles outside the vegetable plot *Roger Hirons*

Wednesday 6th January 2027
Gardeners' Question Time
Panellists to be announced

Wednesday 17th February
Japanese garden history and recreation *Andrew Hunt*

Wednesday 17th March
Moths *Marcus Ward*

Wednesay 21st April
The English Garden - a quest for paradise *Gillian Taylor*

Wednesday 19th May
Hardy Geraniums *Jenny Spence*

Wednesday 16th June
Mediterranean gardening at home and abroad *Ben Turner*

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.

Email: milfordgardeners@gmail.com
Website: www.milfordgardenersclub.co.uk

"Gardeners Question Time" in a nod to the very first meeting of the club. There will be a panel of three. More details later but start thinking of your burning problems and questions now.

This meeting will be on Wednesday, January 6th. As we are not having a December meeting, we didn't want too long a gap between November and January, so rather than have it on the 4th Wednesday after the panto, we have brought the meeting forward, so make a note in your diaries.

Another date for your diary is the plant fair which is on **Saturday May 15th**.

I'm hoping to see lots of you at next week's meeting; it will be good to catch up.

Sue Crabb, Chair

Stable Family Home Trust | Where everyone matters

Sue Crabb
Milford Gardeners' Club
c/o The Bridge aka Milford Community Centre
Sea Road
Milford on Sea
SO41 0PH.

8th September 2026

Dear Ms Crabb and fellow Committee Members,

I am writing to express our deepest gratitude for your generous donation of £676.
We have almost finished the fundraising for our new Courtyard Sensory Garden, and I wondered if we may put your donation towards the Garden? It would help us finish the fundraising completely! I have attached the project paper for the garden. Your support means the world to us, and it will have a profound impact on the lives of our clients.

If you are agreeable to this we can start the building works on the garden. I will send you an update as soon as we start and when we finish.

We would be delighted to welcome you to visit The Stables at any time to see our work first-hand and meet some of our amazing clients! If you require any further information or wish to arrange a visit, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be contacted on mariloucook@sfht.org.uk or 01425 485093.

Yours sincerely,

Marilou Cook
Trust Fundraiser

We have received this letter following our donation of Plant Fair funds.

I think it is most appropriate that our donation is being used for their garden. If anyone is interested in the project paper mentioned, please let me know and I'll forward it.

Clare