Hello Everyone ...

April 2025

What glorious weather we are having after all the grey days at the start of the year. It's so uplifting to pull the curtains back in the morning and see blue sky and sunshine. Now the clocks have changed it really feels like we are moving into Spring. Things are finally starting to burst into bud but I do hope you are remembering to do some watering, particularly if you have tulips and other bulbs in pots, they will need it, as will any new plantings.

Help with the Plant Fair

The following information is important. As May 1st falls on a Thursday this year, it means that our May meeting will be **after** the plant fair so I am including a lot of plant fair information in this newsletter.

Our meeting on Wednesday April 16th will be my only opportunity to ask for volunteers to sign up to help with the Fair. I am slightly concerned as I know that a number of people who might have helped are doing a walk to raise funds for Oakhaven on the same day as the Fair.

If you are free on Saturday May 17th and think you could help please sign up at next Wednesday's meeting.

We normally have 3 shifts, **7.30-9.30, 9.30-11.00 and 11.00 -12.30.** The early one is always the busiest when we need most help, at least 6-8 people, and some help with the clearing up on the last shift is really appreciated. Last year we had sold out by 12.00.

Please check your diaries before next week's meeting and **PLEASE**, if you are free and able bodied, come and lend a hand. It's always good fun and ***you don't need to worry about pricing or labelling, the committee will sort that, you just need to be a persuasive salesperson!*** **If you can only do an hour,** that's fine too.

In particular, we need some able-bodied volunteers who would be able to help us set up from about 7.30 am and to help clear away at the end, usually around 12.30 ish.

Plants for the Fair

I am hoping you will all "come up trumps" as you have always done with plants for the fair. Please provide **plants potted up and clearly labelled,** even if it's only one or two. If you won't be around on the

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 16th April
Clever ways to grow vegetables *Martyn Cox*
Plants for sale, bring cash

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

Wednesday 18th June
Inspiration from Tresco Abbey Gardens *Ben Turner*

Wednesday 16th July 6.30pm
Out evening to Oakhaven Hospice

Wednesday 17th September
Attracting beneficial wildlife to your garden with flower power *Marina Christopher*

Wednesday 15th October
The history of Furzey Gardens *Julia Baker* *Plants and handicrafts for sale*

Wednesday 19th November
Grasses and ferns *Chris Bird*

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.

day but have plants to donate you can drop them off to me at 3 Danestream Close, opposite the tennis club. We will be on the Green from 7.30 ***but you can drop plants off at any time in the morning to suit you.***

I'm sorry but I'm afraid we can't deal with plants freshly dug up in bags.

Next month's newsletter will contain reminders about all this but we really need to know in advance how much help we are likely to get. If you won't be at next week's meeting but are able to help, please email us.

In the meantime, enjoy the lovely weather and I hope to see lots of you at next week's meeting when we can all learn a bit about vegetable growing on a small scale,

Sue Crabb, Chair

Charities for this year

We had three nominations for our charities this year, Oakhaven, Honeypot and the Countryside Education Trust at Beaulieu. You may recall that I forgot to bring the ballot boxes to last month's meeting. We normally choose 2 charities but the Committee, at a meeting last week, voted unanimously to support all three, so any money raised this year will be split 3 ways. All three are very deserving causes.

Some pictures from previous years to inspire you!