Hello everyone …

I've been so glad to see the back of March it's felt like a long rainy month and yet here we are in April, I can't believe we are a quarter of the way through the month already and there are loads of gardening jobs to catch up with! I'm enjoying these sunny days, 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. My prediction is for another dry summer……we'll see!

Charities for this year

We had three nominations for our charities this year, New Forest for Ukraine, Stable Family Home Trust and Countryside Education Trust. The voting took place at the last meeting.

New Forest for Ukraine and Stable Family Trust came 1st and 2nd so they will be our charities for the coming year.

Stable Family Home Trust along with Bisterne Manor near Ringwood are open for the NGS on Friday May 8th (day of our outing!) but also on Saturday May 9th from 10-6. Details in the yellow book if you are interested.

Five of the committee manned a stall at the "Meet Milford" event recently. We had some interest but it was very crowded and difficult to have a conversation at times. Anyway, we hope to have inspired a few newcomers to join.

Help with the Plant Fair

The following information is important*.** As May 1st falls on a Friday 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 15th will be my only opportunity to ask for volunteers to sign up to help with the Fair. 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 but we managed to get just about enough people to help last year.

If you are free on Saturday May 16th 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

April 2026

Forthcoming meetings:

Wednesday 15th April
Glorious gardens of France
Rosemary Legrand

Wednesday 20th May
The English garden - a quest for paradise *Gillian Taylor*

Wednesday 17th June
Plants and landscapes of the Western Cape *Ben Turner*

Wednesday 15th July
Out evening - Countryside Education Trust, Beaulieu

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*

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.

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 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 the Green 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.

Outing to Rosie Hardy's and Hinton Ampner on Friday May 8th

We now have a full coach and the cost for the coach is £16.50.

If you are not a National Trust member you will need to pay for entry **on the day** which will be an additional £16.00 or £18.00 if you want to go in the house but we may be able to get a group rate. I am waiting for a reply to an email and I will let you know. If you are an NT member, remember your membership card!

We will be leaving at 9.30am from the bus stop by the Thai Restaurant but I will send out a reminder about timings for the day before we go.

We would like your payment of £16.50 *as soon as you can* but in any case by **Friday April 17th** at the latest.

How to pay:

- Bank transfer to **Milford Gardeners Club, Sort Code 40-30-36, A/c no 21213644**, quoting your name as the reference (*preferred option as cheapest for the club*)
- Cash at the April meeting (please put in envelope with your name if possible)
- Cheque payable to **Milford Gardeners' Club.** ***Important:*** *please add 40p to cover our bank charges*.

In the meantime, enjoy the lovely weather and I hope to see lots of you at next week's meeting.

Sue Crabb, Chair

2026 Holiday payments

Thank you to everyone who has already paid. Just a reminder that the deadline for the balance payment is this **Friday (10th April)** as I need to pay Angela's shortly. You should have had an email from Jenny with how much you owe. If you didn't receive it or can't find it, please let me know and I'll resend.

Many thanks

Clare Johnston, Treasurer