Hello Everyone …

October 2025

It seems no time at all since our last meeting!

Marina gave us a fascinating insight into insects and the kinds of plants that support pollinators. As usual she illustrated her talk with plants rather than slides and her passion and extensive knowledge made it an excellent talk. There were lots of interesting and unusual plants to buy at the end.

I was particularly pleased to discover that I was doing some things right. It seems that Ivy has flowers that have an unpleasant smell but are very attractive to insects. I deliberately keep some growing through my front hedge and the day after our talk I noticed that it was covered in busy insects. Not only that, I counted 12 red admiral butterflies at one point! Fabulous. It was one of those warm late summer days.

2026 Holiday
In case you were not at the last meeting, there are a few spaces left on the holiday and Jenny will soon be sending out information regarding the deposit and when it needs paying. The holiday is a little more expensive than in the past but we did want a decent hotel this time.

Christmas meeting proposal
Also at the last meeting I put forward a proposal that we did not have a Christmas meeting in December in future. My reason for this is that there are many activities going on in the run up to Christmas. We used to have our social on the second Wednesday in December but when we moved to the Community Centre I was asked if we would swap with the WI so they could keep all their meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. The third Wednesday is getting close to Christmas and if covid, colds or flu are doing the rounds people are cautious about mixing. There **will** be a Xmas social this year but I already know it clashes with Straight Banana's concert again.

Out of **38** members who voted at the last meeting **8** people were in favour of keeping things as they are but **27** voted for change. I'm thinking perhaps we may have a social afternoon in August but the committee and have yet to discuss any proposed changes.

Forthcoming meetings:

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

Wednesday 19th November
Grasses and ferns *Chris Bird*

Wednesday 17th December
Christmas social (afternoon)

Some autumn colour at Exbury

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

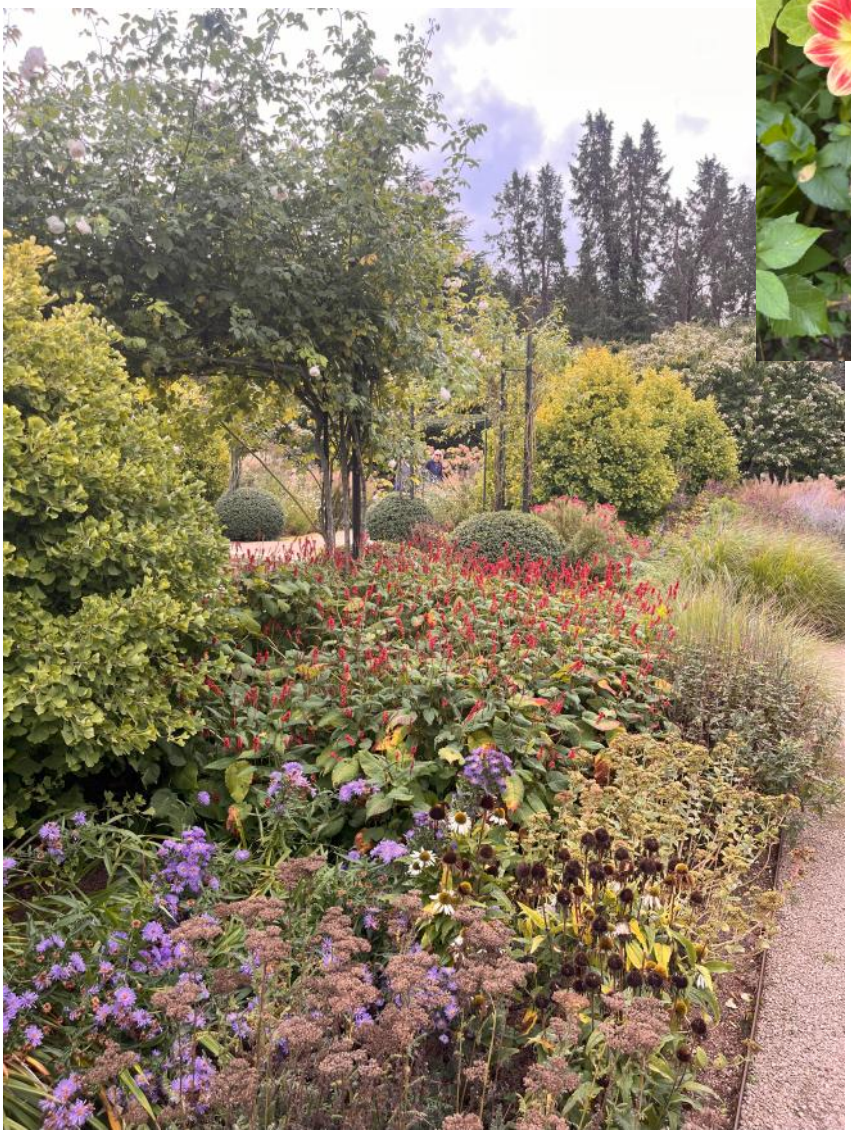
HELP NEEDED!

Able-bodied volunteers to help with tea and coffees
It has been pointed out to me that a number of our tea volunteers are now over 80. Whilst I am not aware of any age restrictions at the community centre just now, I know that other places do have them and from a health and safety point of view we need younger members stepping forward to help. The rota is getting very skinned down and if we can't get enough volunteers then we will be unable to provide tea and coffee any more.

2 or three people to be trained up to use the IT system if required
Normally everything is set up ready by Matt. This would be a question of knowing how to switch on the hand-held mics, checking the batteries and replacing if necessary, and adjusting the microphone volume. Also, how to switch the system on and off and how to control the stage and hall lights. This would be a " safety net" for us just in case something had not been done and no help was available. If you would be willing to be trained please speak to me at the meeting or contact me. **Training will take place at 6.30pm just before the November club meeting and will last about 30 minutes.**

I think that's all for this month but please help if you can. I shall be asking for committee members again in January as we are now down to seven and Clare and I are both doing lots of extras as we no longer have a secretary. If you want the club to keep going, volunteer!

Sue Crabb, Chair



Some more photos from Exbury