

**The Donheads Gardening Club**

**2017 CALENDAR**

- January 9th** Mike Burks - Propagation
- February 13th** Lois Philipps - Down to Earth
- March 13th** AGM & talk from DGC member Rosie Catherwood
- April 10th** Chris Ireland Jones from Avon Bulbs - Bulbs through the Seasons
- May 8th** Discount Evening + Talk - Castle Gardens, Sherborne
- June 13th** Garden Visit - Stavordale Priory, 2.30pm (NB Tuesday)
- July 6th** Garden Visit - Dilly Hobson, Harvard Farm, Nr. Yeovil - 2.30pm (NB Thursday)
- July 20th** Garden Visit - Carolyn Pawson, Cottage Row, Tarrant Gunville, 2.30pm (NB Thursday)
- August** HOLIDAY TIME
- September 11th** Katherine Crouch - New Tricks for Old Gardeners
- October 9th** Val Bourne - The Living Jigsaw Explained
- November 13th** Nigel Hewish from Kingston Maurwood - Penstemons & Salvias
- December 11th** Christmas Get-Together

Some of these events may be subject to change  
check the club's website for updates



**Contact Details:**

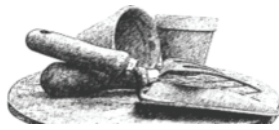
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# The Donheads Gardening Club



**Newsletter No. 64**  
**Spring 2017**

*Affiliated to: The Royal Horticultural Society,  
The Wiltshire Gardens Trust & The Gardens Group, Sherborne*  
**[www.donheadsgardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.donheadsgardeningclub.co.uk)**



## THE DONHEADS GARDENING CLUB

*Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society, The Wiltshire Gardens Trust & The Gardens Group, Sherborne*  
Chairman: Fran Robson 828032 • Treasurer: Roger Giles 828663 • Secretary: Vicky Daniell 828161

### Newsletter No.64 • March 2017

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held at Donhead St Mary Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and guests are always welcome (for whom a fee of £2.50 is requested). Refreshments available from 7.00pm (a donation of 50p is suggested)

You have been soldiering through a cold January, combating the frosty mornings and dark evenings outside.

In January The Donhead Apple Company held its annual wassail on the weekend closest to the old Twelfth Night. Those wassailers who were fortunate to attend, gathered in the Village Hall before proceeding down to the orchard. There the Orchard Green Man was waiting, and together with the Wassail princesses they offered one of the trees toast and cider. With much shouting and banging of pots and pans the villagers banished the evil spirits away for the forthcoming season.

February has followed, the days becoming slightly lighter and the sight of welcoming white snowdrops and now daffodils adorning roadsides and thickets... suddenly February looks better.

Then in a flash March has arrived...welcome to spring...everywhere you look, nature is busy getting dressed...green, yellow, orange, white, fresh and bright, big and bold with fuzzy buds and blousy blooms. It may still be cold, damp and wet but there are lots of jobs for us busy gardeners to do to prepare for a vintage year ahead. Plant summer bulbs, prune roses, keep slugs away from those delicate green shoots, plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes...whatever you do, enjoy it.

Our January meeting brought Adam Wallis from Brimsore Gardens who gave us a wonderful demonstration and talk on propagation. This covered many topics from seeds and the taking of softwood and hardwood cuttings, through to specialist ways of propagating some of the more difficult species such as a Daphne shrub for example. For this Adam demonstrated the technique of Air Layering, which involved creating a moss filled, cellophane wrapped bubble around a cut in a stem. This was an art form in itself, and the whole talk was very professionally delivered by Adam who took many questions from members at the end.

To help us prepare the ground for our garden in February, Lois Phillips came along to talk and show us how to look after and love our soil. With the chance to check our own samples of soil brought along to test. This was an informative and enjoyable evening for many enjoying the hands on testing.

### Future Talks:

**Monday 13th March**, our next meeting the AGM is upon us once again. Please do support this necessary requirement of the Club's Constitution. With the success and positive feedback from last year's AGM, we shall again be sending out the Agenda, Minutes and all other relevant papers to you by email. Please make sure you have read these before attending the meeting. For those members who do not have email there will be copies at the meeting for you to read beforehand.

We will try to speed matters through quickly so we can turn to Rosie Catherwood's talk with photographs on ***The Trials and Tribulations of creating a new garden in Semley***. Rosie has a great sense of humour and is full of passion and enthusiasm for her new garden. So come and hear how her amazing garden is progressing.

On **April 10th** we have Chris Ireland Jones from Avon Bulbs talking on ***'Bulbs through the Seasons'***. Chris will have suggestions which bulbs we could be planting now to enhance our summer display, both in containers and in the garden, along with ideas for extending the autumn season with colour and form. He will be bringing a selection of bulbs for sale.

**8th May** is our annual 'outing' to Castle Gardens in Sherborne for the Discount Evening. This is one of the most popular evenings for Members of the Club. With 25% discount off most items, along with a short Topical Talk and coffee and biscuits, it is hardly surprising. An evening not to be missed!

Would members please note that at these meetings we will be collecting monies for the three Garden Visits planned for the summer months (see the calendar page overleaf). We have a list of each garden and members may add their names to these lists paying £5 per person per garden. So if you have not already done this, please remember to bring some money with you for the above meetings if you are interested in attending.

With regard to garden visits; all members have been sent a questionnaire asking for their views on visiting gardens further afield involving a coach trip. The replies received so far indicate a keen interest as to which gardens people would like to visit, plus a number of additional ones. Thank you for these. We would ask those who have yet to complete the questionnaire to do so please, so that we have a broad view before any decisions are made as to which garden or gardens we visit.

*Please check our website for details of all our forthcoming club meetings and events.*

**We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM on 13th March.**

*Contributions from Kevin Wood, Vicky Daniell, Freddie Yorke, Fran Robson and Roger Giles.*