

The Donheads Gardening Club
2022 CALENDAR

- January 10th** Clive Whitbourn 'Wildlife in our Gardens'
- February 14th** Lucy Thorpe 'Horatio's Garden Project'
- March 14th** AGM, Gardeners Question Time and Seed Swap
- April 11th** Derek Dexter 'Fuchias my Way'
- April 29th** Garden visit to Heale House, Middle Woodford
- May 9th** Annual Discount Evening Castle Gardens
- June 10th** Garden visit to Shute House, Donhead St. Mary
- July 8th** Garden visit to the American Museum, Claverton
- August** To be confirmed
- September 12th** Charles Cheshire 'The Art of Dishevelment'
- October 10th** Katherine Crouch 'The Self-seeding Garden'
- November 14th** Castle Gardens talk on 'Orchids'
- December** To be confirmed

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



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The Donheads Gardening Club

Newsletter No. 77
Spring 2022

*Affiliated to: The Royal Horticultural Society,
The Wiltshire Gardens Trust & The Gardens Group, Sherborne*
www.donheadsgardeningclub.co.uk



THE DONHEADS GARDENING CLUB

Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society, The Wiltshire Gardens Trust & The Gardens Group, Sherborne

Chairman: Vicky Daniell 01747 828161 • Treasurer: Roger Giles 828663 • Secretary: Jamie Daniell 828161

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Unless otherwise stated all meetings are held at Donhead St Mary Village Hall at
Visitors and guests are always welcome for a fee of £5.00.
Refreshments are available from 7.00pm.

How lovely it is to have steadily increasing hours of daylight this month. With the snowdrops in flower and signs of daffodils not far behind them there are days when it almost feels like spring! Certainly it seems we have every reason to feel more optimistic about the year ahead when it comes to opportunities for meeting up again in person at our meetings and garden visits. Louis has added some lovely extra visits to an already tempting calendar of events, so we will look forward to seeing you again over the coming months.

Just a reminder that the **25% discount vouchers** for Castle Gardens are still viable until the end of February. Please contact me on 01747 828161 or vdaniell66@gmail.com if you would like one posted out to you.

Monday 14th March - AGM and GARDENERS QUESTION TIME and SEED SWAP. 7.30pm in the hall. March is the beginning of the Gardening Club Year, and an excellent time to join as a new member as it is the month when our subscriptions are renewed. So if you know of any new neighbours or friends who might like to join us, do please encourage them to come along to the AGM, or get in touch with us another way. For a bit of fun, we plan to hold an informal 'GARDENERS QUESTION TIME' the same evening, offering you all a chance to air some of your gardening conundrums and hopefully receive some useful suggestions from the panel or audience. We will also hold our annual SEED-SWAP, so bring along any seed you have saved from your gardens and see what others are available. We will be handing out the Geranium plug plants to anyone who would like to take part in the plug plant competition this year, which will be judged in July or August when they will be at their best.

Monday 11th April 7.30pm - Fuchsia expert DEREK DEXTER will be sharing his extensive knowledge of these lovely plants and giving guidance on varieties and practical demonstrations on their care. Derek has been producing award winning Fuchsias for 22 years, and has received many awards for his Fuchsias at Hampton Court Flower Show and many others.

There will be an opportunity to purchase plants so don't forget to bring cash, cheque or bank card with you.

Friday 29th April 2.30pm - we have the first of our Garden Visits when we will spend the afternoon at **HEALE HOUSE** in the Woodford Valley. The eight acre garden at Heale House is described as 'a magical and varied paradise of running streams and exuberant planting. Meadows of spring bulbs are home to a new collection of magnolias and colour themed borders that add contemporary drama to a garden that seems lost in time.' It sounds as though we will be in for a real treat in April. Further details will be announced nearer the time. Do get in touch in the mean time if you would like your name put down provisionally.

Monday 9th May we will enjoy our annual **DISCOUNT EVENING** at **Castle Gardens** in Sherborne. (Start time to be confirmed). This is our opportunity to take advantage of the wonderful 25% discount that club membership offers us at this annual event. Refreshments and a short talk in the Butterfly House will be followed by an evening of shopping with a discount on all products and plants. This is an exclusive Club event and we will have the whole garden centre to ourselves. To take advantage of the discount you will need to bring your Gardening Club membership card.

You can see the outline of our summer events on the calendar page of this newsletter, or on our website. There will be further information about the events from June onwards in due course.

After two years of dormancy we are looking forward to our **FOUR VILLAGES SPRING FETE** coming alive again this year on 22nd May. There will be the ever popular Plant Stall at the fete, so any plants or divisions that you can offer Penny Short (01747 828062) to help make this a bumper year would be very gratefully received. Details of when and where to deliver the plants will be in the spring Donhead Digest.

Finally, I should mention that sadly we lost two of our members in December last year. Joyce Dingley, who together with her late husband Maurice were very long-standing supporters of the Gardening Club, and also Paddy Spreckley, whose beautiful garden at Brook Cottage, we were privileged to visit in June last year. They will be missed.

Very much looking forward to seeing you over the coming months. Vicky

Please check our website for details of all our forthcoming club meetings and events. www.donheadsgardeningclub.co.uk