



## 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 – Summer Bulbs
- May 8th Discount Evening + talk – Castle Gardens, Sherbourne
- June 13th Garden Visit – Stavordale Priory, 2.30pm (NB Tuesday)
- July 6th Garden Visit – Dilly Hobson, Harvard Farm, Nr. Yeovil - 2.30pm (NB Tuesday)
- 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 – A very interesting talk whatever the subject
- November 13th Nigel Hewish from Kingston Maurwood – Penstemons and Salvias
- December 11th Christmas Get-Together

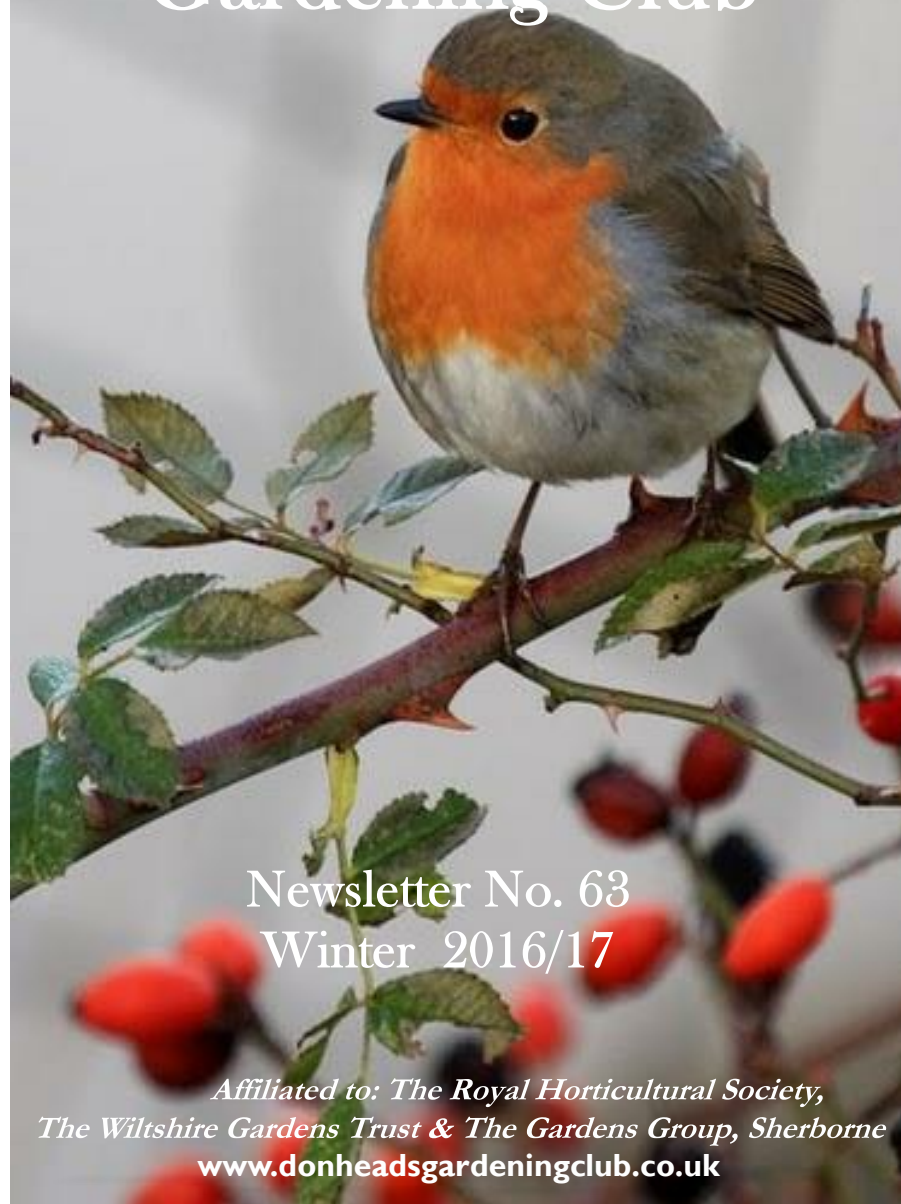
Some of these events may be subject to change – check the club's website for updates.



#### Contact Details

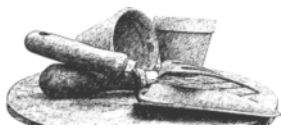
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Newsletter No. 63  
Winter 2016/17

*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. 63 • December 2016

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)

The months of September and October this year have been very generous to us as gardeners in terms of climate and conditions, enabling us to appreciate the last of some of the seasonal flowers, fruit and vegetables. It has been an extraordinarily mild, if not unseasonably warm, autumn until recently and, during the last of the longer days, it was possible to take full advantage of the daylight hours and gradually put our gardens to bed for the winter. The very informative talk from Caroline Pakenham in October, 'Getting Ready for Winter', was perfectly timed for this.

The autumn colours have been spectacular, and it seems that many of us have bumper crops of apples. Bulbs are largely planted and the dreaded mole hills have started appearing now that mowing has essentially stopped. Compost heaps and leaf bins are brimming with the remains of this year's bounty, where they will break down and contribute to the garden again for future crops. With the onset now of cold nights and windy days bringing down the last of the leaves, the landscape will start changing more convincingly into its wintry form.

**September meeting** – After all the wonderful visits to various gardens during the summer months we returned to the Village Hall in September for a hugely interesting talk by Christine Stones entitled 'Not Just Gertrude Jekyll'. Christine told us about some less well-known but fascinating women who achieved fame in a variety of aspects of gardening, including Beatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild, Ellen Willmott, Edith Wharton and Daisy, Countess of Warwick as well as the amazing Gertrude.

**October meeting** – Caroline Pakenham lived up to her established reputation (she last visited us in 2011) and gave us a fun evening in October. Carrie discussed this time how to overwinter the huge range of herbs she grows. She is extremely funny, passionate and really knowledgeable about growing herbs and has the ability to pass on this information in a charming manner. All in all, it was a great evening.

**November meeting** – We had an extremely stimulating talk by Jake Hobson in November – his second visit to the Club. His extensive knowledge of

Japanese garden design and topiary have been practised using, amongst others, his mother's garden as a work in progress. His wonderful photos opened our eyes to all sorts of possibilities and gave great insight into Japanese design and what could be achieved in our own gardens. Old, established trees and shrubs pruned into a multi-stemmed open design were particularly striking. Jake looks after the Stavordale topiary and his Mother's garden at Harvard Farm – the Club will be visiting both gardens in 2017 and I am sure Members will be looking forward to seeing his designs.

**Monday 12th December** – is the date for our annual Christmas Get-Together. A light-hearted quiz plus our usual social evening has been arranged. A cider cup, wine and soft drinks will be provided and we welcome any plates of food you care to bring along. We shall be holding a raffle and any prizes you can donate would be gratefully received. The fire will be lit and tables decorated to enhance the Christmas spirit.

**New membership** – Since our last newsletter we welcome Connie Haydon who, as a past member, has rejoined the Gardening Club. We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas gathering.

**Gold Club Vouchers & Compost Order Forms** – Can be collected at our Christmas meeting. The January/February 25% discount vouchers can be used as many times as you like while they have stock. Plus, there are bargain prices on the Compost Order Form to order as much compost, mulches and fertilizer as you need with a guarantee of FREE delivery. Call Fran on 828032 to arrange a convenient time for collection of Vouchers and Compost Order Forms if you are unable to be at the December meeting.

#### Future talks

At the **January** meeting on Monday 9th we are extremely fortunate to have Mike Burks from Castle Gardens coming to give a talk and demonstration on 'Propagation'. Those who know Mike will expect to enjoy his very dry sense of humour, along with, as ever, extensive knowledge on how to propagate anything. So, we will all go home stimulated into having a go at propagating that desirable plant one has always wished for dozens more of.

In **February** on Monday 13th we will have a new speaker, Lois Philipps. Her talk entitled 'Down to Earth' is all about soil – your very own garden soil. Bring along a sample and she will guide you through its needs and requirements and how to improve it, and thus the garden itself. A truly hands-on evening.

Any late-breaking gardening-related news that comes to our attention and may be of interest to members, along with details of all our club meetings, past, present and future, can all be found on the website

**We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Get-together and in the New Year**

Contributions from Vicky Daniell, Freddie Yorke, Fran Robson & Penny Silverside