

The Donheads Gardening Club
2019 CALENDAR

- January 14th** 'Secret Life of Birds' Ornithologist - Dominic Couzens
- February 11th** 'Propagation & Seed's - Castle Gardens
- March 11th** AGM followed by Seed Swap & Spring Bulb Competition
- April 8th** 'Alpines' - Graham Nichols
- May 13th** Discount Evening + Talk - Castle Gardens, Sherborne
- June, July** Garden Visits to be confirmed
- August** HOLIDAY TIME
- September 9th** 'Carnivorous Plants'
- October 14th** 'Pickles & Preserves' - Caroline Pakenham
- November 11th** 'Ponds'

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



Contact Details:

Vicky Daniell 01747 828 161 • Email: vdaniell66@gmail.com
Orchard House, Watery Lane, Donhead St Mary SP7 9DP
Website: www.donheadsgardeningclub.co.uk

The Donheads Gardening Club

Newsletter No. 69
Autumn 2018



*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: Kevin Wood 07815 813629 • Treasurer: Roger Giles 828663 • Secretary: Vicky Daniell 828161

Newsletter No.69 • November 2018

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 £5.00 is requested). Refreshments available from 7.00pm (a donation of 50p is suggested).

What a fantastic summer it turned out to be! Challenging at times with the intense heat and long dry spells, but to be able to eat breakfast outside and enjoy our gardens late into the evening night after night was a rare and very special privilege. Even the autumn seems to have been kind, with late summer sun and wonderful conditions enabling us to go some way at least towards putting our gardens to bed for the winter!

We have some exciting and inspiring talks to look forward to over the coming months, and of course a chance to catch up with each other socially at our Christmas get-together in December - details included in this letter.

Coming up very soon on Monday 12th November, we have a real treat in store when our speaker will be Derry Watkins - a renowned and passionate plants woman. Derry has developed her nursery based around exotic and unusual plants that she has discovered during her travels around the world.

Born in the United States, Derry now lives just outside Bath with her husband who is a well regarded architect. Together they have undertaken a wonderful restoration of several barns and refashioned the surrounding landscape creating an inspirational and unique place which is home to their 'Special Plants Nursery'.

Derry will be bringing many of these wonderful plants with her and will introduce them to us during her talk on 'Late Summer Colour'. We will also have the opportunity to purchase some of the unusual plants from her nursery that evening, so do please bring your money with you so that you can take full advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

At the November meeting there will also be bulbs available for the final entries into the spring bulb growing competition, and a reminder to collect seeds from our gardens for our seed swap in March next year.

Our annual Christmas get together this year is on Monday 10th December when we will be hosting a 'Quiz for Fun' and we look forward to seeing as many members as possible for a lovely social evening. As in previous years we ask everyone to bring a plate of food with them for sharing, and if you have your own preferred tipples do please also bring that along with you. There will be wine and mulled cider available in the hall on the night, and also soft drinks. We will hold our customary Christmas raffle, and would welcome contributions to this in the way of garden related items only please. These can either be brought to the hall on the night, or if you would like to leave them with Vicky at an earlier date or have them collected please just ring her on 01747 828161.

In the New Year we can look forward to a talk on Monday 14th January, by Dominic Couzens who is a natural history expert and the writer of more than 30 books. One of his books entitled 'The Secret Lives of Garden Birds' will be the topic of this talk. Dominic is a regular bird-watching field trip leader, and an expert in bird behaviour. This should be a fascinating talk about many of our native garden birds, and we will hopefully learn why they behave the way they do and what we can do to attract more of them into our gardens.

Our meeting on Monday 11th February could be very timely as we prepare for the new growing season and decide what seeds to grow and perhaps consider trying some new varieties. Our friends at Castle Gardens will be giving us a talk and demonstration on 'Seeds and Propagation' and this will lead us on to our next meeting in March when we will have our own Seed Swap.

The AGM on Monday 11th March will be followed by a 'Seed Swap' when we can exchange any of the seeds that we collected at the end of the summer and share tips on the best way to germinate and grow them on. This will also be the time to bring along the bulbs we have been nurturing over the winter months for the Spring Bulb competition, by which time we should have some lovely blooms to be judged on the evening.

The Gardening club has a page every other month in the Donhead Digest where a member writes an informal garden related column. We always need more authors please and would love to hear from you if you would like to help. Please contact Kevin Wood for more information on 07815 813629.

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