



THE DONHEADS GARDENING CLUB

Website: www.donheadsgardeningclub.co.uk

THE DONHEADS GARDENING CLUB - SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER March 2025

How nice it is to be officially into spring at last! And March has certainly been a great improvement on the miserable February we had, which seemed to last forever! With the recent bright and warm days, all the signs of life are appearing in the countryside and in our gardens, and without the squelching ground beneath our feet, it is possible to get out again and enjoy it all.

We have gathered quite a few new members into the Gardening Club in this early part of the year. It is always nice to see some new faces amongst us, and I'm sure the club will be all the better for having them with us. We welcome Laura Hutchinson, Patricia Maxwell-Arnot, Juliet Mount Charles, Carola Mangnall, Ted Martin, John Hannaford, Karen Dray, Sue Richards, Amanda Vardey, Brent and Jo Hyde-Smith.

As you know, following the wonderful talk from Arthur Cole about The Newt in February we were kindly given two annual joint garden memberships for the Newt. We have been selling a limited number of raffle tickets to the members (only) at £5 per ticket, with a maximum allowance of two tickets per member. Many have been sold, but we still have twelve raffle tickets remaining, so if there are any of you who haven't yet bought tickets but would like to, please get in touch with me – vdaniell66@gmail.com The raffle will be drawn at our April meeting, and the tickets will be valid for one year from the date at which they are first used.

We have been taking names of those of you who would like to visit Ferne Park on Friday 6th June – 2.00-5.00pm. We are limited to offering members only 30 places for this visit, and the list is now full. But if you would like to have your name on a waiting list, do please get in touch. As we know, June can be a very busy month, and people's diaries can play havoc with their plans, so it's possible we may have some changes to the list nearer the time.

Annual subscriptions were due for renewal in March, and many of you have already done this, for which many thanks. If you haven't yet renewed and would like to, it is now possible to pay online, so please contact me for the bank details if you would like them. Otherwise send a cheque for £17.50 made payable to Donheads Gardening Club, to Louis Parker at Brookhill

Cottage, Brookwater, Donhead St Andrew, SP7 9LG. Membership cards can be collected at the April meeting, but if you are unable to attend, please email Louis at parkerlouisatqm@aol.com to make other arrangements for collection.

A reminder that you will need your 2025 membership card to take advantage of the following discounts, in particular the very special 25% discount evening at Castle Gardens on Monday 19th May.

Castle Gardens - 25% with seasonal vouchers and an annual discount evening.

Plantworld, Gillingham - 10% with your membership card.

Just a reminder that the **FOUR VILLAGES SPRING FETE** will be held on Sunday 18th May. Any plants or divisions from your gardens that you can offer Penny Short for the ever-popular **Plant Stall** would be gratefully received. Penny can be contacted on 01747 828062 or by email pennyshort2@gmail.com. Apologies for a non-gardening addition to this newsletter, but if any of you have any items that you would like to donate to the **bric-a-brac stall**, then Diana and I would be very glad of them. Could we request that these are clean, unbroken and saleable items only please. If you have any questions about when and where to deliver bric-a-brac, please contact me on 01747 828161 or vdaniell66@gmail.com, or Diana at dianamcconaghy@hotmail.com Due to lack of storage space, we aren't able to take anything in until Monday 5th May onwards and no later than Thursday 15th May.

Should any of you be planning a visit to one of the RHS gardens, please remember that one of the bonuses of our Club affiliation with the RHS, is that we have an RHS 'Garden Entry Discount Card'. This card is for sharing amongst all our members, and offers **two adults** (DGC members only) a 50% discount off the entry fee to any RHS Garden - Bridgewater, Harlow Carr, Hyde hall, Rosemoor and Wisley, with unlimited use until it expires on 31st January 2026, with the exception of Flower Shows and Glow events. If you would like to use this card over the coming months, please get in touch with me for further details at vdaniell66@gmail.com or 01747 828161.

We hope you will enjoy all the club events that are planned for this year. Penny will email timing and details of each event to you about a week or two beforehand.

In the meantime – fingers crossed for some more glorious spring days ahead.

Vicky

Future club events for this year are.....

Monday 14th April – A talk by Christopher Brown from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission on '**GARDENING THE WORLD**'. To be held at Donhead St Andrew's church, with wine and refreshments from 6.15pm – talk at 7.00pm.

Monday 19th May – Castle Gardens, Sherborne, **DISCOUNT EVENING** – (members only). A short talk from the Castle Gardens team, and a 25% discount off all full priced items.

Friday 6th June – **VISIT TO FERNE PARK garden** (members only) – 2.00 p.m for 3 hours, £30.00 p.p. to include tea and cakes.

Monday 14th July – author Abigail Willis will expand on her book - **AMAZING GARDEN INNOVATIONS** – a potted history of gardening told through 50 innovations.

AUGUST – no meeting – annual holiday

Tuesday 9th September – **VISIT TO MAPPERTON HOUSE GARDENS**, Beaminster. £17.00p.p. to include a tour with the Head Gardener at 2.00p.m. The house can be toured separately but needs to be booked well in advance.

Monday 13th October – Jeanette Hampstead of Hazlebury Hedgehog Resue will talk on the **RESCUE OF SICK AND INJURED HEDGEHOGS IN THE DORSET AREA.**

Monday 10th November – Rosemary Legrand, gardener and travel writer will give a talk on **SPRING IN JAPAN.**

Monday 15th December – **CHRISTMAS PARTY** – it was decided to reinstate a Monday evening for this event.