

Wickhambrook & District Garden Club 2025

The Garden Club had a very successful year seeing our membership flourish to almost 50 members. In May we have held an exceptionally successful Annual plant sale. We even donated some plants that were used in the planters outside the MSC Hall. These are enjoyed by the entire village.

In June we had a very interesting talk about Auriculas by the very experienced horticulturist Lucy Skinner.

On the 19th June members had been invited by the very generous Draycott Family for some wine and cheese to see the crops, conservation work and woodlands at Ashfield Green Farm.

As usual the Flower Show 2025 was a roaring success. This was the first year we introduced the Cottage Garden Class that was open to Wickhambrook, Denston and Stradishall. With an impressive eleven entries. Even considering the exceptionally hot Spring and Summer.

The trip to Hyde Hall Flower Show in July saw many members come by coach and car. Many members feeding back what a lovely day they had.

In August we visited our local vegetable box provider Sunshine and Green.

In September our members learned everything there is to know about growing Roses from Simon White.

In October Ian Ball, Garden Manager at Hyde Hall to talk about their Dry Garden. As we'd recently visited Hyde Hall this held a certain reverence with members.

Our AGM in November saw some changing of the guard. Jackie Merry stepped down as Chair after many years of studious service. But we are still lucky enough to have her variant knowledge upon the Garden Club Committee. We thank her for all she did. Audrey Lowfield stepped down as Co-Chair as well. We are very lucky to still have her on the committee still as well.

Glen Puxley-Pituch was elected as Chairman and his Wife Paulina, was elected as Vice Chair. As well as staying on as Summer Show Secretary.

We had some exciting additions to our committee including Cathy Cordy, Sally Welsh and Mike Lavell. These can be considered new and exciting changes for the Garden Club going forward.

The New Year started off with an interactive and well attended Talk with Sue Stublely from the local Hedgehog Hospital. She brought a gorgeous hedgehog for everyone to see while giving a very informative lecture on the trouble currently facing both the hospital and Hedgehog's in general. Sue told us that although No Mow May is very good for pollinators many hedgehogs get injured when gardeners start strimming their gardens in June.

In February we learnt the in and outs of Garden Design from Louise Gilhooly.

In March the talk on Wacky, Weird and Wonderful veg encouraged much member interaction. Neville Stein being a particular articulate speaker on the subject.

Jason Breed from Mole Seeds gave an information talk on sowing hardy annuals.

Following Easter Holiday, the Committee helped pass the enjoyment of all things horticultural to the next generation at Wickhambrook Primary School. Members gave up their time to help clear the plant beds to be able to plant vegetables in the future. We have also delivered 175 packets of Sunflower seeds as well so children can enter the Tallest Sunflower Competition at this Year's Flower show.

We will also be visiting the local Beavers and Cubs to talk to them about the Summer Show children's classes and entering the Scarecrow competition that is open to all.

We are looking forward to another busy year. With many interesting talks, events and trips.

Yours sincerely,

Glen Puxley-Pituch

Garden Club Chairman