

Wickhambrook Garden club

Six Monthly Report from the Chair April 2025

This is a short report following on from the November 2024 report

At our AGM in November, all of the committee agreed to serve another term but with some alterations in roles.

It was decided to share the position of Chair for this coming year between Audrey Lawfield and Jackie Merry, which we hope will work well and which was approved by the committee. We welcomed Kay McEvoy onto the Committee, and hope she will enjoy being part of the team. We also decided to ask for suggestions from members at each meeting, some of which have already been acted upon.

Our first meeting of 2025 was a presentation by Fiona Rose called In the Garden with William Morris. The planting in his gardens had a direct influence on his designs. He lectured on the importance of trees, the use of local materials in house building and the disposal of litter and was a true environmentalist as well

In February we had an enlightening and humorous talk by Chris Dodson, a local thatcher. He filled us in on the history of thatching from Neolithic times to today, and his family's business, which was founded by his grandfather. We were amazed at the skill of the thatchers, the different materials used and their qualities, for example the length of life of straw as opposed to reed. Individual thatchers have preferred styles which can be seen in their work in the local villages.

In March we had the very knowledgeable Simon McWilliams talking to us about plants for dry shade. Simon has his own nursery ^{Reishy} and he brought many plants from there to illustrate his talk and which we could buy. Of course we were all tempted!

We are looking forward to our April meeting, with a talk entitled Garden Design from Concept to completion. This will show us all where we went wrong at the start.

We have a very loyal membership but would welcome more members.

I would again like to thank the committee who work so hard to make a success of the club. We all look forward to the full and varied programme for the rest of the year, especially the Flower Show held in July.

Jackie Merry

Audrey Lawfield

JOINT CHAIR