



REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 10th APRIL 2026

The club continues with a strong membership base of approximately 56 members meeting in Wickham Market Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the third Thursday of most months, where we welcome speakers on all sorts of garden related topics, hold a raffle & offer refreshments. In addition to our speaker meetings, we also hold an annual plant sale, our Autumn Show, organise a trip and hold two social member events in the summer & at Christmas.

At our March meeting we welcomed Peter Skeggs – Gooch with a ‘Complete Guide to Clematis’ followed in April by wildlife photographer Tony Brown talking about his ‘Fascination with Fungi’. Our annual plant sale in May was well supported with donations from our members. The funds generated help support the club in organising our yearly programme.

In June we heard from Jan Michalak on Plant adaptation for dry/drought climates and in July the club visited Bressingham Gardens. August saw us back in the Garden celebrating summer with our garden party held in one of our committee members gardens. A great night was had by all.

September is a busy month for the committee with preparations for the Autumn Show held the 2nd Saturday. The committee is supported by additional volunteers during the weekend helping to set up on the Friday, acting as stewards & providing the committee & judges lunch. Refreshments over the two days are provided by a long-standing club member and various Committee Members. The judges were impressed once again with the number & quality of entries.

October had us back in the hall with Chris Wiley on ‘Hellebores’ followed Geoff Hodge in November via zoom on ‘Winter Colour’

In December we held our members Christmas party with a quiz, Fizz, Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and seasonal singing.

Our January meeting saw us back on Zoom with Claire Hart and ‘Square Metre Gardening.

February is our AGM month and concluded my first year as club chairman.

We are always keen to attract new members from the village and the surrounding area. Anyone interested in learning a little more about gardening is most welcome to come and join us and Club membership is neither expensive nor in any sense exclusive. We make no charge for interested visitors for the first meeting, so we encourage new members to come along and give us a try. We also have two vacancies on our committee presently.

We produce a monthly newsletter called *Rake's Progress* that all members receive. This has reports on recent activities and details of future attractions, together with news of local events, gardening tips and weather reports. The Club is affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society.

The Village Hall remains vital to our activities as a Club and this year we fulfilled a long-standing pledge by making a donation of £300 to the Village Hall Modernisation Fund. The work on the hall when it begins will create challenges for the club regarding sourcing an alternative venue but welcomed the confirmation that our Autumn Show this year could be held as normal in the hall. We look forward to returning to the hall when the modernisation is complete.

We can be contacted by email wmgardenclub27@gmail.com or via our website <http://wmgardenclub.org.uk/>