



Wickham Skeith Gardening Club

Annual Report 2013/14

Our first full year of the club has been better than we could have hoped for. After a bit of publicity in the newsletters of surrounding villages we now have members not just from Wickham Skeith but also Twaite, Finningham, Gislingham and Mendlesham, increasing our membership to 37.

The plant stall outside the village hall has been a great success and helps to subsidise some of the ever increasing speaker costs.

Last year we had some wonderful speakers and some excellent trips out to the National Lilac collection, Blacksmith Cottage Nursery and Gardeners World Live at the NEC. We also co-ordinated the Village Produce Show for the first time. Very hard work but we can use the experience to beef up this year's show and try to encourage more entries.

This year's programme started at our AGM in February with a fabulous talk from Broadcaster and Lecturer, Karen Kenney, on Friends and Foes in the Garden. This was followed by a very enthusiastic Johnathon Dutton talking about plants from 'The Oregon Trail'. Our April speaker was Tom Proctor who was booked to talk about 'Grow your own Veg'. A lovely chap and a good speaker but not quite what we expected from the billed title which has taught us a valuable lesson in that we shouldn't take the title at face value. Event committee members will from now on give each speaker the Spanish inquisition about exactly what they are doing and what we expect!

We are about to embark on our summer outings, the first one being to the Iris Fields at Wortham, followed by a coach trip to RHS Wisley, A guided tour of Foggy Bottom at Blooms and an outing with lunch to The Old Vicarage at East Rushton. We are back in the hall from September with talks and demonstrations, on the perennial cutting garden, the winter garden and fruit tree pruning, lined up. The year will finish as always with our Christmas dinner.

I'd like to finish by thanking the club officers and committee members for all their help and support over the past year.

Rosie Bassett