

GARDENING CLUB REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

Since last year's report we had our Village Walk on Sunday, 11th June, a very hot day. We visited six gardens and finished with a drink in the Ship garden.

The annual Flower and Produce Show took place on Saturday, 8th July. David Long kindly opened the show on another hot day. The number of attendees was down on the previous year, but a good time was had by all. A big thank you to Barry Young who compiles the Schedule for us each year. This was the first year that the Sir Clavering Fison Cup was presented for the Best Garden Tub or Container and was won by Mrs Hilary Weston. The Rev. Harry Stalker also donated the Coronation Cup for the Best Victoria Sponge made by a woman. This was won by Marian Rose.

On the 2nd August we took a coach trip to the Flower Show at Hyde Hall. This was organised by Caroline Young. 18 people went on the trip and the weather was kind to us, having had an awful lot of rain that week!

The trip to Urban Jungle which was scheduled for 18th September will now be arranged for 2024.

The Harvest Supper took place on Friday, 6th October. This was very well supported and a great success as always. A fun evening was had by all.

Sadly Roseanne Girling retired from the committee, after many years. (She cannot remember how many!) We shall miss her lovely smile and quietly giving us her steadfast support.

18th October, Tristan from Gladwells gave a very interesting talk on garden ponds. Sixteen residents attended on a very wet evening.

29th November, in the afternoon, Ildl gave us a talk on wreath making and demonstrated a pedestal. 22 people attended and a fun afternoon was had by all, with delicious refreshments.

On Thursday 22nd February, Paula Baker came to talk to us from the Suffolk Prickle Hedgehog Rescue Centre - an interesting talk about 'hogging in the hedgerows' and gardening for hedgehogs.

Thursday, 21st March, Salvatore Marsala, an agronomist and the head gardener at Levington Hall, gave us a very interesting and informative talk on citrus trees and answered general questions from the floor.

Thursday 25th April, we had a talk by Joe Underwood from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Joe is the warden for Trimley Marshes and the Levington Lagoon. He gave a slide show and a fascinating incite into the upkeep of the nature reserve and care of the bird population, many of which are quite rare for this part of the country.

It was not a very nice evening but very disappointing that only 12 people attended. This seems to be setting a trend and it will be very sad if we have to discontinue the Club meetings from lack of support.

Hopefully the Flower Show in July will be well supported, and a good time will be had by all.

My thanks to the Committee for all their support throughout the year.

DI HITCHCOCK, Chairman

29th March 2024