

## Swanton Morley Gardening Club



### Committee report for Annual General Meeting January 2026

Despite yet another year of challenging weather, our club demonstrated resilience and determination, enjoying a busy and varied programme of speakers and visits in 2025 and, turned out our best ever annual show.

We started the year with a fascinating talk on bees, where we learned more than we thought possible about the lives and activity of this crucial visitor to our gardens. Who knew that pollen came in so many different colours?

A last minute switch of speakers in March provided us with an informative talk on a very popular plant, the clematis.

Mark and Jo followed the next month giving us tips and tricks on how to propagate our plants, in order to save and multiply our favourite species, and our pennies.

On a wet evening in May, we visited Dillington Herbs. Despite the weather there was a good turn out and we were invited to wander through the greenhouses and see the extraordinary sight of thousands of miniature plants being nurtured. Needless to say, many plants were purchased and relocated to Swanton Morley.

In June we embarked on a new venture – a joint bus trip with North Elmham Garden club. We visited Green Island Gardens in Ardleigh near Colchester. The weather couldn't have been more different to our previous visit. The people who went enjoyed the day wandering around in the scorching hot sun, taking refuge in the café or under the trees in the woodland walk. A lasting memory being the sweet smelling climber surrounding the doorway and pillars in the garden. It was a successful departure from our normal programme.

Our third visit was to Tudor Lodgings in Castle Acre where we were warmly greeted by the owner and given an impressive tea in the garden. Everyone thought the garden was beautiful and remarked on the lovely tranquil, relaxing atmosphere and generous host.

August brought our biggest event of the year – the Annual Show, and 2025 didn't disappoint.

We turned out the best ever show with an increased number of exhibits entered into the show. It was a sight to behold and demonstrated the enthusiasm, skill and determination of our members, earning well deserved praise from some of the judges who commented on it being a good quality show, very professional and well attended. Credit has to go to our show manager Laurie for his impeccable organisation.

Autumn brought the year to a close with, a well *presented* talk about a vineyard in Norfolk, a well *rescued* talk on composting, (which hopefully will be presented again later in the year with all the planned visual aids) and a well *received*, lively and somewhat competitive Christmas Social.

Another year, another success and another demonstration of the strength of the club and commitment of its members.