

Sampford Arundel Parish Council AGM
7 May 2019
Report from Sampford Arundel Gardening Club

On 14th February 2019 we celebrated our 20th Anniversary. And despite the lure of an alternative Valentine's night candlelit supper, the Parish Room was packed with our own members and those of other local clubs, including Sampford Arundel WI. We also welcomed a number of our founder members who, in the October of 1998, attended the first meeting of Wellington Gardening Club, and thought "we can do that", and set up the club a few months later.

Our speaker was Katherine Crouch, winner of the BBC Gardener of the Year and subsequently Gardener of the Decade, with a talk entitled, 'New Tricks for Old Gardeners' (we like to think she meant, "Experienced Gardeners"!). As well as her obvious knowledge of gardening, Katherine is a most entertaining and amusing speaker and her horticultural advice was delivered with great good humour and amusing asides.

After the speeches we feasted on food brought by members, for which many thanks, and especially to Carole Popplestone for producing a brilliantly decorated anniversary cake, which was also extremely tasty.



In a continuation of the celebrations, on 13 April, 32 members took a coach trip to Cardiff for the RHS flower show; a glorious sunny day, fantastic displays, and a great time was had by all.



Overall, it's been a good year.

Although, we did have sad news, about the death in the new year of Margaret Bowen, a stalwart of our monthly competitions and a very knowledgeable member, who's garden in Breech Hill delighted many who passed it, without knowing Margaret.

The usual wide range of monthly talks and visits are enjoyed by the increasing membership. – now at 36. Another fantastic turnout of flowers and produce for the 2018 Annual Show, and plans ready for the 2019 show.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work in organising the yearly programme, visits to interesting gardens, and ensuring the club goes from strength to strength.

Much to look forward to!

So, if you are a novice or expert gardener, have a general interest in horticultural and “green” matters ... join us on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Sampford Arundel Parish Rooms.

Ian Stock
Chair - SAGC