Winsford Gardening Club Meeting
Tuesday 13th October 2026

We had a fun filled last meeting of the year on Tuesday in the village hall. There was lots of chat, laugher and, of course, tea and cake.

Village Fete 2027
Gardening Club had been asked to consider the options for the fruit and veg for next year's fete. A discussion took place and Sharon will liaise with Tracey on the options suggested. Sharon was asked to request whether the fruit and veg and the flower choices could be shared much earlier, maybe January, to give everyone the opportunity to grow these items.

A suggestion was made for Gardening Club, in collaboration with the Recreation Association, to give a biodegradable seedling pot with a sunflower seed in to every child in the village and children who attend Santa's Gotto as a present jointly from the club and association. There could be a competition to see whose flower grows the tallest. Children outside the village could send photos. Sharon informed the group that there is a Recreation Meeting on Thursday which she is attending and would raise it then. Sarah Cox agreed to take on this task if agreement was made.

Putting the garden to bed
We had a fun exercise covering which plants should be cut down now, left until spring or left for wildlife value. This provoked a lot of discussion and the winning team won chocolate! We talked about which plants need protecting from frost and wind, and options for doing this.

Jobs this month
Plant spring bulbs (info given last month).
Lift and divide any overcrowded herbaceous perennials whilst the soil is still warm.
Tidy borders then mulch to insulate plant roots for the winter and suppress weed growth.
Cut back tall shrubs like Buddleia and roses by about a third to prevent wind rocking.

Question time
We talked about plants in the garden for winter interest and some suggestions were made. Questions were asked on leaf mould, greenhouse floor options and whether to cut back Lavatera and answers were provided by members of the group.

Review of our first year
We looked at what people stated at the first meeting that they would like our club to cover. Most of these were covered and this will carry forward to next year.

Sharon explained that she had been in discussions with a gentleman from Cannington College about coming to talk at our April meeting on pruning and propagation (a topic which was suggested at the September meeting). The group discussed this, together with the cost and wished to go ahead and organise this visit.

Thanks to Janet who has organised for our gardening club to exclusively visit Hollam House in the Spring. Watch this space.

Sharon asked if anyone more experienced would like to take over the running the club. There was no interest and the group were happy with how the club was running.

We reviewed the day of the week that the club meets as Sharon knows of a resident who would love to attend but is unavailable on Tuesdays. Other members couldn't make other days so it was agreed to stay on a Tuesday when we re-start in January 2027.

Unfortunately, we ran out of time so were unable to do the last task of reviewing the year but it was agreed (and members promised!) to complete their feedback once Sharon has emailed some questions around.

Seed Share
Gardening Club provided seed envelopes and lots of people had brought seeds to share with the group. Thank you so much for everyone who provided seeds.

Any other business
Sharon confirmed that the spring bulbs had arrived and would be sorted this afternoon and distributed.

There is a talk at Dulverton Gardening Club on Thursday about growing plants in the shade. Teresa, Sarah and Sharon are attending and lifts were offered to others.

Charlie has offered to do a talk at our January meeting about creating a wild flower area. The club would like to take Charlie up on this offer and would look forward hearing about it. Charlie would also kindly provide yellow rattle seeds.

Janet kindly donated some gardening magazines. The remaining ones are in the foyer of the village hall for people to help themselves.

Bernadette kindly provided some leaflets from Plants Galore.

Thanks were given to all who attended.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 12th January 2027
at Charlie and Zara's