

NEWSLETTER

My third year as chairman of the Society has been a busy one – particularly as I moved from Street to Godney in August. However, all the background work required both before and after the Annual Show went smoothly, with the experienced team of members getting everything organised on a tight time schedule. Gordon West and his team do an amazing job each year, turning Crispin Hall into a great showroom just in time for the judges to see the exhibits on the Saturday morning. On the day, numerous people are involved with various functions – escorting the judges, keeping records of the prize winners, writing out all the prize cards and sorting out the prize money. The support of sponsors of the Society and those who sponsor classes enable us to have a high level of prizes, attracting exhibitors from a wide area and of a very high standard. The Show is also helped on the day by those who look after the raffle, the tea and cakes (delicious!) and “guess the weight of the pumpkin” etc. The Show just wouldn’t be as good without every one of these people. The Society is grateful to all those involved and we hope they will continue to maintain the high standard for many years to come. I must also mention all the exhibitors – every year they produce fantastic flowers and vegetables whatever the weather.

Perhaps the most exciting development this year has been our website – www.streetcdvs.org.uk. This has expanded from small beginnings to include the full schedule including entry form, links to Newsletters and galleries of photos – past and present. Our lack of experience was helped considerably by the guidance and expertise of our webmaster, Mike Potter. Mike has huge experience of setting up websites in various spheres, and has been able to assist with additional web pages and galleries and various links. I am now able to update some of the content through a link – so let me know if you spot any errors, or if you have any suggestions for the web pages – or anything else relating to the Society. Mike Potter’s website is www.webadore.co.uk – I can certainly recommend him if you need someone to set up a website.

Plant Sale

The plant sale this year went off to a good start, but deteriorating weather meant that some of the plants were looking rather sad later in the morning due to the blustery conditions. In spite of this, we made a slightly higher profit compared to 2010 – thanks also to those members who supplied plants, all those who helped on the day and before, and to the Sea Cadets who braved the inclement weather to help people take their purchases to the car parks.

63rd Annual Show

The last few days before the Show are always nerve racking – wondering if the stands will still fit together, if there will be enough entries, will people come to visit, and what will the weather be like. This year we were delighted with both the number and quality of the entries. Several sections deserve special mention – the children’s classes were much better this year, with more entries and some wonderful “animals”! This is particularly pleasing, as one of the aims of the Society is to encourage the next generation to take an interest. The floral arrangement section



produced a large number of clever interpretations of the Titles. There was also a new cake section, which attracted a large number of entries of a very high standard (although not all fully complied with the requirements in the schedule – take care next year!). Bob Burns of Burns The Bread both advised on the description in the schedule and judged this class. It is certainly a class that will continue in the future. Special thanks to Graham Coles, the Town Crier, who distributed leaflets about the show to people on the High Street during the morning. This year we moved everything back one hour, opening to the public at 12 noon, and holding the presentation of cups and trophies at 4.30pm. This



proved very popular with visitors, and had the unexpected benefit that several people stayed behind afterwards to help with the clearing up, making the final emptying of the Hall much quicker on Sunday

Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society



morning. Previously the later finish meant that everyone was in a hurry to return home. Thanks to all who helped – come back next year!! Matthew Burnell presented the cups and trophies, while explaining his lack of entries as due to the difficult growing conditions on the Mendips – however, he was informed that some of the prize-winning vegetables in the show had been grown on the Mendips! No excuses next year, Matthew!

Laura Linham at the Central Somerset Gazette has again been very helpful in putting articles in the paper before the show and afterwards, including photos kindly taken by Jason Bryant. Ruth Hamlett has also been active in increasing our publicity. She is also establishing links with the local allotment association – a new link has been added to our website and theirs. Some new members joined the Society at the Show, and we hope that the website will also encourage others to join.

The major prize winners were:-

- **Chrysanthemums** – J. Cockwill (Brooking Clark Challenge Cup, George Miller Challenge Cup, Gordon Richards Trophy, British Royal Legion Cup, Cyril & Richard Holland Trophy, Dorothy Talbot Cup, Colin Mundy Trophy, Hamblin Cup, NCS Silver Medal, NCS Bronze Medal), M. Higgins (NCS Certificate of Merit), Mrs Y. Carey (Wheatley Novice Cup)
- **Dahlias** – R. Downting (J Yelling Rose Bowl, Society's Challenge Cup, NDS Bronze Medal, Members' Challenge Cup), T. Bratcher (Bert Newton Challenge Cup, NDS Silver Medal, Wheatley Trophy), N. J. Toogood (A E Phillips Cup), and I. Burton (Wheatley Novice Cup)
- **Vegetables** – H. Godden (The Unity Club Cup, J Yelling Cup, Derek Marsh Trophy, Piper's Inn Salad Bowl, NVS Medal for Best Exhibit), A.J.Nicholls (Frank Ganfield Cup)
- **Begonias** (Wessex Championship) – L. Earl (G.Burge Cup)
- **Fuchsias** – Mrs J. Tidball (Fuchsia Cup)
- **Floral Arrangement** – Mrs K. Burleton (Anita Ruth Willmott Cup, Society's Challenge Cup), Ms L. Jessemey (Novice Flower Arranging Cup)
- **Best Exhibit in Show** (Colin Mundy Cup) – J. Cockwill
- **Children's Cup** – Charlie Cook & Harvey Chinnock
- **Walton Press Schools Cup** – Brookside School
- **Schools Design Cup** – Hindhayes School



Street Parish Church Harvest Festival

The Society was invited to take part in the Harvest Festival on 2nd October, and members were pleased to supply some vegetables, floral arrangements and sheaths of wheat. Several members attended the service, at which a reading was given by Sue Williams – daughter of Fred Townshend.

Pat Baker writes:-

1. I will be sending for some onions & celery plants - also stump, long carrots & parsnip seed. If anyone would like to have some they can contact me for more details & price.
2. Now is the time to put Garlic bulbs in as they like a long cold period to help them grow in the spring.
3. Also it is time to buy your Shallots & Onion Sets which can be started in pots in the greenhouse or cold frame around Christmas time, ready to plant out in early March.

Annual General Meeting – The next AGM will be held in the Unity Club at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th February 2012. All members and potential members are welcome to attend. Any items for the agenda should be notified to the secretary – Maureen Heal (25, Pine Close, Street BA16 0RS; tel; 01458 443277). **It would also be helpful to have any nominations for the committee and officers.** Refreshments will be served at the AGM. There will be a raffle and a talk after the “business” part of the evening. The speaker will be Michael Pollack, talking about “Growing Vegetables”.

Space is limited, but, as always, feedback and articles for the next issue will be welcome. The more e-mail addresses we have, the easier it is to send out newsletters – please send these (and any other comments/articles) to john@68leigh.freereserve.co.uk or pbaker042000@yahoo.co.uk. Remember, you can also send feedback via the Contact Us page of the website.