

NEWSLETTER

This is one of those years when I ask myself “Why?” Why did I move to Godney, in a High Environment Agency Flood Risk Area? Why are we running a flower and vegetable show, when the whole area has been beset with the heaviest rainfall for at least a century, with low temperatures and very limited sunshine? But when the Annual Show starts, I am amazed at what our exhibitors manage to produce in such difficult conditions – unprecedented in a lifetime. All credit to them – the end result makes it all worthwhile. The committee and many other helpers are involved to bring this show to Street each year, starting with the AGM, followed by the Plant Sale (plus all the voluntary work carried out before this to raise the plants for the sale), then the run up to the Show itself. Apart from the weather, we had problems finding a judge for the dahlias beforehand – but, in the end, we had two – husband and wife team, Martyn & Val – who came to our rescue, and there were problems with the lighting in Crispin Hall – sorted, at least temporarily, at the last minute! Our President, Ken Dunthorn, was unable to be at the show, along with other members of his family who also usually help. However, he had the best of reasons, as he and his wife, Diana, were celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with family and friends. The Society congratulates them on this achievement, and wishes them many more happy years together.



Our website – www.streetcdvs.org.uk - continues to flourish, with more being added each year. In due course, members in the future will be able to look back at the history of the Society, through the Newsletters and photo galleries. We have also produced a special “business card” for The Society as an easy way to give people information to access the website.

Plant Sale

After some very wet weather, we had a dry day for the plant sale, although the early frost meant a cold start, scraping the ice off our windscreens before we set up the tables and plants – not what we expected on 12th May in this area! However, it warmed up eventually, and the plants were remarkably good in spite of the growing conditions. When our treasurer, Pat Baker, sorted everything out, we again had an increased profit (although this was partly because we didn't need to buy as many trays/pots).

Barton St David Garden Competition

At the end of May, Pat Baker, Mike Reardon- Harman (Baltonsborough Show) and I were invited to judge a large number of gardens, in five different categories in Barton St David. Unfortunately, Pat and Mike were unable to go at the last minute, and I undertook this difficult task escorted by Denis Powell. I hope that – if invited again – the task will be shared next year!

Social Evening

In July, a new venture was our first Social Evening (although I believe such events were more common in the early days of The Society). The main event was a talk by Michael Pollack on “Growing Vegetables”. He had hoped to talk about Fruit Growing as well, but quickly decided that we would be there until midnight to cover everything! His talk was very well received, as was the interval for drinks, snacks, raffle & chat!

64th Annual Show

This year, we were on tenterhooks before the show, wondering if we would have many flowers and vegetables to display. Some of our previously successful exhibitors in the flower sections were unable to bring any exhibits of suitable quality. However, we had some new exhibitors from further afield, and although the chrysanthemum entries were down, the stands were full, and the vegetable section was particularly good both in number and quality – a win for the growers over the slugs!



Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society

The Schools section had two obvious themes – the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. They produced superb interpretations of these especially given that the school term only started four days before the show. As usual, the children used their imaginations to come up with a superb array of "animals made from fruit and/or vegetable, along with some unexpected fruit/vegetable paralympians!

The Floral Arrangements also reflected the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics, although, sadly, there were no novice entries this year – a chance for those new to floral art next year?

The Cake section was well supported, the cakes including such ingredients as beetroot, banana & chocolate etc. As last year, this section was expertly judged by Bob Burns of "Burns The Bread".

The major prize winners were:-

Chrysanthemums – J. Searle (Brooking Clark Challenge Cup, Gordon Richards Trophy, Cyril & Richard Holland Trophy, Dorothy Talbot Cup), M. Shattock (George Miller Challenge Cup), J. Shattock (Wheatley Novice Cup)

Dahlias – M. Read (Bert Newton Challenge Cup, Society's Challenge Cup, Members' Challenge Cup, Hamblin Cup, NDS Silver Medal, NDS Bronze Medal), (R. Downting (J Yelling Rose Bowl, A E Phillips Cup), Mrs Tomkins (Wheatley Novice Cup)

Vegetables – H. Godden (The Unity Club Cup, J Yelling Cup, Piper's Inn Salad Bowl, NVS Medal for Best Exhibit), L. E. Taylor (Frank Ganfield Cup, Derek Marsh Trophy)

Begonias (Wessex Championship) – L. Earl (G.Burge Cup)

Fuchsias – L. E. Fear (Fuchsia Cup)

Floral Arrangement – Mrs K. Burleton (Anita Ruth Willmott Cup, Society's Challenge Cup),

Best Exhibit in Show (Colin Mundy Cup) – H. Godden

Children's Cup – Tegan Curry

Walton Press Schools Cup – Elmhurst School

Schools Design Cup – Elmhurst School



Cups and Trophies were presented by Mrs Hilary Powell, headmistress of Elmhurst school. Mrs Powell has been active in encouraging the children to enjoy gardening, and was delighted to be presenting the Walton Press Street Schools' Cup and the Schools Design Cup to her own school.

We are grateful to all those involved with making the show a success, whether it be the setting up, running the various activities on the day, the sponsors, judges, presenter of cups & trophies, and of course, the exhibitors – without them, there wouldn't be a show. We hope that all those who came in to view the show enjoyed their visit, and will return next year – perhaps also entering at least a novice class!

Keith Miller sadly passed away on Friday 15th June, aged 82 years. Several members attended the funeral. He was a long standing supporter of the Society – space doesn't allow further comment here, but I hope to include more in the spring 2013 newsletter.

Annual General Meeting – The next AGM will be held in the pool room at the Unity Club at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th February 2013. 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 Gilly Hayward of Moor Plants, Ashcott, talking about "Growing into Moor Plants" – see website for more details.

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.freeseve.co.uk or pbaker042000@yahoo.co.uk. Remember, you can also send feedback via the Contact Us page of the website.