

NEWSLETTER

In contrast to last year's Annual Show, the 65th Show was spectacular – a very high number of entries, with a very high standard. We had to have two judges for the chrysanthemum section because of the numbers – and they commented that “the quality of the entries matched anything they had seen at National level.” We had to set up extra tables, and Gordon's wonderful display of begonias had pride of place at the front of the hall by the cups and trophies – instead of filling up space on the exhibit stands. We were delighted to have such a fantastic show, and hope it encourages even more members and exhibitors – several people who were keen to join and enter next year's classes approached us at the show.

Barbecue: Pat Baker and his family hosted a Cream Teas & BBQ afternoon at the end of July for members. Donations were given for the charity “Time is Precious”, raising £160. The Baker house and garden became quite crowded, and, in spite of the weather forecast, only a few drops of rain fell. It was not an event for those on a diet – Pat's BBQ and Tricia's cakes plus Adele's cream teas saw to that! Some members also took the opportunity to visit Harry Godden's garden in Doultling to see how he produces all his prize winning vegetables. Very impressive – dedication and hard work, with 5am starts in the garden to keep everything watered and fed.

New Committee Members: At the last committee meeting before the Annual Show (20th August) two new members – Lin & Colin Driscoll were co-opted to the committee, having been proposed by Pat Baker, and seconded by Ken Dunthorn. A welcome addition to share the workload on the committee. They have already been very active at the Annual Show. The Cups & Trophies have a new shine to them, since Lin undertook to polish them!

65th Annual Show

One of the best shows for some years – only slightly marred by some difficulty with the Traffic Warden (“Civil Enforcement Officer”) – fortunately now resolved. I have included some photos below, but hope to have a lot more photos on the website gallery fairly soon.



The major prize winners were:-

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

Chrysanthemums – J. Cockwill (Brooking Clark Challenge Cup, George Miller Challenge Cup, Gordon Richards Trophy, Cyril & Richard Holland Trophy, Hamblin Cup, NCS Silver Medal, NCS Bronze Medal), K. Whitmarsh (British Royal Legion Cup), J. Searle (Dorothy Talbot Cup) and M. Spratt (Colin Mundy Trophy).

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

Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society

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

Fuchsias – R. Hamlett (Fuchsia Cup).

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

Children's Cup – Finley Burleton

Walton Press Street Schools Cup – Elmhurst School

Schools Design Cup – Elmhurst School

The Cups & Trophies were presented by Mark Moran – a staunch supporter of the Society for last 30 years. In his speech, Mark referred to the **names on the cups and trophies – people who had donated them**. This prompted our President, Ken Dunthorn, to write a "Thumb Nail Sketch" about those who have been so generous in the past. He has used the order in which the cups appear in the schedule. There is too much for one Newsletter, so I shall include as much as space allows over the next few Newsletters.

Dahlia Section

Class 1 Members Challenge Cup – This was purchased by the Society.

Class 7 The A E Phillips Cup – Mr Phillips was a gardener from the Bath area. I believe he had a horticultural business.

Class 9 The J Yelling Rose Bowl – Jim Yelling was a commercial traveller for A Baily & Co at Glastonbury. He was also a fund raiser for good causes throughout Central Somerset. He masterminded a darts team that was known as The Flying Circus. The team competed in the local darts leagues and also put on exhibition displays of their abilities – these always included a raffle, the proceeds of which were donated to various charities and good causes. Jim also presented a cup for the vegetable section.

Class 16 Wheatley Novice Cup – Gilbert Wheatley was a nationally acclaimed dahlia grower from Chew Magna. His expertise was often sought and when he retired he presented the cup to the novice class of the show. This is an example of the encouragement he gave to all those who were starting out on the show bench. He also gave a cup for the novice class in the Chrysanthemum section and a trophy which alternates each year between the dahlia and chrysanthemum section.

To be continued in next issue

Annual General Meeting – The next AGM will be held in the pool room at the Unity Club at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th February 2014. 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 – all posts are up for re-election. 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 **Chris Smith** from Pennard Plants (www.pennardplants.com) who will be talking about "Heritage Seeds". He will be happy to answer any questions at the end of his talk, and will bring some seeds to sell. Pennard Plants are based at The Walled Gardens, East Pennard.

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.