



RUISLIP
CENTRAL
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

THE AUTUMN SHOW



As nights draw in and the weather starts to turn I feel we can look back on the Summer and say as gardeners we haven't done bad this year, you may well remember we saw daffodils extraordinarily early, some flowering as early as January, however mother nature in her fantastic, almost supernatural way, seems to bring things back on track, and we have enjoyed a great long Summer of good weather and fantastic horticulture.

The RCHS has also had a great year so far, with some great speakers, shows and events.

We are ending the year on a high with a visit from **Pippa Greenwood**, the BBC presenter on *Gardeners Question Time*. There are just a few tickets left for Pippa so if you would like to come along on **Tuesday 15th November** please call me on **01923 451616** for a ticket.

Now I would like to hand over to Patricia for a lowdown on the show which took place on September 10th...

Each Show has a particular feel, for example the Spring Show is always dominated by the colour yellow; the Summer Show is filled with the scent and multiple colours – and hopefully by sunshine! By contrast the Autumn Show is almost melancholic full of 'mellow fruitfulness' with the emphasis on the fruits and vegetables and the colour supplied by Dahlias. Along with the shortening of the days a reminder that Winter is edging ever closer.

The weather did nothing to dispel the notion of gloom. It started wet and it stayed wet. However, this did not put off our exhibitors nor thankfully did it put off members and visitors who braved the rain to come and support the Society.

The exhibitors covered all classes so the Society was able to show every class in the schedule and given the very dry weather this was very commendable. Our Dahlia judge remarked on how difficult it was this year to grow Dahlias successfully. There is no age barrier to exhibiting

and the Society welcomed our newest exhibitor at the age of 3 years who decorated a bird box and he was awarded a medal and cup for his efforts.

The Society is always looking for ways to improve the experience at the shows for our members and visitors and one of our new innovations was the introduction of the *Surplus Produce Table* from the donations from members of the Society. The table was filled with *Salvia* "Hot lips" and "Lipstick" varieties, bottles of homemade Apple Juice and pots of Plum and Damson jams. It was a pleasure to see the produce disappearing fast from the table.

Over the last few years the overall winner, in the Horticultural Section, has always been a fiercely contested fight between the *Floral* and the *Cacti and Succulents* sections but this year they were outclassed by an exhibit of Tomatoes from the *Vegetable* section. All the judges were in agreement that these were "Best in Show".

Our three shows a year are very dependent on the unseen volunteers who give up their time to support the Society. As Show Manager I would like to thank all

those who put up and then take down the tables so efficiently; to those who bake a range of delicious cakes for our refreshment stall; to our volunteers who man the refreshment stall and cope with the sudden rushes of customers; to all the exhibitors without whom there would be no shows; volunteers who fill in any gaps whenever they are asked and our members who support the three shows by coming along with friends and relatives. The last comment should go to one of our members who said that she enjoyed the Shows because they typified the spirit of a local community and the importance of being part of that community.

Although the Shows are now over for 2016 there are still events taking place between now and Christmas. Please check our website for full details at www.ruisliphorticultural.org.uk

Warren

