



THE GREAT AUTUMN SHOW

AS we draw closer to the end of 2015, and the Hydrangeas from last month have all but disappeared, we were given a final reminder of the fantastic brilliance of Mother Nature, along with the great talent of our society members at the Great Barn Ruislip, where we held our last show of the year, the RCHS Great Autumn Show.

This month I have asked Patricia Swindells, the society Show Manager to report on the happenings of the day which was enjoyed by over 200 local people!

Before any show the weather report becomes compulsive reading. Will it rain or will there be sunshine? At the beginning of the week the forecast was not looking good. However, apart from a short shower, the sun came out and set the scene for a glorious day and a superb show.

The show attracted more entrants and more entries across most of the categories. It is always a good sign of the health of the Society when new members feel able to enter and, in some cases, win against established contributors. One such recent member is Patricia Wright who won the Maurice Osborne Cup for the Best Exhibit in the Pot Plant Class, another is Rod Pengelly who won prizes for his roses and took the Founders Cup for the best exhibit in the show! So there is really no excuse for not entering.

The judges were impressed with the overall standards, with the Dahlias and Roses attracting high praise for the quality of the exhibits. There was a large selection of fruits and vegetables on display which obviously benefited from the warm spring and wetter summer. The Handicraft section drew appreciative comments regarding the time and effort that had been put in to the production of all the articles. It is obvious that handicrafts of all descriptions are thriving in Ruislip! The strange and wonderful exhibits of the Cacti and Succulents showed the devotion of the growers who have to wait many

years before getting a specimen that can be shown. It is pleasing to report that there was an increase in the numbers entering the Floral Art section and in an attempt to tempt even more there was an exhibition of displays to illustrate what can be achieved with material from the garden and to dispel the notion that this is an expensive hobby. The Society would like to encourage more entrants for the Photographic and Domestic sections to ensure a wider participation.

There was a fantastic turnout of Ruislip residents throughout the afternoon – no doubt enticed by the excellent refreshments provided by the Society volunteers as well as the fantastic show! They stayed on for the presentation of the prizes. Mr Graham Goode, RCHS committee member, presented the prizes. He has been a member for 25 years though he admitted that it was his wife's involvement that ensured his involvement. The Vanessa Goode Cup for the best exhibit in the Pelargoniums is awarded in her memory in the Summer Show. The Chairman of the Society, Viv Ash, thanked Graham for presenting the prizes.

It was pleasing to hear the comments that many of those who visited the Show made with regard to how good the show looked; the standard of the exhibits; the friendly atmosphere and how they enjoyed that such a fantastic venue, as the Great Barn, was being used for a genuine community event that could be enjoyed by all. All in all the Autumn Show was a great success which bodes well for the 2016 season.

If you have any questions on the shows that we hold then please get in touch with Patricia at www.ruisliphorticultural.org.uk

Next month the RCHS Mailbag question, please email any horticultural related question in to the team here at the RCHS to rchstalks@gmail.com and we will feature it in the next article.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

20th October Talk by the Head Gardener from Hever Castle

17th November Talk by Crown Estate Head of Savill Gardens

Full details of all events are available at www.ruisliphorticultural.org.uk