



RUISLIP CENTRAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

IN June, the RCHS held its Summer Show in the Great Barn Ruislip. Yet again we saw hundreds of exhibits enjoyed by equally as many people, it was great to see Rod Pengelly visit us again with his exhibition of roses that would look in place at The RHS Chelsea Flower show let alone a local horticultural society show. We had tea and cakes, a raffle and an auction and prizes galore. Please make a date in the diary for the Autumn Show, Saturday 10th September, 2016 at the Great Barn, 1pm. Come along and see our first ever produce sale bench.



THE RCHS SUMMER SHOW A SPLASHING AFFAIR!

Now here is Patricia Swindells RCHS Show Manager with a lowdown...

Resilience is a word that is now very much in fashion and I feel that it is an appropriate word to use with regard to our many exhibitors who took part in the Summer Show. They have had to overcome the perils of the slugs and snails that have blighted the gardens over the last few months and then they then had to watch their potential exhibits being pounded by rain which came down on a biblical scale only a few days before the actual Show. So it is very much to their credit that a third of our membership found something to exhibit. For the most part, on the day, the weather behaved itself and the show was held in sunshine (well mostly – after all that rain the showers hardly counted!).

Each Show has a distinctive feature and with the Summer Show it is definitely the scent of the *Roses* and the *Sweet Peas*. Many of the visitors, at the Show, linked the scents with happy memories of gardens that belonged to their parents and grandparents. The visual display of the Summer blooms particularly 'cottage garden' favorites, such as *Foxgloves*, with designer favourites *Alliums* provided a feast for the eyes.

There were an impressive number of entrants in the **Pot Plant** section which included an impressive *Fuchsia*, if this continues more tables will be required. Again there was a lot of colour and some members provided the names of the less familiar plants as there was interest in the lesser known varieties. It was very pleasing to see an increase in the number of entrants in to the **Society Special** category (*Fuchsia*) and our last talk on *Pelargoniums* seemed to have a positive effect on the number of entrants for that Section.

Hopefully for the **Autumn Show** there will be more entrants for the **Fruit and Vegetable** section but those that exhibited at the Show did display some high quality exhibits. Our exhibitors in the **Floral Art** once again demonstrated their ability to take a concept and change it in to a beautiful display of colour and imagination.

Two sections are showing a continuing growth in numbers of exhibits that of **Handicrafts and Domestic**. The variety of exhibits in Handicrafts is truly breath taking as is the skill involved in producing the finished product. The Domestic section shows that

interest in baking and producing home produce is still strong and some homes in Ruislip must be full of delicious smells as a result of all that baking!

This year the **Cacti and Succulents** section produced the '*Best Exhibit from the Horticultural Classes*' and as always everyone is drawn to this section because of the strangeness of the plants and the rarity of the flowers. Finally the **Photographic** section produced some very high quality exhibits and this is a category that all members could try if they wanted to dip their toes in to the world of exhibiting.

For the first time, as a result of the generosity of some of the exhibitors, the Society had a **Surplus Produce** table. *Roses* and *Sweet Peas* were sold and auctioned for the benefit of the Society and a grand total of £39 pounds was raised. We will definitely be having such table at the next show!

At the end of the Show the prizes were awarded by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Carol Melvin. She and her husband were given a tour of the Show by Margaret McIntosh, the Chair of the Society and Graham Goode, Society Secretary. The Deputy Mayor and her husband spoke with some of the exhibitors as they toured the exhibits. The Deputy Mayor, in her speech, said she was very impressed by the displays and how important it was for Societies, such as Ruislip Central Horticultural, to exist and continue to work within the wider community.

A few tickets are still available for the Pippa Greenwood (BBC Radio 4 Gardeners Question Time) evening on Tuesday 15th November. If you would like a ticket (£10 each) please call Warren on 01923 451616. Keep up-to-date by visiting the website at <http://ruisliphorticultural.org.uk>

See you next month.

Warren