

Kent Federation of Horticultural Societies

Founded 1938

Patron: The Lady Kingsdown OBE

Newsletter

Number 163

Autumn Issue

October 2017



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Shows Report

This being my first year as Chairman and Autumn Show Co-ordinator, I tried to become more involved in the running and behind the scenes activities of the two shows, and I now appreciate the hard work that is needed for their organisation.

This year has been a test of all our skills in getting our exhibits onto the show bench with some very unseasonable weather at times, but it did not deter all of you who came along to the Summer Show at Detling and put on a magnificent display of flowers and vegetables and a wonderful selection of classes in the domestic section. We were a few exhibitors short this year which was reflected on the show bench, but we still had a fantastic show. The trophy winners of both shows are listed elsewhere in this newsletter, but special mention should be made of Ian Clapp from Herne Bay for his beautiful exhibit of roses which was awarded 'Best in Show' – well done Ian. A special feature this year was a class of sweet peas 'Invicta' which Philip Johnson kindly sponsored to celebrate his 30th year of judging the sweet pea classes at Detling. Thank you Philip for your continuous support and very kind generosity. Thanks must also go to the societies who support the show with their displays over the three days, and a special thanks to Christine Goodey who organised the judges and stewards – not a straight forward task!

The Autumn Show is a one day event with very little time allocated to the setting up and getting the exhibits onto the show bench. At 7.15 I walked into the hall to see one person (Sandra) putting covering on the tables. Graham Talbot arrived shortly afterwards and kindly assisted us in preparing the show benches whilst Richard was driving between home and the hall delivering all of the show furniture needed for the exhibitors to start staging at 8.30. I would also like to say a special 'Thanks' to the staff of Ditton Community Centre who erect and arrange the tables for us following our layout plan. It would be impossible to be ready if they hadn't already done all that work for us. Between 8.30 and 11.30 the hall was gradually transformed into the spectacle which is our Autumn Show. Wonderful vegetables, flowers, cookery and craft, the judges certainly had their work cut out. There were over 300 exhibits which was an excellent effort by everyone. Special mention here to Roger Simmons who was awarded the Banksian Medal for most points in the horticultural classes.

It would be great to see a more societies competing in the inter-society classes (Member's Choice) at both shows.

Lastly I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the catering for both shows – this is very much appreciated by the committee.

So well done and congratulations to everyone who participated in one or both shows. Next year is the Federation's 80th Anniversary – lets mark this special occasion with some bumper shows!

Gordon Francis
Chairman

Shows Handbook 2018

Next year's Handbook will contain a number of changes from previous years. Societies will receive their copies in the post on receipt of their Affiliation fee due on January 1st 2018. The booklet will also have information of the Annual General Meeting and Mini-Spring Show which next year will be held at

Woodnesborough Village Hall.

Please be sure to read your copies thoroughly, particularly in the shows classes sections.

Summer Show Results

Cups and Trophies

Kent County Agricultural Society Challenge Trophy	Best Horticultural Exhibit	Ian Clapp, Herne Bay
Kent County Agricultural Society Challenge Cup	Members' Choice	Stockbury Cottage Gardeners' Association
The Wilson Trophy & Federation Rosette	Most Points - Fruit & Vegetables	Chris Passey, Tonbridge
Latter Cup & Federation Rosette	Most Points - Sweet Peas	Darren Everest, Westerham
The June Salver & Federation Rosette	Best Single Vase of Sweet Peas	Darren Everest, Westerham
The Swale Trophy & Federation Rosette	Most Points - Roses	Ian Clapp, Herne Bay
The Stuart Ogg Trophy & Federation Rosette	Best Vase of Roses	Ian Clapp, Herne Bay
Kent & Sussex Farmers Trophy & Federation Rosette	Most Points - Cut Flowers	Di Spree, Stockbury
The Evelyn Ogg Trophy & Federation Rosette	Best Exhibit - Decorative Classes	Sheila Smith, Eastry
The Geoffrey Wickham Trophy & Federation Rosette	Best Pot Plant	Brian Fryer, Larkfield
Merilyn Trophy & Federation Rosette	Most Points - Pot Plants	Sandy Roff, Sheldwich
The Ellen Trophy & Federation Rosette	Most Points - Economic Classes	Maxine Budden, Upchurch
The KFHS. Craft Trophy	Most Points - Craft Classes	Mrs I Lovell, Yorkletts

KFHS Certificates of Merit and Rosettes

Class 2	Best Exhibit	Maxine Budden, Upchurch
Class 3	Best Exhibit	Chris Passey, Tonbridge
Class 4	Best Exhibit	Chris Passey, Tonbridge
Class 5 to 17	Best Exhibit of Vegetables	Chris Passey, Tonbridge
Class 18 to 20	Best Exhibit - Fruit Classes	Thomas Moore, Farningham
Class 21	Sweet Peas - 'The Philip Johnson Class'	Darren Everest, Westerham
Class 22	The Federation Challenge	Darren Everest, Westerham
Class 23	The Three - Vase Class	Darren Everest, Westerham
Class 29	Novice Sweet Peas	Not awarded
Class 30	Roses - 'John Appleton Class'	Ian Clapp, Herne Bay
Class 39	Novice Roses	Roz Berry
Class 40 to 43	Best Exhibit	Dawn Everest, Westerham
Class 47 to 54	Best Exhibit	Brian Fryer, Larkfield
Class 54 to 58	Best Exhibit	Sandy Roff, Sheldwich
Class 59 to 62	Best Exhibit	Richard Roff, Sheldwich
Class 63	Home Economics - 'Teddy Bears' Picnic'	Maxine Budden, Upchurch
Class 64 to 67	Best Exhibit - Home Economics	Christine Walton, Dartford
Class 68	Novice - Home Economics	Carol Stoodley, Leybourne
Class 69 & 74	Best Exhibit - Preserves	Pat Grimes, Maidstone
Class 75	Best Exhibit - Sugarcraft	Not awarded
Class 76 to 78	Best Exhibit - Craft	Jennifer Clapp, Herne Bay
Junior Class 79	Best Exhibit	Emily Barnett, Yorkletts
Junior Class 80	Best Exhibit	Erin Parker, Eastry

Autumn Show Results

Cups and Trophies

The KCGPC Challenge Cup	Inter-Society Challenge	North Tonbridge Horticultural Society
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The KFHS Onion Trophy	Onion Championship	Roger Simmons, Maidstone
The Barry Ridsdale Memorial Print	Potato Championship	Not Awarded
The Lewisham Challenge Cup	Federation Tray of Vegetables	Roger Simmons, Maidstone
The Garrad Challenge Cup	Vegetable Collection	Roger Simmons, Maidstone
The Rochester Cup	Most Points - Vegetable Classes	Roger Simmons, Maidstone
The Bugge's Challenge Trophy	Most Points - Fruit Classes	Graham Talbot, Maidenhead
The Viscountess Massarrene & Ferrard Trophy	Three Dahlias Class	Darren Everest, Westerham
The Federation Dahlia Trophy	Best Vase of Dahlias	Raymond Duffey, Catford
The Harmsworth Challenge Trophy	Three Chrysanthemums Class	Reg Bloe, Tonbridge
The Tiarks Cup	Best Exhibit - Chrysanthemums	Doug Drury, Pembury
The KCGPC Challenge Trophy	Best Exhibit - Other Flowers	Graham Talbot, Maidenhead
The Mrs C P Black Trophy	Most Points - Home Economics	Maxine Budden, Upchurch

KFHS Certificates of Merit and Rosettes

Class 6	Best Exhibit	Roger Simmons, Maidstone
Class 7	Best Exhibit	Gordon Francis, Eccles
Class 8 to 27	Best Exhibit	Roger Simmons, Maidstone
Class 28	Best Exhibit	Graham Talbot, Maidenhead
Class 29 to 33	Best Exhibit	Graham Talbot, Maidenhead
Class 42	Best Exhibit	Darren Everest, Westerham
Class 71	Show Stopper Challenge	Maxine Budden, Upchurch
Class 72 to 76	Best Exhibit	Maxine Budden, Upchurch
Class 77 to 78	Best Exhibit	Alexina Willmore, Snodland

Banksian Medal - Roger Simmons, Maidstone

Congratulations to all prize winners.

Musings of a Travelling Speaker

Among my recent birthday gifts were two books which I much appreciated. One was 'The Cabaret of Plants' by Richard Mabey, which was a mine of information on the distribution and origins of plants. We do not always realise how lucky we are in this small northern hemisphere island to have such a wealth of species. Many came indirectly via our expansion of the British Empire, due to the efforts of a number of intrepid plant hunters such as Robert Fortune, an early collector in China in the mid 1800s and the Tradescants much earlier. I highly recommend a visit to the much improved Garden Museum in Lambeth, just by the Archbishop's Palace.

The second book was by Carlos Magdalena, a Botanical Horticulturist at Kew Gardens. Called 'The Plant Messiah', it details his adventures in remote corners of the world to find, propagate and preserve from possible extinction those plants which now exist in the world in tiny numbers. There are also some fine illustrations, including one of the author's baby son sitting on the leaf of a Giant Waterlily from the Amazon - Victoria Cruzinia. Its leaves can reach over 8ft across, the network of veins apparently giving someone the idea for reinforced concrete! At the other end of the scale is a tiny waterlily you could grow in a teacup - Victoria Thermanum.

A third book was on the life of the great Russian composer & pianist Sergei Rachmaninov. My parents were keen musicians and pianists and I was raised on him. If you do not know him, listen to the theme tune from his 2nd Piano Concerto, which has been used many times in films.

A recent request for a talk on Gardening in Dry Conditions gave pause for thought – after a wet summer? Some years ago, after a very dry year, I gave this talk several times. One evening stands out as towards the end of the talk there was a thunderstorm and torrential downpour, so much so that the car park was flooded and we could not get home for some time! Beth Chatto's garden in Colchester is a good place to visit. She has planted up an array of plants which will grow happily in dry conditions and I believe that plants are watered in on planting but not thereafter. Plants which can be seen include the common Butterfly Bush – Buddleia Davidii. – which could often be seen growing on old bomb sites after the war. The name is interesting in that the first or Generic name is called after a West Country clergyman/botanist, The Reverend Buddle. The second or species name is after a French missionary called Pere David. Amongst a number of others, he virtually gave up trying to convert 'the heathen' and collected plants and seeds to send back to French botanic gardens,

I have said before, just look at how many plants come from China and surrounding countries, especially those adjacent to the Himalayas - Rhododendrons for a start. Plants have adapted to drought. Heathers have needle-like leaves and are low to the ground enabling them to survive, for example, on Scottish hillsides. The Tamarix, with pink flowers and small narrow leaves, is often seen in coastal regions. One type flowers later in the summer on new growth, so like the Buddleia you can hard prune it in late winter. Brooms – Cytisus, Genista – are drought survivors as are most of the Acacias (sometimes called Mimosa). These mostly have small narrow leaves and one species, Mimosa Pudica – the Sensitive plant – has leaflets or whole shoots which react to touch and droop instantly, but they recover after a while. Some Rhododendrons can also do this, only more slowly. The small Alpine ones are covered in scales on their small leaves. As some grow 12,000ft up in the Himalayas you can see why!

By the time you read this the Petunias will be over and we will see a plethora of Pansies in our hanging baskets and bedding schemes.

Happy Gardening

Hilary Newman M.Hort. (RHS)

Pat`s Pantry Orange & Apricot Drizzle Cake

Ingredients

6ozs Butter – 8ozs Dried Apricots (chopped) – 5ozs Caster Sugar – 1oz Dark Brown Moist Sugar – 1oz Self Raising Flour – Zest and Juice of 2 Oranges (save 1 Tablespoon of juice for drizzle) – 3 Medium Eggs.

Method

For the Drizzle – One tablespoon of orange juice and 2ozs of white sugar.

Heat the apricots in the zest and juice for about 5 mins. stand aside and allow to get cold. Pop on a lid at this stage to prevent any drying out.

With your fingers, mix together the sugars, add the butter, and cream together. Beat in the eggs and fold in the apricots and flour.

Cook in a greased, lined 2lb. loaf tin for approx. 60mins. on Gas Mark 3.

Remove when cooked and immediately pour over boiling Drizzle Syrup, this with the cake should be piping hot so the syrup will sizzle against the tin, it will eventually sink into the cake and add to the flavour.

Cake cuts very clean and freezes well.

Pat Westgate
01580 753895

KFHS Website

Modest changes to the KFHS website and its navigation have been undertaken during recent months and further modifications are currently being prepared.

Our aim is to not only bring the structure of the website up-to-date but to also prepare it for migration to new software with responsive display capabilities.

Responsive websites automatically adapt to any screen size so that visuals may be displayed and navigated as easily on mobiles as they can on tablet and desktop PCs.

Societies have been allocated individual webpages and original data held by KFHS has been transferred to them. We would be most grateful if you could check all data relevant to your organisation and advise of any errors or omissions.

The new pages can provide additional fields for publishing news, events and other information.

If you would like additional data to be added, please e-mail your text to: rich.kfhs@blueyonder.co.uk

100Plus Club Results

HAVE YOU OR YOUR SOCIETY JOINED YET ?

Tickets for the 2018 draws are NOW available

Your support in helping the Federation raise funds is appreciated.

Join at any time and your number/s will be put into the next draw following your application.

ONE (ticket) UNIT FOR 12 MONTHS COSTS JUST £12.00

100 UNITS = £50.00 IN MONTHLY CASH PRIZES

GUARANTEED THREE CASH PRIZES EVERY MONTH

Each £1.00 contributes 50p to our club funds.

Please call 01732 844071 or email rich.kfhs@blueyonder.co.uk

if you require another application form

Registered with the Tonbridge & Malling District Council

MAY DRAW

1st £30.50 No.86 Gillingham Horticultural Society
2nd £18.30 No.107 Denis Vickers, Woodnesborough
3rd £12.20 No.32 Mid Kent Fuchsia Group

JUNE DRAW

1st £30.50 No.99 Cliffsend Gardening Club
2nd £18.30 No.101 Mary Wickham, Canterbury
3rd £12.20 No.89 Janet Bryant, Eastling

JULY DRAW

1st £30.50 No.94 Theresa Gittings, Loose
2nd £18.30 No.50 Brabourne & Smeeth G.S.
3rd £12.20 No.75 Mrs M.C

AUGUST DRAW

1st £30.50 No.54 Shorne Cottage Gardeners
2nd £18.30 No.48 Ken Butler, Sandwich
3rd £12.20 No.49 Lyminge

SEPTEMBER DRAW

1st £30.50 No.30 Mid Kent Fuchsia Group
2nd £18.30 No.107 Denis Vickers, Woodnesborough
3rd £12.20 No.25 Newington & District G.A.

Thank you all for your support

Shows and Sales Dates

OCTOBER

07 = Sat	Southfleet Gardeners Society	Southfleet Village Hall	Show	14:30	Yes
	Lower Hadres & Nackington Gardeners Society	Lower Hadres Village Hall	Show	15:00	Yes
14 = Sat	Groombridge Horticultural Society	Groombridge Village Hall	Plant Sale	09:00~12:00	Yes
21 = Sat	Alpine Garden Society	Sutton Valence School	Show	09:00~15:30	Yes

NOVEMBER

None Advised

Winter

DECEMBER

None Advised

Editors Notes

Thanks to all Societies and Members who sent in their renewal subscriptions on time, it is much appreciated. Unfortunately there are still a number of societies that do not, which creates additional work that always results in added expense. Please send your subscription on time to :-

Alexina Willmore, 29. Pout Road, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5EX

Thank you

REMINDER

Societies will receive the new 2018 Edition of the Judges & Speakers List on receipt of their Affiliation fee which is due on January 1st.

NEXT NEWSLETTER issue No. 164 (April 2018)

Should you wish your **2018 Shows & Sales Dates** to be advertised in the **April 2018 Newsletter** they must be received by **March 31st 2018 OR SOONER** please using the provided form.

Send to:- Mr.R.Foreman, K.F.H.S. Secretary, 16. Cobdown Close, Ditton, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 6SZ

All Shows & Sales Dates for 2018 are posted on the Federation website as received.

You may email your dates if more convenient.

to:-

rich.kfhs@blueyonder.co.uk

If you know of any company or organisation, including your own society, that would like to sponsor a Class or Classes at any of our shows, or would like to place an article in these Newsletters I would love to hear from you. Just contact the Secretary.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this Newsletter.
There is always much to read and see on the Federation website.

