

# ABINGDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 107 Autumn 2019

## Autumn Show

There was an early autumn chill outside the Northcourt Centre on 7th of September, but inside tables were packed with 451 colourful exhibits entered by 51 members. Photos of the five summer garden entries were also displayed. There were 35 more entries than in 2018.

The most popular classes this year were dahlias, French marigolds, beetroot, chilis, tomatoes, Dundee cake and several photography classes.

10 judges did an excellent job in selecting the prize winners. Congratulations to all who entered and thank you to everyone who came to support the show.

The mayor, Cllr Charlie Birks, presented the awards to the following members.

Janice Stretton-Smith – Macklow Centenary Trophy (Flowers and pot plants)

Sandie Richardson – Dahlia Cup

Pat Jones – Ledger Rose Bowl

Edward Hodgson – Spokes Cup (Fruit and vegetables), National Vegetable Society medal for most meritorious exhibit (Onions) and Banksian Medal (Flowers, fruit and vegetables)

Ian Middleton – Watt Shield (Allotment holders)

Edna Hole – Mollie Fisher Salver (Floral arrangements)

Diana Wiggins – Presidents Cup (Domestic)

Victoria Middleton – Muriel Welch Memorial Cup (Exhibit)

David Hastings – H & M Nye Cup (Photography)

Tara Barton – John Bowen Cup (Children's)

Tom Byrne – Frank Haynes Cup (Wine)

Angela Hughes – Summer Garden Cup

Barbara Bingley

Show Secretary

## Outings

Our final outing for 2019 will be on Thursday, 24th October to Bodenham Arboretum in Worcestershire. This is a new venue for us but looks very interesting. More info can be obtained from their website on [www.bodenham-arboretum.co.uk](http://www.bodenham-arboretum.co.uk). An application is enclosed.

## Talks to the end of 2019.

All at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon, OX14 1NS at 7.30pm

Tuesday 17 September 'A Labour of Love' Rob Potterton. Bulbs and alpines will be offered for sale.

Tuesday 15 October 'A Spoonful of Herbs' Lynda Warren

Tuesday 19 November 'Winter Colour' Sally Gregson. Plants offered for sale.

The talks for 2020 have been arranged and will be announced soon.

If any member has a speaker recommendation, we would be pleased to hear from you. Our main criteria include travelling distance (costs can be expensive), speaker's fee (not unusual to be £150 or more) and topicality. Please bear in mind that we might need to increase annual subscriptions soon, they have not been changed for over 10 years.

## World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Many, many thanks to everyone who supported my Coffee Morning on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support. At the time of going to print the donations have amounted to £512.85. I hope you all enjoyed the morning as much as I did. – Angela

## Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Lunch has been booked for Thursday 12th December at the Hilton Garden Inn, the refurbished Four Pillars. I was very impressed with the improvements that had been made and I hope you will all agree with me. The menu is attached. I am afraid I will need this back by 28th October as the hotel requires menu selections and payment at least 6 weeks before the lunch.

## AGM

Tuesday January 21 (please note that some old information says 14 January). We would like to see as many of you as possible at Northcourt Centre at 7.30pm. The formalities are usually complete within 30-45 minutes, after which we will have a fun quiz to entertain you. Do come, it is your chance to comment about anything the club is doing.

## Facebook page.

We have a group on Facebook, please use it to keep in contact or make contributions. It has its problems, but more people are reading it as time goes by!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AbHortSoc/?ref=bookmarks>

## Show Schedules

"There was only one show in 1993 which took place on July 17 in the Abbey Hall. The choice of date was governed by the availability of the hall. In an endeavour to attract a better entry to classes in which support had been waning in the last few years of shows, some changes have been made." (from Newsletter no.1)

You will see that our show schedules change from time to time. We have a scheduling sub committee that meets in the late Autumn to discuss possible new classes in order to keep the interest lively and encourage popular themes. If you have particular preferences for possible future changes or inclusions, please let us know. For example, our friends in Kennington (<http://www.kenningtonhortsoc.org.uk/>) have a chrysanthemum section, but we found support for that was vanishing several years ago. Inevitably addition of one class will usually mean removal of another in order to keep the numbers practicable.

## Wild flowers

If you are interested in growing, identifying or just admiring wild flowers, you might be interested in the the 'Grow Wild' web site. The organisation is funded by the National Lottery and managed by Kew Gardens.

<https://www.growwilduk.com/>

There is a regular newsletter on line and lots of information about wild flowers. For example, this month there is an interesting guide on how to describe and identify leaves.

'We often use flowers as the most telling detail when identifying a plant, but not every plant we come across will be flowering, so other parts of the plant must be used for identification. The best part of a plant to use when there are no flowers are the leaves.'

## Data Protection

The club keeps the membership list with addresses and phone numbers on a computer. This information is used only for contacts by the club and will never be supplied to any other organisation or person. email messages are sent out to all members, but addresses of individuals are not made public.

## History Note

The 'Laxton Map' (1635) was bought by the Bodleian Library in 1942 for £300 (equivalent to about £13,800 today) . It shows about 3,300 strips of land, all cultivated individually. There is an accompanying book ('The Terrier') which lists the names of all the plot holders. It's like a huge allotment. Interesting how 'business as usual' continued through the war time.

## Obituary

We were very sad to hear about the loss of long term member Gill Macklow. We send our thoughts and sympathy to her family. There was a Thanksgiving service for her in Trinity Church on 29 August.