

Founded 1885

## Message from our President Michael Matthews.

Congratulations to all who helped to create last Saturday's Autumn Show, both workers and exhibitors. It is good to see that AHS is in good health after this very difficult period.

I was pleased to see a good entry and the usual high quality of our members' exhibits. Let's hope that we can now look forward to resuming our normal programme. Over the long life of the A.H.S. we have faced several crises - two world wars and difficulties in finding people to run the society, but we have always come back and we shall do this time.

Michael W. Matthews, President Abingdon Horticultural Society.

## Show Report      Barbara Bingley

It was a perfect day, weatherwise, for our Autumn show on Saturday 11th. Not too hot, but warm and no rain or strong winds. Good for exhibitors and members who came to view. We were able to have the plant sale outside which meant more room inside to help with social distancing.

The number of exhibitors was lower than previous years, as expected, at 33 with a total of 299 entries. Although there were no entries in the classes for under 16-year-olds, the Eco Club from Fitzharrys School and one individual made six entries in adult classes and won prizes in five of them, including 3 firsts.

The dahlia, annuals/biennials, runner beans, mini tomatoes, jam and photography classes were well supported, and the floral arrangements looked beautiful. It was a very colourful show.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way in making the show a success.

The following trophies were awarded. Well done everyone!

Victoria Middleton – Macklow Centenary Trophy (Flowers and pot plants), and Muriel Welch Memorial Cup (Best exhibit)

Shirley Trafford – Dahlia cup

Janet Moreton – Ledger Rose Bowl

Carol Milward – Molly Fisher Salver (Floral arrangements)

John Elflett – Spokes Cup (Fruit and vegetables) and RHS Banksian Medal (Flowers, fruit and veg)

Ian Middleton – Watt Shield (Allotment holders) and the National Vegetable Society Medal for most meritorious exhibit (Bunch of fabulous carrots)

Barry Wiggins and David Hastings – joint winners – H & M Nye Cup (Photography)

David Stretton–Smith – Frank Haynes Cup (Wine)

Barbara Bingley – President's Cup (Domestic)

## Show Income      Karen Fisher

### Refreshments

(after deducting spending on tea, coffee and biscuits).      £5.50

Cake sales      £28.50

Plants      £48.30

Raffle      £89.10

Total      £171.40

Several members were not aware that new members joining now have not been asked for any fees this year, as with established members. Renewals will be sent out early in 2022. The web site still displays the old renewal form at present.

## Christmas Lunch      Angela Hughes

Angela has booked the Christmas Lunch for Tuesday, 14th December at The Ock Mill. Please make a note of it in your diary. The meal will be planned as soon as menus can be obtained. We will send out the menu to you later.

## North Devon Trip      Angela Hughes

34 members enjoyed a break in North Devon, staying in the Durrant House Hotel in Bideford. We visited the RHS Rosemoor Flower Show and had a lovely day enjoying the beautiful garden in the sunshine. On our return journey we called at the fascinating garden at Kilver Court near Shepton Mallet with its iconic landmark viaduct. Other visits were made to the Walled Garden of Cannington and the National Trust property at Arlington Court. Hence a very happy but tired coach full of members arrived back in Abingdon on Sunday night.

## Talks

We are pleased to confirm talks as follows:

Tuesday 19 October at 7.30pm in Northcourt Centre

'Hydroponics in the Greenhouse'      John Storrs

Tuesday 16 November at 7.30pm in Northcourt Centre

'Two for the price of one'.      Timothy Walker

We hope you can join us.

## World's biggest coffee morning

We were extremely lucky to have a lovely sunny day for the coffee morning so everyone was able to sit outside and have a good catch up while enjoying coffee and cake.

The morning was made more special by a fly past by the Red Arrows, flying in formation over the garden. Apparently they were returning to their base in Lincoln from the Isle of Wight Festival. (I would like to take the credit for organising it, but I didn't!)

At the end of the morning the amount raised amounted to £426 with more promised. Many, many thanks to all members for continuing to support me again this year, without your help I couldn't do it. Thank you. Angela

## Baobab Tree

The famous baobab tree is being domesticated. In parts of Africa, *Adansonia digitata*, known as the African baobab tree, is an important food source. Its fruit, seeds, leaves, flowers and roots are edible. Fibre from the bark is used to make mats, ropes and hats, and every part of the tree is used in traditional medicines.

But farmers seldom plant baobabs because they can take as long as 23 years to flower and begin bearing fruit.

*By grafting branches from mature trees onto seedlings, a pair of researchers in Ghana have got them to flower in less than three years.* The work could lead to plantations of baobabs springing up all over Africa. The widespread cultivation of the trees would diversify farming, improve food security, and help to alleviate poverty, the researchers say.

## Obituary      Eric Blanks

We were saddened to hear that Eric Blanks had recently died.

I first met Eric Garden Judging in Radley, and he was always a 'larger than life' character. He was very supportive of Radley village and our society, attending the shows with Mary. Many will remember Eric being on the door for the Country Markets in the Royce Rooms.

Our sympathy goes to Mary and family. David Bingley