

Autumn Show Report

Barbara Bingley

Following the sad news that our Queen had died, your committee made the decision that our Autumn Show should go ahead.

The weather was perfect – no rain or gales! Entries, 311, were up on 2021 but less than in 2019 and previous years. This was not a surprise as the 2022 summer was far from a usual one weather wise. Members still managed to produce a colourful array of high quality entries in the flower, plant, fruit and vegetable classes. Encouragingly, there were some new exhibitors who won and/or were placed in several classes.

The most popular classes this year were the zonal pelargonium (geranium), foliage pot plant, plates of tomatoes, and photographs of animals, something beginning with E and, (appropriately) flowers.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, in any way, to the success of the show. Congratulations to the following members who received awards.

Ian Middleton

- Banksian Medal (flowers, fruit and vegetables)
- Watt Shield – allotment holders
- National Vegetable Society Medal for most meritorious exhibit (6 kinds of allotment produce class)

Janice Stretton–Smith

- Macklow Centenary Trophy (flowers and pot plants),
- Dahlia Cup
- Ledger Rose Bowl.

John Elflett – Spokes Cup (fruit and vegetables)

Carol Milward – Mollie Fisher Salver (floral arrangements)

Diana Wiggins – President's Cup (domestic)

Rebecca Coles – Muriel Welch Memorial Cup (Exhibit in domestic)

Barry Wiggins – H & M Nye Cup (photography)

David Stretton-Smith – Frank Haynes Cup (wine)

Autumn Show 2022 Finance

Karen Fisher

Expenditure		Income	
Prizes	£206.60	Entries	£77.00
Float Out	£50.00	Float In	£50.00
Hall Hire	£271.76	Teas	£49.40
Refreshments	£18.78	Cakes	£29.50
		Plants	£112.70
		Raffle	£88.10
		Unused prizes	£59.00
		Door	£22.00
Total	£546.54	Total	£487.70

The Autumn Show made a small loss of £58.84

‘Crafty Meal on a Plate’

Barbara Bingley

This new class will be introduced for the Autumn 2023 show.

Entrants will display a meal on a plate 23–25 cm (9–10 inches) diameter. The plate may be crafted, or a plain paper plate may be hand decorated.

The meal will comprise food made using at least three different crafts, hard and/or soft materials, and including at least one upcycled item.

Visitors to the show will vote for their favourite meal, and the entrant with the most votes will be awarded the Muriel Welch Memorial Cup, in addition to the prize money.

We hope many members will enjoy putting together an entry for this class, which is a novel & fun way to include handicrafts in our Autumn show.

Talks

David Bingley

Remaining talks for 2022 are:

Tuesday 18 October 'Winter Containers' by Paul Williams. We understand that the talk will include practical examples.

Tuesday 15 November 'Floriade' by David Bingley. Do come along for our last talk of the year. David will tell us all about this famous international exhibition.

Both meetings in Northcourt Centre at 19:30.

There are plans for 6 talks in 2023 currently being firmed up, dates will be 21 February, 14 March, 18 April, 16 May, 17 October, and 21 November. The full programme will be published in the next Newsletter.

Those of you who attended the last talk will have noticed we will be taking a register of those who attend. The Northcourt Centre committee have updated the Health and Safety Fire Policy for users of the venue. It is a requirement for group leaders to compile a list of all meeting attendees. From now on it will be necessary for members and visitors to sign in on arrival. Thanks for your cooperation with this important matter.

Mayor Making

In May at the Mayor Making, attended by our chairman, our president, Michael Matthews, received honorary citizenship of the City of Lucca, Italy, in recognition of his work linking the two communities. He was presented with a certificate. Many congratulations to Michael.



Wisley Outing 6th September

Robin Carter

We had 43 members attending our trip to Wisley Gardens and Flower show. The day started slowly taking almost one hour and a quarter to pick up members around Abingdon. Upon arrival at Wisley in the sun we gathered together as a group to enter the grounds. It has changed a lot since I last visited there. It has a new enlarged entrance hall and gift shop/garden centre. Further into the grounds it has Hill Top, a new education centre for everyone to enjoy along with a café and viewing area.

The Flower show was interesting with a lot of stands selling plants and gardening sundries. There was a marquee housing the Dalia Society competition and show.

Very handy for when the heavy rain which came at 2.15ish, the sun just disappeared and the rain showers started which tried to ruin our day. Although some of us got quite wet it didn't spoil the day too much. As everyone that went said they had enjoyed the visit.



Christmas lunch

Linda Berry

I have been investigating possible locations for the Christmas lunch, and considered the Crown and Thistle, The Hilton, the Ock Mill and Cosener's House.

I have booked The Ock Mill for Tuesday 6th December at 12:30. We will be upstairs as last year and if less than 35 attend we will be in the same place as well. If more attend, we will be spread across the top floor.

Weevil Weapons

Housed in a plastic food container and measuring just 0.5 centimetres long, the weevil doesn't look very menacing. Yet a specimen of *Listronotus elongatus* is the UK's latest hope in a new wave of biological ways to control invasive species rather than using unsustainable chemical and mechanical methods. The South American creature's target is floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*), an invasive plant that chokes rivers and lakes by creating heavy floating mats, cutting water oxygen levels and outcompeting native plants. The weevils were first deployed in the wild in the UK in late 2021. More will be released in Hertfordshire, the Midlands, Surrey, Sussex and Yorkshire later this year.

Sleeping Plants

Many people have seen the way a *Mimosa pudica* plant, also called the touch-me-not, folds its leaves when they are touched. Fewer know that if you put one into a sealed chamber with a dose of anaesthetic, it will eventually stop doing this, as though it has been knocked out or put to sleep.

The anaesthetic needn't be special. Diethyl ether, an old-school general anaesthetic, works well. Lidocaine, a local anaesthetic favoured by dentists, is also effective when applied at the roots. What's more, if you attach electrodes to the surface of the leaves at the same time, you will see that the waves of electrical activity that usually spread through the plant's tissues are suppressed. These effects aren't confined to *Mimosa pudica* all plants are probably susceptible to anaesthesia, it is just that the effects are more dramatic in fast movers like *Mimosa* plants and Venus flytraps. *New scientist*