



Kent Federation of Horticultural Societies

(Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society)

Founded 1938 Patron: The Lady Kingsdown OBE



Newsletter

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Autumn Show Report and Results

"I don't like Mondays" says the song - well I don't! But Monday September 19th wasn't too bad.

The Autumn show was over. Whew! I could relax a bit. I could stop ringing Sandra with silly questions, stop worrying Roy about frames, stop worrying about judges, about food, about produce to sell, about tombola prizes, but mostly about entries - will we get a show? You hear stories about "he won't be there" or "she won't make it" - well most of you did-didn't you!

Numbers were down a bit, but we had a show. One committee member got days mixed up, so no entries, no name, no pack drill. (Fred!) Vegetables were there in strength - celery bigger than usual, leeks to die for, carrots other than long close to perfect and the best potato classes I have seen for a long time. Roger Simmons ruled overall but Chris Passey with potatoes as well as carrots, the Francis brothers and John Day all added class to the benches - What about Sheila Smith winning with her tomatoes! Dahlias down a bit, but Arthur Dashwood did it again and it was good to see Ian Johnson back again. Chrysanthemums down, no Doug Drury (hope he's ok). My thanks to Graham Talbot for those that were there. General flowers and pot plants down a bit, but some nice entries - even I got 2 firsts! Brian Fryer won overall.

The home economics and craft all looked like winners to me, how do you choose a "first", glad I don't have to judge them! Well done to Pat Grimes who gained the trophy for most points in those classes.

I have a lot of thanks to do. Peter Tate had to drop out of judging dahlias (an unforeseen family thing) so thank you David and Gill. One of my committee members got dates wrong and booked to judge elsewhere, so thank you Pete and Jean. Now I know what friends are for. Geoff Pryor for his usual solid job. Jennifer Goodban for tasting all those bits. Di (whoops) Mrs Ridsdale, our lady president, for her judging, work in the kitchen and presenting the prizes. Ray and Barbara Callan (where does he get his energy?) Maxine, Christine, Gary and Coral, Pat Wickwar and all those who mucked in.- THANK YOU. Most important ones last - Richard and Sandra and (her indoors) Bet. I could not do it without you.

But most of all - you - the exhibitors and visitors - THANK YOU ALL.

Is your society planning an outing for next September? Why not end the day with a visit to our Autumn Show at Ditton on Sunday September 16th. It's the ideal place to stop for a cuppa and piece of cake and to admire the wonderful array of flowers and vegetables with the opportunity to buy some fresh produce. The car park at Ditton Community Centre is very spacious; we can accommodate any number of coaches!

Please consider it, we'd be delighted to see you. Let us know and we'll put the kettle on!

RESULTS

Federation Trophy - Inter-Society Challenge - North Tonbridge Horticultural Society

Gerrad Cup - Vegetable Collection - NO ENTRIES

Wyevale Trophy - Onion Championship - NO ENTRIES

Barry Ridsdale Memorial Print - Potato Championship - Chris Passey, Tonbridge

Grafty Garden Centre Plaque - Federation Tray of Vegetables - Roger Simmons, Maidstone

Rochester Trophy - Most points Vegetable Classes - Roger Simmons, Maidstone

Bugge Challenge Trophy - Most points Fruit Classes - Margaret Plowright, Thurnham

Federation Dahlia Trophy - Best Vase of Dahlias - Ian Johnson, Folkestone

Lady Massarrene & Ferrard Trophy - Dahlias Class 37 - Arthur Dashwood, Matfield

Harmsworth Challenge Trophy - Chrysanthemums Class 51 - Graham Talbot, Maidenhead

Tiarks Trophy - Best Exhibit Chrysanthemums - Graham Talbot, Maidenhead

The Federation Trophy - Best Exhibit Other Flowers & Pot Plants - Brian Fryer, Larkfield

Mrs.C.P.Black Trophy - Most Points Home Economics - Pat Grimes, Maidstone

The Royal Horticultural Society's Banksian Medal - Most points in Show - Roger Simmons, Maidstone

K.F.H.S. Certificates of Merit and Rosettes

Class 7 - Best Exhibit	Roger Simmons
Classes 8 to 30 - Best Exhibit	Chris Passey
Classes 31 to 36 - Best Exhibit	Maxine Budden
Class 45 - Best Exhibit	David Mathews
Classes 71 to 81 - Best Exhibit	Maxine Budden
Classes 78 to 81 - Best Exhibit	Patricia Wickwar

It's in the taste

Some fun was had at the Autumn Show when visitors had the chance not just to admire the various varieties of tomato on the show bench, but to taste them too !

June & Jack Wilkins presented a "Tomato Taste" with the opportunity to taste ten differently named varieties and then to decide which one was deemed to have the best flavour. Quite a challenge, visitors would have us believe. A few needed a second sampling, just to make sure !

The variety gaining the most votes was 'Olivade' grown and shown by Mrs Sheila Smith of Eastry. Not only did 'Olivade' come tops for taste but Sheila's superb entry in the standard-fruited class also gained first prize. I think we would call that a double whammy, don't you ?

Just in case you think you fancy growing this variety next year, Sheila tells us that seed is available from Thompson & Morgan. Congratulations Sheila !

Musings of a Travelling Speaker



MUSINGS OF A TRAVELING SPEAKER

After a summer break from talks to Societies, the season commenced in September with a gentle beginning with a local WI group. These are slightly different to garden club talks where you are the main event, other than some brief comments from the Chairman. Quite rightly, the WI has a pattern for most meetings which can involve a number of 'reps' for various activities (such as Drama) giving a short report.

I usually like to set up beforehand, even if it means a longish wait before going on! The last thing I need is to be struggling around lots of people trying to plug in projectors, set out plants etc in a short space of time. Most societies are very helpful in carrying in equipment and providing tables, with the occasional recalcitrants who almost ignore you on arrival. It has to be a two-way arrangement, one which helps the speaker to perform well and even answer a tortuous question just as everyone is going home or clearing up to vacate the hall.

I notice more audio equipment at meetings – probably due to the increasing age of members. I don't like 'mikes' as they often whistle and normally my voice is loud enough. I am often told at the end of a talk 'I could hear you all the time!' But of course a number of people in the audience will be in the 'loop' so more dependent on the audio link. Perhaps the old adage 'Stand up, Speak up, Shut up' is the best advice, and if you have to read continuously from notes then either you don't know your subject or it is far too technical for your audience.

Have you noticed what a good fruit crop there is in Kent? Not only Apples, Pears and Plums, but all sorts of natives from Rowan and Blackberries to Sloes and Hawthorns. The latter are very evident in the hedges, unless your local farmer has already mutilated them mechanically, regardless of the food supply for local birds. More frequently we seem to be ignoring our native or local food suppliers. Such is the buying power of vast supermarkets that they will cheerfully buy in Plums from abroad rather than our own abundant crop. Something is rotten in the state of Eden methinks.

Talks on 'The Winter Garden' in the autumn are par for the course. Not only about plants for winter interest, but also what to do about pruning, protection and propagation. My top winter interest plants are Mahonia Japonica, Erica Carnea (acid soil for all Heathers though then winter flowers are more tolerant), Wychhazels (Hamamelis), Viburnum Tinus, Garrya Elliptica (Tassel Bush), Hellebores (both Christmas Rose and Lenten Lily), Cyclamen Coum, Cornus Alba (bark effect) and Daphne Bholua (wonderful scent and available in Evergreen and deciduous forms), and one to try though not always reliable, Camelia Sasanqua – which can flower from October – January. That is a Top Ten which leaves out many other outstanding plants. Unfortunately, one of my other choices, which flowers February – March, is the glorious Mimosa – Acacia Dealbata. Evergreen, with fern-like foliage, this graceful tree was unfortunately badly damaged or killed in many areas last winter. But don't despair, there are surely milder winters to come as Global Warming is a fact!?

If you want to make up a 'Newman's Dozen' of winter interest, then the compact Evergreen Skimmia x Rubella is a must. This is a Bud Bloomer, displayed in all the garden centres in bright red bud in October, and continuous until March when the flowers open pale pink. It grows to less than 1-metre high in most soils and in some shade, so it gives value for money. It is a male plant so will not berry, but it is a useful pollinator for other Skimmias which do fruit.

For all avid readers of the K.F.H.S News Letter, here is ONE plant you must buy this year – a beautiful Japanese Apricot – Prunus Mume. This flowers in March, is scented and does not grow too big. The red form 'Benishidare' is outstanding, but there are white and pink forms also.

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Pat`s Pantry

FRUIT SLICES

Ingredients

7 oz plain flour, 2 oz self raising flour, 1 oz cornflour, 1 oz skimmed milk powder, pinch of salt, 5 oz butter, 3 oz lard, 4 medium eggs, 7 oz caster sugar, 2 teaspoons glycerin, ½ teaspoon vanilla essence, 4 oz currents, 4 oz glacé cherries, 8 oz cooking dates.

Grease a standard size Swiss Roll tin. Chop or snip cherries and dates into tiny pieces. Sieve flours, salt and milk powder into a bowl, add butter and lard and work together with fingers until fat is distributed. In a separate bowl whisk together eggs, glycerin, vanilla essence and sugar. Beat a quarter of the egg mixture into the flour and fat, repeat three times more. Toss the fruit in a little flour and stir into mixture making sure all fruit is covered and well mixed. Spoon into a tin and spread evenly. Bake for 25 – 35 mins. until firm to touch and golden in colour, second shelf from top of oven, gas mark 5, 375°F, 190° C. When cooked place onto a cooling wire and dredge with caster sugar, leave to cool in tin. When cold, cut ½ ins of all 4 sides, then slice into 2 ins x 3 ins slices and pick out the best five slices for the show bench, present on a white china plate.

Note:- The texture of the cake is similar to a heavy Genoese. With a shape knife slices should be cut clean with very little crumb. Even distribution of the fruit can look pretty.

Pat Westgate
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Pat`s (unusual) Pantry Bonus

MEDICINAL BROTH

Take two dozen garden snails, add to these the hind quarters only of two dozen stream frogs, previously skinned ; bruise them together in a mortar, after which put them into a stewpan with a couple of turnips chopped small, a little salt, a quarter ounce of hay saffron and three pints of spring water, stir these on the fire to simmer for half an hour; after which it should be strained by pressure through a tammy-cloth into a basin for use.

This broth, from its soothing qualities, often counteracts, successfully, the straining effects of a severe cough, and alienates more than any culinary preparation the sufferings of the consumptive.

The above recipe is taken from

'The Modern Cook' by Charles Elmé Francattelli c.1846 - Chief Cook to H.M. Queen Victoria.

Thankfully there is no illustration to this dish, my question is: - did H.M. and her courtiers know what was in this broth ? YUK !!

Pat

The Alternative View

Ability and recommendations take me all over the place. So far this year, I've given talks in 10 different counties. Also a lot of horticultural judging of allotments, hanging baskets, flowers fruit and vegetables and anything else you can find in the schedule.

The various lectures have included, 'My World of Roses' - 'Grandads' Garden' - 'My Life Where it All Began' 'Rose Breeding for the Amateurs' - 'What' s it all About, Exhibitor and the Judge'.

This year has been very busy, I have travelled many hundreds of miles with 10 visits to Kent alone, most of them involved a return journey of approx, 100 miles. According to our latest newsletter, there are approx 200 affiliated societies of the K.F.H.S. so I'm looking forward to hearing from the other 190 !!

Book your date before it's too late.

My garden again has been entered in the 'Enfield in Bloom' competition, this year there were 160 hanging containers "my mobile garden" which included strawberries, onions, tomatoes, lettuce (*red and green*), clematis from seed, fuchsias, clover, lobelia, dianthus and grasses.

In standing pots, we had a good selection of tomatoes, all colours, butternut squash and courgettes.

In the garden, there were of course the climbing roses, most of which are my own breeding, accompanied by clematis, red flowered runner beans and pink flowered climbing dwarf beans and of course jasmine, the "Vyvyan Pennell" was magnificent this year, lots of trailing plants including fuchsias, geraniums, petunias, nasturtiums and English marigolds.

In the greenhouse (8ft x 6ft) I have been very busy breeding roses (I'll show you how when I visit your club, and a lot more besides).

As always you can find me on 0208 245 0733

Bill Bossum

The Rose Man

Shows & Sales Dates (November - December)

NOVEMBER

Saturday 5th	Faversham Horticultural Society	Alexander Centre, Middle Row, Preston Street	12noon	Yes
	Minster & Monkton Horticultural Society	Old School Hall, Minster	9.30 - 11.30	
			PLANT SALE	
Friday 11th	Eynsford Gardeners` Club	Eynsford Village Hall	19.00	No

DECEMBER

Saturday 3rd	Stockbury Cottage Gardeners` Association	Stockbury Village Hall, Christmas Fair	11.00	
	Weald Horticultural Society	Weald Memorial Hall	15.30	No
			PLANT SALE	

100 Plus Club Results

RESULTS OF THE JULY 2011 DRAW

"CONGRATULATIONS"

1st No.19 £32.75 Mr.H.BURTON, BETHERSDEN
2nd No.63 £19.65 Mr.A.FRAYS, STROOD
3rd No.127 £13.10 Mr.J.BRACKENBURY, MILSTEAD

RESULTS OF THE AUGUST 2011 DRAW

"CONGRATULATIONS"

1st No.68 £32.75 ISTEAD RISE GARDENERS` CLUB
2nd No.69 £19.65 Mrs.D.GOLDER, MINSTER
3rd No.115 £13.10 Mr.R.AUSTIN, CANTERBURY

RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 2011 DRAW

"CONGRATULATIONS"

1st No.93 £32.75 WHITFIELD GARDEN SOCIETY
2nd No.98 £19.65 MAIDSTONE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
3rd No.42 £13.10 Mr.J.WILKINS, SHORNE

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Editor`s Notes :-

Newsletters are published every January – April – July & October

Thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter

Any material for the **NEXT ISSUE (January 2012)** should be sent to me by letter or e-mail no later than **MID DECEMBER OR SOONER PLEASE** to :-

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

There is always much to read on Federation website

www.kentfed.com .

Check out the pages to see all additional news, places to visit and more.

**The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the
Kent Federation of Horticultural Societies**