

# 10th Anniversary Show newsletter

Battisford & District Gardening Club

Issue 43



## Introduction

It is 2007; the Committee of the newly established Battsford & District Gardening Club is meeting and planning events. Someone makes a suggestion – ‘What about having a Show?’ There is general support for the idea but who would organise it and who suggested Bill? – I’m pleased to plead guilty to the latter and we all now know what an inspired choice it was! Bill with huge support from Daphne directed the next 7 Shows. The learning curve was steep at first but they were a success from the start. In 2015, Caroline, Denis and I thought Bill might like a bit of a rest and we have organised the last 3 Shows, but of course using Bill’s well tried system and with him keeping a watchful eye.

There have of course been many other helpers, some of whom have been involved from the start and without whom nothing would work.

Finally of course there are hundreds of people who have entered classes over the years and helped make the Show the success it is



‘From small beginnings (2008)



Come great things’ (2017)

Finnish proverb

## A few memories from your Chairman and Show supremo

### September 2008

When the club first formed in 2007 the idea of doing a Show was mentioned and it sparked into life that December when we were invited to join in with a fledgling Combs Fete. After several meetings, lots of planning, and visits to other shows for ideas, it all fell into place at the start of September. Nervous excitement—will members and villagers support it? Well they did with around 400 entries. So much so that we had to improvise with straw bales and plywood sheets because we ran out of table space. Because of the weather the marquees were not erected until the Saturday morning and the weather worsened again later in the afternoon and tore the flimsy aluminium frame tents to pieces. Despite everything the Show and the Fete were a great success.

### September 2009

The weather was much kinder in 2009 with sunshine to encourage participation. Lessons had been learnt and a professional marquee was erected – just as well as this year 85 people took part with entries up to 560. The idea was to keep it as a fun event to enter rather than go for strict RHS rules and this obviously worked. We had gone from nothing to big to massive in just two years. ‘Sow, Sew, Grow and Show’ was the motto that Val Gould invented

### September 2010-2012

Numbers dropped back over these years but we were still putting on the biggest Gardening Club Show for miles around.

### July 2013

To accommodate the September ‘BARCLIF Goes Global’ event the Fete and the Show switched to July in 2013. Not that Shows in July, in conjunction with the Combs fete were anything new. The Combs History Group has Show schedules from the 1930’s through to the 1970’s when Combs and District Horticultural Society organised the annual show. After due consideration, we decide to stick with it and we took the opportunity to increase the number of classes from 70 to over 90.

This brought about a resurgence of interest with entries back up to 560 (almost 50% up on the previous year). Having inherited a number of trophies from the Battsford and District Horticultural Society when we first started, various new trophies were added as we went along including the BARCLIF 2012 Jubilee Trophy for the entrant with the highest number of points this year.

### July 2014 ..... to date

2014 was a bumper year with almost 600 entries taking over more and more of the now larger marquee and providing a brilliantly colourful and interesting attraction to the Fete, and so it has continued to up our 10<sup>th</sup> Show this year.

# Planning and organising the Show

Around the middle of December, when we've heard from the Combs Committee that they are holding another Fete, we start thinking of the new Schedule. We look at the classes that have had a small number or no entries and consider replacing them. The flower arranging and photography need new themes and Paul lets us have the T & M classes for the next year. The schedule has to be ready for distribution by the middle of February so people have time to plan and for it to be included in the March edition of Barclif. Once the new Schedule is decided it goes off for printing.

After this initial burst of activity there is a lull during which the judges are contacted with the date of the Show to confirm their availability and the tables are ordered. One of our Committee attends the Fete Committee meetings to discuss the positioning of the marquee and to learn of new rules and regulations that we may have to comply with. Once they have confirmed their eve of Show entertainment plans we will know whether we can set up the tables on Friday night or wait until first thing on the day of the Show.

Nearer Show time we contact the judges again and allocate each judge at least one willing volunteer, usually from the Committee, to record the class winners and mark the entry cards.

As you know we set a closing date for entries usually about 3 days before the Show. Most entries arrive on this date and Bill & Daphne sometimes hear the rattle of their letterbox just before midnight! The next day a group of volunteers meet up to write out all the entry cards—it takes 4 people 4—5 hours and a groan goes up when you pick up a form with about 20 entries.

On the day of the Show we turn up early to set up the tables and the classes. The blue ribbons are positioned according to the number and size of entries in each class. As people arrive with their entries the ribbons are adjusted as necessary. We have to be fairly strict about the end of setting up to ensure the area is cleared when the judges arrive. The last task before the judging is to ensure all the entry cards are showing the side without the person's name. When the judging has been completed the judges are treated to tea and cakes.

The next task is to record 3rd, 2nd & 1st place (1, 2 or 3 points) for each class in the section, add up the total points for each section to decide who has won the trophy for that section. Bill has devised a simple, effective and fool-proof form to do this. This system means that someone with 3 x 2nd place in a section (6 points) will win the trophy over someone who has won one class in the section (3 points.)

The next task is to sort out the T & M vouchers for the 1st, 2nd & 3rd places and the prize money for the children.



Then time for a beer!

before the trophy presentation at 4pm and the mad rush to clear up before the Fete's evening event.

# The Trophies

So we were going to hold a Show—tradition dictated that there had to be winner's trophies but Club funds did not run to the purchase of new ones. Then someone remembered the previous Battsford & District Horticultural Society that had disbanded in the 1980s. They had presented trophies to the prize winners but where were they now? After many enquiries and false leads they were found under the bed of the Village Historian.

Some were a bit battered and tarnished but also brought back memories. The Edna Green Challenge Trophy ; the Webb Cup for Vegetables ; the Portway Cup for Flowers and the Win & Bob Rolfe Cup.

Past winners will bring back memories for some - Phil Finbow, Betty Buckle, who used to run the Post Office in the village, and her sister Mary Cooper and familiar names today like Jackie Collings and Helen Read

## Webb Cup for Vegetables



Here presented to Jenny Forbes

## Old Trophies still awarded

### Edna Green Challenge Trophy

Previously awarded for flower arranging, now awarded for cookery, it has been won no less than 5 times by Sandra Henson (we will all be round for tea and cakes Sandra!)

### B & C & LF & R Community Council Cup

Dating from the time of Battsford, Combs, Little Finborough & Ringshall Community Council (BARCLIF) this cup was first awarded in 1970. It retired this year to be replaced by the Paul Hansord Trophy



### Portway Cup For Cut Flowers

This has been won **7** times! By Jackie Collings—a reflection of her beautiful garden.



# 2017 Trophy winners



Sally Winter



BDCG Potato Champion Trophy ,  
won by Sally Winter - first  
presented in 2009.



BDGC Salver for flower arranging  
won by Kathy Middleton for the  
3rd time.



Win & Bob Rolfe Cup fo Fruit  
won by Steve Thomson (right)



Steve also won this cup in 2016,  
here presented by David  
Whybrow our local Councillor

This was commissioned in 2009 in  
memory of BDGC member Filipa  
Smith (right) who died in 2009  
after a long battle with illness



BDGC Craft Cup



Won 5 times by Daphne  
Baldry - above in 2009



Paul Hansord Trophy



Won by Val Morris,  
entering for the first  
time—Well done!



The winning photograph in the  
category 'Books' by Carol Henwood



Treasurer's Cup for  
photography donated by  
Greg Southgate in 2009 .

## Webb Cup for Vegetables

See previous page

Won by Jenny Forbes -  
Jenny also won this cup in  
2013 & 2014 - seems she  
doesn't need to buy her  
vegetables at Tesco!

## Other 2017 winners—all cups this year presented by Chris Knock

Jeanne Lynch Aird - Best Pelargonium    Oliver Baldry - Children's Cup

Olly Chaplin - Junior cup    Judith Thompson -Miscellaneous

# Trophy Winners 2008—17

We always say that it is not about winning but taking part—nevertheless we do celebrate the winners

Greatest number of trophies won is shared

Mike Warren—15

Jackie Collings—15

Mike has also won 15 trophies and his strength is in vegetables

Jackie has won 15 trophies - her main strength is in flowers



Jackie winning the trophy for highest over-all points in 2017



Mike with an armful of trophies in 2012 when he won 5! - presented by Paul Hansord



Jackie also won a new trophy this year to . The 10th Anniversary Trophy awarded for Pot Plants



The winning pot plant (Coleus)



Mike's winning onions - weighing 1kg each!

It seems right that the joint second place for most trophies won is shared by Bill & Daphne Baldry with 9 each

## The Judges

We have been lucky enough to have judges who are expert in their fields and are willing to volunteer their time and knowledge for us.



Angela & Jeremy Pratt, in the foreground, from Felixstowe Horticultural Society have been judging for us for a number of years. They judge the Pot Plants, Cut Flowers and the T & M entries - a big task!



Lindsay Symis (grey cardigan) has been our cookery judge for many years. This involves tasting a variety of cakes, bread, scones, jams, chutneys etc. It sounds like a pleasant task, but I think you might be a bit queasy by the end! Lindsay has been faced with mouldy jam and having to pass judgement on how many eggs the entrants have used in their Victoria Sponge!

Lindsay was unable to judge this year and we were lucky enough to secure the services of David Ryan, who lives locally, and is one of the 120 master chefs in the UK.

Thank you David



Molly Whitehead (left and below) has been our fruit and vegetable judge for many years. She is a Committee member of the Colchester Rose & Horticultural Society and an experienced judge



Mike Warren—seen here below left with Sandra Henson judges the photography as well as some other miscellaneous classes. Mike is a BDGC member and describes himself as an horticultural enthusiast & photographer. Mike wins classes at the Show on a regular basis luckily he is not allowed to enter the photography!

Jackie Collings (below right), an experienced prize winning flower arranger herself, judges the flower arranging class.. Jackie is well known for her encouraging and helpful remarks on each entry. Jackie is also a BDGC member and regularly wins other classes at the Show



Jackie & Mike admire his onions!



# Thompson & Morgan & Paul Hansord

Paul Hansord, Horticultural Director of Thompson & Morgan, was on the Combs Fete Committee for the first Fete & Show in 2008. Paul, on behalf of Thompson & Morgan offered to sponsor some classes for the Show, and thus a tradition was established that has carried on through every Show since. Pouches, although not to everyone's taste, have featured every year.

## Pouches



2008 Year 1—Busy Lizzies



## Potatoes

From the first Show, T & M have donated a potato to be grown in a bag. The greatest weight of potatoes grown wins.



Arthur Brown devised a cunning riddle which separates the potatoes from



Tori & Joe Whitehead have been the main potato weighers every year. In 2017 Nicholas had the onerous task of recording the weights!



The greatest weight of potatoes were the ones grown in her llama's poo by Gwyneth Hogger - here they are admiring their handiwork

## Paul



Proudly displaying his rhubarb



Arranging one of his entries



No Comment!

BDGC would like to thank Paul and Thompson & Morgan for all their support

# The Schedule

Our Show schedule although based on the traditional classes of vegetables, fruit, flowers and cookery, is also aimed at those who may have other skills such as photography, crafts, and even poetry.

The first schedule was devised after researching those of other garden clubs. Section one included fruit, the T & M donated plants and the flower arrangements and Art, Craft and photography were lumped together. As they evolved over the years there were separate sections for pot plants, fruit, T & M, floral arrangements, craft, and photography with all sections being awarded their own trophy.

## The Front Covers

Battisford & District Gardening Club

3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SHOW  
In conjunction with Combs Village Fete and  
*Thompson & Morgan*



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
Fenn's Farm  
Bildeston Road, Combs  
(300 yds past Barn Meadow going towards Battisford)

Setting up time 9.00 - 11.00  
Open for viewing 1.30  
Trophy presentation 5.00  
Entries must be removed by 5.30

JOIN IN!  
ENTRIES WELCOME FROM ALL IN BARCLIF AREA

The first five Schedule covers were designed by Val Gould

In 2013, on the fifth anniversary of the Show, the cover was designed

by Denis Wicking's daughter Rachel

The current cover (L) 2014—17 was designed by Andy Tarini who works in the Graphic Dept. of Thompson & Morgan

Val was also responsible for our logo (R) which she sourced on the internet.



# Entries over the years

## Vegetables

In these days of smaller gardens and supermarkets, fewer people grow their own vegetables. However entries in these classes remain good especially from a small core of dedicated growers.



# Fruit



# Pot Plants



# Cut flowers—Roses



## Cut flowers

These classes have included various varieties of cut flowers over the years and also flowering shrub stems and garden foliage



## Flower arranging

Every year we try to think up new themes for the flower arranging classes



TV Programme - 'Bargain Hunt' 1st Prize



Arrangements in a cup and saucer



The Seaside



Arrangements in a shell



## Crafts



A hand-made greetings card



Something new from something old -  
made from an old pair of socks



A quilted item



A hand-knitted item



An item of cross-stitch



A soft toy



A prize winning cushion



6' of Bunting

## Cookery



Bill's prize winning shortbread

# Photography

The photography class gets more and more popular so that now it attracts the most entries

As with the flower arranging we try to come up with different themes very year



A Church window



Creepy Crawlies



Winter



Shadows



A Tree



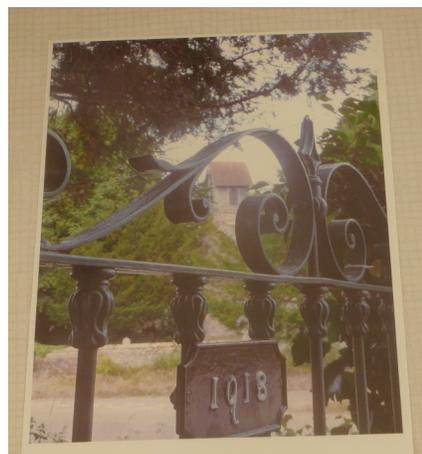
A sea view



A bowl of fruit



An Animal



An external view of Battsford Church



Reflection through sculpture outside the

Royal Academy in London



# Children's section

## Some winners and entries over the years



2009—Eloise Long



2015 Harry Chaplin



2014 Sam Johnstone



2016 Olly Chaplin



Flamingos by Mia



2015 Rees Watson



A ladybird by Patrick



Painting of an animal by Oliver



Miscellaneous (1st 5 Shows called 'Novelty' class)



A funny shaped vegetable



Bottle of home-made alcoholic drink

Bottle of non-alcoholic drink

Mike Warren & Jim Henson were chosen as being the most suitable to judge this class - they seem to spend a lot longer on the alcoholic class!



Decorate a marrow.

Eloise Long (aged 7)



3 hen's eggs



Plant grown in an unusual container



Small painting



**Duty**

He came and he asked me  
My duty was clear  
The corgis would worry  
The people would cheer

Philip would chuckle  
Charles would frown  
But I know my duty  
For I wear the crown

The moment came quickly  
It was time for the jump  
I flew like an eagle  
There was hardly a *bump*

I entered the stadium  
Calm and serene  
Not a hair out of place  
For I am the queen

My people were waiting  
A wonderful scene  
For I know my duty  
I am the Queen



*on the Queen's historic parachute jump to open the London Olympic Games*



## Biggest, Heaviest, Longest etc.

For the first few years part of the novelty section included the biggest sunflower, longest runner bean, heaviest marrow, onion and pumpkin and the most tomatoes on a truss. The only surviving class in this section is the longest stick of rhubarb



2008 Heaviest pumpkin



2009 Heaviest Pumpkin



Largest sunflower



Heaviest onion and on the next table longest runner bean



Heaviest marrow



Longest stick of rhubarb

## Some regular winners

Besides Jenny Forbes & Kathy Middleton (pictured on pages 4 & 5 respectively) and Bill & Daphne (9 cups each) pictured elsewhere in this newsletter, four other members have won 4 cups or more at the Show



Helen Ashley (4 times)



Jeanne Lynch-Aird (5 times)



Sandra Henson (5 times)

## Daphne Scarff

Daphne, who sadly died earlier this year, entered the craft class most years with the most beautiful embroidery etc.



Daphne 2008



In 2016, our 1940s themed Show, Daphne went home and changed into her Land Army uniform.



2014

## Show Organisers



Totting up the points is a serious business



There is a more relaxed approach



Daphne has kept Bill on track over the years



Caroline & Ant looking foolish dressed as Land Army girls with Daphne - the real thing

The 'organisers' are just part of the huge number of people who all contribute to make the Show a success. The Committee members should get a special mention as they take on the bulk of the setting up, stewarding and clearing up at the end. However the Show would not happen if members and people did not 'sow, sew grow and show' so a big thank you to all



Thanks also to the Fete Committee for the use of the Marquee



# 2017 /18 Future events

Monday 2nd October, 7.30pm  
 AGM & 'The Medicine Chest in Your Garden'  
 Des Shelley, Medical Herbalist



Monday 6th November, 7.30pm  
 'Garden Bugs – Cohabit, Conserve or Control?'  
 Dr Ian Bedford (John Innes Centre)



Saturday 2nd December. 10am - 1pm  
 Christmas Wreath Workshop  
 £13 - to book or more details contact Caroline on 01449 770980 or email caroline@wicking.me



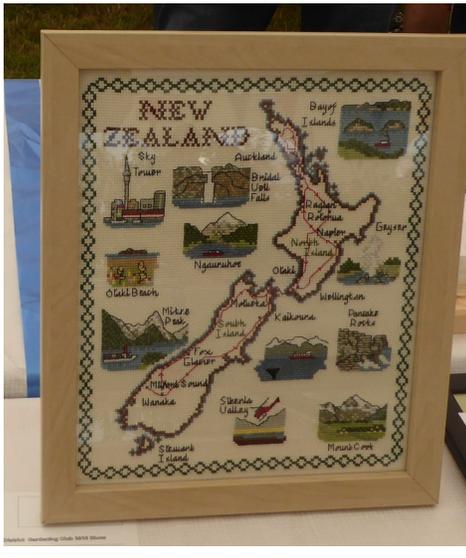
Monday 4th December, 7pm  
 Quiz with George Bethell  
 Free food, bring own drink & glasses



Friday 19th January 7 for 7.30pm  
 Meal the Barn, Alder Carr  
 Menu & more details to follow

Monday 5th February, 7.30pm  
 'Cambridge Colleges and their gardens'  
 Rodney Tibbs

Monday 5th March, 7.30pm  
 'A complete guide to Clematis'  
 Peter Skeggs - Gooch



Monday 9th April (2nd Monday)  
 Visit to Bays Farm, Forward Green

