

Bethersden Gardeners' Society



2022 January Newsletter

Here's a round-up of the Society's activities in the latter part of 2021, and a look forward to 2022. We had plenty of challenges to both our gardening and our social activities; let's hope 2022 is better for us all.

We have regrettably decided to cancel the ploughman's lunch in January, due to the current Covid challenges. We will deliver the schedules and membership cards to members in February and you will be able to pay your subscriptions by BACS online transfer or by dropping it into either Sue King' or Jim Williams' letterbox. Details will follow with the schedule.



Autumn Show

Our Autumn show went ahead as normal and was well attended. Having the plant stall and sunflowers outside under our new gazebos gave us a little extra space inside for all the exhibits. The dahlias were stunning, the pumpkins were huge and both the cookery and the handicraft sections were impressive after so much time in lockdowns!



Largest Sunflower Head Competition



Huge sunflowers were on display at the show, and lots of lovely entries came from the primary school. Our chairman Keith Mitchell produced the overall winner with a massive 44 cm diameter head. Well done also to Mia Stoltenberg, the school winner with 25.5cm. These set a target for next year!





Jubilee Cup competitions

Golden Jubilee Cup winner : Grace Wratten

Diamond Jubilee Cup winner: Linda & David Rushton



The entrants were mainly smaller gardens this year, especially for the Golden cup. It was very difficult to choose a winner for each category. The judges were impressed by the range of gardens from newly-planted to very well-established. Styles ranged from informal to formal, traditional cottage garden to Mediterranean and even New Zealand-inspired. They all had a wide range of colour, form and/or leaf shapes and plants for all seasons.

The judges also particularly liked the use of height, with climbers on most of the fences or walls and added structure within some of the borders to give additional growing space. Wildlife habitats were obvious in most of the gardens, with most having a pond or water feature. A lot of effort had gone into making some impressive and productive fruit and vegetable beds.

The judges would like to thank all the entrants; they thoroughly enjoyed seeing the gardens which help to make Bethersden such a lovely village.



Looking forward to 2022

Although we have cancelled the Ploughman's lunch, we are optimistic for the rest of the year.

Our annual dinner will be on 11 March, the menu will be available from the Post Office soon.

Our usual programme of shows is planned throughout the year, starting with the Spring show and cheese & wine evening on 9 April.

We are organising a number of trips, including Hever Castle, following the wonderful talk at the AGM by Neil Miller, the Head Gardener (right).

We are also continuing our competitions as they have proved so popular. The first will be the Spring photography competition. Take a photo capturing '**The Essence of Spring**', and send it to bethersden.gardeners@gmail.com by 31 March.

