

Flower and Produce Shows, 2004 to 2023

2023 Flower and Produce Show

This year the Flower and produce Show will take place on Saturday 26 August in the Reading Room as usual. Show schedules will be distributed in the next few days. If you can't wait or don't receive one, you can download a copy [here](#). Although the show itself happens in August entries - and judging - for the garden classes take place earlier. Please look at the dates in the schedule for details.

Entering any of the classes is easy. The simplest way is to email Phillip Ward, but entry forms can be delivered to the named individuals or at the village cafe on 20 June or 22 August. Since the object is to encourage as many people as possible to join in, we are flexible about when entries should be made but it makes life a lot easier if you make entries early and by the named dates - please.

Once again we are grateful for sponsorship by Material Change - the operators of the Blackpits composting and renewable energy site. We are also continuing to use the proceeds to support the Horton Hospital Charity and Dogs for Good. To help boost the amount we can give the show schedule this year has been restructured to fit on a single sheet saving 400 sheets of paper and £50 for the charities. But the thing that counts is the money we take from show entries and on the day. So please enter and please come along on 26 August and enjoy the show.

2022 Flower and Produce Show

The 2022 Show, Saturday 27 August, 2:30 - 4pm

The date of the show has been confirmed as Bank Holiday Saturday 27 August. Before then the garden classes will be judged in the week beginning 20 June and troughs and hanging baskets will be judged on the evening of 25 July. All the details are in the show schedules which are now being distributed. If you don't get a schedule or lose it, you can see and download a full copy [here](#).

Please support the show. It's nothing without you.

2021 Flower and Produce Show

After the forced cancelation of the 2020 show, the show is back for 2021. **Please note the change of date to 4 September 2021.**

Schedules for this year's show have been distributed to - hopefully- every house in the village. If you haven't received your show schedule - or you have lost it- don't worry you can down-load it [here](#).

Judging has now taken place for the seven garden categories. Entries for all the remaining classes are now open - details are in the show schedule - but since the date has had to be moved back the last date for entries is now 2 September.

Please support the show and help us raise funds for our chosen charities supporting the NHS Horton Hospital and Dogs for Good.

2019 Flower and Produce Show

The 2019 Show took place on 24 August with over 200 entries in 54 classes on show.

Prizes this year saw some new names on the main prizes...

The Reardon Cup for the best garden displays was shared by Audrey Forgham and Michael Ayres

The Lidgely Cup for the best vegetable display went to Sue Wallace

The Duncombe Cup for the winner of the fruit classes was Hugh Walmsley

Once again Michael Ayres won the Potter Vase for achievement in the flower classes

Julie Evans was the winner of the Bloomer Cup for her flower arrangement

The Rose Bowl for overall success in the produce categories went to Doreen England

Michael Ayres once again took home the Jack Ayres Shield for excellence across all the show categories.

The Show raised more than £430 for our Charities: Bloodwise - in memory of Peter Payne and Dogs for Good.

2018 Flower and Produce Show

Flower And Produce Show Beats The Drought - 28 August 2018

While some villages had to cancel their flower shows, Helmdon made an extra effort and managed to put on a show almost as large as last year's record breaker. With more than 250 entries in total, including 215 on display in the Reading Room on Bank Holiday Saturday, the show was a success and much enjoyed by all who came along.

As usual the competition was stiff but Michael Ayres came away as the standout contestant taking the Reardon Cup for the best garden displays, the Potter Vase for success in the Flower classes. He also won the Duncombe Cup for his entries in the fruit classes, where he was run a close second by his sister, Doreen England.

Newcomer, David White, took the honours and the Lidgely Cup for the best performance in the drought affected vegetable classes, while Judith Elkington was the outright winner this year of the Rose Bowl for success in the produce classes. Julie Evans took the Bloomer Cup for the best individual entry in the Flower category. Michael Ayres success in the other classes won him the Jack Ayres Shield for best overall performance.

There are two picture galleries **on this website** for the 2018 Show:

Apart from the enjoyment it gives, the show has an important role in raising money for charity. Thanks to generous sponsorship from Material Change, and many individual entrants, more than £350 was raised. The proceeds of the raffle this year will go to Prostate Cancer UK in memory of Rex Jessett who died this year, but who had been a staunch supporter of the show for many years. The balance will be shared between St Katherine's Hospice and Dogs for Good.

Finally thanks are due to everyone who contributed so much once again: the Committee of Peter Payne, Alex Corrin, Julie Evans, Cliff Netten, Steve Wheeler, Julia McAuliffe and Pip Ward; the volunteers who served tea on the day: Julie Evans, Pauline Payne, Mary Nash and Judy Cairns; and to Ann Smith and Audrey Forgham who ran the raffle. If you would like to join the Committee or help out next year please get in touch.

Phillip Ward

2017 Flower and Produce Show

Record Entries for Flower and Produce Show - posted 02 September 2017

With more than 220 entries, the annual Flower and Produce Show, displayed an impressive range of gardening, preserve making and baking skills. The glorious bank holiday weather attracted a big crowd of supporters which, with generous sponsorship by Material Change Ltd, enabled a record £450 to be raised for local charities and the Gardening Club.

Winners

The Reardon Cup for the best garden display was won by Michael Ayres, who also took the Duncombe Cup in the fruit category. Rex Jessett, once again retained both the Lidgely Cup for the highest score in the vegetable category and the Jack Ayres Shield for the best overall score. In a tight competition, Juliet Corston took the Potter Vase for the best performance in the flower category, while Bill Elkington was the winner of the Bloomer Cup for the best individual flower entry. In the produce category Enid Kebble and Judith Elkington produced a dead heat and will share the Rose Bowl.

Banners

A generous grant from the Parish Council enabled new promotional banners, based on an original painting by local artist Paul Sandilands, to be made and helped attract the record support for the show.

Deadline 22 August 2017 for Flower & Produce Show Entries - posted 12 August 2017

The 2017 Flower and Produce Show will soon be here. It is Saturday 26 August and will be held in the Reading Room - 2.30 p.m. until 4 p.m. It is supporting Katharine House Hospice and Dogs For Good.

The deadline for entries is Tuesday 22 August. There will be teas and cakes, a produce sale and a raffle.

A change is the abolition of the separate baking class for men only. The general feeling was that this was a bit outdated. Instead there will be a baking challenge for all novice or occasional bakers over the age of 12. The recipe for this is a [Banana Bread](#). For the more advanced baker the challenge will be to bake a Lemon Curd Layer Cake. Entry forms are included in the show schedule which was sent out to all homes but additional forms can be downloaded.

This year we are grateful for sponsorship from [Material Change](#), the operators of the Blackpits Compost and Renewable Energy plants.

Last year's show was a success with an increase in the number of entries. More entries means more enjoyment for everyone: please join in.

Philip Ward

Extended Deadline For Hanging Basket and Patio Display Classes - posted 24 June 2017

Congratulations to all those who entered the Garden classes of the Flower and Produce Show last week. The entries were of a very high standard. The judge had a hard time deciding on the winners who will be unveiled at the Show on 26 August.

It is not too late to take part in this year's show. The Closing date for entries to the Hanging Basket/wall Trough and Patio Displays has been extended to 21 July with judging on the 25th.

Entries can be made in writing using the entry forms in the show schedule or by emailing me and paying at the show on 26 August.

Entries for all other classes close on 22 August.

First Entry Deadline for Flower Show Approaches - posted 06 June 2017

The first Flower and Produce Show deadline is approaching. Entries for the Garden categories close on **14 June**.

The garden categories this year are:

1. Garden Bed or Border
2. Cottage Garden
3. Vegetable Plot
4. Water Feature

These will all be judged on Saturday 17 June

5. Hanging basket or trough display

6. Patio display

These will be judged on the evening of 25 July

Entries can be made in writing using the entry forms in the show schedule or by emailing me and paying at the show on 26 August.

We know there are some beautiful gardens in Helmdon so please enter and help to make the show successful.

The Flower & Produce Show Is Here Again - posted 14 May 2017

Details of the 2017 Flower and Produce Show are now available. Show Schedules will be posted to all homes in Helmdon over the next few days. If anyone doesn't receive a copy or wants another copy it can be downloaded.

An innovation this year sees judging for the garden categories split: Garden Borders, vegetable patches, cottage gardens and water features will be judged on 17 June 2017 when many people believe their borders are at their best. Last year we saw this was too early for hanging baskets and patio displays so those will be judged on the evening of Tuesday 25 July.

Another change is the abolition of the separate baking class for men only. The general feeling was that this was a bit outdated. Instead there will be a baking challenge for all novice or occasional bakers over the age of 12. The recipe for this is a [Banana Bread](#). For the more advanced baker the challenge will be to bake a Lemon Curd Layer Cake.

This year we are grateful for sponsorship from [Material Change](#), the operators of the Blackpits Compost and Renewable Energy plants.

Last year's show was a success with an increase in the number of entries. More entries means more enjoyment for everyone: please join in.

Phillip Ward for the Show Committee

Flower & Produce Show 2017 - posted 15 April 2017

This year's Flower and Produce Show will be on 26 August - Bank Holiday Saturday.

Once again we are looking for Sponsors. Sponsorship helps to fund separate competitions for school aged children and by covering some of the organising costs increases the donations we can make to our local charities, which this year will be Katherine House Hospice and Dogs for Good.

Some other dates for your diary are:

- Entries for Garden Classes will close on 21 June
- Judging for garden borders, cottage garden, vegetable patch and water features will be on 24 June
- Judging for Hanging Baskets and Patio Displays will be on 29 July
- Entries for all other show classes will close on 22 August

Full details of the competition classes will be in the show schedules which will be circulated in May.

Phillip Ward for the Show Committee

2016 Flower and Produce Show

Successful Flower & Produce Show - posted 29 August 2016

This year's Flower and Produce Show has been the most successful for several years. Despite a torrential downpour in the afternoon, some 170 exhibits from carrots to speciality breads and Funny Potato Heads were on show and enjoyed by many in the village. With generous sponsorship from A W Duncombe and Son, the Show raised a record £300 to support donations to Katherine House Hospice and the Air Ambulance.

The Reardon Cup for the best garden display was won by Charlotte Sandilands, while Rex Jessett retained both the Lidgely Cup for the highest score in the vegetable category and the Jack Ayres Shield for the best overall score. Michael Ayres regained the Potter Vase for the best performance in the flower category while Judith Elkington was the winner of the Bloomer Cup for the best individual flower entry. Enid Kebble scored highest in the Produce category to win the Rose Bowl.

Bread baking was a new element in the show this year and the Committee were pleased with the level of interest shown, even by those that had never made bread before. They are looking for suggestions for other gardening or produce categories that could prove equally popular. If you have any suggestions please contact Phillip Ward.

Show Entries Must Be In By This Tuesday 23 August - posted 22 August 2016

The Flower and Produce Show is next Saturday 27 August. The show depends for its success, and for the money it raises for our charities, on the entries we all make to the show. It's easy to join in and there are new classes this year, including bread making and unusual or exotic vegetables. Young entrants can try their hands at making a funny potato head or baking some flapjacks.

Paper entries and fees should be given to Peter Payne, Rex Jessett, Celia Terrey or Pip Ward by **23 August**.

Email entries, which should include your name and classes entered, can be made until 26 August with fees paid at the door on the day.

Please support the show!

Phillip Ward for the Show Committee

Could Your Creation Be Best In Show? - posted 27 May 2016

Entries are now being taken for the 2016 Flower and Produce Show which this year will be held on 27 August 2016 in the Reading Room.

The show is sponsored by A W Duncombe & Son.

Entries can be handed to Peter Payne, Rex Jessett, Celia Terrey and Pip Ward. Alternatively they can be taken to the Village Café on 7 July for Garden entries or 11 and 18 August for other entries.

The more entries we have the more we will be able to give and the more fun the show will be. You don't have to be an expert. It's fun to join in.

Phillip Ward for the Show Committee

Flower & Produce Show - posted 30 April 2016

Helmdon's Flower and Produce Show will take place this year on Bank Holiday Saturday, the 27 August in the Reading Room. The Show schedule and entry forms will be delivered shortly but here are some key points to note.

This year entries for the garden competition will be earlier -15 June with judging taking place on 18 June. This responds to feedback from many people who feel their gardens look their best in June. Entries of other classes should be in by 23 August.

There will be new classes for bread baking and for exotic and unusual vegetables as well as some new challenges for children. Please look out for the schedules when they come and plan to take part in this established part of village life.

2015 Flower and Produce Show

Charities to Benefit from Flower and Produce Show



Katherine House Hospice and the Air Ambulance stand to benefit from another successful Flower and Produce Show on Saturday 22 August which raised over £200.

Although difficult growing conditions seem to have affected the number of entries this year, the standard remained high.

Rex Jesset took the Lidgely cup for the best vegetables as well as the Jack Ayres Shield. Michael Ayres retained the Reardon Cup for the best garden entries and the Potter Vase for the best flowers. Jean Spendlove took the Bloomer Cup for the best individual flower entry. The Rose Bowl for best overall performance in the produce category went to Julie Evans, while the Junior Cup was shared between sisters Charlotte and Olivia Owen.

The organising Committee would like to thank everyone who entered the competition or supported the show on the day; the volunteers who staffed the event, organised the raffle or served the teas; and our sponsors HYHO.

Something for Everyone in Flower and Produce Show 2015 - posted 23 June 2015

The Annual Flower and Produce Show will take place in the Reading Room on 22 August. This year we are grateful for sponsorship from the HYHOs both for the printing of the schedules and support for the children's competitions.

As usual the garden categories will be judged ahead of the show. Entries for these should be made by 7 July and judging will take place on Saturday 11 July. We know there are some lovely gardens in Helmdon and the categories cover everything from a hanging basket or wall trough to a vegetable plot or garden border. Please think about entering.

As before, proceeds from the show will make donations to the Air Ambulance and Katherine House Hospice. Last year we had a record number of entries; let's see if we can do even better this year.

2014 Flower and Produce Show

Flower & Produce Show 2014: Final Report - posted 16 October 2014

The 2014 Show took place on 30 August this year, two weeks later than usual. The change was intended to allow more time for produce to be ready after a slow start to the growing season in the previous year. This year the growing season was early and there were as many complaints about fruit and flowers having "gone over". In the end 48 people entered the show with a total of 238 exhibits which was an increase on the previous year. This led to an increase in entry fees to £91 although the total of income from fees and donations was almost unchanged from the previous year at £131.

Income on the day - mainly due to an exceptional effort on the raffle- came to £241.60 and took the total for the show to £372.60p. Expenses for the year were higher than for the previous year because the scaling back of cash prizes for the garden section could not fully offset the loss of sponsorship from Berry Morris. The net result was a surplus of £218.

I have confirmed with the Gardening Club Treasurer that the Club does not need any of the proceeds of the show for its own activities. I have also decided that we do not need to hold so much of a cash float. I have, therefore, sent donations of £125 each to the designated charities: Katherine House Hospice and Northampton Air Ambulance. All of this is summarised in the table below.

		2014	2013
Income	- Raffle	£151.20	£117.00
	- Produce Sales	£29.80	£25.75
	- Fees and Donations	£131.00	£135.70
	- Cafe	£51.10	£55.43
Total Income		£372.60	£333.88
Less	- Room Hire	£33.00	£30.00
	- Judges	£40.00	£40.00
	- Printing	£60.50	£0.00
	- Prizes	£21.00	£56.30
	- Children's prizes	£0.00	£5.00
Total Expenses		£154.50	£131.30
Surplus		£218.10	£202.58
The Picture after	donations now looks like this:		
Cash in hand at outset		£96.10	£93.52
Donations		£250.00	£200.00
Cash in Hand at end		£64.20	£96.10

Popular Classes

The Garden category attracted a few more entries this year with similar numbers in each class except for the new hanging basket class which disappointingly drew only 2 entries.

In the vegetable category the most popular classes were the runner beans, courgettes and french beans with 8 or 9 entries each. By contrast the collection of vegetables drew only 1 entry and the pair of lettuces none.

In the fruit category competition was strongest in the cherry tomato category with 7 entries and lowest for the plate of fruit with 2 entries.

There was good support for the single rose class in the Flower section and least for the arrangement of garden flowers with only 2 entries.

Cheese scones and Victoria Sandwiches were the most popular classes in the produce category but the popularity of cup cakes and fresh eggs seemed to have fallen compared with last year with 1 or 2 entries only. The new classes in the children's section produced a few additional entries but none was well supported and further thought is clearly needed to develop these classes.

Summary

The 2014 show was successful and enjoyed by the significant number of people who took part or who came along on the day.

I am grateful to the small group who came along to the planning meetings and did so much in the lead up to and on the show day. At times we were a bit thin on the ground and it would be good to have a few more involved for next year's show. Next year, I especially hope it will be possible to grow the entries for the children's classes.

Anyone who is interested, or has ideas, in helping with this would be particularly welcome.

Phillip Ward

Flower & Produce Show Enjoyed By All - posted 01 September 2014

The Annual Flower and Produce show, held in the Reading Room on 30 August, is fast establishing itself in the village events calendar. This year there were entries for 51 separate classes ranging from hanging baskets to carrot cakes and childrens' handprint paintings.

There were more than 200 individual entries some of which can be seen in the picture.

Rex Jesset retained the Lidgely Cup for his score in the vegetable categories, while Michael Ayres bagged four trophies - the Potter Vase, and the Bloomer, Duncombe and Reardon Cups for his exhibits in the fruit, flower and overall garden classes. A stalwart of the Village Café, Enid Kebble, won the Rosebowl in the produce classes. Alfie Castle took the Under 7s cup and Jasmin Kuhn was the winner in the 8-12 category.

The shield for the best entry in the Vegetable category went to David Shepherd whose entry in the largest marrow competition weighed in at 17.2kg (38 lbs).

With help from a successful Raffle, organised by Ann Smith and Celia Terrey, and takings from the café team led by Julie Evans, it looks like a donation of at least £250 will be heading to the chosen charities, Katherine House Hospice and the air ambulance, once all the final bills have been received.

But most of all it was an enjoyable day for all the participants.

Phillip Ward

Entries Will Be Accepted By E-mail - posted 27 August 2014

The formal closing date was today but I would be happy to accept entries right up until Friday night. The details of the classes are on the gardening club news page below (19 April below) and I would be happy to accept entries by email - with entry fees being paid at the door on Saturday morning.

Even if your french beans have gone past their best - there is still time to knock up some shortbread or a plate of cheese scones.

Phillip Ward

It's Show Time - posted 18 August 2014

The annual Helmdon Flower and Produce Show is on Saturday 30 August and we are looking for a bumper crop of entries this year. The closing date for entries is Tuesday 27 August. These can be given to Peter Payne, Rex Jessett or Pip Ward and entries can also be handed in at the village cafe on both 19 and 27 July. Details of all the classes and everything else you need to know are in the para below posted 19 April. We particularly want to encourage entries from children this year and there are new categories for them to enter: decorated flower pots, hand print paintings, posies in a jam jar, or garden photographs among others. But don't leave it all to the children: whether it's beetroot or jam there are categories for everyone to join in. The charities benefiting are again Katherine's Hospice and the air ambulance.

Judging Delayed - posted 19 July 2014

The judging for the garden section of the F&P Show has been postponed until Saturday 26 July. That is probably just as well in view of the weather forecast for today! However, this does mean that entries for this section of the show can be kept open until Tuesday 22 July and it would be good to have some more entries. You don't need to

have a spectacular garden to enter - there are classes this year for hanging baskets and patio displays and for cottage gardens for those who don't have large borders. Entry details below.

Details of Flower and Produce Show Announced - posted 19 April 2014

The fifth annual Flower and Produce Show will be held on 30 August this year in the Reading Room from 2pm to 4.30pm.

This year there are new categories to enter for, especially for children and in the gardens category, in an effort to boost entries to the same level seen in the more familiar classes.

We are particularly keen to encourage more young people to enter and some of the categories will need them to get started now - the tallest sunflower competition and the home-grown herbs - classes need seeds to be sown soon. Paper copies of the show schedule will be distributed in the middle of June

As usual there will be a raffle and tea and cakes for sale on the day. All proceeds will once again be split between Katherine House Hospice, the Air Ambulance and the Gardening Club.

Last year many people said they did not enter because their produce was not ready. The later date this year should mean that is not a problem, so why not plan to have a go and enjoy being part of a great British tradition?!

Help Needed For The Flower & Produce Show - posted 29 March 2014

The annual Helmdon Flower and Produce Show will take place on 30 August in the Reading Room this year. This popular village event has been moved to the end of August to allow plenty of time for produce to be ready and to avoid the Bank Holiday weekend. As usual the proceeds from the show will be split between the Gardening Club and local charities and we hope as many people as possible will join in by entering flowers, vegetables, cakes and preserves or just by coming along to enjoy the show.

We do need help to make the show a success each year. If you would like to help with the planning please come along to a short meeting at 7.30pm on 14 April in the Bell. If you are able to help with arrangements on the day, please contact me.

Phillip Ward

2013 Flower and Produce Show

Another Successful Flower and Produce Show - posted 21 August 2013

The threat of unseasonal rain may have kept some away, but the annual Flower and Produce Show was another success with more participants and more entries than last year. As a result there will be a £200 surplus to share with the Garden Club and the Air Ambulance and Katherine House Hospice charities.

Strictly friendly rivalry between the village's keenest gardeners saw Rex Jesset walk away with the winner's cups for the vegetable category, the best individual entry and the highest points for the show as a whole. Pat Woodhams won the cup for the best entry in the produce category for her cup cakes, but Doreen England was the overall winner in the produce category. Her brother, Michael Ayres, helped to keep it in the family by winning in the fruit and flower section.

In the children's competition there was an array of curious vegetable animals, decorated biscuits and paintings on show. Cups were won by Alfie Castle and Victoria and Katherine Hart.

Many thanks to all those who gave time to organise the day, served teas or Pimms, made donations to the raffle or just took part in the competition.

Reminder: Deadline For Flower & Produce Show Entries - posted 09 August 2013

With more than 50 categories to enter, there is something for everyone in the annual Flower and Produce Show. Whether it's flowers or veg, cakes or jams, the day is much more fun if you have something in the show. Entries are due by Wednesday 14 August and don't forget the special categories for children.

Helmdon Flower and Produce Show - posted 02 June 2013

This will be in the Reading Room on the afternoon of 17 August.

We are planning another great afternoon with something for everyone including, as well as the show itself, teas, a sale of produce and a raffle.

As last year, the proceeds will go to support Northants Air Ambulance, Katherine House Hospice and the Garden Club.

2012 Flower and Produce Show

Results of the 2012 Flower & Produce Show - posted 23 August 2012

The Helmdon Gardening Club held its third annual Flower and Produce Show on Saturday 18th August. The Show was again very well supported, although a difficult growing year meant that entries were down slightly on the previous year. Nevertheless, local growers and cooks produced a fine array of fruit, vegetables, flowers, preserves and baked goods. The organisers were very pleased to see more entries in the youth section this year, with some wonderfully imaginative models and paintings. Teas, a raffle and sale of some of the produce all helped to raise funds to sustain the Show for the future, and also support some local charities.

Trophy winners for 2012 are listed below.

- Overall Winner Gardens: M Ayres
- Overall Winner Vegetables: Tony Wilson
- Best Individual Entry Vegetables: Robert Duncombe (Runner Beans)
- Overall Winner Fruit: Jean Spendlove
- Overall Winner Flowers: Julie Evans/Pauline Payne
- Overall Winner Produce: Doreen England
- Best Individual Entry Produce: Jenny Overson (Lemon Curd)
- Youth 7 Years and Under: Alfie Castle
- Youth 8-11 years: Matthew Wheeler

The organising committee would like to thank our two very thorough and meticulous judges Clyde Burbidge and Rosemary Sheppey and everyone who came along to support the show.

Julia McAuliffe

(Secretary, Flower and Produce Show Committee)

Countdown To Flower & Produce Show 2012 - posted 31 July 2012

The Gardening Club is looking forward to the Flower & Produce Show 2012, which will take place in the Reading Room, Church Street between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday 18 August 2012.

Class categories include vegetables, flowers, fruit and home produce and there are sections for the children too.

Download details of all the classes and how to enter. There are also sponsorship opportunities for each class.

For classes 43 and 44 you will need the recipe details and cooking instructions.

The money raised at this year's show will be going to [Katherine House Hospice](#), and the [Northamptonshire Air Ambulance](#) so please come along and support us!

National Trust Lecture And Plant/Equipment Sale - posted 13 May 2012

The speaker for our 17 May meeting will be Richard Moisey who will be speaking to us on 'The Glorious Gardens of the National Trust'.

Richard is kindly waiving his fee for this talk, so the committee thought it would be a nice idea if we all donated £1 each to the National Trust as I am sure we all appreciate the work they do.

After the talk Peter Payne will, as normal, be giving us tips for the garden. His expertise is certainly appreciated.

May I also remind you that this meeting is our 'Plant/Equipment Sale' with proceeds going to the club. So please have a look in your gardens and see if there are any extra plants that you could pot up and bring, any additional vegetable/fruit plants you have grown or any books, seeds or equipment that you no longer need and would like to bring.

New members and guests are always welcome.

2011 Flower and Produce Show

Helmdon Flower & Produce Show - posted 28 August 2011

The Gardening Club held its second Flower and Produce Show on Saturday 20th August. The organizing committee was hoping that the enthusiasm of last year would be repeated, and we were not disappointed. In spite of some difficult growing conditions (so what's new?) the number of entries was increased from 2010, and we saw many new names amongst the entrants.

The fruit, vegetables and flowers were judged by Clyde Burbidge and the home produce by Rosemary Sheppey. Both did an admirable job, carefully assessing the merits of the many fine entries before coming to their decisions.

In the afternoon the Show was opened up for viewing, and was very well attended by those eager to see how their entries had fared, as well as by others interested to see what the village could produce. The teas and home-made cakes on sale were very popular, and the raffle was also very well supported.

At the end of the day, any produce that had been donated was sold to add to the overall fund-raising effort.

This year's trophy winners are as follows:

- Overall Garden Winner: Doreen England
- Overall Winner Vegetables: (Joint) Rex Jessett and Tony Wilson
- Best Individual Entry Vegetables: Robert Duncombe
- Overall Winner Fruit: Charlotte Owen
- Best Individual Entry Fruit: Lynn Walmsley
- Overall Winner Flowers: Julia Evans
- Overall Winner Produce: Enid Kebble
- Best Individual Entry Produce: Jo Turnham
- Youth section 7 years and under: (Joint) Alfie Castle and Meredith Wheeler
- Youth section 8 to 11 years: Katherine Hart

The organizing committee was again delighted with the support of so many people in entering and visiting the Show, and the effort that had been put into the many wonderful entries. It makes the work of putting on the Show very worthwhile, and with more useful feedback to consider we will soon be making plans for next year!

Julia McAuliffe (Secretary, Flower and Produce Show organising committee).

2011 Flower and Produce Show - posted June 2011

This will take place on Saturday 20 August in the Reading Room, 2 pm until 5 pm.

After the great success of last year (we were able to make a contribution to the Reading Room fundraising effort of £160) Helmdon Gardening Club are pleased to announce it's all going to happen again.

And as of last year, it's a fairly informal affair, although there are some rules of course! We hope there is something for everybody in the village to enjoy and have the excitement of entering and perhaps seeing that 1st prize card next to your produce.

Anyone resident in Helmdon and Falcutt, past and present pupils of Helmdon school and Acorns pre-school, and members of the Gardening Club are able to enter. Schedules have been delivered round the village but if you haven't received one please contact Peter Payne, Julia McAuliffe, Rex Jessett, Doreen England or Celia Terrey. On the day of the show we shall have teas and cakes on sale – and a sale of exhibits at the end.

So get those green fingers working, allotments digging, those recipes testing, and children's imaginations racing, and please – *Support The Show*.

Thank you

The Show committee

2010 Flower and Produce Show

Flower & Produce Show Very Successful - posted 29 August 2010

The Gardening Club held its first Flower and Produce Show on Saturday 21st August. A wonderful display of vegetables, flowers and home cooked goodies were assembled in the Reading Room to be judged by Ernie Wheeler (fruit, vegetables and flowers) and Ali Templeton (home cooked produce). Both judges were impressed by the number and standard of entries for our first show, and took quite some time coming to their decisions on the winners!

In the afternoon a steady stream of people came to view the entries, see who had won, enter the raffle and enjoy a cup of tea and some home-made cake. At the end of the day, any produce that had been donated was sold to add to the overall fund-raising effort.

Those of us on the organising committee were delighted with the support of so many people in entering and visiting the Show, and the effort that had been put into the many lovely entries. Our thanks to everyone who took part, and to all who gave us such great feedback. We will be taking note for next year...

2010 Trophy Winners

- Overall Winner Vegetables: Rex Jessett
- Best Individual Entry Vegetables: Rex Jessett
- Overall Winner Flowers: Margaret Reardon
- Best Individual Entry Flowers: Margaret Reardon
- Overall Winner Fruit: Jean Brookhouse
- Overall Winner Produce: (Joint winners) Margaret Reardon and Jo Turnham
- Best Individual Entry Produce: Margaret Reardon
- Youth section 7 years and under: Alex Hart
- Youth section 8 to 11 years: Katherine Hart

Raffle winners were: Sue Lidgely, Doreen England, Sally (The Bell), Sylvia Richardson, Bill England, Alex Hart, Michael Ayres, Alex Corrin and Ros Stroud.

Posted by Julia McAuliffe (Secretary, Flower and Produce Show organising committee).

2005 (Part of Helmdon Carnival)

We enjoyed another successful Craft and Produce Show at this year's Carnival with a fantastic number of entries. Thank you to everyone who entered. The competition in the garden section was very close with the award for Best Garden and Best Vegetable Plot going to Simon Storer, who also managed to win the fruit and vegetable section on the day. Mrs. C Gordon won Best Water Feature with her fantastic fish filled pond and Paul Hardiman impressed the judge with his hanging basket, winning that category. The Best Patio award went to Caren Whitehouse (we could have made ourselves comfortable and stayed all afternoon) and Best Climbing Display to Simon Harris.

On the morning of the Carnival the entries came in thick and fast, and as always we were impressed by the quality of them. There is enormous talent lurking in Helmdon! Ruth Jessett won the cup in the craft and produce section with Ann Wilson winning the Bloomers Trophy in the flower section. The children in the village as usual produced the best entries with their scary masks, decorated biscuits, fairy cakes and pictures. Lucinda Cross won the cup in the 7 and under section, Stefano Capella won the 8 to 12 section and Sam Oakey won the cup in the 13 and over section.

We hope everyone enjoys the Craft and Produce Show. It is a very traditional English event but is also about having fun and brings us together as a community, so we hope even more of you will enter next year. We are also looking for new committee members, if anyone is interested contact Jo Ezzy, it only involves a few meetings and helping out on carnival day.

Sarah Stubbs

Secretary, Helmdon Horticultural Society

2004 (Part of Helmdon Carnival)

A popular event is the Helmdon Produce & Craft Show, which runs alongside the Carnival. Classes are always hotly contested and there is never a shortage of entries. The undisputed vegetable king of Helmdon is now Simon Storer and no one could match his vegetables for size and quality, although Rex Jessett, Tony Wilson and Fred Bennett gave him some good competition. Simon swept away with many prizes including firsts in "3 Transplanted Onions", "A Cucumber" and "Best Vegetable Plot".

The standard of arts and crafts on display, particularly in the youth section, was exceptional and all entrants deserve congratulations for such a good show.

The Carnival Committee was formed in 1982 as a joint venture between the Sports Club and the Reading Room. Both organisations have been, and continue to be, worthy beneficiaries of the Carnival proceeds and the remainder is given out to various village and local good causes.

The Helmdon Carnival Committee would like to thank all of the people who assisted in making this year's Carnival such an enjoyable event. "We would like to thank the organisations and their members for their support, for the many people who gave up their time over the weekend, our sponsors and all of the people who attended the events."

2000 (Part of Helmdon Carnival)

The 62 classes attracted many entrants to the Produce and Craft Show and a large crowd enjoyed the displays in the marquee.

This annual event continues to be a major draw and each year the wealth of talent increases. The tremendous variety of ideas and designs drew many favourable comments from the judges and public alike. Apart from the usual vegetables, this year produced many alternative classes, ranging from ceramics and jewellery to flapjacks and foliage arrangements, with a variety of artistic drawing and paintings, in charcoal, watercolours, pencil and oil.

In the children's section, the youngsters excelled with their masks, collages, pictures and models, whilst one youngster thrashed all the adults with a marvellous example of a home-made birthday card!

Jack Ayres won the trophy for the vegetable section, with Doreen England collecting the cup for the most points in the home produce section. The Pete Lidgley Memorial cup was presented to Mr and Mrs Hardiman and Fiona Storer, joint winners of the best vegetable plot, judged in July. The 8 and under junior cup went to Stephanie Ashby and the 7 and under to Amelia Stubbs. The trophy presented by Bloomers Florists was won by Ann Wilson.

We are generously supported by our commercial sponsors and are very grateful for their continued interest. This year we thank Julie Potter, D A Coleman, Chris Gartside, Liz Humphrey, David Mumford, Monogram Company, Texprep Printers and Tesco. We also have numerous individual sponsors and we gratefully acknowledge their support.