

Elham Gardening Society Summer Show 2021

The 31st of July was the 132nd Summer Show for Elham Gardening Society.

The show was a great success and thoroughly welcomed by all after the prolonged constraints of the pandemic. It was very rewarding to see everyone enjoying each other's company.

The adult and children's classes were well supported with the whole village represented by the youngest entrant of 3 years and the eldest being of 93 years.

Our judges were impressed with the volume and exceptional quality of the entries.

Due to the continued uncertainty regarding the Covid Pandemic we re-designed the 2021 Summer Show to deliver a safe and secure environment. The number of classes was significantly reduced. However, despite this, and some extreme weather conditions, the displays at the show were magnificent with 462 entries.

Pam Flight, our Show Secretary, is congratulated for managing such a successful event!

This year saw a new award in memory of Anna Clayton.

Anna lived in Elham for many years and loved the village, taking an active part in many local organisations. The highlight of her week was going into Elham Primary School as a helper, listening to and encouraging the children with their reading.

She was an accomplished artist, so it seemed natural to remember her by awarding "The Anna Clayton Trophy" for the best children's art exhibit at the Gardening Society's Annual Summer Show.

The class was entitled 'Paint a Vase of Sunflowers'. When the School got to hear about the Trophy, they were so fond of Anna and so grateful for her help and support that 108 children from the school took part. The result was an amazing display of painted Sunflowers forming a stunning backdrop which lit up the show, bringing much cheer and prompting so many happy memories of Anna. It was a fitting tribute.

Her husband John, who donated the Trophy, was blown away by the response. The overall winner was George Owen.

The "Potato in a Bucket" for adults was won by Mike Donnelly weighing in at just under 7lb 3 ounces. Sofia Skinner won the children's entry with her Potatoes weighing in at just under 2lb (844g).

This year saw 9 men competing for the Rupert Trophy, a gentlemen only Domestic class, baking a Dorset Apple Cake. Three family brothers in law were competing for this title which was taken by first timer John Baker with his wife Daphne winning first in the Gluten free category and securing the Doris Day Tankard for best exhibit in the Domestic Section with her stunning Lemon Drizzle cake.

Roger Martin swept the board in the Vegetable section with his French beans winning a first prize, then the Griffiths Shield for best exhibit in the Vegetable section and the Sea Cadet Cup for best exhibit in the Fruit and Vegetables.

Hugh Buckhurst, despite being in hospital recovering from a fall, won the R C Day Cup for the best Handicraft Exhibit (a Bird Feeder made from recycled materials).

In the gardens competition, judging was undertaken by Ylva Blid Mackenzie, Garden Designer from Madrona Nursery, Bethersden. The Harrowing Bowl for the most pleasing garden was won by Maggie & Richard Newington, while Chris Grenshaw excelled in the Harrowing Cup, for the best home garden /allotment.