Show Report for Church Crookham & Fleet Garden Society Summer Show

16th August 2025

Church Crookham Community Centre, Boyce Road.

There were well over a hundred entries in this year's show from nineteen enthusiastic entrants, an increase on last year. Helen Baker, (RHS judge), commented on the high quality of entries overall, especially in the vegetable section given such a tough year gardeners have had to face. Helen wishes to pass on her congratulations to all who entered. Thank you also to our other judges Annette Blackwell and Elizabeth Lloyd.

Norman Allens tomatoes received high praise from Helen Baker but was pipped at the post by Sue Grant, who won the Ryelaw Vegetable Cup with twenty eight points in the vegetable classes.







Sue also demonstrated her versatility winning the Gladys Murrell Cup for best exhibit in class 50 with her delicious looking Victoria Sponge cake. Congratulations to Sue.



Norman won best exhibit in the show with his entry in class 21, of four vegetables and one vase of mixed flowers. He received the Fearnley Cup for this showstopping entry.



I believe Norman has the honour of being one of our longest standing members. His name was spotted on a cup, back in the 90's. What an honour to have him back winning again and still showing us all how it should be done.

Overall winner in the domestic section was Jan Parker, winning with her jam and chutney. Well deserved as Jan has always supported our shows and has regularly sold plants for charity at the Trading Shed along with Liz Kirton.

The Gillian Dukes Memorial Cup for highest points in the fruit section goes to new member Melanie Martin. Points were equal with Jan Parker, but her two firsts with desert apples and plums/gages won the cup. Well done and welcome Melanie.

Gillian Rose won the Ryelaw Floral Cup for the highest points in the floral section with eight wins out of seventeen classes. Another fabulous display of flowers. Gillian also won the Charles Murrel Cup for best pot plant. Below right is Gillians winning vase of perennials.







In the floral art section Helen Howard won the Ryelaw Rose Bowl with her foliage only 'woodland' entry (above left).

Melanie Martin won the Glass Rose Bowl for best rose. The Pelargonium Cup went to Caroline Morris, (above centre), and Jennifer Kelly won the Ovenden Cup for best fuchsia.

This year we had one novice enter, Katie Morris and she won the Kempshall Cup with her green gages. Russell Hunt won in the photography section with his depiction of a 'lonely tree'.



Congratulations to all our winners and all who took part. Sadly, there were no junior entries this year, but some did take up the potato challenge.

This was hotly contested with entrants checking up on their 'rivals' potatoes over the past few months. In the end about twelve entries made it to the weigh in, (including the e-mailed ones), with quite a range of weights. Differing bucket sizes were used and may have played a part or perhaps different size potatoes made a difference. Who knows?

The winner was Russell Hunt with over 3kg of potatoes. Not far behind was Jennifer Kelly in second place with 2389g. The highest placed teenager was Jake Howard with 444g. He enjoyed his chocolate bar prize! First place junior was Daniel Leicester with 257g with second place going to Dylan Leicester with 240g. Well done to everyone that entered. Enjoy your chips!

This friendly competition required some considerable effort from the entrants over the past few months, especially with the watering required. Given there was so much interest and how much fun it created the committee felt compelled to award the Committee choice of the Richard Leavey Cup to the potato challenge winner Russell Hunt. Congratulations Russell.

The raffle followed the prize giving and a lovely day was had by all. The new venue worked well and had a lot going for it, fitting the bill very well.

Thank you to all the helpers I failed to mention during the awards ceremony. Without you all, it simply wouldn't run. Sue on raffle, Sue and Stephanie on teas. Kevin, Paul and Jake setting up and clearing away. And Jill helping all day on everything! And not forgetting the invaluable behind the scenes help from Caroline and Jo.

Thank you and best wishes to you all.

Helen Howard