



Epsom Garden Society: October 2023

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Dear Member, if you have any news or garden related small ads that you would like to be included in the Newsletter, please phone me, 07761 976764, or email me, margarethaslam6@gmail.com

Garden and Craft Show report from our Show Secretary Cathy Flitter: On Saturday 2nd September we held our Annual Show. Together with the new date, we introduced a 'new look'. Renamed the *Epsom Garden and Craft show* to more accurately reflect our members' interests and abilities, some categories were expanded and some removed. *Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables* was given a refresh partly because of the change of season but also because what people like to grow these days has changed a lot. Novices were taken out as entries have always been very low and really we are not all **Monty Dons**, so putting us all together was the right way to go. One of our members who has previously only entered as a novice did so well, he even won '**Best in Show**', so obviously this was a good idea! *Cookery and Craft* were split and had more categories to enter, with, for the first time a trophy just for the cookery – slightly embarrassingly won by me [no, it wasn't deliberate!] It appears that there are lots of people who like to cook but may not necessarily be 'crafters'. The number of entries was very healthy indeed, so another successful plan. *Photography* categories were expanded and while it was lovely to have so many amazing entries, we are going to have to invest in more display boards for next year!

This gave the Committee a considerable amount of extra work, so my apologies to those confused by receiving several different versions of the Schedule! Anything new is going to have teething problems, but lots of lessons have been learnt and hopefully future years will be trouble free. The decision was also taken to save money by not printing a formal schedule. Given that we currently have just the annual Show, we wanted the flexibility to change the schedule each year and give more publicity to our very generous sponsors in the newsletter as well. The Show will not always take place at the same time of year, so do check your newsletter for information. We do have a 'Members handbook' available on our website, which has lots of other information on the Society, including additional showing guidelines, meetings and sponsors. If you need paper copies of either, do let us know.

Right, on to the actual Show itself. A great success, with lots of different members entering for the first time, or trying out different categories, with some wonderful exhibits. Sadly, we had no junior exhibitors this year. **Heather Martindale** has kindly agreed to become our 'school liaison' so very much hoping this will change.

Flower arranging was missing some of our wonderful talented regulars, but some beautiful and original displays by **Vicky Holmes** took the *Esther Barley Cup* for highest points overall, the *Barbara Meineck Trophy for the Open section* and *Best in Show*. **Imogen Flitter** progressed to Intermediate level at the tender age of 19 and won the *Valerie Moody cup for best use of colour* in 'Bring me Sunshine'. **Marian Oliver**, with her first ever entry, took the *Phyllis Dunbar Novice award* for a gorgeous 'Berries and Blooms' entry and **Carolyn Page** won *Judges Choice* for her unique 'Good Enough to Eat' display. Having had a workshop with our Judge, **Margaret Trepan**, back in June certainly helped some new faces to 'have a go' and I am hoping to arrange another such next year. Huge thanks to **Audrey Simpson** who, despite having 'retired', is a tower of strength and we really could not run this section successfully without her help and advice.

As previously mentioned, the *Flowers, Fruit and Vegetable* section was somewhat revamped. Some glorious displays of roses from **Margaret Haslam** meant she won the *Henry J Roll cup*. **Heather Martindale** took the *Presidents cup* for highest overall points in the *Flower classes*. **Jamie Barnes**, with some top class exhibits, took the *Ron Wing Trophy for best Pot Plant* [a 'Mexican cigar plant' by the way, very ornamental and the watering can holder, really original].

First time entrant **Anne Scott** won *Best in Show* in the Craft section for her man's shirt, that the judge described as 'an excellent piece of work.'

Carolyn Page had a very successful Show taking the *Lindley Fruit Trophy for Fruit* [magnificent figs] and the *EGS Challenge cup for Homecraft*. The *Humphries trophy* for highest points in the *Vegetable Section* went to **Jo Farnham** [apparently her first which is amazing, given the quality of all her exhibits!] and the *Bill Ramage trophy for the Best Vegetable exhibit*. *Best in Show for Fruit and Vegetables* went to **Carolyn Page** and **Jo Farnham** respectively. The photography entries were of a really high standard. The *Norman Fisher cup* went to **Jill Double**, who also won the *Peter Grimshaw trophy* for flowers, with *Best in Show* for photography awarded to **Kim Shrosbree**.

We were delighted to welcome **Charlotte from Bake 88** with some delicious baked goodies to try and definitely buy; and for the first time our sponsor, **James**, from *Rainbow Garden Centre* with a wonderful array of exciting plants and lots of advice, they were very welcome additions to the Show. I also need to say a big thank you to the volunteers [you all know who you are and you are all fabulous], who ran the Refreshments, Plant Sale and Raffle. Much needed funds were raised to cover the rising costs of hall hire etc. Especial thanks have to go to **Steve Roebuck**, who amongst his many duties as Membership Secretary is also a magnificent 'loo cleaner'! Our Treasurer **Pam**, had the great idea of a 'committee uniform' so I hope that those who attended all admired our splendid Polo Shirts and Sashes that **Kim** organised and obtained – the 'Here to Help logo' meant we were kept busy all day, but that is what we want! Also, big thanks to **Angela Mutton**, a member of the Society, who very generously baked and donated the lovely scones for the cream teas. They were really popular and everyone said how delicious they were. Finally a really big thank you to everyone who turned up on the Friday night, for set up. This is a strenuous, tiring and hard part of the Show that doesn't get recognised for the great start it gives us on the Saturday. Thanks to all – see you next year! **Cathy**. *Many thanks to you too Cathy!*

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 18th October at *Epsom Sports Club* at 10.15 for a 10.30am start. There is plenty of parking and there will be refreshments and a plant sale to enjoy.

This will be a relaxed presentation/Q&A from **Margaret Arnott** and her husband **Terry Bartholomew**. They have a stunning plantspersons' garden in Cobham, that we are planning to visit next year, with beautiful water features, an immaculate lawn, terraced beds and one of the best greenhouses **Cathy** has ever seen! **Terry** is a talented metal worker and his plant supports and sculptures are works of art. He is also something of an expert on lawncare. The garden has featured in a number of TV programmes including the *BBC Garden of the Year* competition and the garden has been open through the *Yellow Book scheme* for a number of years. They are both extremely knowledgeable on plants and will be happy to answer any questions you might have. Do come and support if you possibly can.

On Monday 20th November we will have our AGM at 7.30pm at St Barnabas Church Hall, Temple Road, Epsom. The business part to discuss is:

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Approval of 2022 AGM minutes (on website e-voice.org.uk/epsomgardensociety/agm-2022-minutes/)
- 3 Chairman's Report
- 4 Treasurer's Report and approval of accounts
- 5 Membership fees
- 6 Membership Secretary's Report
- 7 Show and Meeting Secretary's Report
- 8 Open Garden Society Report
- 9 Election of Officers and Committee, please send all nominations for the Committee to our Secretary
Kim Shrosbree, email: kimshros@gmail.com by 1st November

Please don't bring any raffle prizes for this: we will finish with our usual fancy cheese and wine refreshments and enjoy a sociable time.

Small Ad.: Fabric with a rose pattern, 38cm x 340cm, suitable for cushions, **Green Baize fabric**, 194cm x 120cm, suitable for a card table, for a donation to charity, also free, **clean jam jars** with lids.

07796 405752.

Best wishes Margaret