

PLUCKLEY AND EGERTON GARDEN SOCIETY

HOW TO ENTER AN EXHIBIT INTO OUR SPRING OR AUTUMN SHOW

We hold our Spring and Autumn Shows annually in Pluckley Village Hall. They are an opportunity for a bit of friendly rivalry among members and friends and we always love to see new faces at the events. Set out below are the rules, logistics and some tips on selecting exhibits etc. Of course, if you'd rather talk to someone then Committee members will be around to help you on the morning of the show but please give yourself plenty of time as it is quite busy. If you want some advice before the day, please give Rebecca Southall, our Show Coordinator, a call on 07941 239456.

Don't be put off, its great fun and the more times you enter the better you get at it!

LOGISTICS

- The hall opens for exhibits from 10.15am.
- Exhibitors provide their own vases, plates etc.
- The hall closes for judging at 11.30am. Only officials of the society may be in the hall during judging.
- The hall reopens at 2.45pm for exhibitors, members, friends and local villagers to view the exhibits and for the presentations.
- Exhibits must be collected before the doors close at approx. 4pm.

RULES

- Anyone can enter and there is no charge for entry.
- Exhibitors may enter as many different classes as they wish but a household may only stage one entry per class (although there are one or two exceptions which are noted in the relevant class descriptions).
- Where a class asks for a number of a particular item they should be as similar as possible in size and shape.
- An entry slip for each class should be completed showing class and exhibitor and placed upside down by the exhibit. (These will be available on the day.)
- The judge is independent, and their decision is final. They will award first, second and third awards in each class (subject to the number of entries in each class and quality of exhibits) and identify cup winners.
- All cups remain the property of the society and must be returned in time for the next relevant show. The cups are covered by our insurance but must be signed for, to acknowledge receipt. Non-members may be awarded cups, but only members may take them home from the show. Non-members should return the cup to the care of the committee at the end of the show. Many of the cups have historical significance to the society and cannot be replaced and should be cared for accordingly. Please notify the committee asap if you damage or lose a cup. Please polish cups before their return.
- If you plan to move away, please contact us to arrange their return before you move.

TIPS

Before the Day of the Show

- Read a copy of the show schedule and walk round garden to see what might work.
- Read description of classes carefully. This is important as you can be disqualified as "Not As Schedule"!
- Check restrictions eg type of plant, number of items, size of exhibit.
- Check date and time of set up (see above).
- Plan how you intend to transport exhibits to the show as most damage occurs at this stage. Wine & beer carriers, cardboard boxes, bubble wrap or newspaper can all be useful!

Selecting and Picking Exhibits

Flowers (except daffodils)

- Pick flowers the evening before the show; make a clean cut on a slant and put straight into clean cold water and store in a dark cool place to maximise water take up. In hot weather, ideally pick early on the morning of the show.
- Choose blooms that are $\frac{3}{4}$ open, so they will open for the show.
- Look for straight, strong 'perfect' specimens.
- Watch out for insects, insect damage, torn leaves, bent petals, weak stems etc.
- Remove leaves below the water line and remove faded blooms and yellow leaves.
- On dahlias, buds count as flowers, if single blooms are required take off any buds.

Daffodils

- Pick early and leave in a cool shed or garage to open, tight buds may take 7-10 days to open.
- Put in tepid water and arrange so flowers can mature but are not touching.
- Check the classification of flower - see Daffodil classification page in booklet or on website.
- Select clean unblemished flowers with a good poise.

What Judges Are Looking For

Floral Classes

- Interpretation, colour harmony, design balance, proportion, space, form, texture, plant material condition, presentation & effect.
- Marks are lost for exceeding the allotted space and poor presentation.
- Make sure your flowers face forward. Consider your display, don't overcrowd it.
- Exhibits ideally without oasis, consider using rabbit wire or moss.

Fruit

- Condition - clean, fresh, blemish free with attractive naturally produced colour.
- Stalks - nectarines, apricots, peaches, blueberries and citrus fruit are shown without stalks, all other fruits should be shown with stalks fresh and intact.
- Absence of defects - over ripeness, shrivelling (except in gages), malformations, decay, splitting (except in figs), blemishes, bruises or other injury and imperfect bloom are considered defects.
- Uniformity - specimens should be alike in size, condition, form and colour except where specified.

Vegetables (also see internet if veg type not mentioned)

- Condition - fresh, tender, blemish free.
- Size - relative to cultivar & ready for harvest.
- Uniformity - shape, size, form, colour & development.
- Colour - attractive & natural.
- Staging - cleanliness & attractive presentation.
- Sweetcorn should retain their silks.
- Do not cut onion tops, fold over and tie with string or raffia.
- Leave the roots on your carrots.
- Small tomatoes are less than 35cm.
- In runner beans, the beans should not be visible and must be fresh.
- Beans should have stalks.
- Chillies and peppers can be green or red.

Cookery Classes

- Flavour & aroma.
- Appearance - shape, colour, regularity.
- Condition, crust, texture, distribution of ingredients.
- For jams, chutneys & preserves ideally use a plain jar and label clearly description of contents and month and year made. Make sure the jar and label are clean.
- Pickles and chutneys should be at least 12 weeks old.
- Keep a look out for cake sizes. If you make it the wrong size it will be disqualified.

On the Day

- Make sure you know what classes you are entering and maybe label your items in advance.
- Give yourself plenty of time to set out your exhibits. It can be useful to bring spare items in case entries get damaged in transit. Also maybe bring a small watering can for floral exhibits.
- Make sure you correctly label your exhibit as you place it on the display tables. If there is no label the judges will not consider your entry.
- In the afternoon, take time to see what the judge has given awards to and pick up tips for next time.

And lastly, take time to enjoy the experience!