

# **STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETINGS**

In a friendly and welcoming atmosphere,  
the Society organises  
INTERESTING TALKS on a variety of subjects  
and offers good GARDENING ADVICE.

There are two ANNUAL SHOWS,  
SOCIAL EVENINGS,  
OUTINGS,  
DISCOUNTS on SEED ORDERS,  
and discount entry to RHS GARDENS.

**10% DISCOUNT at RUMWOOD  
NURSERIES, GOLDEN HILL  
NURSERY, FRANKIES and  
HOMELEIGH TIMBER  
(Excluding special offers).**

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £10**

Non-Members are welcome at all times  
Contact the Secretary on 07740 655666

# **STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY HANDBOOK 2026\***



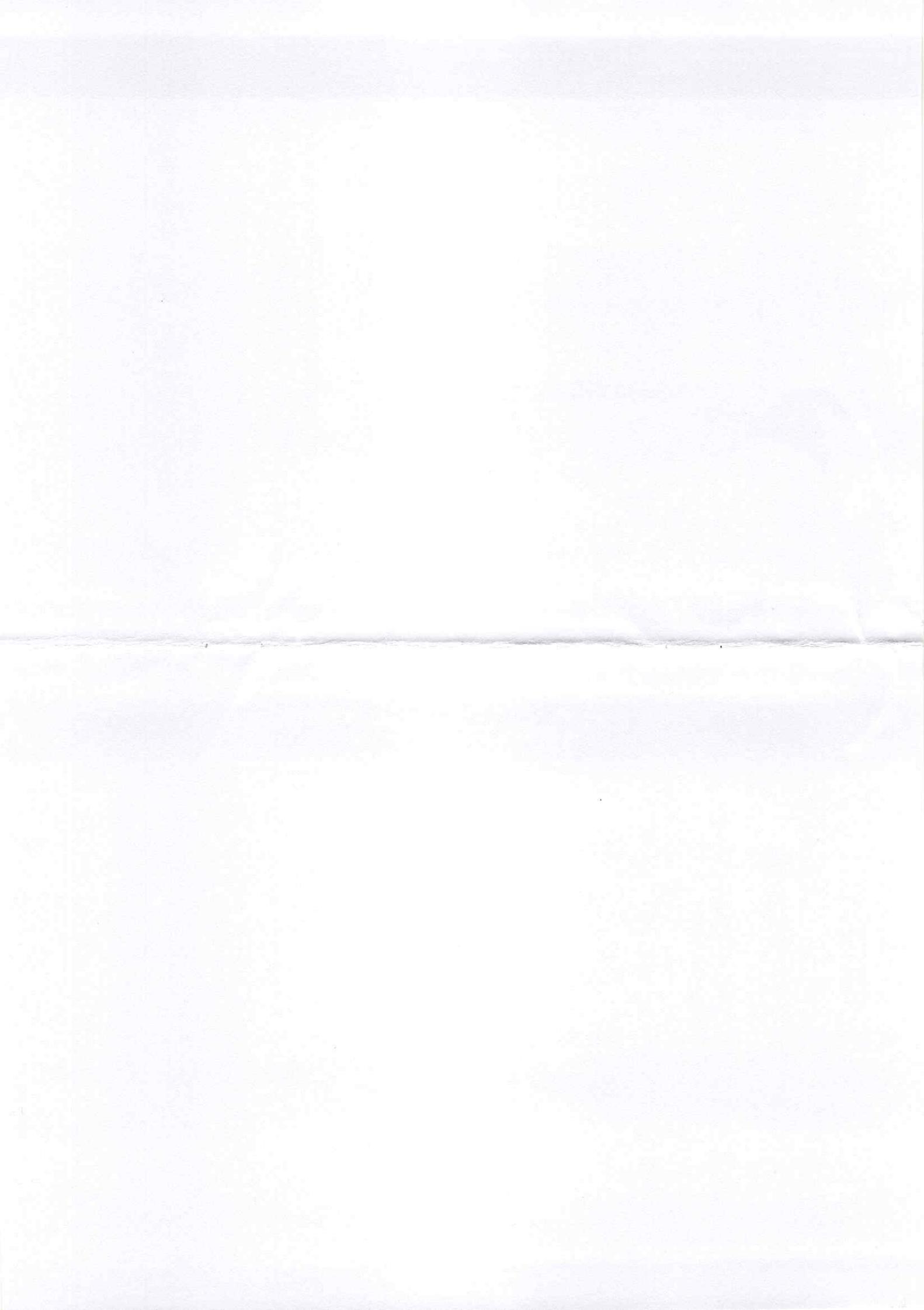
Affiliated to  
**THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
and also to the  
**KENT FEDERATION of HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETIES**

## **SPRING and AUTUMN SHOWS**

Held from 2pm to 4.00pm in the  
NORTH HALL of the Community Centre  
Admission by donation  
Presentations between 15:30 and 16:00 by the Society  
President

**TEAS CAKES TRADING TABLES  
RAFFLE**

\*FOUNDED IN 1941 as THE VICTORY GARDENING CLUB



## **SHOW COMMITTEE**

All enquiries should be addressed to any of the following:-

### **Show Secretary**

Jo Skewes  
21 Sergison Crescent, Staplehurst  
07790 494051 [jo@jamical.com](mailto:jo@jamical.com)

### **Deputy Show Secretary**

Sylvia Eccles  
Tower House, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst  
01580 891427 [smeccles@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:smeccles@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Assistant Show Secretaries**

Maureen Brice  
17 Oliver Road, Staplehurst,  
01580 891842

Susan Marklew  
8 Pinnock Lane  
07462 661744

## SOCIETY RULES

1. The title is STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.
2. The objectives are to further interest in horticulture, provide a programme of informative talks on related subjects and encourage members' and non-members' participation in shows.
3. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place in December.  
Elections will be held for:-
  - a) The Executive Officers of:- Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
  - b) Up to nine additional non-executive members.  
(Nominations for these posts must be received by the Secretary by the November meeting).
  - c) The Executive Officers may co-opt additional committee members if there are vacancies.
4. Annual membership and visitors' fees will be agreed at the AGM and become due in January for the calendar year.  
Children under 16 have free membership.
5. The Chairman's Report and Financial Accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> October will be presented at the AGM.
6. Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month usually at 8pm with the exception of the AGM.
7. The committee may appoint a President and invite members to become Vice Presidents or Life Members.
8. The Executive Officers may act in an emergency, the Chairman having a casting vote.
9. A decision to 'wind up' the society may only be taken by a majority of the members attending an AGM or an Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) called for that purpose for which at least two calendar months' notice has been given.

Members present will determine the distribution of the Society's assets.

## STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW ENTRY FORM 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

Please circle the numbers of the classes in which you intend to compete and forward it to one of the Show Committee detailed below on or before the FRIDAY preceding the show. Entries may be staged from 8.00 am until the hall is cleared for judging at 11.00 am.

Members entry fee – 20p per entry.

Non-members - £2.00 affiliation fee plus 50p per entry.

Children's entries free.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46  
47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67

Members only classes A B C (free entry)

Total number of entries ..... Entry fees total £.... ....

Name .....

Address

.....

Phone

Age if under 16

.....

Please return your completed form to one of the following:-

Jo Skewes

21 Sergison Crescent, Staplehurst, TN12 0FP

Sylvia Eccles

Tower House, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, TN12 0RD

## SHOW RULES

1. All horticultural exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor. The Show Committee reserve the right to investigate if an objection has been lodged. All cookery and floral arrangement entries must be prepared by the exhibitor.
2. Exhibitors must notify the Show Committee of the classes they are entering by completing an entry form by 6pm on the Friday preceding the Show, accompanied by the entry fees of:- Members 20p per entry, Non-Member Affiliation fee £2.00 plus 50p per entry.  
Members only classes and children's entries are free.  
The Show Committee reserve the right to refuse late entries.
3. Entrants may enter only one exhibit per class.
4. Novice classes are for those new members who have not exhibited produce or flowers in any previous show run by the society
5. Entries must be staged between 8.00 am and 11.00am on the morning of the Show.
6. Exhibitors will receive numbered slips on the morning of the Show and one of these must be displayed on the table with each exhibit.
7. The Judges' decisions are final. They may withhold prizes if they consider the exhibits are of insufficient merit.
8. Points awarded are:- 1<sup>st</sup> =3 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup>=2 pts and 3<sup>rd</sup>=1 point.
9. Entries must not be removed before 4.15pm without permission. If you would like to donate your exhibit for sale after the show, please inform the Show Secretary. Any exhibits not removed by 4.30 will be disposed of by the Show Committee.

## SHOW ADVICE

Please note the classification advice for Narcissi and check the number of vegetables, fruit or flowers required for each class as otherwise disqualification is likely.

Decoration is not permitted in vegetable classes.

In floral art classes, natural plant material should predominate, accessories and drapes may be used, and entries may be prepared at home.

Variety names displayed adds interest to exhibits.

Society vases are provided for the floral classes (but not for the floral art). Prize giving will be between 15:30 – 16:00.

## SPRING SHOW 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026

### Class A MEMBERS ONLY

Maximum pot size 18cm/7", variety as supplied by the Society.

1<sup>st</sup> = £6    2<sup>nd</sup> = £4    3<sup>rd</sup> = £2

The FOUR SEASONS CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in the daffodil classes 1 – 13.

The HIGHLAND CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the best vase in daffodil classes 1 – 13.

SHOULD YOU KNOW THE VARIETY OF YOUR ENTRY,  
PLEASE STATE THE NAME CLEARLY.

- 1 one bloom, division 1 – trumpet
- 2 one bloom, division 2 – large cupped
- 3 one bloom, division 3 – small cupped
- 4 one bloom, division 4 – double
- 5 one bloom, division 8 – tazetta
- 6 one bloom, division 9 – poeticus
- 7 one vase, three blooms, division 1 – trumpet
- 8 one vase, three blooms, division 2 – large cupped
- 9 one vase, three blooms, division 3 – small cupped
- 10 one vase, three blooms, division 4 – double
- 11 one vase, three blooms, division 8 – tazetta
- 12 one vase, six stems (not miniature or species)
- 13 one vase, three stems, miniature or species

14 NOVICES. One vase, three daffodil blooms. The winner receives a certificate awarded by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners.

### STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SPRING SHOW ENTRY FORM 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Please circle the numbers of the classes in which you intend to compete and forward it to one of the Show Committee detailed below on or before the FRIDAY preceding the show. Entries may be staged from 8.00 am until the hall is cleared for judging at 11.00 am.

Members entry fee – 20p per entry.  
Non-members - £2.00 affiliation fee plus 50p per entry.  
Children's entries free.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37

Members only class A (free entry)  
Total number of entries ..... Entry fees total £... ....  
Name .....  
.....

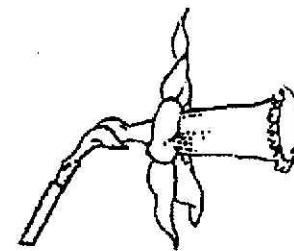
Address .....  
.....  
Phone ..... Age if under 16 .....

Please return your completed form to one of the following:

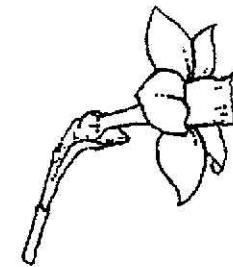
Jo Skewes  
21 Sergison Crescent, Staplehurst, TN12 0FP

Sylvia Eccles  
Tower House, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst, TN12 0RD

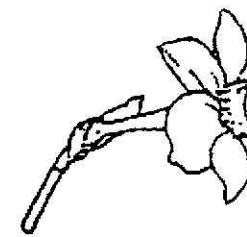
## Description of Divisions in Daffodil Classes



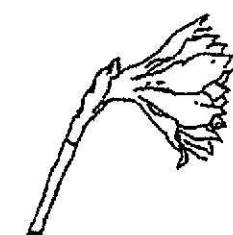
Division 1 – Trumpet



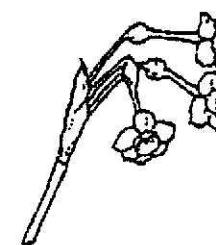
Division 2 – Large Cupped



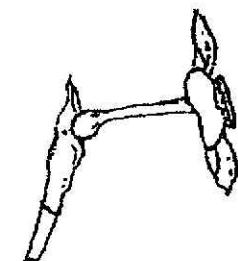
Division 3 – Small Cupped



Division 4 - Double



Division 8 - Tazetta



Division 9 - Poeticus

The COMMITTEE CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 15-21.

SHOULD YOU KNOW THE VARIETY OF YOUR ENTRY,  
PLEASE STATE THE NAME CLEARLY.

- 15 five floating hellebores
- 16 one vase, three tulips
- 17 foliage pot plant
- 18 flowering pot plant including bulbs
- 19 one vase of spring flowers
- 20 one vase, three stems, shrubs
- 21 three sticks of rhubarb

The COOKERY CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 22-27.

- 22 Quiche – Own recipe. List Ingredients
- 23 Marmalade Cake - To be made using recipe on page 13
- 24 Three Fruit Scones – Own recipe. List Ingredients
- 25 One small loaf approx 1lb weight – Own recipe. List Ingredients
- 26 5 Blue cheese and sesame biscuits– To be made using recipe on page 14
- 27 12oz//1lb (375/500g) jar of marmalade, list ingredients. NO TRADE TOPS

The FLORAL CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 28-31.

The LAMPARD CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the best exhibit in classes 28-31.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR EXHIBIT IS WITHIN THE SPACE ALLOWED

- 28 Exhibit 'Out of the Hat' Space allowed W30cm x L30cm, height unlimited
- 29 'Shades of Spring' Space allowed W30cm x L30cm height unlimited

<b>Blue Cheese and Sesame Biscuits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-100g self raising flour</li> <li>-100g unsalted butter</li> <li>-100g Stilton, Roquefort, Dolcelatte, St Augur or any creamy blue cheese, crumbled</li> <li>-50g grated Parmesan</li> <li>-Approx 3 tbsp sesame seeds</li> </ul>	<p>Using a food processor whizz the butter and flour together until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the cheeses and process for a few more seconds OR rub the butter into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs then add the cheeses and gently stir to mix. Knead the mixture once or twice to evenly distribute the ingredients. Preheat the oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas mark 4. Pinch out small pieces of the dough and roll into small balls about 2.5cm in diameter. Spread the sesame seeds on a plate and roll the balls in them to coat well. Place on baking trays spaced well apart as they will flatten in the oven. Bake for 10 minutes or until firm. Remove and leave to cool on a wire rack.</p>
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30 'In a Teapot'. Space allowed W25cm x L25cm, height unlimited.

31 'Reflections' W15cm x L21cm height unlimited.

A CHILDREN'S MEDAL will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 32-35. Age under 7

A CHILDREN'S MEDAL will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 32-35. Age 7 - 16

#### **Children's Prizes:**

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each age group based on total number of points in all classes:

1<sup>st</sup> = £10, 2<sup>nd</sup> = £5, 3<sup>rd</sup> = £3

32 Sock Puppet

33 3 Chocolate chip cookies - To be made using recipe on page 13

34 Decorated eggshell

35 Spring flowers in a jam jar

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Photographs should not exceed 20cm x 15cm (8" x 6")

36 Circles

37 Garden Visitors

## AUTUMN SHOW 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026

The RHS BANKSIAN MEDAL will be awarded to the MEMBER with the most points in classes 1 – 45.

The CRAMPHORN CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 2-22.

The TRADERS CERTIFICATE will be awarded for the best exhibit in classes 1 – 43.

The DIPLOMA IN HORTICULTURE. awarded by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners for the best exhibit in classes 1 – 17.

1 A basket or trug of vegetables to be judged by content, quality and arrangement.

Prize (class 1) 1<sup>st</sup> =£6      2nd=£4      3rd=£2

2 three beetrots

3 three carrots

4 three onions

5 three potatoes, white or red

6 a collection of 4 different vegetables

7 six shallots

8 six runner beans

9 one truss of tomatoes

10 three courgettes (under 15cm/ 6")

11 five tomatoes

12 five fruited plum tomatoes

13 five small fruited cherry tomatoes (under 3.5cm/1 3/8")

14 three different salad vegetables

15 herb in a 15cm/6" pot

16 collection of five herbs displayed in pots provided. Name varieties

<b>Chocolate Chip Cookies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-75g plain flour</li> <li>-1tsp baking powder</li> <li>-125g. soft margarine</li> <li>-85g light brown sugar</li> <li>-55g caster sugar</li> <li>-1/2 tsp vanilla essence</li> <li>-1 egg</li> <li>-100g plain chocolate chips</li> </ul>	Lightly grease 2 baking trays Place all ingredients in a large mixing bowl, beat until well combined Place tablespoons of mixture onto prepared trays, spacing well apart to allow for spreading. Bake in oven 190C/Gas mark 5 for 10/12 minutes, or until golden brown. Using a palette knife, transfer to a wire rack to cool.
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<b>Sticky Ginger Marmalade Loaf Cake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-175g/6 oz. softened butter or margarine</li> <li>-125g/4.5 oz ginger marmalade</li> <li>-175g/6oz brown sugar</li> <li>-3 eggs, beaten</li> <li>-25g/8 oz self-raising flour</li> <li>-1/2 tsp baking powder</li> <li>-1 tsp ground ginger</li> <li>-100g/3.5 oz. chopped pecans</li> </ul>	Grease and line the bottom and ends of 900g/2lb loaf tin. Reserve 1 tablespoon of marmalade. Place remaining marmalade in a bowl with fat, sugar and eggs. Sift in flour, baking powder and ground ginger and mix until smooth. Stir in ¾ of the nuts. Spoon mixture into prepared tin and sprinkle with remaining nuts. Bake at 180C/ Gas Mark 4 for about an hour, until skewer inserted comes out clean. Cool in tin for 10 minutes, then turn out, peel off paper and transfer to wire rack. Warm reserved marmalade and brush over the loaf.
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A CHILDREN'S MEDAL will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 63 - 68. Age under 7.

A CHILDREN'S MEDAL will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 63 - 68. Age 7 - 16.

**Children's Prizes:**

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each age group based on total number of points in all classes:

1<sup>st</sup> = £10, 2<sup>nd</sup> = £5, 3<sup>rd</sup> = £3

- 63 Arrangement of Grasses in a jam jar
- 64 Paper Boat
- 65 Potato Hedgehog
- 66 Firework painting A4
- 67 Grow your own, any vegetable

Class A – MEMBERS ONLY. Heaviest crop of potatoes from one seed potato supplied by the Society and pot grown.

1<sup>st</sup> = £5 2nd = £3.00 3rd = £2.00

Class B – MEMBERS ONLY. Plant as supplied by the Society grown in an 18cm/7" maximum pot.

1<sup>st</sup> = £5 2nd = £3.00 3rd = £2.00

Class C – MEMBERS ONLY. An unusual container with growing plant or plants, space 30cmx30cm/12"x12". To be judged by the public. 1<sup>st</sup> = £5

Prize Cards are awarded for all winners in addition to the certificates and prizes stated.

- 17 any other vegetable minimum of three except one of marrow
- 18 oddest shaped vegetable
- 19 longest runner bean
- 20 one dish of ten soft fruit (includes all the berries, plus grapes
- 21 one dish of five top fruit (fruit grown on trees, including apples, pears and plums)
- 22 any other fruit, minimum of 3

The HOUNDHURST CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 23 – 26.

The MRS PARRINGTON'S MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the best exhibit in classes 23 – 43.

All exhibits to be displayed in Society vases provided, except for the Floral Arrangements for which you use your own.

- 23 one vase, three cactus/semi-cactus dahlias
- 24 one vase, three decorative dahlias
- 25 one vase, three ball or pompom dahlias (over 52mm/2" diameter)
- 26 one vase, seven mixed dahlias

The MR H G SIM'S MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 27 – 43.

The MARSHALL CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the best rose exhibit in classes 28 and 29

Rose prizes for classes 28 and 29 - 1st = £8 2nd = £4  
Kindly donated by Rumwood Nurseries

- 27 one vase, three roses
- 28 one rose
- 29 one stem of multi-headed roses

- 30 a rose in 3 stages (bud, open, full bloom), one vase
- 31 one vase, three hydrangea stems same variety
- 32 one vase, six stems, one variety of perennials
- 33 one vase, six stems, one variety of annuals or bi-annuals  
not elsewhere in schedule
- 34 one flowering pot plant (maximum 20cm/8" pot) not fuchsia
- 35 one foliage pot plant (maximum 20cm/8" pot)
- 36 one pot or bowl, cacti or succulent
- 37 one vase, mixed garden flowers
- 38 one vase, three stems, flowering or berried shrubs
- 39 one pot, fuchsia, including standard (maximum 20cm/8" pot)
- 40 one vase, six stems of grasses, may be mixed
- 41 one exotic flowering plant (maximum 20cm/8"pot)
- 42 a decoration of fuchsia heads on a saucer
- 43 a bine of hops

A CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the competitor winning the most points in the Novice Classes

1<sup>st</sup> prize £6

- 44 one exhibit of any 3 vegetables
- 45 one vase, 3 blooms

## FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The LOVING CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 46 – 49

A certificate awarded by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners will be awarded to the best exhibit in classes 46 – 49

Natural plant material should predominate, accessories and drapes may be used, and entries may be prepared at home.

- 46 'From the Shrubbery' an exhibit – medium. Space allowed W25cm x L25cm, height unlimited

- 47 'Halloween' an exhibit –large. Space allowed W45cm x L45cm height unlimited
- 48 'Morning Mist' an exhibit – medium. Space allowed W25cm x L25cm x unlimited height
- 49 'Cheers' – small. Space allowed W15cm x L15cm, height unlimited

The NICHOLS CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 50 – 55

**No Trade Tops please on any jars**

Classes marked \* are to be made with the recipe supplied

- 50 One 12oz/1lb (375/500g) jar of fruit jam. Principal fruit to be named. List ingredients
- 51 One jar of chutney. List ingredients
- 52 Apple Pie - Own recipe. List Ingredients
- 53 Vegetable Terrine. Own recipe. List Ingredients
- 54 Pate – Own recipe, List Ingredients

The LINCOLN CERTIFICATE will be awarded to the competitor winning most points in classes 56-60. Not previously shown.

- 56 a knitted or crocheted item
- 58 Recycled Art - Space allowed 25cm x 25cm x unlimited height
- 59 a painting/drawing
- 60 any handicraft other than in previous classes not exceeding W61cm x L61cm x H61cm

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs should not exceed 20cm x 15cm or 8" x 6"

- 61 'Morning Mist'
- 62 'Autumn'