

Wiveliscombe Flower Show - the Chelsea of the West?

BY now the road works in South Street will be a distant memory as will the headaches for the Horticultural Society that their original starting date had caused.

The front page headline in the Wellington Weekly said it all - "Road chiefs save town's big day" as the works were delayed to allow the flower show to go ahead without disruption.

And it certainly went with a bang! Everyone connected had worked extremely hard and the school hall looked fantastic with lots of extremely high quality entries - so good that the phrase 'Chelsea of the West' was banded around.

Lady Farrington opened the show, a task she had previously per-

formed 35 years ago.

Despite the usual grumbles about the "difficult growing season" the fruit, flower and veg exhibits were a joy to behold and it was particularly satisfying for the organisers that many new exhibitors were pitting their skills against the regulars.

The floral art displays were as usual "out of this world" to anyone who has trouble sticking sweet peas in a jam jar and again it was a new exhibitor, Mary Impey, who took home both the cup for the best exhibit and for the most points.

The tables in the cookery section were overflowing with a mouth-watering display of all that is good in these times of takeaways and ready meals.

The cup for the best cooking with wine exhibit stayed "in the family"

in more ways than one, with committee member Elaine Newcombe taking it off last year's winner, her sister Heather!

For the second time in the last ten years the handicrafts section produced the "Best in Show" with Mrs Mary Summer of Wellington taking home several other cups as well. And the children's section was also well supported with lots of creative handicrafts and cookery.

There was an additional attraction for visiting youngsters in the outside games kindly organised by Pam Gaines with the Scouts and Rangers.

So the record number of visitors enjoyed the fruits of all the hard work and the organisers hope that the positive trends will continue again next year!

Colin Pearse Memorial

VISITORS to this year's Wiveliscombe Flower Show heard of the passing of Colin Pearse, a former chairman of the Horticultural Society and a judge at the show for many years of the fruit, flower and veg sections.

Not everyone, however, may be aware of the lasting legacy of Colin's involvement in Wiveliscombe.

As Kingsmead's first caretaker and groundsman he was responsible for the planning and planting of the many interesting trees in the school's grounds.

Now mature, it is easy to think that they have been there forever. However, Colin was responsible for their early care which has helped them to become such magnificent and healthy specimens.

Many exhibitors remember his encouragement and support, not to mention his learning and he remained a loyal supporter of the Society right up to his death.

He was always ready to give advice and share his



Peter Langdon receives his trophy

knowledge and, quietly puffing on his pipe, he would willingly pass on gems of information.

Colin's family generously donated the collection made at his funeral to the society and in consultation with them, and at their suggestion, a cup has been acquired to be presented each year to the member of the committee who has done most for the society during the preceding year.

It is indeed so much in character with Colin's involvement with the soci-

ety that he should be aware of the vast effort put in by individuals to stage the show and a fitting recognition of his past history with the Society.

In an anonymous, but apparently nearly unanimous, ballot, the first recipient of the cup was Peter Langdon, the current president of the society and former chairman.

Peter has indeed worked tirelessly for the society for many years and it was fitting that this was recognised with a cup in memory of his

old friend which was presented to him by Mrs Pearse.

The society are extremely grateful to Colin's family for this donation and to his son Chris for carrying out the prize giving formalities at the show.

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DIARY DATES

- October**
- Sunday 9th:** Chipstable Harvest Festival at 11.15am.
 - Sunday 9th:** Ladies Rugby v Old Redcliffians.
 - Monday 10th:** Historical Society - Birdie Johnson talks about life on Exmoor, Community Centre, 7.30pm
 - Friday 14th:** Harvest Supper at Waterrow Church Hall
 - Saturday 15th:** Children's Nature Walk, The Square, 2.00pm. Book at Wiveliscombe House.
 - Sunday 16th:** Cinema Obscura, Kingsmead, 7.00pm
 - Tuesday 18th:** Civic Society - House of Commons talk, Community Centre, 7.30pm
 - Saturday 22nd:** Clatworthy Produce Market, Village Hall, 11.00am
 - Sunday 23rd:** Huish Champflower - Special Evensong to commemorate Trafalgar Day, Church, 3.00pm
 - Sunday 30th:** "> This?", St Andrew's Church, 10.30am
 - Sunday 30th:** Choral Evensong, Chipstable Church, 6.30pm

- November**
- Tuesday 1st:** Talk: 'Gone to Seed' by Mike Burgess and John Langston, Community Centre, 7.30pm
 - Friday 11th:** Kandinsky Trio, Milverton, 8.00pm
 - Sunday 13th:** Remembrance Sunday service at St Andrew's Church, 3.00pm
 - Sunday 13th:** Cinema Obscura, Kingsmead, 7.00pm
 - Tuesday 15th:** Civic Society - Wildlife Film, Community Centre, 7.30pm
 - Sunday 20th:** Wellington School Chapel Choir, St Andrew's Church, 6.30pm
 - Saturday 26th:** Ceilidh, Primary School
 - Sunday 27th:** Advent Carol Service, St Andrew's Church, 6.30pm
- December**
- Saturday 3rd:** CivSociety - Supper talk, Community Centre, 7.30pm
- If you are organising an event please email: messenger@wiveliscombe.com. See also "What's On" www.wiveliscombe.com

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