

## **Show Chair Report for AGM – 2023**

Writing this during storm Ciaran it is hard to remember that both the summer and autumn shows this year were held on two of the hottest days of the year.

The summer show was held again on Site 2 at the end of June. Although it was very hot there was a strong breeze which played havoc with the tablecloths blowing up and knocking over vases of roses, and the category labels were flying all over the place, keeping the show organisers busy.

There was a good display of the usual summer entries such as rhubarb, strawberries and broad beans but asparagus was sparse as the warm weather had finished it off.

The buck's fizz served in the store was gratefully received and the afternoon was a success.

The autumn show was held in the church, not the hall as it is being refurbished. It was a good place to be in as it was bright and spacious and all on one level – and it was cooler than outside where the sun was beating down and a thunderstorm was threatening.

We welcomed 2 new judges – both of whom were very impressed with the standard of entries. Our judge for vegetables and fruits is Mark from Beatrix Potter Allotments in Earlsfield, as a reciprocal arrangement I judge their show for them. Our cookery judge is Sue who used to run a Cordon Bleu school in Paris. Sheila Konig on Site 3 continues to judge the flowers. Thanks to them all.

The flowers included some magnificent dahlias. The vegetables saw an abundance of tomatoes and potatoes and in the novice section we were treated to some exotic Vietnamese vegetables. In the fruit category the pears stole the show.

The cookery categories have been updated to include such things as a seasonal dip, a savoury vegan dish and pickled vegetables.

David Renshaw finished off both shows with an ever-popular auction of prize-winning entries and surplus cakes. Thanks David.

My thanks also to the Show Committee members who help the days run smoothly and can give a good argument over whether you can have a white pumpkin or not – Mariangela, Jackie, Helen, Gill, Vivien, Georgina and Shan. Plus, all the extra helpers on the day who carry tables, put up gazebos and wash up cups and plates, amongst many other things.

**Carol Martinez**

**Show Chair**