

Mayfield Horticultural Society

Society News

SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2018– ANOTHER OF OUR FAMOUS SUPPERS! – EVERYONE WELCOME! DO YOU REMEMBER THE WONDERFUL PUDDINGS FROM LAST TIME? DOORS OPEN 6.30PM, MEAL 7PM. SPEAKER VAL BOURNE ‘THE LIVING JIGSAW; THE SECRET LIFE IN YOUR GARDEN’. Come and join us for a delicious meal and what promises to be an interesting and thought provoking evening with the award-winning organic garden writer and lecturer Val Bourne. Gardening since the age of three, she describes her garden as her best friend, her solace, her exercise class and her inspiration, sentiments that I am sure will be familiar to all of us! Her lovely garden, where she works in harmony with nature, can be seen on her website www.valbourne.co.uk. Val is coming to talk to us about how we too can have a beautiful flower-packed garden while also helping wildlife. Increasingly, we are all aware of how our gardens are highly important green spaces and Val is going to help us understand how we can maximise the benefits of these miniature wildlife sanctuaries. Her new book, ‘The Living Jigsaw’, champions natural gardening and says that in a chemical free garden we will encounter fewer problems not more, we will enjoy it more, be healthier and so will our planet. Tickets for the evening are £18 and are available from Burnetts, Mayfield High Street. There will be a cash bar and raffle. Tickets will give details of who to contact if you would like the vegetarian option or to enquire about menu ingredients. We sit at long tables so nobody has to sit by themselves. The first time I went to one of these events I was amazed by how friendly everyone was and chatted to lovely people I would never otherwise have met. Please come and be part of a very special evening.

SUMMER SHOW 2018 - Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Summer Show either as an entrant, a judge, a helper on the day or a visitor. Particular thanks go to Diane Kirkness, our Show Secretary and Eddie Du Cann, our Chairman who work incredibly hard all year to make this event a success. Congratulations to all those who won awards. The efforts of all entrants made the event a true spectacle and a delight to see.



**Judging
vegetables**

**Photo by
Tony Bayliss**

CUP AND SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

BANKSIAN MEDAL		Tessa Crowe
PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP – VEGETABLES		Ken Audsley
PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP – FRUIT		Graham Holland
PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP – SWEET PEAS		Sarah Ratcliffe
PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP – CHILDREN'S FLOWERS		Matilda Chapman
HULBERT-POWELL CUP – VEGETABLES		Jan Maughan
SNEYD-KYNNERSLEY CUP – FLOWERS		Kathi Blackford
MARGARET WALSH-ATKINS BOWL – ROSES		John Logan
MONTEITH CUP – FLORAL ART		Mary Prall
GODBER CUP – DOMESTIC		Kathi Blackford
ALLCHIN CUP – CRAFT		Jan Deller
EGERTON CUP – PHOTOGRAPHY		Elizabeth Streeter
CHILDRENS CUP		Jonathan Bayliss
GEORGE DAY MEMORIAL BOWL		
POSY OF FLOWERS CHILDREN 5/16		Arwen Huxtable
WILLIAM WICKENS CUP –		
CHILDREN'S WILD FLOWERS & GRASSES		Matilda Chapman
GARDEN VOUCHERS –		
TRAY	1 st	Ken Audsley
	2 nd	Shirley Holland
	3 rd	Eddie Du-Cann
BASKET	1 st	Ken Audsley
	2 nd	Shirley Holland
GARDEN BASKET	1 st	Shirley Holland
	2 nd	Genevieve Tennant
	3 rd	Eddie Du-Cann



Exhibits set out for judging

Photo by
Simon Heaton

Rosemary Bayliss

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The following 50-word stories were submitted for the Min Saga competition:

1st Prize

The Lie

Diane Kirkness

Terrified the young girl hesitated, "It won't hurt you" the dealer said, "just make you happy." "Worth one try, just one" she thought. Months later, she is hurt beyond recognition, living in squalor, addicted and definitely not happy.

2nd prize

The Rake's Progress

John Logan

Fred Paused at the bank's imposing portico. Flicking dust from his best coat, he sat on the step. Then thud/thud! as a lout kicked him senseless. Befuddled by drink he thought, I lie here in squalor, I lie about my drinking and I lied as head of this bank.

3rd Prize

The Lie

Margaret Harris

Oh, look Madge here's a notice, Horticultural Show Saturday, July 31. Are you entering anything? Maybe, but I doubt it. Crikey look you've won 1st prize for your Victoria sponge, how did you manage that? Copied the W.I. calendar girls film and went to M&S.

Other entries

The Lie Eddie du-Cann

“Johnny get up, time for school”.

“It’s Sunday Mum”.

“No definitely Monday, yesterday you licked your ball through the greenhouse and denied it”.
Johnny got up, dressed for school to discover it was Sunday.

“Not a lie, just a bit of punishment for not admitting you were culpable”, said Mum.

The Competition

Jan Maughan

It was complete. She said she’d spent hours preparing and baking the beautifully decorated three tier cake. She hadn’t realised the judges would need to taste it. As they cut into it the cake exploded, polystyrene is not a good look or taste.

The Lie Peter Deller

How would he admit his over confident stupidity?

A par three on the last to win. He always needed a six iron tee shot at that hole but, for no reason, he fancied using a seven.

Result. Short. In the bunker. Dreadful lie in the sand. Second place.

Gardening Tips

We have visited Eltham Palace, which is just off the A20 as you get into the outer suburbs of London. It was originally a Royal Palace but during the 1930’s the owners were getting calls enquiring what films were showing that night so started calling it Eltham House! It was a very large building in Tudor Times of which only the Great Hall and the base of the original walls plus most of the moat remain. The site has had a very chequered history but during the 20th century, it was purchased by a branch of the wealthy Courtauld family who built an art deco house adjoin the Great Hall. The interior is a bit reminiscent of the great ocean liners of the day and was not to my taste, the Great Hall promised to be more interesting but we were told that much of it was not original. Not many buildings over 600 years old would be original, I suppose!

We were given a guided tour of the 18 acre gardens by one of the gardeners. Quite a lot of the moat still exists and on one bank of it is a huge rockery, also built by the Courtaulds who bought a hillside to obtain the right stone. Some of the rocks are huge. There are some fine and unusual trees and lots of shrubs. Their hydrangeas looked very flourishing particularly a white variety called Annabel which was covered in large, almost conical, heads. The other major features include a sunken rose garden which had been replanted a few years ago in its original position in relation to the ancient walls so they replaced the soil. There is an herbaceous border which also uses some of the old walls as a backdrop but the plants were starting to show effects of drought.

A couple of months ago, I started to miss various items from our boiler room such as old shoes, gardening gloves and secateurs, usually just one at a time. When I found some of the items in various parts of the garden I assumed that it was further proof that I was losing my marbles until, one hot day, when we were having lunch with the door open, we saw a young fox with a gardening glove in its mouth, quite unconcerned. I thought this quite strange enough until a few days later we were watching television on a hot night with all doors open. Sensing something I looked down beside me to see a fox sitting watching TV about two feet away. When he realised I had seen him, he strolled off. It may have been because we were watching “Supervet”!

Fortunately the weather has now broken and we have had a useful amount of rain. Few, if any, plants have died of drought but some trees have lost some leaves or have a number of

branches which have gone crisp and dry. This must be nature's way of reducing the plants requirements. Even if it looks dead, don't get rid of the plant. Just cut out the worst bits and wait.

Because of the cold wet spring, I did not get round to dividing and replanting any herbaceous beds this year. This is also an opportunity to give the soil a boost by forking over and improving with some organic matter. Soil structure is a great defence against drought and flood and needs all the help you can give it. If you have plants you particularly want to divide and propagate, do put labels on them soon. I have a favourite phlox that I have been meaning to propagate for years but one it has died back I can never remember which it is. Phlox are a tough and mainly trouble free species although some may suffer from powdery mildew in a bad year but more about phlox next time.

I have just discovered why that fox wanted old shoes. A Victorian remedy for earwigs was to leave shoes stuffed with hay where the earwigs were troublesome then collect them up for disposal.

John Logan