

Cromar & District Horticultural and Industrial Society Annual Show

Despite the weather which unfortunately cancelled so many other events last weekend, Cromar and District held its Annual Show on Saturday 10th, when the gardening, handicraft and cookery skills of the surrounding area were put on display. The Show was officially opened by our President, Marcus Humphrey, and we were delighted to welcome Stephen McCallum, Head of Gardens at the MacRobert Trust, Tarland to present the trophies. The MacRobert Trust is a valued supporter of the Horticultural and Industrial Show each year.

Everyone was worried by the dreadful weather in the run-up to the Show but the intrepid gardeners of the area braved the weather to pick a vast array of fruit, flowers and vegetables. The weather was perfect for those who were baking and making as they were busy inside!

In the horticultural section, the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's Banksian Medal was won by Alex Melvin, Lumphanan, who also won four other horticultural trophies in addition to the 'Best in Show' for his display at Pot Plants. The Tarland Community Garden put on a great display, winning three trophies. Edna Robertson's skill in growing flowers was confirmed when she won the Fowlie Trophy, donated by her father many years ago, together with the Lady MacRobert Challenge Bowl for most points in the amateur classes. Cheryl Davis won the Lord Astor of Hever cup for most points in the 'Have-a-go' classes. Trophies were also won by: The MacRobert Trust, Tarland; Marcus Humphrey, Aboyne; Liz Cooper, Tarland; George Baikie, Aboyne; Lizzie Shepherd, Coull; Jess Gibb, Tarland; Karan Adams, Aboyne; Evelyne Baikie, Aboyne; Andy Davidson, Torphins; Candacraig House, Strathdon. Beautiful local gardens were also judged and trophy winners were Pauline Adam, Tarland; Rob Gibb, Tarland; George Cumming, Alford. The judges were amazed by the wonderful, imaginative garden of Edward Coutts, Aboyne who was very highly commended.

Although, in the Industrial section, the entries in knitting and sewing were down in numbers from previous years, the high standard of skill and inventiveness was still very evident. The 'Best in Show' in this section went to Steve Redpath, Tarland for his art and the delicious baking and preserves of Mary McCombie, Dinnet, won her the MacRobert Farms Trophy. Other trophy winners were: Marian Donald, Fife; Margaret Riddle; Louisa and George Low Jnr, Aberdeen. The Tarland Bee Group sponsored two new prizes: the 'Best Exhibit in Honey' went to Lindsay Stewart, Tarland and the junior award went to Sean Dinnie, Birse.

The local children had obviously been busy and creative during the summer holidays. The 'Best Children's Exhibit' went to Kelsey Chapman of Daviot, whose grandparents live in Tarland, for her wonderful painting of 'my favourite place'. Kelsey also won trophies for Primary 5-7 Horticulture and Crafts. Cousins Amy Johnston, Kemnay, and Nathan Thow, Westhill, shared the trophy for most points in Primary 1-4. Chloe Gordon, visiting her grandparents in Tarland, won the RW Joseph trophy for most points in Primary 1-7 cooking. In the Secondary 1-4 section, Josie Davies, Tarland, won the Ross Trophy for most points in arts and crafts and Tarland's Hannah Ewen gained the Graham trophy for cookery. Her sister Jodie Ewen won the award for cookery in the 16-21 years classes.

Finally, the committee would like to thank all the volunteers and judges who willingly give up their time to make the Show such a success every year. We would also like to thank the

local businesses who generously donated prizes to the raffle and sponsorship: Douneside House, The Commercial Hotel, The Paper Shop , Tarland Bee Group The Krafty Neuk, The Tarland Pharmacy, Tarland Garage. Furthermore, thanks to our patrons for their valuable support: Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey, Aboyne, The MacRobert Trust, Tarland, David Starritt, Tarland, and Anthony de Winton, Tarland. The planning for next year will be starting soon, so look out for the schedules for 2020 later in the year and be inspired to take part!