

## **Cromar & District Horticultural and Industrial Society Annual Show 2023**

A dreich July didn't stop the competitors in this year's Open Show held by Cromar and District Horticultural and Industrial Society in the MacRobert Memorial Hall, Tarland. The Show was officially opened by our President, Marcus Humphrey, who praised the quality and quantity of exhibits across the various classes. We were delighted that Alfie Bruce, one of our Life Members, could present the prizes. Past chairman Alfie was a stalwart in the Society for many years and is well known in the Cromar area as the 'Cloutie Mannie', having travelled widely in the area for years, selling a variety of clothes and useful household items.

In the horticultural section, the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's Banksian Medal was won by Edna Robertson, Tarland. Every year, Edna dominates the flower classes with superb displays and this year was no exception: she also won the Fowlie Trophy for the most points in amateur cut flowers and the Lady MacRobert Challenge Bowl for most points in the amateur classes.

The scent of sweet peas pervades the hall on Show Day and Marcus Humphrey superb arrangements won the Society Trophy for best display in the open sweet pea classes. The Miss Miller Silver Challenge Cup for the best amateur display of sweet peas was won by Gillian Needham, Tarland, in addition to her success winning the in the novice flower arranging. Tarland Community Garden's combined skill in growing fruit and vegetables won them the Society Trophy, the Humphrey Cup and the Lawson Trophy. First-time exhibitors, Castle Fraser Gardens, won the Tillypronie Challenge Bowl for the most points in the open classes, and the Schweppes Trophy for best dahlia display. Husband and wife George and Evelyne Baikie, Aboyne, had a very successful Show with George winning two trophies and Evelyne taking the trophies for most points and best exhibit in Floral Art as well as 'Best in Show' in the Horticultural section. Trophies were also won by: Lyndsey Fraser, Huntly, Graham Bruce, Tarland, Sabrina Humphrey, Aboyne, Janet Inkster, Cushnie, Danel MacWhyte, Tarland, Jean Stott, Tarland, Ann Hay, Kildrummy, Edward Coutts, Aboyne, Lucy Taylor, Tarland, Paul Biddle, Tarland.

In the Amateur Gardens competition (within a 12-mile radius of Tarland) it was Tarland's Graham Bruce who won the Hopewell Challenge for his cottage garden and his beautiful array of flowers also helped him win a further two trophies on show day. Two very different gardens in the Flower Garden category had only one point difference: Aboyne's Sabrina Humphrey's wonderful walled garden won the Lawrie Challenge Cup and Edward Coutts, Aboyne, Greer McRoberts runner up trophy. Lucy Taylor, Tarland, won the new trophy for 'Small Garden' with her garden which is abundant and peaceful. The Baikie 'Butterfly and Bee' award was won by Paul Biddle, Tarland, whose garden, in the judges' words, was highly commended for being a great example of diversity and habitat enhancement. The judges also highly commended George Cumming, Alford, for his superb display of traditional bedding and, in particular, his containerised begonias.

In the Industrial classes, the 'Best in Show' in this section went to Day Campbell, Aboyne, for her detailed drawing of a seedhead. Marion Donald, Fife, gained the Cantlie Cup for the most points in knitting, sewing and crafts and Tarland's Adele McRae's exquisite knitted soft toy won the Anderson Trophy for the best exhibit in knitting. The knitters have donated all

their soft toys to the Archie Foundation. Aileen Paterson, Aboyne, won the MacRobert Farms Trophy for a delicious selection of baking and preserves. George Low, Aberdeen, won the Evelyn Smith Trophy for most points in the wine classes, and Paul Biddle, Tarland, won the Low Memorial Cup for the best wine. The 'Best Exhibit in Honey', sponsored by the Tarland Bee Group, went to Lindsay Stewart, Tarland.

In the Junior classes, it is always a delight to see how inventive and skilful the youngsters of this area are, and it is always lovely to welcome back children whose parents were brought up in Tarland. The 'Best Children's Exhibit' went to Kiara Wilkie, Tarland, for a beautiful piece of patchwork and she also won the Price Cup for most points in crafts for P5-P7. Paige Fraser, Huntly, showed what an all-rounder she is by winning trophies in both Horticulture and Crafts. Nathan Thow, Westhill, won the Ross Trophy for most points S1-S4 crafts, in addition to the Donald Trophy for a beautifully crafted piece of handwriting. Abi Smith, Tarland, and Chloe Gordon's appetising baking won them the Air Commodore and Mrs RW Joseph Trophy and Graham Trophy respectively. In the 16-18 years section, the winner of the 'Krafty Neuk' special prize was Hafwen Dobson-Allam, for her beautiful artwork but, in the cookery, she was just pipped at the post by her brother Seol, who took the 'Tarland Tearoom' award.

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 and the Commercial Hotel for the delicious lunch provided for judges, stewards and committee. We also appreciate the support of local businesses and individuals who generously sponsor us or donate prizes to the raffle: The Tarland Paper Shop, Tarland Bee Group, The Krafty Neuk, Tarland Tearoom, Dr M Cuthbert, Raemoir Garden Centre, Willow Thompson, George and Evelyne Baikie, Denise Hansford, Lochnagar Distillery and many more individuals. Furthermore, thanks to our patrons for their ongoing, invaluable support: Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey, Aboyne, The MacRobert Trust, Tarland, David Starritt, Tarland, Jenny Tattersall, Tain, and Anthony de Winton, Tarland.