

Cromar & District Horticultural and Industrial Society Annual Show

10 August 2024

A glorious day welcomed folk to 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 Chairman, Jim Campbell, who thanked the many volunteers who support the committee in the running of this event, as well as the patrons, sponsors and, of course, the exhibitors! It was a huge honour that one of our Life Members, Peter Cameron, was presenting the trophies. Peter has been involved in the Society for fifty years or more as exhibitor and committee member and is the one we all turn to when setting up the Show each year.

In the Horticultural section, the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's Banksian Medal was won by Lyndsey Fraser, who lives in Huntly but whose husband hails from Tarland. She had a wide range of high-quality exhibits and won the Murdoch Trophy for most points in pot plants, the Mitchell Trophy for flowers, the Tillypronie Challenge Bowl for most points in open fruit and vegetable classes, and the Schweppes Trophy for best exhibit in dahlias

It is always a delight to see the huge range of beautiful flowers that Edna Robertson, Tarland, grows. Edna won the Fowlie Trophy for most points in the amateur cut flowers, the David Murdoch Cup for best amateur exhibit of gladioli and the Lady MacRobert Challenge Bowl for most points in the amateur classes. Ann Hay, Kildrummy, had entries of an exceptionally high standard, winning the Society Silver Cup for the best display of roses, the MacRobert Trust Perpetual Cup for the best display in the amateur classes, together with the Dr McRoberts' Trophy for the best herbaceous exhibit in the Show. Tarland Community Garden put up a good display, winning the Society and Lawson Trophies for their fruit and vegetable entries and we were delighted to welcome back Castle Fraser Gardens, who won the Humphrey Silver Cup. Other winners were: Davidson Memorial Trophy, Paige Fraser; Miss Miller Silver Challenge Cup, Sabrina Humphrey, Aboyne; June Barr Cup, Sandy Cooper, Tarland; Marcus Humphrey Silver Cup, Danel MacWhyte, Tarland. The Lord Astor of Hever Trophy for the most points in the 'Have-a-Go' section was hotly contested and shared by four local exhibitors. Congratulations to Vicky Hannaford, Maureen Cuthbert, Paul Mather and Janette Dunridge.

In the Amateur Gardens competition (within a 12-mile radius of Tarland) it was Tarland's Mary Welfare who won the Hopewell Challenge for her rural cottage garden and her planting schemes included a productive plot, areas for wildlife and wildflowers, and impressive perennial borders. Runner-up trophy was awarded to Graham Bruce for a colourful village garden. The Flower Garden category was once again very close but George Baikie's garden in Aboyne won the Lawrie Challenge Cup: a small garden which overflows with around 150 beautiful, colourful planted pots and twenty hanging baskets. The Greer McRoberts' Cup went to runner-up Sabrina Humphrey, Aboyne. Lucy Taylor, Tarland, again won the Courtyard Garden class with her tiny oasis garden. Phil Basford, Tarland, won the 'Have-a-Go' garden for first time competitors and he was highly commended by the judge for his display of Sea Holly. The Baikie 'Butterfly and Bee' award was won by Liz Cooper, Tarland, whose garden contains a wide variety of flowers, of different shapes and colours, which offer vital nectar for these threatened insects. The judge also highly commended

Sabrina Humphrey's beautiful display of roses and Paul Biddle, who uses 'dead hedges' to create places for insects and mammals to thrive.

In the Industrial classes, the 'Best in Show' in this section went to Jess Gibb, Banchory, for her intricate table runner. Jess, a life member of the Society, also won the Jan Joseph Memorial Trophy for best exhibit of sewing and the Moira Anderson Trophy for her beautiful knitting. 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 Ruth Crawford, 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 always makes visitors smile as they look at the inventive and beautiful items produced by the young folk of this area. The 'Best Children's Exhibit' went to Paige Fraser, Huntly, for a beautiful headband decorated with freshly picked flowers; she also won the Meadowley Trophy for Horticulture and the Price Cup for most points in the Primary 1-7 arts and crafts;. Nathan Thow, Westhill, won the Ross Trophy for most points S1-S4 crafts, in addition to the Donald Trophy for a beautiful piece of handwriting. We're also delighted that Paige and Nathan's artwork will be our new 2025 schedule cover and Society logo, respectively. Ava Oliver (Primary 1-4), Tarland, won the Michell Trophy for her arts and crafts and the Air Commodore and Mrs RW Joseph Trophy for baking. Kiara Wilkie, Tarland, won the Graham Trophy for a tasty array of baking in the S1-4 classes. The 'Kratfy Neuk' special prize was won by Hafwen Dobson-Allam, for her beautiful artwork.

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: Tarland Paper Shop, Tarland Bee Group, The Krafty Neuk, Tarland Tearoom, Dr M Cuthbert, Willow Thompson, George and Evelyne Baikie, and many more individuals. Furthermore, thanks to our patrons for their ongoing, invaluable support: Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey, Aboyne; Robert Joseph, Aboyne; The MacRobert Trust, Tarland; David Starritt, Tarland; Jenny Tattersall, Tain; Tarland Toy Shop, and Anthony de Winton, Tarland.