

Cromar and District Horticultural and Industrial Society

Every year our committee has different worries. Has the weather been too hot and dry? Has the weather been too cold? Too wet? Will there be any entries? However, every year, we are delighted to welcome members both new and old with their wonderful produce, crafts and baking and, this year, we were especially pleased to have more children and young folk entering. A well known face around Tarland is Gillian Masson and we were honoured to have her present the trophies.

This year, the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society Banksian Medal, which is awarded to the most successful entrant in the horticultural classes, was won by Paul Biddie, Cuthbert. Additionally, he won the Society Trophy for most points in the Open Fruit and Vegetable classes and the Burness Trophy for his fabulous Wildlife Garden.

Lyndsey Fraser, Huntly, was dominant once more in the Open Plants and Flowers, winning the Murdoch Trophy and the Mitchell Trophy. She also won the Schweppes trophy for dahlias and the Tillypronie Challenge Bowl as top Open competitor. The wonderful sweet peas exhibited by Aboyne's Marcus Humphrey gained him the Price Trophy, along with his fruit winning the Lawson Trophy. David Currie, Tarland, won the Humphrey Cup for an unusual selection of fruit and vegetables; Jonquil Nicol, Tarland, took the Lord Astor of Haver Trophy for top 'Have-a-Go'; and first-time exhibitor Mhairi McPherson, from Alford, won the David Murdoch cup for the best exhibit of gladioli. The MacRobert Trust Cup for best amateur display went to Valerie Stoddart, but it was the MacRobert Trust themselves who won the Dr. McRoberts Cup for best herbaceous exhibit.

Claire Chapman, now living in Daviot but a Tarland quene, dominated the Amateur Fruit and Vegetable section, winning the June Barr Cup and Humphrey Silver Cup; additionally, she took the Lady MacRobert Challenge Bowl for the most successful amateur. Also in the amateur classes, Ann Hay, from Tullynessle, won the Graham Thomson Silver Cup and the Miss Miller Challenge Cup for best display of roses and sweet peas respectively. She was also the most successful competitor in the Amateur Flowers, gaining the Fowlie Trophy. Graham Bruce, Tarland, shared the Davidson Memorial Trophy for Plant Pots with Paige Fraser, in addition to his success in the amateur garden competition.

In Floral Art, both the Blackhall Memorial Trophy for the best exhibit and Sheila Ross cup for most points, rewarded the artistic exhibits from Karan Adams, Torphins. Jess Gibb, Banff, excelled in the crafts section, winning the Moira Anderson Memorial Trophy for best exhibit in knitting and the Jan Joseph Memorial Trophy for best in sewing. However, it was Valerie Stoddart, Craigievar, who gained most points in knitting, sewing and crafts and won the Cantlie Silver Cup. The most delicious baking by Margaret Roberts, Tarland, won her the MacRobert Farms' Trophy and George Low Jnr, Aberdeen, won both the Evelyn Smith Trophy for most points and George Low Memorial Cup for best exhibit in wines.

The children's section continues to delight all our visitors. Westhill's Nathan Thow, whose grand-parents live in Tarland, continued to be one of our most successful S1-S4 competitors and was awarded the Ross Trophy and the Barbara Jane Smith special prize for most points and the Donald Trophy for best specimen of handwriting. Alice Millot, Logie Coldstone, won both the Graham Trophy and the Tarland Tearoom special prize for her delicious baking; additionally, she won the Erskine Rooser Trophy in the S1-S4 Horticulture. In the Primary section, Lumsden's Paige Fraser's skills won her the Meadowley Trophy for horticulture and the Price Cup for crafts. Tarland sisters Lexi and Layanna Wilkie were the most successful competitors in the 1-4 crafts and P1-P7 baking, gaining the Mitchell Trophy and the Air Commodore and Mrs RW Joseph Trophy respectively. The honey exhibits were delicious: Graham Walker, Tarland, won the best exhibit in senior honey, with James Taylor, Tarland, winning the junior award.

2026 Amateur Garden Competition:

Baikie Special Prize for the garden who creates an environment to encourage butterflies and Bees: Graham Bruce, Tarland

Class 218: Have-a-Go Garden

Bruce Shield

Janet Litten, Aboyne

Society Shield

Adrian Sims, Aboyne

Class 219: Cottage Garden

Hopewell Challenge Cup

Pauline Adam, Tarland

Wine Casket

Graham Bruce, Tarland

Class 220: Flower Garden

Lawrie Challenge Cup

Edward Coutts, Aboyne

Greer McRoberts Cup

Sabrina Humphrey, Aboyne

Class 222: Wildlife Garden

Paul Biddle, Cushnie

Finally, the committee would like to thank all the volunteers and judges who willingly give up their time to make the Tarland Flower 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, Isla Black, Tarland Tearoom, Dr M Cuthbert, 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; Anthony de Winton, Tarland.