



West Horsley in Bloom 2018

On the evening of June 29th, the village hall was abuzz with expectation. Dean with his non-alcoholic cocktails was very busy and much appreciated. A committee member and Spring Reach Nurseries had been busy in transforming the stage. Plant Passion had provided delightful posies for each little table so that when the Mayor of Guildford and his wife arrived, the evening was set to go.

We began with Celia Chapman giving us a summary of the junior section. The "A Potato in a Pot" category had outstanding success with 39 entries in all. The winner was Jessica Lawrence, whose potatoes weighed 551g. The final weighing took place in the Village Hall playground which was a delight, especially given the weather. Only two of our local schools entered the Schools' Competition, but the standard was extremely high. So high in fact that each school was given an equal monetary prize but Cranmore School gained the cup by just a whisker. Well done to all involved.

The senior section too, had gone very well with a healthy entry from first timers and loyal previous competitors alike. All in all, people had entered because they enjoyed their gardens and were anxious that we shared that enjoyment. The committee had initially been a bit nervous about bringing the competition forward into June, but the gardens were as wonderful as ever, with some stunning entries in all categories including the container and the allotment categories.

The interval was extended to half an hour this year so that gardening friends could enjoy comparing notes and offering congratulations to each other. The chilled wine and the cocktail bar were complemented by wonderful canapés supplied by Hilly's and there was a general air of enjoyment and fun. It was, if truth be told, a bit of a mini party!

The second part of the evening, though much shorter, offered the excitement of wondering who had won the various trophies. The evening gained a touch of gloss (apologies) when Adam Aaronson presented his annual and unique glass sculpture to the winner of the Judges' Prize, Christine Scott. That left the presentation of the highest accolade, the Roxburghe Cup, by the Mayor of Guildford Councillor Mike Parsons. The proud 2018 winner was Neil Conisbee.

The Mayor closed the evening with his appreciation of the efforts that the committee had made, leaving us with the thought that community events such as this "are the heart of village life." Join us next year and experience the fun and pleasure yourself. There is a category to suit everyone whatever their gardening experience or time limitations.

In closing, I must thank the members of the WHIB committee who all work their socks off to make this event a pleasure and a success. They are Jen Powell, Mercia Underwood, Elizabeth Hope, Ann Masset, Nick Hourhan, Rhys Beynon and Celia Chapman, not forgetting Charles Hope, who is an unofficial committee member but prints all the certificates in record time. They are a fabulous team with which to work. Thank you all.

The committee would like to thank our seventeen sponsors for their very generous support. Without you, we would have no competition.

Mel Beynon (Chairman WHIB)