

Crowhurst & District Horticultural Society ***Annual General Meeting – Show Secretary's Report***

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 - Mantel Farm, Henley Down

This year's Spring show back in March was exceptionally well supported with almost double the number of entries (175) compared to a typical Spring show which has around 100 entries. Thank you to everyone who made that show a more interesting and exciting contest for all involved.

Our Autumn Show was also well supported, but not to the heights we saw in Spring. We had 163 entries, slightly down on 2023 and the average for an Autumn show of around 200 entries. Given the poor weather we have had over the summer months, we were still pleased with the resulting show.

At both shows this year, we have made some alterations to the trophies awarded to removed some similar trophies and add some new ones to sections which did not previously have them. We hope this widens the group of exhibitors who have a chance of winning an award. In particular, we added new photographic and honey trophies at the Spring and Autumn Shows respectively. This allowed us to reuse some old Summer Show trophies that are no longer needed since we no longer hold Summer shows. We also continued our popular Visitor's Choice award where the public get their say on their favourite exhibit. We switched from using voting slips in 2023 to using coloured sticky dots this year, that visitors stick on the entry card of their favourite display. So far the feedback on the new approach has been positive, but we always happy to hear suggestions of how we can improve things further.

We are still dealing with the consequences of the RHS discontinuing their sales of show stationery. In the past, we relied on them to supply all our blank entry cards, judges cards and prize stickers but these have been unavailable since 2022. Slowly our stock of supplies have been running out. Last year, we ran out of RHS entry cards but we found a printers who could print us some alternative cards in bulk. This year, our stock of prize stickers is running out and we are in the process of finding a new supplier of those.

We are always keen to hear of ideas for future show classes. We aim to publish the Spring show schedule at the beginning of February and the Autumn schedule in the beginning of July. Please let any member of the committee know if you have any suggestions.