

How the Show works

The flower and produce show has been running in the village since 1884 and it is a competition that everyone is welcome to enter. We have a grand marquee for the show exhibits and plenty of stalls for refreshment and entertainment as well as a fun dog show. This booklet contains a schedule of the classes for entry and the entry forms. On the morning of the show arrive at the marquee from 8am, collect your entry cards at the door and place your exhibits and entry cards in the space allocated for that class. Be sure to place your entry card face down near to your entry. Judging starts at 11am, 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each class will be awarded.

If you have questions, please contact Leigh Arnold or Jane Wells (contact information on pg2) who are both available on the day to help you out as well.

Show Timetable

Midday 3rd July Entry forms are to be submitted

Show Day - 5th July

8am to 10.45am collect your entry cards and place your entries in the marquee

11am judging starts – members of the public must leave

2pm the show opens and you can see who the winners are

2pm to 4:30pm enjoy the stalls, BBQ, cakes, beer tent and dog show

4:30pm awards will be presented to the winners

5pm the raffle will be held

5:15pm you may remove exhibits or submit them for auction

5:30pm we hold an auction of produce from the show

Notes for all exhibitors

Please read these tips - we don't want you to step outside of the guidelines for the class you are entering.

- Only one entry per class per person is allowed.
- All exhibits should be staged as attractively as possible and in exact accordance with the schedule
- Do not touch anyone else's entry. If something needs to be moved to make room for your entry, please ask one of the organisers
- Bring spare items in case you have an accident when staging
- The judges appreciate variety labels where appropriate, especially useful for single variety classes
- Show vases will be available in the marquee for competitors on the morning of the show and should be returned at the end of the show
- Not According to Schedule (NAS) means that what you have exhibited does not match the schedule requirements i.e., too many items or the wrong size
- Please do not remove your entries before 5pm
- Exhibits may be donated for auction after the prize giving
- For the Dog Show Schedule please see the back cover

If you win a trophy you will hold it for one year and then return it to Shirley (01621 862580) by Monday 9th June 2026 to 42 Tollesbury Road, Tolleshunt D'Arcy. Cups to be engraved by the competitor, if you wish to.

CLASS TIPS

Section 1 - Plants in Pots:

- RHS standards will be used to make all judgements in this section
- Pot size is critical, larger than 300mm (internal measurement at the rim) it will not be judged.
- People often think bigger is better, it is not always the case. Small and beautiful will compete well.
- Remove old leaves or anything that spoils the look of the plant and don't forget to clean the pot if it is dirty.
- Note that if a flowering plant is entered into a foliage class it will only be judged on its foliage - the opposite is also true.

Section 2 - Cut flowers:

- We provide show vases for use by entrants on the day of the show – to be returned at the end of the show.
- Most flowers look better in a vase if cut the night before and left in deep water, rather than cutting them on the morning of the show.
- For vases of one species try to show a uniform set of blooms. Good uniformity will often outperform size.
- Your flowers should be fresh, free from blemishes, at their most perfect stage of development.
- Ensure your container is filled with water to avoid exhibits wilting during the show.

Section 3 - Decorative Classes:

- This is all about flower arrangements. You will note that there is a size limit to be adhered to.
- Yes, you can purchase your flowers (except for the wildflower and grass class)
- You can construct your arrangement before you arrive or on the day.
- Class 42 - The parallel style is generally a rectangular container from which groups of stems stand vertically. The vertical stems are not covered up by other plants, although the mechanics are hidden by a horizontal groundwork of flowers/ foliage. There is no transition, blocks of contrasting shapes and colours are placed next to each other.

Section 4 - Photography:

- The subject should be in focus
- Try to avoid distraction from the subject or scene by cropping to eliminate any undesirable elements.
- Professional printing is advised for the best results
- Photos are to be presented no more than 150 x 200mm (6 x 8 inches) (except for panoramic), unmounted and flat on the table.

Section 5 - Home Produce

- RHS standards will be used to make all judgements in this section
- Fruit should be ripe, look fresh and staged with stalks attached, this includes tomatoes, beans, peas, strawberries, gooseberries.
- Uniformity of your exhibits is important when there is more than one in a class
- Aim for a neat attractive presentation, symmetrical if possible

- Vegetables should be properly prepared for showing – for example “As grown” means that vegetables should be carefully washed to remove soil without trimming of foliage or roots. Where trimming is required (e.g. Rhubarb) it will be stated in the schedule.
- The elements the judges will be looking for are quality, condition, cleanliness, freshness and the absence of blemishes and uniformity.
- Note that no fruit or vegetables will be tasted by the judges although some may be cut or broken for judging purposes.

Section 7 – Cookery & Preserves:

- We do cover the complete table with cellophane to protect the food but if you wish you can keep a cling film cover on your entry
- Presentation and appearance are very important, it is not just about the taste
- Where there are several items of one type it's important for them to be all the same size and shape as far as possible
- All entries will be tasted – except where stated
- Remember to remove paper from cakes and present on a nice /board or dish
- Label your exhibits with their variety or flavour where required.

Section 8 – Handicrafts

Will be staged flat on tables but will be viewed by the judge from all sides

Section 9 – Visual arts

Exhibits will be staged on display racks on tables and can be framed

If you plan to exhibit an item that is very large, please contact Leigh Arnold in advance

SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. That this society be called the Tolleshunt D'Arcy and Adjoining Parishes Horticultural Society, which shall be unlimited in its number of members and be governed by a President Vice Presidents and Committee with power to fill up vacancies. That the President Vice Presidents, Committee, and all Officers be elected at the Annual General Meeting in each year.
That the Committee, of whom seven shall form a quorum, shall have power to make Bye laws, to fix the date of Exhibitions and conduct the business of the society generally, but no rule shall be altered without the approval of a General Meeting to be called to consider such alteration, and that a General Meeting may be called by written notice signed by six subscribing members and sent to the Secretary, who will give seven clear days' notice to the Members.
2. Except where otherwise specified in the schedule, the competition in all classes will be open to the Members of the Society and all the residents living in the Parishes admitted by the Schedule of that year.
3. Persons not entitled to compete for prizes, may, with the consent of the Committee, exhibit specimens. Any specimen thus exhibited must bear the exhibitors name and be labelled 'NOT FOR COMPETITION',
4. Each intended exhibitor must send to the Secretary on a form which will be supplied to him on application, a list of the productions they intend to exhibit, not later than TWO days prior to the Show, in order that the proper accommodation may be provided. -
5. The productions exhibited must have been raised by the exhibitor or have been in their possession for at least two months. The Committee may require the exhibitor to satisfy them that this rule has been complied with.
6. No competitor will be allowed to make more than one entry in each class.
7. The Judges appointed by the Committee shall be empowered to award a prize to any production of superior merit, although not enumerated in the schedule, or to withhold a prize from any not considered by them worthy, although there may be none better in the same class.
8. All exhibitors and their assistants will be excluded from the marquee, unless officially retained during the time the Judges are making their awards.
9. No production intended for exhibition will be received in the marquee after 10.30am on Show Day. All productions must be staged ready for the Judges by 10.45am and no production will be allowed to be removed before 5.00pm.

10. Any exhibitor having a prize awarded to them by any means of trickery will, on detection, be banned from competing at any future show.
11. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry in any Class should it deem it expedient.
12. Any deviation from the number or quantity of the specimens exhibited as prescribed in the schedule or any deviation from or infringement of these rules will disqualify an exhibitor from that Class.
13. If you are awarded a cup you are required to have it engraved in the same format as previous winners and return it as indicated on page two.

Awards

Cups are awarded for various classes and sections throughout the show and are listed below and shown in the schedule where you see this 🏆

Mr P. Youngman Carter Cup will be awarded to the person with the highest points obtained in the show.

Section 1 – Plants in Pots

Elsie Dye Salver, best Geranium or Pelargonium

Doug South Salver, best exhibit in the potted plant section

Section 2 – Cut Flowers

Anthony Peel Cup, best Single Specimen Rose

Bullard Cup, best two varieties of Perennial Flowers

Offord Cup, highest points in the Rose classes

Seabrook Cup for the highest points obtained in the Sweet Pea Classes

Section 3 – Decorative Classes

Youngman Carter Cup, best table decoration

Madden Cup, best arrangement of wildflowers / grass

Rebekah Clark Cup, most points in Section

Section 4 - Photography

Presland Cup, best exhibit in the Amateur Photography Section

A cup will be awarded for the highest points in the Photography section

Section 5 - Home Produce

Jack Birkin Cup, most points in soft fruit classes

Anglia Television Cup, best collection of fruit and vegetables

Mr A. A. Morris Cup, highest points in potato classes

Presland Cup, best exhibit in the Home Produce section.

Cottee Cup, highest points obtained in the Home Produce section

Section 6 – Cultivated Garden

D. A. South Cup, best garden

Section 7 – Home Produce

Val & Roy Brown Cup, highest points in section

Section 8 - Handicrafts

Tanner Cup, best exhibit in section

Gilbert Dye Cup best exhibit in Classes 139 & 141.

Section 10 Children's Classes

Joan Scott Memorial Trophy, best handwriting sample for exhibitors aged 5 - 7 years

Brian Scott Memorial Trophy, best handwriting sample for exhibitors aged 8 - 11 years

Mr D. A. South Cup, best exhibit in section