

HANDBOOK

This Handbook section of the website aims to give you all the information on how our Shows run and helpful tips on how to stage your entries.

SHOW PROCEDURE

The first part of the process is to plan your entries. Read through the Schedule of Classes and order seeds or start planning that piece of creative craft. Enter the Show by completing an entry form which are shown at the end of the Schedule or at the back of printed Handbooks. Email the form or send a printed form to the Show Secretary by the Wednesday before each Show. The Show day starts at 8.30 am when you bring your produce to the Village Hall and “Stage” the entries. You collect (at the entrance to the Village Hall) an entry card for each Class you have entered. Each Class will have a numbered table and you place your entry on the plate or in the vase provided. If you need to arrange your produce, particularly flowers, do it at the ‘staging table’ to the side so that you do not dirty the exhibit space or spoil other peoples exhibits which have already been staged. You place your entry card for that Class, face down at the base of your entry. The judges will use this card to note any comments about your exhibit and award prizes! If you know the name of the particular variety of your exhibit you are encouraged to write this on a card and display it alongside your exhibit. You must then clear the hall by 10.30 am for the judging to commence. The hall reopens at 1.30 pm for anyone to come and view the exhibits. At 3.30 pm the Awards will be made, Raffle Drawn and any exhibits not removed will be auctioned off. The procedure for Rose and Sweet Pea Shows is slightly different as they take place in conjunction with our Open Garden Day. The Society’s normal rules will apply but the Show Procedure will be as follows: Entry Forms must be submitted to The Gate House by the Wednesday prior to the Open Day. Entries can be staged from midday on Show Day. Judging will commence at 2 pm.

BASIC SHOW RULES

The Shows will be conducted in accordance with the rules and standards contained in the Royal Horticultural Society’s Horticultural Show Handbook unless otherwise specified in this Handbook.

A Schedule of Classes will be published annually listing the Classes for each Show.

You may enter the Shows if you live within a radius of four miles of East Hoathly Village Hall. You remain eligible to enter the Shows if you are an existing or former member who has moved outside this area. No person shall enter more than one exhibit in any one Class.

All exhibits to be grown, produced or made by the Exhibitor. Potted Plants must have been in the ownership of the exhibitor for at least 3 months prior to the Show date. Plates and or containers and or vases will be provided by the Society unless indicated otherwise in the Schedule. Exhibitors who wish to use their own plate or presentation boards for vegetables must clear this with the Show Secretary in advance. All photographs must have been taken by the Exhibitor and should have been taken in the last 12 months unless specified. Kits may be used in the handicraft section or for winemaking. If a kit has been used this should be noted on a card by that entry. Junior entries must be produced unaided but supervision is allowed. Only one entry per Class is allowed (not one from home and one from school).

All exhibits not removed by 3.30 pm on the day of the Show shall be deemed to become the property of the Society by way of gift from the exhibitor and will be normally be disposed of by auction for the benefit of the Society.

Judges are appointed by the Committee and may at their discretion cut, taste or otherwise test any exhibit. The judges shall disqualify any exhibit which does not conform to the requirements of the Schedule. They have discretion to award up to but not exceeding 3 prizes for each Class.

PRIZES

Points will be awarded for each Class as follows with Cash Prizes for Juniors only:

First	5 points	£1
Second	3 points	60p
Third	2 points	40p
Commended	1 point	20p

The following trophies are awarded based on the total of points awarded in both Shows unless otherwise specified. In the event of 2 or more exhibitors having equal points the trophy will be held by each for a proportionate part of the year:

Spring Show

TURNER CUP Exhibitor with best exhibit in Spring Show.

MOORE TANKARD Exhibitor with most points in Daffodil/Narcissi Classes at Spring Show.

HORSCROFT TROPHY Best exhibit in the Daffodil/Narcissi Classes.

COOKERY TROPHY Best Cookery exhibit in Spring Show.

PAYNE TROPHY Best exhibit in the Decorative Division - Spring Show.

NAOMI BARLOW Best exhibit in the Handicraft Division - Spring Show.

JUNIOR CHALLENGE CUP Junior Exhibitor - best Spring Show exhibit
(Excluding School Entries).

Rose and Sweet Pea Show

KEN PEARCE TROPHY Exhibitor with most points in Sweet Pea classes.

Autumn Show

BOURNE CUP Exhibitor with most points in Rose Classes in Autumn Show.

BARHAM CUP Exhibitor with most points in Fruit/Vegetable Classes in
Autumn Show.

COTTINGHAM CUP Best horticultural exhibit in Autumn Show.

AKEHURST AWARD Best cookery exhibit in Autumn Show.

DUKE ROSE BOWL Best exhibit in the Handicraft Division - Autumn Show.

PAYNE TROPHY Best exhibit in the Decorative Division - Autumn Show.

RUSSELL MEMORIAL MEDALS Retained for one year and returned for reissue:

Chrysanthemum Blooms.

Chrysanthemum Sprays.

THE TALLEST SUNFLOWER The Tallest Sunflower - Record 3.34 metres, set
in 2011 by Mrs P Duke.

JUNIOR SUNFLOWER CHALLENGE Tallest Sunflower grown by a Junior.

Annual Awards

- LADIES' CUP Lady Exhibitor with most points overall.
- GENTLEMEN'S CUP Gentleman Exhibitor with most points overall.
- BELSHAW CUP Exhibitor with most points in the Preserve Classes.
(normally 1 class in Spring Show and 2 classes in Autumn).
- FAMILY CUP Family with most points overall (A Family being 3 or more members including at least one adult). The winning family may not compete in the following year.
- VINE CUP Novice Exhibitor with most points overall (A Novice is someone who has not won a senior cup before).
- ISTED CUP Exhibitor with most points overall in Decorative Division.
- LOCKWOOD CUP Exhibitor with most points overall in Handicraft Division.
- COOKERY AWARD Exhibitor with the most points overall in Cookery Division.
- JUNIOR CUPS Junior Exhibitor with most points overall. Age at 1 st September of Show Year:
- 10 to 14 years
7 to 9 years
5 to 6 years
Under 5 years
- BANKSIAN MEDAL This Medal is granted by the Royal Horticultural Society for award to the exhibitor with the largest amount of prize money in the whole of the Horticultural Classes overall. This includes all classes of Division 2 in the Spring Show and all classes of Divisions 2 and 3 in the Autumn Show. The winner of this award is not eligible to compete for it again for 2 years.

Lifetime Achievement Award

An award to mark a significant and protracted period of service to the Society. The award will be granted by a vote of approval at the AGM. Any Member of the Society may put a name forward to any member of the Committee at least 2 weeks prior to the AGM. Candidates must be proposed at the AGM by a member of the Committee.

The Award may be granted posthumously. The Award will be held until it is re-awarded to another person.

QUANTITIES OF VEGETABLES REQUIRED FOR ENTRIES

Vegetable	Quantity Required	Maximum Points	Vegetable	Quantity Required	Maximum Points
Artichoke(globe)	3	15	Artichoke	3	10
French Bean	6	15	Beetroot	4	15
Runner Bean	6	18	Cabbage	2	15
Brussels Sprout	6	15	Cauliflower	2	20
Carrot (Long)	4	20	Celery(trench)	2	20
Carrot(other)	4	18	Celery(other)	2	18
Cucumber	2	15	Leek	2	20
Lettuce	2	15	Parsnip	2	20
Onion	3	20	Potato	4	20
Pea(pod)	6	20	Pumpkin	1	10
Tomato	6	18	Turnip	3	15
Tomato (cherry)	12	18	Pepper	2	15
Shallot	9	18	Courgette	4	12
Broad Bean(pod)	6	15	Marrow	2	15

QUANTITIES OF FRUIT REQUIRED FOR ENTRIES

Apple	4	Peach	2
Raspberry	12	Blackberry	12
Pear	3	Strawberry	10
Currant(strig)	3	Plum	4
Loganberry	12	Gooseberry	12

Narcissi Divisions

Division 1 (Daffodil) One bloom to a stem. Corona (Trumpet) (x) as long or longer than the Perianth segments (Petals) (y).

Division 2 (Long Cup) One bloom to a stem. Corona more than 1/3 but less than equal to the length of the Perianth segments.



Division 3 (Short Cup) One bloom to a stem. Corona not more than 1/3 the length of the Perianth segments.

Division 4 (Doubles) Can be more than one bloom to a stem. Corona, Perianth segments, or both to be Double flowers.

x = Corona

y = Perianth Segment

A useful tip is to fold the petal up alongside the corona to judge its length.

Still Not Sure ? - Don't worry - you can enter your narcissi into the Class you think they are and check with the Show Secretary when you come to the Show. If you got the Class wrong he has the discretion to allow you to change it to the correct Class.

Egg Judging Rules

1. Shape. Showing uniform shape with greater length than width, the top to be much roomier than the bottom and more curved.
2. Size. The eggs should be of uniform size.
3. Shell Texture. Smooth, free from lines or bulges, smooth at each end, without roughness, porous parts or lime pimples.
4. Colour. The colour should be even and in the case of mottled or speckled eggs, regular mottles or speckles are preferred.
5. Freshness, Bloom and Appearance. Shells to be clean, without dull or stale appearance as befits a new laid egg. Shell surfaces may be shiny or matt but should be free from blemishes such as stains and nest marks. Eggs may be washed in preparation but not polished.

Scale of points:	Shape	25
	Size	15
	Shell texture	20
	Colour	20
	Freshness, bloom and appearance	20
		100

Internal inspection should be done to one egg to check freshness - bright yolk, firm albumen (not watery), no marks of blood spots/meat spots.

Mixed Eggs Eggs should all be the same variety unless the Class specifies Mixed Eggs. Mixed Eggs can be from any breed or species and of mixed size and colour. An additional 40 points available for Variety and Presentation.

HELPFUL HINTS

Fruit and Vegetables

Aim for clean gently washed items. Do not scrub or polish skins. Select pest and disease free items and go for quality rather than size. Match items for colour and size uniformity as near as possible. Carrots and Beetroot should have about 5 cm stalk left on (these can be tied with raffia) and keep tapering roots intact. Tomatoes should still have their calyx on and the calyx should be fresh. Tomatoes should be ripe. Cherry Tomatoes may be displayed on a bed of sand or rings on the plate provided to prevent them rolling. Peas and Beans should have full pods. Runner Beans should be as straight as possible. Onions should have ripened skins with their roots cut off and the tops trimmed and preferably tied with raffia. Onions should not be excessively peeled to get a cleaner skin. Shallots are prepared as for onions but traditionally are displayed on a bed of sand on the plate provided. Class 26 (White Potatoes) must have no colour on them, not even the eyes ! A popular white potato variety to try is Nadine and if grown in a plastic bag can be even whiter. Rhubarb should have the spade trimmed and the leaf cut off to leave a fan of about 75 mm. Forced Rhubarb should not be trimmed.

An example of how Carrots are judged is shown below:

Meritorious Tender roots of good shape, colour and size according to cultivar, free from side roots; skins clean and bright.

Defective Roots that are coarse and misshapen, fangy, dull or poorly coloured, green at the crown or pest damaged.

	Long	Other than Long
Condition	6 points	5 points
Size and Shape	4 points	4 points
Colour	5 points	5 points
Uniformity	5 points	4 points
Total	20 points	18 points

Flowers

Flowers should generally be fresh, as free as possible from insect attack, good quality and colour according to variety. Flowers should be arranged in their vase to show them off to best effect. Blooms facing forward and heights adjusted to allow all of them to be seen. Dampened newspaper, moss or “oasis” may be used to pad out the vase and ensure that the flowers stay in place.

Preserves

Jars should be labelled with date and the main ingredients. Jars should be filled to the brim and sealed with a wax disc whilst hot. Only cellophane covers held in place by a rubber band should be used and these should be applied either whilst hot or fully cooled. Jars of Lemon Curd may have metal lids. Although plain jars are preferred, Trade jars such as “Le Parfait” or a jar with a company name embossed in glass on the side, may be used. Pickles and chutneys should have vinegar proof coverings not metal lids without vinegar proof seals.

Baking Terms

Plate Pie	Has pastry top and bottom.
Tart	Has pastry on bottom only.
Pie	Has pastry on top o bottom
Sandwich Cake	Two halves with a filling and icing on top.
Gateau	Iced all over.
Cake	Single uncut piece.

Decorative Division - Flower Arranging

Flowers need not come from your own garden. An exhibit is composed of natural plant material, with or without accessories, contained within a specified space. All natural plant material must have the cut ends in water/water retaining material. Dried flowers, artificial flowers and accessories cannot be used unless specified in the Schedule. In all exhibits, natural plant material should predominate. Overall means height, width and depth. If you are in any doubt about how to stage an entry, look at some of the other entries or ask a member of the committee for guidance.