

The Annual Show

This year's show will take place at the Methodist Church on Main Street on Saturday July 14th. There are classes for all – not just flowers and vegetables, but crafts, baking, children's classes and photography as well. Not many people grow produce just to show these days. Most of us wander around our gardens and allotments a few days before the show, and see what we have that we could enter. So DON'T BE SHY! Have a go. It's amazing how good you can feel if you unexpectedly win!

A few hints and tips

1. Read the schedule carefully to check any rules. For example, if it says '5 tomatoes' make sure you enter 5, not 6 or 7. Check sizes required e.g. for pictures, flower arrangements or photos.
2. Make your exhibits as attractive as possible. Prepare root vegetables by washing them carefully with a soft cloth or sponge to avoid damaging the surface.
3. Cut peas and beans off the plant with scissors, leaving a bit of the stalk attached.
4. Do the same with tomatoes, leaving the calyx intact. Setting tomatoes on a plate with silver sand will stop them from rolling around.
5. Beetroot should be round and even sized.
6. Courgettes should be young and tender. Show them with the flowers on.
7. Cucumbers may be show with, or without their flowers attached.
8. Onions should have the tops tied.
9. Exhibit soft fruit with the stalks attached e.g. strawberries. Leave the 'strings' on currants.
10. Show other fruits e.g. apples and plums with their natural bloom left on. Don't polish them!
11. Biggest isn't always best! Uniform size and colour is important.
12. Make sure that any flowers entered are in good condition, and not losing their petals.
13. If an entry requires 'flowers and foliage' – don't forget to include some foliage.
14. If you are showing pot plants, make sure your pot or container is clean.
15. The judge's first impression of your cookery or preserves will be important, but taste is the key. If you have dry sponge or runny jam, the judge won't be impressed!
16. If you have any questions, ask one of the committee members.

Most important – don't worry and have fun!