

Little Stoke Garden Society

Newsletter – Winter 2012/13

2012 – a year to remember! The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic Games and the fantastic Paralympics, and then the weather! The year started with water shortages and then we had the wettest summer for 100 years that put a damper on growing fruit and vegetables with some yields down by 50%. Flowers, particularly herbaceous plants seemed to be unaffected and revelled in the extra moisture. Let's hope that 2013 will be a better year.



All these problems didn't stop Members from putting in some very good entries for our 38th Annual Show held on Saturday 1st September. The Rev Simon Jones of St. Michael's Stoke Gifford presented the prizes to:



Most points in show	Linda Melchin
Vegetables	Linda Melchin
Runner up	Joe Hicks
Flowers	Joe Hicks
Runner up	Linda Melchin
Fruit	Sue Wilkins
Flower arranging, handicraft and home craft	Pat Hutton
Collection of 6 vegetables	Dave Shergold
Handicraft	Rosemary David
Flower arrangement	Linda Melchin
Homecraft	Rosemary Davis
Photography	Rosemary Davis
Roses	Joe Hicks
Best fuchsia	Janet Hiscox
Best dahlia	Joe Hicks
Best Victoria sponge	Paul Hardy
Heaviest onion	Mel Williams
Onions from seed	Jim Brierley
Longest runner bean	Paul Hardy
Best kept allotment	John Ballinger
Best newcomer	Linda Melchin
Most outstanding exhibit	Mel Williams
Best pot plant	Mel Williams
Most points for wine	Chris Davis
<i>Junior Section</i>	
Under 7	Ava Smith
7 and under 10	Lucy Sharman
10 and over and under 16	Emily Davis
Tallest sunflower	Ava Smith

The poor weather during 2012 has made it difficult to tend allotment plots and keep them as tidy as we would all wish. With this in mind, the Committee have been lenient with tenants, but the key is that allotments are "cultivated" as in signed agreements. A number of plots have been high with weeds and grass. If you have problems tending your allotment plot due to ill health or want to down size, please let Sue Wilkins know via the web site email link -

postmaster@littlestokegardensociety.co.uk.

Please also consider other plots and plot holders. Part of the tenant's agreement is to keep paths tidy and many have become overgrown.

The Parish Council put a skip in the allotments for the disposal of waste material during November. We were disappointed in the amount of green material put in the skip that could have been composted. The intention of the skip was to enable the disposal of items such as wood, carpet and other items that were not compostable.

The winter period is a good time to dig your runner bean trench for the following year and fill it with green waste. Composting is very easy, just form a square container using wood from pallets and away you go. It is probably better to have two heaps so that the material can be turned. Alternatively, compost bins can be purchased from DIY stores or from South Gloucestershire Council for £16 + £5.49 delivery, phone 08445 714444. Our heavy soil needs plenty of organic material, so please don't waste it by throwing it away!

Stoke Gifford Parish Council has to make provision for allotments for future housing in the Parish and so they are looking into the possibility of extending the allotments at the back of the car park. There are no plans at the moment to extend or re-surface the car park serving the allotments and 40 Acres. The Council has informed us that allotments can only be let to new tenants who live within the Parish boundary.

We have also obtained a South Gloucestershire Council Environment Grant for four water butts and link kits to collect water from the Shop roof. The butts will be situated at the back of the Shop.

Stoke Gifford Parish Council have increased the allotments rents for 2013 and 2014 as follows:

	2013	2014
Full	£20.50	£22.50
Small	£15.50	£17.50
Half	£10.25	£12.50

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Society will be held on **Monday 5th February** at Little Stoke Community Hall starting at 7pm and will be followed by free wine, cheese, tea, coffee and cakes. There will also be a slide show about Peru including the Andes, Lake Titicaca and Machu Pichu.

We need more support for the Committee and to run the Shop at the allotments. The more people we have, the less anyone person has to do! So please come along and give us your support and volunteer to help out.

OTHER EVENTS IN 2013

The Shop will reopen on Sunday 3rd February but will be closed during the month of August and will then reopen on 1st September till 27th October.

Sunday 14th April - Bacon butty morning at the allotments 10 -12

Sunday 2nd June - Open Morning at the allotments 10 - 12

Saturday 31st August - Annual Show

Please come along and join us.