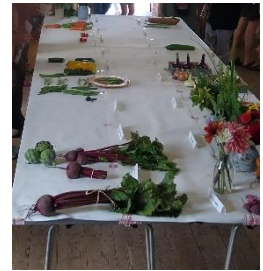


Dear everyone,

The SP Village Vegetable Show last Saturday morning was a real delight. After many months of restricted social interaction it obviously struck just the right note with everyone.



With help from the Mission Hall Trust and careful event planning by the SP Society Committee e.g. a risk assessment that sought regular cleaning of all surfaces and hands, social distancing, a request for face masks to be worn with spares available plus table service outdoors for the refreshments ensured that all was as



safe as could be. The occasion was actually a cross between the Olympics and Gardeners World – a mixture of keenly honed competition with Monty Don’s growing flair. I arrived just after 9am to find that everything was ready for the 17 entrants to present their offerings on the tables inside. By 10am all entries were in place and the public voting began. The stress of choosing between so many excellent offerings told on some voters who had to be escorted outside for a cup of hot sweet tea. There were no entries in the heaviest marrow, three eggs, or single lettuce categories. That’s right, not a single lettuce. But the remaining classes were fiercely contested and many votes had to be counted. While this was going on the Spud in a Tub competition “weigh in” took place with scrupulous fairness on specially calibrated John Lewis scales. Out of the nine entries the result was a win for Margaret Sykes with 2.228Kg (that’s 4lb 14.6oz in old money), with John Welsh in second place (1.94Kg) and Mike Haine third (1.93Kg). The call for a recount and drugs tests for all



competitors by the more raucous members of the crowd was denied. Ros Evans presented the prestigious Des Evans Spud in a Tub trophy to Margaret. The certificates – or Gold Medals in Olympic terms - were then presented to the winners in the various classes. Wendy Langridge gained the upper hand with the longest runner bean, five soft fruit, the funny-shaped vegetable and three tomatoes. Well done to her. Mike Haine took the longest cucumber and three carrots, Sue Pether the three onions and any other vegetable, Sue Legg a bunch of flowers, Duncan Sleightholme three beans, Hilary Davidson three courgettes, Brenda Pennington a selection of herbs and



Emma Mathews a bunch of different leaves. The Scarecrow competition with many marvellous entries was won by Jackie Rawle for her Policeman which, sadly, was stolen. Only the hat was recovered from the pond, and requests to Wessex Water to



drain the water were refused, even though this means, according to John Morris, that the village is now non-PC. Certificates were presented to applause as warm as the weather. Altogether it was a most successful event. Thanks are due to all those who helped in any way, including the Mission Hall Trust for making the event possible. Note to self for next year - take along one item however poor for each class, to be entered where there are no other entries. I will win a certificate.

Best regards
Chris