

Weston Favell Allotment Association Summer Newsletter 2024



Welcome to the Summer News 2024.

At last the cold rain in April finally gave way so that we could sow some seeds and plant out seedlings. It can still get quite chilly at night and in the evenings so keep an eye on the weather forecast (click here for the local [BBC weather Castle Ashby](#)).

I suggest having some fleece ready to cover your tender plants just in case. I'm always amazed how effective fleece is at protecting plants (available in the shop from Geny).

It's the Village Show this year and the details are below. It's good fun to enter some of your fruit and /or vegetables and to see if you win a prize. I am aware that we have tenants on the site who originate from Romania, Africa, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Moldova, Poland or Bosnia Herzegovina to name but a few. It's good to see the different cultures and it would be great to see you enter the Village Show. I know some of you grow unusual, outstanding and exotic produce. So put it in the show so we can all see it!

It was very sad to hear of the passing of Fadil Jeletic from his family. Fadil was regularly seen at the allotment tending his plots 298 and 299.

If you'd like to attend his funeral please request details from a committee member.

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Village Show 2024

**Notice Board – Paths, Water Butts
Strimmer's, Machine Care
No More Credit!
Plot 53**

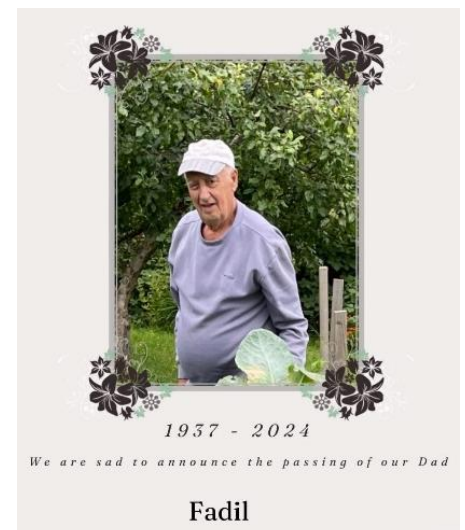
Our Romanian Plot Holders

Save our Bees

Indeterminate Tomatoes

Pest of the Week – Flea Beetle

Nettle Fertiliser and Insecticide





Saturday 31st August

It's that time of year again, time to start thinking about what you could plant to enter in the Village Show! Hopefully the weather may be better this year than the heatwave in 2022 which everyone thought would affect their entries but in fact we ended up with a bumper year for fruit and vegetable entries. Maybe we can do even better this year.

The people of the Village love to see what everyone can do and enjoy a sociable afternoon looking at the items on show, sharing a cup of tea and a slice of delicious home-made cake, winning a prize on the Tombola and even picking up a few home grown or home baked bargains in the auction at the end.

We even usually manage to raise some money for charity during the event, with profits going this year to Northampton Search and Rescue and C2C Social Action, two local charities providing help when it is needed. Representatives will hopefully be attending one of the Residents Association coffee mornings at the Bold Dragoon (on the first Monday of the month from 10.30 am) to tell you all about them.

Whatever your talents, there is something for you to enter, whatever your age, whatever your skill, from growing fruit and vegetables, flowers (or just picking them), cooking, (baking or preserving), to crafts and photography, for children and adults alike.

To start thinking about entering you will need to know what classes there are for this year. The 2024 fruit and vegetable class list is below. For the complete list of all classes click the link below.

To see the Village Show schedule click [schedule](#)

To see the Entry Forms click [Entry](#)

(You won't need these until the week before the Show)

To read the "Tips for Showing" click [Tips](#)

To read the Judging categories click [Classes](#)

Schedules and Entry Forms will be available shortly from either the Summer House (at any time), or the Hut/Shop on Sunday mornings.

Get Digging - Fruit and Vegetables

Classes 39 - 49 to be displayed on a white plate,

(Paper plates will be available with sand and raffia)

39. 3 onions
40. 3 carrots - tops trimmed
41. 3 beetroots - tops trimmed
42. 4 potatoes of one variety
43. 5 tomatoes - with calyx
44. 3 courgettes (same variety)
45. 1 cucumber
46. 5 beans, runner, French or broad (with stalks left on)
47. 3 dessert apples
48. 3 cooking apples
49. Tree fruit eg. Pears, plums peaches etc minimum of 3 of same variety
50. Bountiful Berries - bowl of one variety of edible berry fruits (including strawberries)
51. Silly shaped specimen of any fruit or vegetable
52. Unusual vegetable, surprise us with something rare or exotic
53. Largest pumpkin
54. Longest runner bean
55. Bowl of fruit to include at least 3 different kinds
56. Basket or trug displaying as many different coloured vegetables as possible

Notice Board



RULES AND PROTOCOLS FOR ALLOTMENT PATHS

There has been a few disputes about allotment paths recently. Here's a reminder of the rules for paths.

1. As you stand at the road end of your plot, the path on the right-hand side of your plot is your responsibility.
2. You are expected to maintain the path, keeping it clear and accessible. Grass, paved or wood chip paths are all acceptable.
3. The path should be no less than 75 cms wide.
4. No-one has ownership of paths, and all plot holders have the right to use all the paths for access around the site. Obviously, no one is allowed to go onto your plot from the paths.

Plot Numbers

Look after your plot number. If you don't have a plot number let one of the committee know and we'll replace it for you

Please keep it safe and try not to drive your car over it!

Water Butts – Butts for Plot watering

Please look after the water butt close to your plot. The water is provided for filling watering cans and buckets to water you plants and vegetables.

NOT for hand or tool washing and definitely not for soap.

Look after the lid it's generally been donated or made by a volunteer.

Remember to close the lid. This stops the formation of algae and blanket weed in your water butt and then doesn't block your watering can.

Machine Credit

We have had a few cases recently of tenants borrowing machines with the promise that they'll come back and pay later and then not honouring their promise.

This means we can no longer provide machines without payment at the time.

It's disappointing that these actions of the few have affected everybody in this way.

Strimmer's and their use

Here's some advice about the use of the strimmer's from the hut. The petrol strimmer's are good quality Honda machines. The cutting cord does need adjusting after hard use especially on tough weeds like dock.

Here's how to adjust the cutting cord:

Turn off the machine to access the cord spool.

To open the spool depress one of the 2 "lugs" on the cord dispenser See photo. Lift the cap. Then repeat on the "lug on the other side. This will allow the cap to be removed so the cord can be adjusted.

Please DO NOT use screwdrivers or chisels to lever off the cap as this breaks the dispenser.

If you need help ask another plot holder or a committee member.

We try to keep the costs of the machines reasonable so please look after the machines so we can carry on providing them.



Machine Care

I had to have my small rotovator repaired last week. I had left the old 2 stroke fuel in the fuel tank all winter. I'd used E10 unleaded petrol to make the 2 stroke fuel mix.

Now the trouble with E10 unleaded petrol in machines is it has 10% ethanol content. This means it absorbs water from the atmosphere, leading to condensation in fuel tanks. If the machine remains unused for long periods of time the fuel lines become hard and the carburettor filter and diaphragm corrodes. The result being that the machine will not start.

The answer is to buy E5 unleaded petrol for your machines and add fuel additive (Fuel Fit) to each tank of fuel. This will save you money in the long run.

Fuel Fit

- Keeps fuel fresh for up to 3 years
- Fuel Fit not only keeps the carburettor clean for easy starting but now also protects against the corrosive effects of ethanol
- Corrosion inhibitor that
- metal parts against harmful effects of ethanol-water mix



Plot 53 – Working Party

A working party recovered plot 53 as it had become totally over grown. Made up of committee volunteers the work took a couple of visits, a bonfire and a skip to remove the plastic, wood and metal waste.

BEFORE WORK STARTED



AFTER OUR EFFORTS



Our Romanian Tenants



We're lucky at Weston Favell to have a whole range of people from different countries as plot holders. This brings a whole range of new cultures to meet. This week's issue we introduce plots holders from Romania. Romania has a population of 18 million people and the capital is Bucharest.

Yes, Transylvania is in Romania. It's a large area in the centre of the country famous for its castles and fictitious characters!

Sarmale is considered to be Romania's national dish. These are cabbage leaves stuffed with a balanced mixture of rice and minced meat (usually pork or beef) and other vegetables and spices for a delicate flavour.

The tastiest are those slowly cooked in clay pots in the oven, covered with a little water, some cabbage brine for sourness, and some slices of traditional bacon for a tasty smoky touch.

Weston Favell Allotments has a number of Romanian plot holders. George, Gabriela, Vaz and Orlando to name a few. They take great pride in their plots and grow an interesting array of fruit and vegetables and adopt some different methods to us.

They grow lots of tomatoes, chillies and peppers. The peppers they like are a particular variety used to preserve called gogosari. Once preserved they can be sliced and added to a number of dishes such as composite rice salad with chicken or sliced beef added "Salat de Beouf".



The preserving recipe can vary depending on where in Romania you're from. Those south of Bucharest (Craiova) prefer preserving in salt whereas those in the west prefer vinegar.

One of the interesting things about the preserving recipes is the addition of raw peeled horseradish. This keeps the "crunch" in the peppers.



Remember to say Hi if you meet George, Gabriela, Orlando or Vaz!

Save Our Bees

It's no secret that Britain's bees are in trouble.

There's 35 species under threat of extinction in the UK alone, and all species face serious threats from overuse of pesticide, habitat loss, and a number of devastating diseases.



The good news is, there's changes we can all make to help support our incredible bees.

Our individual actions all add up. And by farming, growing and eating in more sustainable ways, we can create a brighter future for bees, one where nature-friendly habitat is plentiful, and farmers aren't reliant on pesticides to control pests.

Top bee-friendly flowers for a garden, allotment to get it buzzing with activity.

Choose flowers with an asterisk - they're native to the UK, so are more appropriate for local wildlife and insects.

1. Common poppy*

Poppies can bloom from early summer, right up until October – giving bees months of pollen.

2. Evergreen clematis*

These plants are great climbers – why not use them to brighten up a wall, or drape them over a pergola to provide shade during the summer?

3. Foxglove*

Bees absolutely love foxgloves, and on some days it seems like they're almost queueing up to crawl inside their many petals.

4. Nasturtium

Nasturtiums are easy to grow and come in many different varieties. For ultimate ease, make sure to buy a perennial variant to avoid having to re-plant each year.

5. Teasel*

Teasels are a 2 in 1 solution – bees love them when they're flowering, and birds such as goldfinches love them when they're seeding.



These illustrations below may help you identify just some of the most common bees.



Honey Bee, 'Apis Mellifera'

They live in mostly in hives and are not truly wild.

They like to eat: Herbs, apples and other orchard fruits, raspberry flowers and much more.



Buff-Tailed Bumblebee, 'Bombus Terrestris'

The Buff Tailed Bumblebee is a large species with dark yellow bands at the front of the thorax and middle of the abdomen.

Where they live: in lowland areas, underground, using old nests.

What they like to eat: Crops including potatoes, lavender and many flowers especially daisy like flowers.



Garden Bumblebee, 'Bombus Hortorum'

Garden Bumblebees have a yellow-black-yellow thorax, a yellow band at the base of the abdomen, and a pure white tail.

Where they live: Underground in and around grassy areas such as uncultivated fields and mossy areas.

What they like to eat: Foxgloves, clover, thistles, honeysuckle and blossom.



Common Carder Bumblebee, 'Bombus Pascuorum'

These big fluffy bees are the only UK species with all-brown (ginger) colouring and no white tail.

Where they live: They can live in urban or woodland settings and gardens.

What they like to eat: Gorse flowers, bluebells and foxgloves, dandelions, clover and fruit blossoms.



White Tailed Bumblebee, 'Bombus Lucorum'

White-tailed bumblebees have a bright yellow collar, a yellow abdomen band and a bright white tail

Where they live: commonly found in hedgerows and heathlands.

What they like to eat: Brambles, thistles and hedgerow flowers.

Tomatoes – Tomato seed comes in three types.

1. Indeterminate – single stem best to remove the side shoots
2. Determinate – bush type, no need to remove side shoots
3. Semi-Determinate – similar to determinate above, slightly taller, don't remove the side shoots

This feature talks about growing Indeterminate tomatoes.

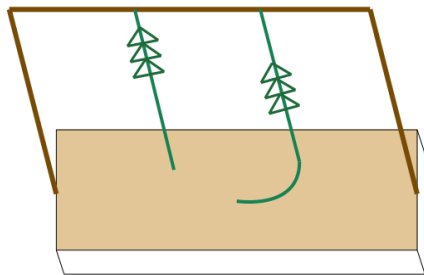
Growing Indeterminate Tomatoes

Indeterminate type tomatoes are best grown up stakes or strings as they need the side shoots removed. This means you get tomatoes over a longer period of time as the plants can be kept under control. As they grow the stalk can be tied to the canes/stakes or twisted round strings. The advantage of strings is that as the plants grow they can be twisted round the plant stem whereas with canes the stems will need tying in.

Once the tomatoes get to the top of the canes they are usually “stopped” by nipping out the growing tip. This speeds the growth and ripening of the existing tomatoes. But no more trusses will form.

Indeterminate type tomatoes are usually grown in greenhouses so when the tomatoes reach the eaves you could again “stop” the tomatoes as described above. Alternatively you can arrange the strings so you can “lower and slide” the string along. This extends the growing season until the weather stops the plants from growing. To do this you need to allow extra string and have a frame that makes it possible to unwind the string and “lower and slide” the tomatoes along.

I have raised beds either side of a central path in my greenhouse to grow tomatoes. In the middle and at each end of the raised bed I attached a frame that reaches to the eaves. See the image.



Indeterminate tomatoes only need 5 feet of leaves to grow and ripen the tomatoes. So once they reach the eaves or frame the lower leaves can be removed. This allows the stalk to be lowered and curved allowing the supporting string to be moved along the top of the frame. See my very poor picture! You can imagine the tomato plant on the left has grown to the eaves of the greenhouse. I can remove the bottom leaves and then lower the plant by adding or unwinding the supporting string and moving the plant to the right curving the stalk.

Sounds complicated but can be achieved fairly easily. It's more difficult to explain than to show. See the pictures or come and visit me on plot 18 to see.

Flea Beetle

Flea beetle is one of those nasty pests that is difficult to control. They're very small and tend to jump when you touch the infected plants. They usually infect brassicas and turnips.



Prevention

Natural Non-pesticide prevention is fine in hind sight but usually too late once you have them. Steps to prevention include:

Ensure rapid germination and development of seedlings so that they grow through this vulnerable stage quickly and are more resistant to flea beetle damage

Keep plants watered during dry spells and avoid sowing into cold soil

Cover seedling plants with insect proof netting to reduce damage by excluding adult beetles

- You can encourage natural predators to keep this pest in check, microscopic [braconid wasps](#) and [tachinid flies](#), which look like small houseflies. In both cases, the larvae stage feeds on the flea beetle, while the adults feed on nectar and pollen and are also important pollinators.
- If you want these good guys around, plant some flowers between your crops: umbels such as caraway, herb fennel, coriander and simple open flowers such as California poppies and pot marigolds, as well as yarrows.
- I'm also advised that a dusting of lime as the seedlings appear will deter them

Let nature do the hard work for you!

Try this homemade spray to control flea beetles: 2 cups rubbing alcohol (surgical spirit), 5 cups water, and 1 tablespoon liquid soap. Test out the mixture on a leaf of the plant, let it sit overnight, then spray the rest of the plant if you don't notice any adverse effects. Spray the mixture on the foliage of garden plants that are susceptible to these pests.

Dusting your plants with plain talcum powder repels flea beetles on brassicas, tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, and other plants.

Pesticide control

I personally haven't had much success with pesticides on flea beetle. I read the piece above about talcum powder and so I tried ant powder which they didn't seem to like.

Bug Gun -Needs several applications

On food plants ensure that the crop is listed on the pesticide label and that all instructions are followed, particularly those on harvest interval, spray interval and maximum number of applications

Westland Resolva Pest Killer Or Provanto Ultimate Fruit & Vegetable Bug Killer – Care needed
Plants in flower should not be sprayed due to the danger to pollinating insects

Inclusion of a pesticide product does not indicate a recommendation or endorsement by WFAA.

NETTLE FERTILISER AND NETTLE INSECTICIDE

Gabriella from Romania told me about her problem with flea beetle. She found the following articles about nettle fertiliser and insecticide that she was going to try. I thought it would be interesting to share. Unfortunately the nettle insecticide didn't cure the flea beetle but Gabriela says it worked well on the aphids on flowers and apple trees.



Nettle fertiliser and nettle insecticide offer environmental alternatives in organic gardening. They are easy to make, environmentally friendly, cheap and offer benefits for your garden. In this article we'll explore how to make them, and understand how to use them effectively.

Nettle Fertiliser

Nettle fertilizer is a nutrient-rich, all-natural plant feed that can enhance the health and productivity of your plot and garden. Here's some of the benefits:

1. **Nutrient-Rich:** Nettles are packed with essential nutrients such as nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, and trace minerals. These nutrients are vital for plant growth and development.
2. **Improved Soil Quality:** Nettle fertilizer enriches the soil with organic matter, helping improve soil structure, water retention, and nutrient availability.
3. **Natural Pest Deterrent:** The strong odour of nettle fertilizer can help deter some garden pests, reducing the need for chemical insecticides.
4. **Cost-Effective:** Making your nettle fertilizer is cost-effective and reduces the need for store-bought fertilizers.

How to Make Nettle Fertiliser

- Fresh nettle leaves (wear gloves when handling)
- A large container or bucket
- Water

Instructions:

1. **Collect nettle leaves:** Gather fresh nettle leaves during the growing season, typically in spring or early summer. Be sure to wear gloves to avoid stinging.
2. **Fill a large container or bucket with water.** The amount of water you need depends on the quantity of nettle leaves you have.
3. **Add nettle leaves:** Place the nettle leaves into the container of water. Use roughly 1 part nettle leaves to 10 parts water
4. **Soak the leaves:** Allow the nettle leaves to steep in the water for about two to three weeks. Stir the mixture every few days to aerate it.

Strain and use: After the steeping period, strain the liquid into another container. The resulting liquid is your nettle fertilizer. You can dilute it further with water (usually 1 part nettle fertilizer to 10 parts water) before using it on your plants

Nettle Insecticide

Nettle insecticide serves as an organic and eco-friendly solution for managing garden pests. Here's why it's important:

1. **Environmentally Friendly:** Nettle insecticide is a natural and chemical-free alternative to synthetic insecticides, reducing harm to beneficial insects and the ecosystem.
2. **Low Cost:** Making your nettle insecticide is cost-effective and sustainable, reducing the need for expensive commercial products.
3. **Effective Pest Control:** Nettle insecticide can help control a variety of common garden pests, including aphids, caterpillars, and mites.

How to Make Nettle Insecticide

Ingredients:

- Fresh nettle leaves (wear gloves when handling)
- Water
- Soap (organic, non-toxic)



Instructions:

1. **Collect nettle leaves** during the growing season, taking care to wear gloves.
2. **Fill a container:** Fill a container with water, using around 1 part nettle leaves to 5 parts water. For example, if you have 2 pints of nettle leaves, use 10 pints of water.
3. **Place the nettle leaves in the water** and let them soak for about 24 hours.
4. **Strain the liquid:** After the soaking period, strain the liquid into a spray bottle.
5. **Add 1 teaspoon of soap for every litre:** This recipe calls for "a few drops of organic, non-toxic soap" to the mixture. The soap helps the solution adhere to the pests and plants.
(Maybe normal liquid soap would do the job too)
6. **Spray on plants:** Apply the nettle insecticide directly to the affected plants, targeting the pests. Make sure to spray both the upper and lower sides of the leaves. Repeat the process as needed, typically every 7-10 days.

Credit and Thanks for contributions to this Newsletter edition go to:

Frances Woodley – Content adviser and contributor;

Carol Hill – Script Writer and Advice

David Walpole – Hut Suppliers and Growing Advice

Gabriela and George

Sue Wray – Village Show, Events

Trevor Berry Plot 18 – Editor

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WESTON FAVELL VILLAGE SHOW Schedule

Saturday 31st August 2024
St Peter's Church and Church Hall
Show open 2-4 pm
Auction at 4.15pm

Fruit and vegetables, flowers, cookery, handicrafts, photography and children's classes

Classes are open to residents of Weston Favell Village and Parish, those who work there, who attend a Weston Favell School, Pre-School or church or hold membership to any Club or Association based in Weston Favell and their children and grandchildren.

Entries to be staged between 10.00am – 11.00am Saturday 31st August
Entry Forms to be handed in by **Sunday 25th August**

Enquiries to Sue Wray 07704358700, susanmwrap@aol.com

Any profits made after costs are met will be donated this year to Northampton Search and Rescue and C2C Social Action two local charities providing people with practical support at times of crisis.

Rules and Regulations

1. Classes are open to residents of Weston Favell Village and Parish, those who work there, who attend a Weston Favell School, Pre-School or church or hold membership to any Club or Association based in Weston Favell, their children and grandchildren.
2. All entries are to be home produced and should not have been exhibited at this show before.
3. Exhibitors may enter no more than one exhibit in any one class.
4. The church hall will be open for staging from 10.00 am to 11.00 am on Saturday 31st August and will then be closed for judging until 2.00pm, after which the hall reopens to the public.
5. The judges' decision will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
6. The Village Show committee and the Church Hall cannot accept responsibility for the loss or damage to the property of any exhibitor at or in transit to the show.
7. Exhibits may be removed after 4.00pm. No exhibits may be removed before that time.
8. Auction of donated produce will be at 4.15 pm
9. Please indicate on your entry form if you wish your entry to be donated/not donated for the auction.



Weston Favell Village Show

Saturday 31st August 2024

At St. Peter's Church Hall



Entries to be staged between 10 - 11.00 am

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

Age and DOB (if under 16)

Age

Class Number	Class Description	Donate produce Yes/No

At St. Peter's Church Hall *Continue over page if more classes entered*

Any queries? Email susanmwrap@aol.com or phone 07704358700

**ALL ENTRY FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SUNDAY 25th
AUGUST AT LATEST**

Entry forms can be left at the church office in the church hall, (letterbox outside on wall), at the Allotment Hut, Sundays 10.00 am - 12.00pm, or delivered to Sue Wray 33, Ridgeway, NN3 3AP

Exhibitor's Name:

*Exhibitor's number (same for all classes entered)

*(to be allocated by entry officials)

Appx. 3 – Village Show 2024 - Tips for Showing Fruit & Vegetables [home](#)

Vegetable Section - This is for advice only

We will not disqualify any entry which does not conform

Remember, all produce should be clean and as free from pest damage or disease as possible. If you wouldn't eat it then don't 'show' it. (with the exception of the novelty classes)

- Make sure you leave yourself plenty of time to stage your entries. Judging **MUST** start at the specified time and when you're rushing mistakes will happen. The earlier you can get there the easier it is for the Committee also.
- Make sure you put the correct number of items in each class. Put in 4 tomatoes or 6 instead of the required 5 and you will be disqualified.
- Ensure all flower vases are topped up with water.* Make sure you enter your exhibits with the stewards and that you stick one of the numbered labels on each and every entry. Unlabelled exhibits will not be eligible for judging.
- If you have time and you know the variety of your exhibit by all means attach a label stating what it is e.g. Tomato 'Shirley'. It not only adds to the interest value for the viewing public but may (just may!) sway the judge's opinion if he cannot quite decide between 2 seemingly equal exhibits.

And if upon your return to the Show after judging you find that you have won a prize then well done! But if you haven't then don't despair ask one of the Committee for reasons why you might not have won and vow to do even better next year!

5 Tomatoes with green calyx

Should be well-matched, firm, round, richly-coloured and well-ripened fruits but not over-ripe. The green calyxes should be retained to 1/2" (1 cm) or so past the 'knuckle'. Display on plain paper plates with calyx uppermost. Cracks on the upper part of the skins caused by bright sunlight or 'ghost spots' caused by splashes of water are deemed to be faults so take care during the growing process. 'Flat' sides caused by resting against other fruits on heavily laden trusses are another 'fault'. Judicious thinning at the flowering stage can remedy this.

4 Potatoes of one variety

Select equally matched, medium sized tubers with shallow eyes. Should be well cleaned and free from skin blemishes. Stage on a paper plate with the 'rose' end facing outwards.

3 Courgettes

Should be young, tender fruits of good shape (straight if possible) and colour approximately six inches (15 cm) in length and one and a half inches (3.5 cm) in diameter. May be shown with or without their flower.

3 Beetroot

The day before the Show select uniform, round beetroot no larger than the size of a tennis ball, with a long, central tap- root. Wash with the soft side of a scouring pad under water to remove all trace of soil. If there is corkiness around the shoulder the rough side of a scouring pad can be used to carefully rub it away. Practice on a 'reject' first!!!

Appx. 3 –Tips for Showing Fruit & Vegetables ... cont. [home](#)

3 Beetroot ...cont.

Trim foliage back to about 3 cm. The judge will cut one of your roots at the Show to make sure there are no rings indicating that it has been watered irregularly during growth. Stage on paper plates, or straight onto the bench with tap-roots facing forwards

5 Beans

The beans should be exhibited with some stalk (the handle) attached. They should be straight and of equal length and uniform size. They should also be fresh and not coarse and stringy. The seeds should not be overly prominent in the pod (the judge will snap one of your beans when judging to check that they are fresh and not stringy). They should be of a good even colour and free from blemishes.

3 carrots of one kind

Should be long, tapering roots of good shape, colour and size, free from side roots and not green around the crown. Should be free of all dirt by carefully washing around (not up and down) with a soft sponge in plenty of water. Foliage should be trimmed to 3" (7cm) and they should be staged flat on the bench side-by-side. The best roots are grown above ground in drums of sand or pipes. If you would like to have a go at this method have a word with a committee member early in the year

3 Onions, trimmed, each less than 1 1/2 lb (675g)

Select uniform, round bulbs that are nicely ripened, evenly shaped about the centreline and not lop-sided, with firm but thin necks. This means harvesting at least 4 weeks before the show date. Avoid over-skinning after lifting, trim roots to the base, cut foliage off leaving 3" of neck, wipe clean, dry and dust with talcum powder. Store each bulb in sheets of newspaper until show day. Before the show make your selection of the best 3 from the stored bulbs, wipe off the talcum powder, tie the necks with raffia or string and trim neck to about 1 1/2" (3.5 cm) Display on dishes of dry sand or vermiculite. Make sure each bulb is less than 1 1/2 lb (675g).

(sand and raffia will be available for use on the day of the show)

2 cobs of Sweetcorn. They should be fresh and ripe but not over ripe and starchy. The ears of corn should be even, regular (in line) and fully formed over the whole of the cob. They should be exhibited with at least 1" (2 cms) of stalk attached and with the protective leaves (the husk) and dead filaments present. To present the cobs the outer leaves on one side only should be neatly peeled back and tucked under the cob to display a section of the ears of corn.

1 Cucumber

The Cucumber should be exhibited with about 1" (2 cms) of stalk attached and with the dead flower intact and still attached at the end of the cucumber. The cucumber should be fresh, straight and not over mature. They should have a short "handle" i.e. the thin end to which the stalk is attached. They should be blemish free and retain their natural bloom. Care needs to be exercised when handling them as this can remove the bloom as may washing.

Appx. 3 –Tips for Showing Fruit & Vegetables ... cont.

3 Dessert or cooking apples of one kind (and other tree fruit)

Select optimum sized shapely fruits with eyes and stalks intact and clear unblemished skins of the natural colour characteristic of the variety shown. Specimens should also be fresh. Ripeness of fruit is not so important. Stage on paper plate with eyes uppermost.

Basket or trug of vegetables

This class is all about the variety and quality of the produce and the presentation of it. The more different types of veg that you can pack in and the more attractively you can display it the better. Try scrunching up newspaper to pack the veg upwards (helps cut down on the weight also) but make sure you hide the newspaper through the gaps by using something like curly parsley. This is the one class where the judge will NOT handle each single vegetable (otherwise he would spoil your design) so that little bit of pest damage on the underside of an otherwise perfect spud can be hidden!

Appx 4 – Village Show 2024 Competition Judging Classes [home](#)

Fruit and vegetables, flowers, cookery, handicrafts, photography and children's classes

(If you've never entered before and you're not sure, ask any allotment plot holder, resident or other competitor and they'll all be happy to help.)

Budding Art - Floral Arrangement

Adults: Max space allowed 60cm x 60cm (2' X 2')

1. Foliage Frenzy – an arrangement made purely from foliage materials
2. Afternoon Tea – a small arrangement suitable for an afternoon tea tray.
3. Show Stopper – a bold arrangement that makes a statement

Children:

4. Floral Rainbow – create a rainbow with flowers
5. Countryside – use a range of natural materials to create a countryside walk. height 10cm

Here's One I Made Earlier - Handicraft Classes

6. A painting or drawing (any medium) people or animal
7. A painting or drawing (any medium) any subject, not people or animals
8. An item of patchwork/quilting/appliqué, not a bed quilt
9. A patchwork bed quilt
10. An item made from any type of yarn, wool, cotton, string etc
11. An item of tapestry, cross-stitch and/or embroidery
12. An item of woodwork
13. An item of paper craft
14. Lace Bookmark - New to Bobbin Lace (making for 2 years or less)
15. 'Wedding Lace'- (experienced lace maker of more than 2 years)
16. Any other item of craft (not mentioned above)

Blooming Marvellous - Plants and Flowers

17. One scented rose in a vase
18. A pot plant - flowering or foliage
19. A vase of 3 single stemmed roses, each of a different variety
20. Vase of mixed garden flowers, maximum 10 stems
21. An unusual plant, either flower or foliage
22. Any three dahlia blooms
23. An orchid plant

Truly Scrumptious - Home Produce - Baking

All items will be tasted for judging

24. Six plain scones
25. Six biscuits (recipe of choice)
26. Victoria sandwich (see recipe)
27. 6 decorated cupcakes
28. Ginger cake (recipe of choice)
29. Shortbread (recipe of choice)
30. Celebration cake (base of choice)
Please indicate the type of celebration)

Victoria Sponge Recipe

18cm/7" Sponge tin

150g (6oz) caster sugar

150g (6oz) butter or margarine



31. Loaf of bread any type (men only)

Preserves

32. One jar of stoned fruit jam
33. One jar of soft fruit jam
34. One jar of apple based jam or jelly
35. One jar of marmalade
36. One jar of lemon curd
37. One jar of chutney
38. One jar of pickled onions

Get Digging - Fruit and Vegetables

Classes 39 - 49 to be displayed on a white plate,
paper plates will be available with sand and raffia

39. 3 onions
40. 3 carrots - tops trimmed
41. 3 beetroots - tops trimmed
42. 4 potatoes of one variety
43. 5 tomatoes - with calyx
44. 3 courgettes (same variety)
45. 1 cucumber
46. 5 beans, runner, French or broad (with stalks left on)
47. 3 dessert apples
48. 3 cooking apples
49. Tree fruit eg. Pears, plums peaches etc minimum of 3 of same variety
50. Bountiful Berries - bowl of one variety of edible berry fruits (including strawberries)
51. Silly shaped specimen of any fruit or vegetable
52. Unusual vegetable, surprise us with something rare or exotic
53. Largest pumpkin
54. Longest runner bean
55. Bowl of fruit to include at least 3 different kinds
56. Basket or trug displaying as many different coloured vegetables as possible

Over the Rainbow - Children's Classes

Under 7 years

- 57. A painted pebble
- 58. A collage made from recycled materials
- 59. A model made of malleable material - play dough, plasticine
- 60. A picture in pencil, crayon or paint

7 - 11 years

- 61. Model from recyclable materials
- 62. 4 decorated cup cakes
- 63. A model or collage made of natural materials
- 64. A model made from Lego, meccano etc **NOT FROM A KIT**
- 65. Picture in pen, pencils, crayon or paint (mixed media) any size
- 66. A fruit/vegetable creature

11 – 16 years

- 67. A collage using magazine images, printed words, or a mixture of both
- 68. A4 page of graffiti art
- 69. 4 decorated cup cakes
- 70. Picture in pen, pencils, crayon or paint (mixed media) max size A4

Get Framed – Photography

Un-mounted max size 15cm x 20cm (6" x 8")

- 71. Adults - A favourite scene in Weston Favell
- 72. Adults - Dawn or Dusk
- 73. Adults - Abington Park
- 74. Open - Doors, gates or gateways
- 75. Junior (under 16) - Something special

For Weston Favell Garden Society members only

- 76. Best Fuchsia plant grown by a WFGS member from a given starter plant.