

Croxley Annual Home and Produce Show **Application for a regular annual bursary/funding**

Background History and Events of the show

'**Croxley Green Horticultural Society**' was founded in 1918/19. Support for this organisation is indicated by a list of Vice-Presidents, some 19 in total – one married women amongst 18 men. They were eminent people who lived in the district, in large houses and employed gardeners. For example: Sir Dennis Herbert K.C.B. MP; Colonel G.H. Goad; Major J.E. Payton.

Around this time Allotment Acts were established, so a first title change occurred. The words became: Croxley Green Horticultural & Allotment Holders Society. This brought about other developments. A Committee of practical gardeners was established. At one time this constituted: a Chairman; 19 Committee Members; a Secretary; and a Treasurer. (Seven of the Committee were married women, and the eighth married woman was the secretary.)

A further name change for the Society was proposed many years later at the AGM on 28th February 2003. A resolution from the Committee proposed that "The Society consider a name change from Croxley Green Horticultural & Allotment Holders Society to Croxley Green Gardening Club. Sid Johnson moved the resolution on the Committee's behalf. He pointed out that the Society was in a state of declining membership, with few people in younger age groups joining. It was thought that the title Croxley Green Gardening Club better reflected what many members, and potential members, could identify with. The term horticultural could sound too 'expert', and not everyone was, or wanted to be, an allotment holder. So these terms might actually make people think our Society was not for them.

A discussion found some members agreed with what was proposed, but others expressed regret. On being put to the vote the name change was AGREED 36 TO 2. The new name came into immediate effect.

For a number of years there was some stabilisation of membership numbers. All the functions of the Club continued – the Trading Hut, the Annual Show, and the social aspects of coach outings to stately homes and gardens, together with the monthly wintertime Friday evenings, with invited speakers on various topics of interest to gardeners. The Christmassy Evening became a highlight event: it involved active involvement by those present in relating interesting – and often amusing – tales of past Christmas events and poetry, along with musical quizzes and songs. It included warm mince pies and punch at the Interval – which also provided the chance to mingle and chat.

As the years progressed the Committee position declined in number. The Constitution specified up to 16 members, but despite regular appeals to members very few people came forward. And, with older committee members dying or moving away, the actual committee was down to 9 people. It was recognised at a committee meeting prior to the February 2014 AGM, that if the AGM failed to elect sufficient members to form a committee, the club would come to an abrupt end. The officers of the Committee were in their 80's and were reluctant to be nominated, feeling the time had come to 'hand over the reigns'

There was strong feelings that the Annual Show must survive, and a small group headed by John Jowers offered to run the September 2014 Annual Show. The arrangements already published in the Year Book would also be fulfilled – the Evening events to the end of March and the outing to RHS Wisley in June

After the successful initial development of the Annual Show, in terms of exhibit entries, the 'tapping into' new exhibitors younger age groups, and the willingness of people to take an active part in the organisation of the Show, The Cups and Trophies were seamlessly passed over to the Organising Committee; with the proviso that, if ever a time came when serious adverse situations threatened continuity, they should pass these Cups and Trophies into the custody of the Rickmansworth Museum to keep alive the history of the Annual Show in Croxley Green.

In 2015 the current name of the Show became the Croxley Green Annual Home & Produce Show. This clearly reflects the successful developments that have occurred since the Croxley Green Gardening Club was dissolved.

Focussing on the Annual Show and widening the range of show classes, has brought forward increasing exhibiter interest. The numbers exhibited have moved forward in each of the four years of this event. Whereas, in years just prior to 2015 it was attracting sometimes under 300 entries, there are now double this number of exhibits – 694 entries at the 2018 Annual Show - with 30 new exhibitors too.

Show Location

From the early period of the Annual Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show the venue was in the Dickinson Guild House. But this ceased to be available after it was burnt down in the early 1970's. The Annual Show then took place at Durrants School, until that was closed in the 1980's. St Oswald's Church Hall then became the venue until 2015, when it had clearly become too small for the growing number of exhibits. Yorke Mead School agreed to house the Show in 2016 and we have continued to use the venue. This more central location (nearly full-circle re location near Dickinson Square) seemed to have proved very popular and well accommodating to one and all.

Finance

It is unlikely that the show will ever become self-financing, in the past the show deficit was met by the profits from the Gardening Hut (ceased trading 3 years ago). For the last three years the show has relied upon successful grant applications each year and each show has shown a small surplus which meets the pre-show cost for the next show, e.g. cost of insurance, hall hire etc. At present the picture is further complicated by the need to replace the old wooden tables. The latest account statement is enclosed.

Summary

The show has now become a real community event, the latest Show attracted almost 700 entries and 30 new exhibitors. Schools are encourage to enter the Potato Challenge Cup and Scarecrow Challenge Cup, there are classes for children as well as adults, arts and crafts, baking., preserving and gardening classes abound as well as photography and flower arranging. All in all, it is a complete village show.

Funding is a constant worry and to have the security of an annual bursary from the Parish Council would remove the need for constant grant applications, which may or may not be successful.

The existing committee are resolved in their endeavour to ensure the show continues for many years to come. In that, we are seeking new and younger blood to join the committee.

Doug Flint
Treasurer
Croxley Annual Home and Produce Show

CROXLEY GREEN ANNUAL HOME & PRODUCE SHOW 2018

INCOME

Carried f/ward L/year	982.79	
Entries	145.00	
Raffle	442.50	
Teas	231.12	
Herts County Grant	1000.00	
P/ Council Grant	1000.00	
Barton Way Allotments	300.00	
Waitrose		
Donations	56.80	
Sale of Trestle Tables	360.00	
Miscellaneous (AGM etc)	9.89	
	sub-total	4528.10

EXPENDITURE

Printing and admin		
Prize money paid	187.10	
RHS Affiliation and insurances	210.00	
DF expenses	65.47	
JJ expenses	196.23	
RHS Entry Cards etc.	41.00	
Paper rolls/clips		
Hall Hire	200.00	
Judges Fees	100.00	
Raffle	0.00	
Crockery purchase etc. JJ	159.19	
Cups & Trophies Engraving	264.50	
Table purchase	2394.88	
Signage	0.00	
Miscellaneous (AGM etc)		
	sub-total	3818.37
	Surplus/Loss	709.73