Capel Horticultural Society

Chairman's Report 2021

It has once again been a very challenging year. The Society was again forced to abandon all plans for our regular events. No Spring Show; no Plant Sale and worse was to come with the decision that it would not be possible to hold our Summer Show whilst social distancing was still so important.

We thought it would be nice to do something fun for children to do during the summer holidays. We decided to hold a summer challenge accessed through our website which would be family friendly, involved lots of nature questions, art and crafts and that would give people something to do without having to leave the village. The Rapley family were the very deserving winners and enjoyed a day out at Bocketts Farm as their prize.

We organised our usual village litter pick in March which was well attended and with over 30 bags of rubbish collected. The overall bag count was less than previous years which was good news.

The Allotment Competition went ahead as usual. The judges were impressed with the quality of the entrants in the three categories: Whole Allotment, Part Allotment and Newcomer. Due to the increase in the number of classes it was decided to award garden vouchers and certificates instead of cups.

We do recognise that if the Society is going to grow as opposed to just surviving we will need to encourage more families with young children to enter our spring and summer shows. With this in mind we held a Pumpkin Pageant in the Parish Hall. We had absolutely no idea if anyone would turn up but in the end it was a great success. Thirty children in fancy dress arrived with carved pumpkins. They played games and completed a horticultural themed quiz and

everybody seemed to have a really good time. The hope is of course that by the time the spring and summer shows come round the children will remember that we are good fun and give decent prizes!

Our plant sale next year on May 7th will be slightly different but I think all the more interesting for it. We are going to be mainly selling plants that Society members have grown themselves; perennials, vegetables, herbs etc. I find home grown plant sales can offer great variety will all sorts of wonderful bits and pieces potted up from our gardens. Do let us know if you have any spare plants that we can sell and will be delighted to collect them from you or do bring them along on the day.

Dates for your diary:

March 12th Quiz Night

April 10th Spring Show

May 7th Plant Sale

August 20th Summer Show

Mandy Schryver