



RADLEY FLOWER SHOW



SHOW REPORT 2021

We were greatly relieved to have excellent weather for the Radley Flower Show on Saturday 26th June! Usually, the whole event takes place in the village hall, however, this year as many exhibits as possible were displayed in gazebos on the playing field. People were able to relax on the field, catch up with friends they had not seen for a long time, and enjoy participating in a family, community event again. There was also a skittles competition located on the veranda of the pavilion, which was very popular.

The theme of this year's flower show was "Japan and the Summer Olympics", which captured people's imagination. There were some wonderful cakes celebrating Japanese Cherry Blossom time – the winner of the best cake of the show was Lydia Haigh, who was presented with the Queen Elizabeth Cup (a large and rather beautiful trophy introduced in 1953 to mark the Queen's coronation). Carol Milward managed to borrow a genuine Olympic gold medal to include in her flower arrangement "the Summer Olympic Games", which won first prize. In the children's categories there were about 20 pictures of volcanoes (inspired by Mount Fuji), and many decorated rice cakes, Japanese fans and lanterns. The two scarecrow entries were outstanding – 8th Abingdon Rainbows had produced an Olympic canoeist and the Barker family an Olympic diver – and the judges decided they deserved to be awarded joint 1st prize of £10 each.

This year a new award was introduced – the Ann Blake Youth Award: for the young person who had participated in all the Youth categories and gained the most points. Ann was involved in organising the Radley Flower Show for 20 years and retired from the role of Chair following the show in 2018; she was delighted to present her award to the first winner – Elsa Forrow (aged 13), whose exhibits included a delightful miniature Japanese rock garden.

There was a lot of competition for the family cups – 14 families for the Harry and May Nye Family Cup (won by the Forrow family) and 10 for the Radley Primary School Family Cup (won by the Knox family). It was wonderful that a large number of people decided to enter the Radley Flower Show for the first time this year – we had 40 new competitors!

We are extremely grateful to the private individuals and local businesses and organisations who supported the 2021 Radley Flower Show (Radley College, Radley Village Community Shop, Wells Farm Shop and Café, Waitrose Abingdon, The Bowyer Arms, Claire Hair Fashions, Radley Primary School and many more): for freely giving their time and expertise, the loan of equipment, provision of printing and other services, donations of raffle prizes, etc. Thank you - we couldn't have done it without you!

We are in need of helpers to organise the Radley Flower Show 2022. If you are interested, please get in touch (radleyflowershow@gmail.com) – we need people to join the committee, and volunteers who would be happy to do a small task in the weeks leading up to the show or to help organise part of the event.

Dominique Henderson, Chair

Jillian Ashton, Secretary