



EAST AND WEST SUSSEX FEDERATIONS of WIs

SOUTH of ENGLAND SHOW 2014

'BLOOMING MARVELLOUS'

## JUDGES' COMMENTS

### Class 1. 'Kaleidoscope'

A wide ranging class and a very colourful one. Twenty entries including patchwork cushions, a child's dress, jewellery roll, basket & clock. Excellent examples of machine and hand stitching shown, particularly on patchwork cushions. The use of embellishments on some of the exhibits were in general, well executed.

### Class 2. 'The Gnome in my Garden'

The challenge in this class was for a suitable approach to the subject – as a children's story perhaps, as a straightforward account or as something more original.

Those who adopted the original approach generally produced some excellent results. The best examples suggested gnomes as real characters, as pets governed by the weather, even as a holder for an unloved husband's cremation ashes! One or two, however, were too far-fetched to be convincing.

As these were short stories, many entrants realised the importance of a 'punch-line', thus completing the story in an effective way.

A few entries were written in verse and these were amongst the least successful. Writing in verse can create problems and limitations, especially when trying to create lines which scan and rhyme.

Marks were given for presentation and most entries showed a high standard of illustration.

A very creditable range and standard of entries.

### Class 5. 'In the Shade'

A popular class attracting seventeen varied and colourful entries. Some delicate, other bold using a variety of craft techniques – handmade paper, felt, knitted and crocheted flowers, quilling, painting and embroidery. These parasols will make a stunning display in the marquee.

### Class 8. 'Glamour Girl'

Seventeen entries in this co-judged entry. A wide ranging class with varied techniques applied and materials used. Beading, felt, silver clay and very delicate tatting included. It is always difficult to completely 'hide' thread used when stringing beads and attaching fastenings but on the whole this was carried out well.

### Class 9. 'A Burst of Colour'

Hints and tips for planted troughs

Fill trough with good quality compost to within one inch from top.

Add slow release fertiliser or add liquid feed to water once a week.

Select plants suitable for the title of the class.

Plant up at least six weeks before the show date.

Dead head regularly.

Water when needed. A good tip is to gently lift the trough. If it feels light it needs water.

### Class 10. 'Cherry Ripe'

The cherry cakes were all to a good standard and what a great number of cakes. I do hope my comments have not put exhibitors off from trying again. Tips re not using liners and avoiding rack marks are included in On with the Show which would help exhibitors gain a few more marks.

I must congratulate you and your members on the high standard and number of exhibits in all your classes and the skills that went into to displaying these to their best. What a wonderful shop window for advertising the talents of and many opportunities there are within the WI. I am so pleased that the weather has also stayed so good so far.

#### *In answer to query about the winning cake:-*

So glad all went well with the show which was much deserved. Sorry to cause controversy re the winning cake. You were correct with your explanation re the queries you received. Flavour - how it tastes is the most important. Having checked my judging notes the only fault I could find with the cake overall was the uneven distribution of cherries. The external appearance was perfect, the texture good despite sunken cherries whereas a good number of other cakes with the same fault had texture faults as well and most importantly the cake had the best flavour representative of the recipe ingredients provided.

#### *and finally:-*

I am still able to eat cherry cake but had to laugh when towards the end of last week I went for coffee with a friend who had kindly baked a cherry cake!

### Class 13. 'From the Allotment'

#### Judge 1

A stunning class which I am sure visitors to the marquee will be amazed at – thirty baskets of 'home grown' goodness! What a variety of fruit and veg on

display and good use of small quantities of yarn which all knitters have in their stash. As ever with knitted items, exhibitors should take extra care when sewing up and hide ends of yarn. In this class it could have been very easy by taking yarn through the middle of the item, giving it a little 'tug', snipping off then returning fruit/veg to shape.

### **Judge 2**

You have a lot of good knitters in Sussex and most of the problems came from finishing off, ends not sewn in and untidy seams. In stuffing this sort of thing, if the tension is too loose then the stuffing shows through.

*Chairman's comment:- the visitors loved this class and all had their own favourite fruit or vegetable.*

### **Class 14. 'Garden Party'**

#### Invitation card.

Nineteen invitation cards – stitched, painted, cut-outs, 3D decoupage, calligraphy, computer generated inserts. There were some very original ideas here, notably the cut-out windmill inviting the guest to Windmill Cottage. Several exhibitors followed the butterfly theme giving overall consistency.

Once again this was an excellent schedule put together by the Show Committee giving members the opportunity to be creative using their various skills. Bravo!

#### Butterfly cakes.

I was impressed by all the many types of butterfly cakes as there were different sizes and interpretations to take into account. Although I did not mark for cases used or unused, I expect this might have added to the general mark for the staging. My main priority for the higher marks was a well risen light sponge cake with a good flavour. Also I was looking for attractive presentation with an adequate amount of buttercream between the 'wings'.

My highest marks were awarded to the butterfly cakes (with the bees on) which scored high in all these areas and were also quite dainty - there were variations in sizes but with so many different cases in the shops today you have to go with whatever you are presented with unless the size is specified. So overall some very good entries and I hope that my individual comments were of use to the various W.I members who took part."

### **Classes 13 & 14. 'What The Staging And Interpretation Judge Looks For'**

I was delighted to be asked to judge the beautiful co-operative entries in Classes 13 and 14 and was amazed at the variety of the exhibits. Class 13 *From the Allotment* and Class 14 *Garden Party* fitted in so well with the overall theme **Blooming Marvellous**.

It is essential that the sub-committee set up for organising a WI co-operative read the Schedule over and over again checking the wording to ensure that all specified quantities, dimensions, containers, numbers and overall sizing instructions in both general rules and individual class rules have been followed.

It is so upsetting for a judge when she arrives to find that some exhibits and/or individual items do not comply with the Schedule and consequently should be disqualified for being *Not according to Schedule*. As you are advised in the Schedule the WI On with the Show book is a vital tool to aid members with their exhibits.

### **With regard to the Interpretation -**

It is necessary that when the judge looks at the exhibit she can see immediately the theme which has been depicted and the focal point from which her eye should travel through the exhibits. The overall exhibit needs to be eye-catching and have the 'wow' factor! She has to consider if the choices of exhibits are suitable to interpret the theme and whether the accessories and staging aids have been chosen to enhance the presentation and not to overpower the schedule items.

**When considering Staging** - The first thing a judge has to do is measure the overall display to ensure that it complies with requirements of the Schedule. In the case of a display being exhibited in a container, the judge needs to check that the container is suitable. The overall layout of the display comes down to creating triangles. Flat displays are not good. Varying the height so that items can be viewed easily makes for a more interesting display. Tight grouping also works well, giving a crisper look to the display and this helps to concentrate the mind of the viewer.

The shape of items within the display and their relationship with one another are important. These are all points a Staging and Interpretation Judge has to consider:-

- Space between exhibits.
- How the mechanics have been made.
- Has the colour scheme been used appropriately and consistently throughout the exhibit.
- Has there been attention to detail and is everything in pristine condition.

Prior to the day, it is very useful to make mock-ups to see how your exhibit is progressing, as this enables members to check all of the above. It is vital to check the overall measurement again once the display is completed to ensure that flower arrangements, cloths or coverings etc., do not overhang the overall display area which has been stipulated by the Schedule. Finally, the Judge has to complete her comments. Please remember that this is extremely difficult to do, as essentially all judges wish to encourage WIs and members to go on to create **even** better exhibits. I am hoping that setting out a little of what a Staging and Interpretation Judge looks for, may help members when displaying their exhibit. Above all else - enjoy the experience of creating a stunning display.