



News

Baverstock

WILTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The autumn *fete* of this society took place on Wednesday last, and unfortunately cannot be said to have been successful, for as the weather proved very unfavourable, the "usual attraction" which were this year offered by the committee were more than counteracted. By the kind permission of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the show was this year held in the very beautiful grounds of the Palace; and the Dean and Chapter very kindly threw open the cloisters and Chapter House to visitors. Under ordinary circumstances, these would no doubt have themselves proved greatly attractive, but, with the drenching rain of Wednesday, it required more than ordinary courage to travel any distance for the purpose of visiting them. Very many lacked that degree of courage, and as a consequence the attendance was very much smaller than was to be wished, and the society have unfortunately suffered a very severe pecuniary loss. This is to be regretted in many respects, and it is hoped that the increased subscriptions will be amply sufficient to repay the loss sustained in carrying out such a laudable undertaking. Owing to the unfavourable season, too, or other untoward circumstances, the show itself was this day not so good as usual, the specimens being neither numerous, nor, with one or two notable exceptions, specially good. Indeed, in one or two of the marquees it was palpable that the specimens were "thinly spread to make a show," and it was a subject of general remark that there was a great falling off in the exhibition. All this however, might easily, and no doubt would, have been very different if the weather had been propitious even on the day of the *fete*, for doubtless several exhibitors declined to risk their choicest specimens by travelling with them in such weather, whilst many of the specimens which were brought could not be shown so perfect as they otherwise would have been; and even the committee were prevented from exerting themselves to supply the deficiency as they would have done under the influence of cheering sunshine.

Under all these depressing circumstances the *fete* must be regarded as even more successful than could have been reasonably anticipated; for in spite of the storm there was a good number of visitors, and the committee did the best they could, and even "angels can no more." Four large marquees, erected by Mr Naish, were devoted to the display of the various specimens exhibited, all of which were shown to the best advantage. The very excellent full-dress band of the 15th King's Hussars was engaged, with the permission of the commandant, Colonel Fitzwigram, and in the brief intervals between the showers, they did all they possibly could to enliven the scene by the performance of a very choice selection of music. Many of the visitors spent much of their time under the grateful shelter of the old cloisters, musing on the interesting recollections which they recalled of the past; and throughout the day the Chapter-house was

crowded with persons lost in wonderment and delight at the magnificence of its restoration. Amongst the visitors to the Palace were Lady Herbert, Lady Mary Herbert, Miss Gladstone, Earl Nelson, Count Strzeleski, Admiral Gawen, Mr Antrobus, M.P., Capt. Jarrett, &c. &c.

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The judges of the ladies' bouquets for the table were Mrs Anthony Hamilton, Mrs Hamilton, of the Palace, Mrs Eddrup and Mrs Brodrick. There were 12 competitors, and the whole of the specimens were really very beautiful, displaying much skill and taste in the design and arrangement of the charming flowers which most of them contained. For several years past Mrs George Wilkes has always been the most successful competitor in this department, and this year again she fully sustained her reputation, the specimen exhibited by her being one of great beauty. The prizes awarded for these bouquets were six in number, and they were distributed as follows;- 1st, Mrs G. Wilkes; 2nd, Miss L. Griffin; 3rd, Miss F. Corp; 4th, Miss Smith, Baverstock; 5th, Miss Griffin; 6th, Mrs P. Cother.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – Saturday 1 September, 1866)

SOUTH WILTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The annual exhibition of this Society, which took place yesterday, in the grounds of the Bishop of the Diocese, at Salisbury, was not so successful as on some former occasions, nothing being sent from Wilton House, and only fruit from the gardens of Lady Ashburton, at Melchet, where there is one of the finest collections of plants in the county. Nor was the attendance very large, the counter attractions of Weymouth races, and the shows of Sherborne and Keevil Societies drawing away many, probably, who would otherwise have been present. In the open class the principal exhibitors of plants were Sir F. Bathurst, bart., and the Rev. W. P. Piggott, of Bemerton, and some of the specimens, particularly of foliage plants, were remarkably fine. The chief prizes were taken by Mr Chard, gardener to Sir Frederick. In the amateurs' class, Mr R. Blake, of Winterbourne, showed a good collection of foliage plants, as did also Mr Gregory and Mr F. R. Fisher, of Salisbury. As usual Mr John Keynes stood pre-eminent with dahlias and roses, which latter, considering the season, were very good. There was also a good collection of asters. Mr Wheeler, of Warminster, being chief prize taker. The fruit stands were well filled, and the leading prizes went to Mr Chard, Mr Jones, gardener to Lady Mill, and Mr Cross, gardener to Lady Ashburton. The show of vegetables was likewise good; the potatoes were remarkable for both size and quality. The white blossomed ashleaf, King of the Flukes, Royal Albert, and Dodd's Eclipse were among the varieties that attracted most attention. The prizes offered to ladies for bouquets for dinner table decoration were again the means of brining forward a number of competitors. In the open class, first prize was awarded to Miss Griffin, of Salisbury, and the 2nd to her sister, Miss Lily Griffin, both of whose designs were very chaste and Beautiful. The third prize went to Miss Smith, of Baverstock. In the "consolation" class, the first prize was taken by Miss Harris, and the second by Miss Flower. The band of the Royal Marines, numbering 40 performers, was on the ground, and played an excellent selection of music at intervals during the afternoon, In the evening the committee gave a vocal and instrumental concert at the Market House, which was well attended, and must have "put money in their purse." The show will be continued today (Thursday), and this afternoon the prizes competed for last week at the Meeting of the Wilts Rifle Association will be distributed by Miss Bathurst. It is not likely, however, that

there will be a large attendance of visitors, for at the time we write there is every prospect of rough weather.

(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – Thursday 27 August, 1868)

WILTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The annual show of flowers, fruit and vegetables of this society took place on Thursday, in Wilton Park. Most of the principal classes in the exhibition having this year been thrown open to all England, the number of entries exceeded very considerably those of any previous year, and this, coupled with a liberal list of some 300 prizes, produced a display of horticultural products which for excellence and beauty could scarcely be surpassed. The *fete*, being held in the ever charming and attractive grounds at Wilton, could not do otherwise than draw a large and fashionable assemblage, the company present comprising not only most of the principal resident in Salisbury, Wilton, and the neighbourhood, but a large number of strangers, who had availed themselves of the cheap railway facilities afforded by the South-Western and Great-Western Companies on the occasion. The day was in every way propitious; a more delightful scene than that presented in the park on Thursday could not well be conceived, and never do we recollect to have seen the grounds and the charming Italian flower gardens in such excellent condition. The handsome mansion, too, the Shaksperian house, the ferneries, the picturesque Palladian bridge crossing the river, the ancient and magnificent cedars of Lebanon, and the lovely walks and views, all alike contributed to the interest and enjoyment of those present. The show was held in four capacious tents, erected on the grounds, and speaking generally, it may be confidently asserted that the stove and greenhouse plants were a credit to those who had raised and brought them to such admirable perfection.

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But there was another competition, which, from the number of visitors who thronged the tables, appeared to pusses peculiar attractions. This was for prizes for the best arranged bouquets for the decoration of the dinner table, ladies only being allowed to compete. There were twelve exhibitors, and each may be complimented for the exquisite taste displayed in the arrangement of the charming bouquets sent in. Lady Herbert very kindly undertook the delicate task of allotting prizes, the award being as follows:-

Class 1. – 1st prize – Miss L. Griffin, of Wilton-road; motto, “A thing of beauty is a joy for ever.”

2nd prize – Mrs G. Smith, of Bemerton; motto, “Flowers, of all created things, are the most simple and innocent.”

3rd prize – Miss Smith, of Baverstock; motto, “Viola.”

4th prize – Miss Harris, of Clarendon.

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(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – Thursday 26 August, 1869)

WILTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The exhibition of this society on Tuesday last, at Wilton Park, was one of the very best which has been held by the society for some years. We last year noticed that the society seemed to be recovering its strength, and we are now enabled to state that the show of Tuesday was, on the whole, admitted by the most competent to have been a great success. There was a very large number of specimens exhibited in all the classes. The plants were magnificent, and the flowers were particularly good, considering the dryness of the season. The show of fruit and vegetables was also far above the average.

The various objects were exhibited in four large tents, three of which were devoted to horticultural productions and the fourth to the paintings and drawings of fruit and flowers exhibited in competition for prizes offered by the Horticultural Society in connection with the Salisbury School of Science and Art.

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BOUQUETS FOR THE DINNER TABLE

Class A – 1st prize – Miss Leach, Castle-street, Salisbury; 2nd, Miss Bayspoole, Ford; 3rd, Miss Fitcher, Fovant.

Class B – 1st prize – Miss Rawlence, Bulbridge; 2nd, Mrs Norwood, Church Fields, Salisbury; 3rd, Miss Griffin, Wilton-road; extra, Miss Smith, Baverstock.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – Saturday 2 July, 1870)
