

The Hants D.A Show held at West Wellow village hall on Sunday 9th September



The flower section was quite outstanding.



John Kitcher scrutinises the shallots.



The collections weren't too bad either. Mark Read from Weymouth took the honour's for this class.



Nigel to Mark, 'You don't expect to win a prize with those flowers, do you'.



Star of the show, the long carrots exhibited by former National Carrot Champion and Hants D.A President Bob Brown. With assistance from his lovely wife Ann.



As well as Flowers and vegetables there was a good show of top fruit. 'Shame mine didn't win'.

The Hants D.A show is well known for the quality of the exhibits. This year was no exception. Well done to the committee and all those who helped put on this magnificent event.

Gardening with a difference

One of the areas I get involved in is protection of our countryside. Here I am helping to clear Himalayan Balsam from the Cadnam river as a member of the Hampshire and I.O.W Wildlife Trust.

It keeps me out of mischief and also takes me into areas that the general public would never see. A short while after this photograph was taken a Kingfisher flew straight down the river screeching its head off. I was obviously spoiling his fishing ground.



The Hot Summer on the Allotment

There were a few downsides to the hot summer, one of which was that my exhibition onions and leeks growing in the polytunnel at home virtually roasted in the heat. Those growing outside on the allotment did so much better.

I rarely have much success with outdoor tomatoes, mainly due to the early onset of blight. This year with no rain about, blight warnings were very few in our area of Hampshire. Consequently the tomatoes have done really well. These are 'Sakura' they are actually self seeders that sprang up in the greenhouse border where they were grown last year. My neighbour Ann, 'never one to waste an opportunity' potted up about 50 of the plants. As I had no room to grow them in the greenhouse I took a chance and planted out half a dozen in the old Pot Leek raised bed. 'Didn't they do well'.



I now have almost 20 varieties of tomato to grow for 2019. I think the Hants D.A plant sale is going to be somewhat overwhelmed next year.

Ann is a great one for a bargain. Last weekend at a local Garden Centre she found a load of seed packets reduced to just 50p each. Many were F1 seed.



On plot number 2 just in from the allotment gate, David set up a bench for any veg surplus to requirements. Anything and everything finds a new home.

Just lately high winds have become a problem, what with the tail end of the hurricane hitting our shores.

It was time to check that all the



stakes supporting the sprouts and purple sprouting broccoli were secure.

The ground around them was still quite dry. So I gave each plant a good watering and then a feed with high nitrogen. In this case I used Chempak No 2.

I didn't start the sprouts off so early this year, they are normally ready in late September from a mid March sowing. These were sown in late March. The variety is **Montgomery** backed up by my favourite sprout **Cascade**.

The French Marigolds have kept off most of the white fly.



The little gem lettuce have just about finished, so its time to sow some winter hardy lettuce varieties. Also I shall be sowing **Rocket** and some true spinach in tubs in the polytunnel. They will liven up our winter salads.

My late cauliflower and calabrese plants are ready to plant out. They will be set out under hooped netting with a liberal sprinkling of slug pellets.

Before I do the ground will get an application of Perlka fertiliser and a handful of 6X concentrated manure to each square yard of soil.

Photos of that will appear in the next article.

In a couple of weeks.

John Trim