



Above: Entries for Section E: vegetables

AN exhibition showcasing fresh produce, flowers and baking skills is not a new one. On April 17 1849 the first General Improvement Society Show took place in the Falkland Islands. 175 years later the enthusiasm and expertise has not dwindled and the Horticultural Society organised a magnificent display on Sunday afternoon.

Chair of the organisation, Jo

Summers, said that entries were up by 21% on last year, the busy weekend had not put entrants off, and the cut flowers were especially good despite the rubbish weather of late.

The legendary Clara McKay, who celebrated her 100th birthday last year, took first places in the jam and the 'saucer of 10 cherries'.

First time entrant Mark Brook took a first for his wholemeal bread,

"It's the first time I've used the breadmaker. We've had it ages but its been gathering dust," he said.

Last year, Roger Edwards and his daughter Emma Brook had a "bake off" with a Victoria sponge in which Emma was triumphant. This year Roger took the top prize for Cornish pasties and Emma had to be content with second place. But what was his secret? "Age," chipped in Emma

before Roger could reply.

"Using the right mixture of butter and lard for pasties," Roger said, "and getting the crimp right along the sides so it looks like a rope."

Roxi King-Clark took a first prize for her rhubarb, coming from a plant that was first set by her grandparents, Joey and Gladys King. Roxi hadn't entered anything for several years and was pleased with



Children's Rocky Road: first prize for Hikari

Horticultural Show 2024



Top, L-R: head to head on pasties; Barnes and Biggs hens take first prize; Clara McKay's cherries. Below L-R: Emma Brook's sugarcraaft; Roxi's rhubarb

her result. In the Battle of the Blackcurrants, Mark Pollard (currently an MLA) took second place to Barry Elsby (former MLA). The blackcurrants shared a lineage as Mark had taken cuttings from Barry's a few years ago. New gardeners may be surprised at the ease in which they are grown: "I've got them in a poly-tunnel, in the ground and they look after themselves really," said Mark.

"Just cut them back at the end of the growing season."

The number of entries for the vegetable category was down on last year, however the number of entries for fruits had nearly doubled.

Overall winner in the Children's section went to the Pastfinders. The Haskard Challenge Cup for most points overall, went to Diana Aldridge.



The Watch Group goes to Little Creek Farm

ON the Weekend of February 10-11 the Watch Group (Falklands Conservation Youth Group) and their families headed to Little Creek farm for their annual camp. Kindly hosted by Emily and Mark Gilbert the children and their families enjoyed a range of activities related to conservation and nature. The weather was kind to us allowing us to have a packed schedule of outdoor activities.

This year a competitive element was introduced with families being split into teams and competing for the chocolatey prizes on offer at the end of the weekend! After pitching the tents the first activity was carrying out a habitat assessment as developed under the FC peatland wetland project which has been introduced to farmers for potential use for the responsible wool standards. The children and their families then tried their hands at rockpooling discovering a number of weird and wonderful creatures. The groups then headed off on a wildlife walk to see which team could spot the most species. The highlight of this was a group of Sei whales blowing just off the shore. On return to camp three of the watch group members (Xenia, Rose and Katie) ran a treasure hunt for the other members of Watch Group. This was followed by a delicious barbecue and roasted marshmallows.

On the Sunday the group headed off to a different beach where they were greeted by a colony of gentoo



Above: The Watch Group. Left: The winning team. Above right: Rockpooling on the beach. Right: Nature art - a rockhopper penguin



penguins. The teams then set off to clean the beach with points being awarded for the team that collected the most rubbish. This was followed by a nature art competition with each team creating a work of art using the natural materials found on the beach. After lunch by the beach there was time for a quick scavenger hunt before heading back to take down the tents, tot up the points and

reward the winning team with chocolate! Everyone then headed home happy but exhausted! Many thanks to the hosts, sponsors, volunteers, parents, and WG members who together enabled this event to happen.

If you would like to learn more about the Watch Group and the activities that they run please email Glenn Welch on Outreach@conservation.org.fk **G Welch**



Clockwise from left: 191 entries for cut flowers; Clara McKay's jam; Mark Brook's wholemeal loaf

