

City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association – Awards Evening 2019

September is here again and with the end of the Allotment year comes our annual Awards Evening, which was held 9th September, at Centre 'E' in Barton Road, Ely. This is the time when we recognise and reward the efforts of several tenants for the exceptional work done in tending their plots.

This our main social event of the year where, apart from the presentations and the talks, the tenants get a chance to chat, during the refreshment break, with others and discuss the good and bad of the last twelve months and hopefully find solutions to any problems they have suffered.

As usual we had two talks during the evening, the second was given by Ken Brown, our Vice Chair, on the new regulations concerning 'Rodent Control', fortunately, this is a problem for only one of our sites. However, as this site is low lying fen land, with a high water table, it is only possible to use snap traps, within locked boxes, to avoid any pollution of the surrounding water courses.

The second, illustrated, talk was given by Catherine Dawson, from Melcourt (Garden and Landscape), a company which specialises in the production of peat-free composts and mulches. This subject is very relevant to growers as there is an intention to ban all peat-based products by 2025.

There were the usual overall cups and certificates together with trophies for the best plot on each site, the two smallest sites being amalgamated for this award.

Following on from last year the special achievement award, decided by the Bridge Fen Site Reps, was presented to Diane Scott because, despite being a relative newcomer, they have already the makings of an immaculate plot and will surely be challenging for the top award in a few years.

We would, again, like to thank Jeff Barber, London Area Representative for the NAS, for doing the judging back in July, and are very sorry to hear him say that this will be his last year carrying out the task. We wish him the very best for the future.

The Worshipful Mayor of Ely, Councillor Mike Rouse, attended the evening, and we were extremely grateful to him for presenting the prizes, again we thank him for his support as it could be his last year in the position of Mayor.

The winners were as follows:

A J Fenn Cup (for the Best Allotment in Ely) - Joint winners – Colin & Olive Bowles (New Barns),
Stewart & Teresa Bye (Bridge Fen)

Third place certificate – Vala Carter (New Barns)

Holden-Rolfe Cup (for the Best Small Plot) – Gareth & Bev Owen (Upherds Lane)

Second place certificate – Valerie Sims (Upherds Lane)

Third place certificate – Trevor Brown (Upherds Lane)

Michael Unger Memorial Cup (for the Best Newcomer) – Richard & Svetlana Hayes (New Barns)

Second place certificate – The Dalton Family (Bridge Fen)

Joint third place – Diane Scott & David Watts (Bridge Fen)

and - Fil & Til Utting-Brown (Bridge Fen)

The trophies will be retained by the winners:

Jack Clarke Trophy (for the best plot on Bridge Fen) – Stewart & Teresa Bye

Maurice Hobbs Trophy (for the best plot on New Barns) – Colin & Olive Bowles

Nigel Clarke Trophy (for the best plot on Upherds Lane) – Gareth & Bev Owen

Jack Kemp Trophy (for the best plot on Back Hill & Canterbury Ave.) – Lisa Harbinson

Peter Merton Trophy (for Outstanding Achievement on Bridge Fen) – Diane Scott

(Photographs of the event by kind permission of the Ely Standard)

The photographs show Stewart and Teresa Bye receiving the A J Fenn cup, unfortunately Colin and Olive Bowles, joint winners of the cup were unable to attend.

A group photograph of all the award winners.

A photograph with Catherine Dawson, who gave the talk on peat free growing.

Graham Bond, Chair, City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association