

RUSLAND SPRING SHOW 2019

Report from the John Walton, Chairman, Rusland Reading Room

This year's Rusland Spring Show was graced by two dry and bright days and, along with the high standard of entries, made for an excellent weekend in the heart of the valley.

Prize winners this year included Gordon Wilkinson, who, for the first time in 26 years won the Best in Show trophy, along with first prize for his bulbs. Congratulations to Gordon, whose commitment, skill and enthusiasm remains a lasting benefit the show. A list of all the prize-winners is as follows:

- Gordon Wilkinson, Best in Show Trophy
- Nicky Fletcher trophy for Best Flower Arrangement – Nicola Tickle
- Elsie Wilkinson trophy for Home Produce – Anne Robinson
- Chris Benefield Memorial Prize for Arts – Joyce Carron
- Thelma Kellgreen Memorial Trophy for the schools classes with most points – Hawkshead Primary School.

Thanks must also go to our sponsors this year, who enabled us to provide a range of children's activities and stalls. These include: Rawdon Smith Trust who supported Little Beasties, Glaxo Smith Kline for the face painter, owl sanctuary and marquee cost, Cumberland Building Society for the Owl and Scavenger hunt, as well as indoor children's activities and Hill Top Garden Centre for the Cress Heads-making

It was encouraging to see so many younger competitors in the children's section, so a big thank you to local schools Hawkshead, Penny Bridge and Levens and their teachers for their support. Our biggest and most heartfelt 'thank you's' must go to the exhibitors who contribute their creative, horticultural and culinary talents for visitors to marvel at. It is your loyalty that keeps the show such a welcome valley tradition. This is not to overlook the contributions of our stallholders, judges and other volunteers: we couldn't do it without you.

The Rusland and Satterthwaite Women's Institute provided sterling service in the kitchen – delicious snacks and wonderful home-baking. It would take a stern resolve to visit the kitchen without tasting something.

Entertainments at the Show included the wonderful voices of Satterthwaite Choir, the Rusland Hand Bell ringers and we were delighted to welcome Barrow's Owl Sanctuary and Ulverston's Little Beasties.

We also welcomed, hopefully not for the last time, Rusland Horizons and their amazing staff and volunteers.

Finally, a huge 'thanks and well done' to Linda Clough, who organised this year's show, with some guidance from David Hoyle and other committee members. A terrific job Linda – on behalf of the Rusland Reading Rooms Committee I'd like to express our deep gratitude.

A massive £1850 was raised in support of Rusland Reading Rooms, your local community hall.