

Chilli competition Summer 2023

This year we replaced the traditional sunflower competition with one that everyone could have a go at, even if there was only a windowsill available for growing; so, at the Coronation event we sold lots of small chilli plants (all the same variety) and asked people to bring them back to be judged in September.

The judging took place on a beautiful afternoon accompanied by cakes that incorporated chillis in them.

The local judge, Susie Bass, was faced with a dilemma over the biggest versus the one with the best formed chilli to the one with the potential to produce the most chillis; but Peter and Judi won with their impressive plant.

Suzy gave several useful tips on growing chillis and the consensus was we should run the competition again next year.



WINNERS JUDI AND PETER GLADMAN AND JUDGE SUSIE BASS

A Bit of History

Did you know that the original SSRA was formed over 50 years ago and was called the St Stephen's Road and Close Residents' Association and ran from the Causeway to the Beverley, including St Stephen's Close?

The Association was formed to fight the massive road changes that were planned for the area. In this, they were successful but lost out on the building of the Kingsmead Housing Estate which had been designated as a green open space.

Over the years, things changed with the influx of students and buy-to-let homes and membership decreased to a very low point. The remaining members did not wish to let everything they had achieved to waste, so they contacted Pauline. She took it on, resulting in the vibrant Association we now have.

Ron Waters

[Note that Ron and Sue Pratt are still on the committee and have been instrumental in the development of the RA. Pauline.]



MORRIS MEN IN ACTION



THE GARDENING STALL



PHILLIPA DAVIES, THE MOST GLAMOROUS



ENJOYING THE CAKES AND THE MUSIC



CAKES FIT FOR A PRINCESS



FELICITY TASKER SORTING OUT THE DONATIONS

Since the day the date was announced, the thought of relying on the weather in early May was on all our minds but it was fine, a perfect day for a celebration.

Tours of the church and the churchyard were popular, as were the self-guided history walks devised by Bob Britnell. The Manwood Almshouses were open to visitors who loved the tranquillity of the open space. Then there were the Morris Dancers who entertained a good crowd of enthusiastic supporters with their sticks and batons.

The League of Friends of Kent and Canterbury Hospital provided a wonderful tea, and

the hall was packed throughout the afternoon with everyone enjoying the live music provided by James Taylor, Mel Dawkins and the Knock Turns band. Many members contributed to the bric-a-brac and toy stall, and the book stall and we raised £210. 64 for the Food Bank as well as contributing a huge box of groceries for Lily's Kitchen. The plant stall, organised and manned by the Garden Interest Group, garnered a great deal of interest at the perfect time for planting and planning new beds and borders.

The celebration was made possible by the wonderful volunteers who did all the

background work – setting up the hall, litter picking before and after, stewarding the hall, making cakes, organising the Road Closed signs, clearing up and donating all the books and bric a brac that became someone else's treasured items. Thank you, all of you.

This was a true community event that included our own Residents' Association, St Michael's Road and Area Residents' Association, The Women's Institute, St Stephen's Church, the Manwood Trust, and The League of Friends of Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Everyone contributed and enjoyed a very happy afternoon. PW

The weather was perfect!