

# **DIGGING FOR VICTORY**



**WHEATLEY  
VILLAGE PRODUCE  
ASSOCIATION  
1940 - 2010**

During the year 2010, Wheatley Village Produce Association (V.P.A.) celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation during the Second World War. During those seventy years, the Village Produce Association has served the local community well in a variety of ways and is now probably the oldest established organisation in Wheatley. No records are available from the early years of the Association's existence but I have been able to locate a few small minute books from the 1950s onwards and have enjoyed reading about their many successes and a few problems.

While some of the earliest activities such as the Annual Show and Dinner remain, more social activities are now enjoyed by members such as the annual day trips to gardens of note or large horticultural shows and a year-long programme of events and lectures. Recent years have also seen the introduction of holidays where members can mix horticulture with pleasure in the company of like-minded friends.

I first got involved with the V.P.A. shortly after I moved to Friday Lane in about 1980. One afternoon I had a knock on my front door and was pleased to see Mr Anson who asked if I knew how to prune my apple trees. I did not, but Mr Anson got to work with secateurs and showed me what to do. After it was finished he invited me to join the V.P.A. where "I would learn all about gardening". In those days the monthly meetings were held in the United Reformed Church Hall only a few yards away from where I lived, so I went and thoroughly enjoyed the meetings. I was encouraged to join the committee and I have been a member virtually ever since, except for the time when work commitments made it impossible for me to attend. Then, as now, we had some very good lectures, often with slides, which as well as improving my gardening knowledge were most enjoyable. Following the lectures we had tea and biscuits, all very civilised but of course there was always the washing up to be done.

Having been a committee member for many years now, I find that similar problems have to be met by each generation. I refer particularly to maintaining membership numbers, providing an attractive programme of events to cater for the needs of all our members, future planning and of course achieving all this within budget.

Reading the few available records is like reading a "Who's Who" of Wheatley with so many local names sadly many of whom are no longer with us. Wherever possible I have avoided mentioning names except where necessary in the narrative. So many people have given generously of their time over the past seventy years, to found and run the association and it would be unfair to single out those known only to me

Having gained immense pleasure from being a member of the V.P.A. for many years, I am pleased that I have been able to play a small part in its continued success.

I have only just started to scratch the surface of the story of the V.P.A. over the past seventy years but I hope you will enjoy reading this short history and that it will evoke memories for members and perhaps more information and pictures for another edition. I am grateful for the help I have received from many people in producing this history and in particular Marian Darkin, Margaret Axford, Kath Hillsdon, Veronica Lancashire and John Fox for his encouragement.

The Association seems to go from strength to strength, maintaining the original objectives of the founders but always striving for new ways to serve the membership. It would be remarkable if the V.P.A. could continue for another seventy years and I think this is quite possible, as the basic reason for its very existence will continue - the need to grow food.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the varied programme of events that the committee have planned to celebrate our seventieth anniversary.

John Allmond, Vice President, February 2010

### Wheatley, Holton, Forest Hill and Shotover Horticultural Society

Long before 1940, there had been a Wheatley, Holton, Forest Hill and Shotover Horticultural Society in existence from at least the late eighteenth eighties and well into the twentieth century.

The only evidence I have found about this earlier society is from a show schedule for their "Nineteenth Annual Show" on the afternoon of Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 1907 in Westfield. More than just a simple horticultural show it was probably more akin to the one-day show now held in Thame in September each year, although probably not on quite the same scale. These events must have been a welcome highlight in local villager's lives. Marquees were erected on Westfield for the show to house the exhibits. A band was hired and there was bowling for a pig (a real pig was provided at a cost of £1) as well as sports, sideshows and roundabouts. This took considerable organisation, as confirmed by the Secretary's salary of three guineas and a postage bill of eight shillings and sixpence, at a time when a letter only cost around one penny to post.

In the horticultural show, then as now, there was a wide variety of classes, covering vegetables, fruit and flowers but it is interesting to note that unlike today, when all entrants are amateurs, certain classes were open to gentlemen's gardeners and gardener's assistants while others were open only to cottagers. In the vegetable classes, twenty-three classes were open to professional Market Gardeners only. It is clear from this that the show was a prestigious event including all of local society. Prize money for most classes was two shillings (10p.) and second place received one shilling and sixpence (7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p) although there were a few exceptions when both higher and lower amounts of prize money were available. The "collection of vegetables" class, where exhibitors had to show at least six varieties and no more than ten kinds carried a first prize of seven shillings and sixpence (37<sup>x</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p) and also that year a special prize of a spade, given by Messrs Eagleston and Son, Ironmongers, Oxford. This class must have required a tremendous amount of hard work to find so many exhibits in prime condition for the show table. The highest amount of prize money was for cottagers allotments of not more than 20 poles, where prizes ranged from ten shillings (5Op) for first down to three shillings (15p) for fifth prize, with an additional prize of a rake and hoe for the first prize winner presented by the Oxford ironmongers Kidman and Watts.

The Society balance sheet for 1906 showed receipts and expenses to balance at £35- 10-5d. Society rules stated that subscribers of more than one shilling and upwards shall be considered as members and be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Horticultural Society. In 1906, 67 subscribers paid a total of £20-8-0d. The list of subscribers contains prominent local people's names from the time and names of several families still living in Wheatley. The show secretary was Mr A. Sheldon and three other Sheldons appear on the list, including Mr W. Sheldon, who later became a founding member of the V.P.A. in 1940.

I have been unable to establish when this society ceased to exist but I suspect that the First World War must have curtailed its activities, as the war took so many young men away from the countryside. Even in those far off days prior to the onset of war, much of our food was imported and continued to be for some time despite terrible loss of shipping. I believe that local growers, both amateur and professional, not involved with the war effort had to concentrate their efforts on producing food for the table.

### Dig for Victory

There was a huge reliance on imported food at the start of the Second World War. In 1939 approximately fifty-five million tons of food was being imported annually from other countries, mainly Canada and the USA. Although food continued to be imported throughout the war, sometimes at great cost to shipping, the government introduced three schemes to reduce our country's reliance on imports. 1. Food rationing was introduced which restricted the amounts available to everyone. 2. A review of farming methods was held and modernised methods were adopted to increase yield using the Women's Land Army to provide labour lost to the armed services. 3. The "Dig for Victory" campaign was introduced to encourage those at home to grow more for themselves.

In a rural community such as Wheatley, this may have seemed unnecessary but for urban city dwellers, it was a very different story as many people did not have access to land for growing food and probably in many cases did not know how to anyway. The population at large were exhorted to take up allotments and any other available land to grow food and make use of their private gardens if they had them. With so many men mobilised for the war effort, a lot of this work would have to fallen to women and children.

Lord Woolton had been appointed Minister of Food in 1939, and he spearheaded the Dig for Victory campaign, which saw not only private gardens but public ones as well, turned into allotments growing fruit and vegetables and in some cases keeping animals. In Wheatley, some areas put to use were 'The Bishops', now Mill View Garden centre, land between the Windmill and Shotover view, Littleworth and what is now the Merry Bells car park, To encourage and educate the population, an

estimated ten million leaflets were produced during the course of the war and issued to gardeners, old and new, on what to plant, and when, and how best to store and cook the harvest they had grown. This was reinforced with advertisements in newspapers and magazines with wartime recipes and tips on how to make food taste good. Radio broadcasts by Mr Middleton "The wireless gardener" added to the general horticultural knowledge with information on what to do and when, as well as tips on how to achieve good results. The Dig for Victory campaign was a great success with nearly one and a half million people keeping allotments by the end of the war. Between 1939 and 1945, imports of food were halved and the acreage of land used for food production was increased by eighty percent.

### The Village Produce Association

The name Village Produce Association, of which there were a large number around the country, came from, Dr Irwin, Oxford University Professor of Agricultural Economics. In 1939, the Government had asked Dr Irwin to organise the Dig for Victory campaign in Oxfordshire and increase food production.

In 1940, a London headmaster Mr Ernest Knowles, was evacuated to Wheatley with a group of his schoolchildren, and he took up residence in Crown Road. Soon after his arrival, he founded the Wheatley Village Produce Association and formed a committee with Doctor Orchard, the local GP, as President of the Association, and Mr W. Sheldon who later became the Show

As can be seen from the photographs taken in 1952 (previous two pages) Wheatley was a much greener place as much of the housing we know today had yet to be built. The allotments behind St Mary's Church and the fields adjacent to the primary school in Church Road as well as the cultivated land now Templar's Close and allotments alongside the railway line made for a greener Wheatley. Major building projects such as Beech Road and the new school and housing in the Littleworth Road area were years away. Wheatley must have provided ample space for residents to turn into allotment gardens to produce food for the war effort.

In an era when the Garden Centre that we all take for granted as the place to purchase our garden supplies and the supermarkets that sell everything today, had not made their presence felt, the V.P.A. acted as a broker to provide seeds, seed potatoes, fertiliser and later peat at the reduced rates that bulk purchasing could provide. There are no records available from the early days of the V.P.A. but I have been able to trace some records back to 1953. The earliest account for seed potatoes and fertilisers amounted to just over £99. No records of quantities are available from that date, so I am unable to say how much could be purchased for that sum of money but it must have been a lot. The committee meeting minutes in February 1958 show that 77 pounds of Majestic and 90 pounds of Aran Pilot seed potatoes remained unsold. This appeared to be many potatoes potentially going to waste. However, to put this into perspective the following winter an order for 54\*/2CWt of seed potatoes (nearly two and three-quarter tons in weight) had been purchased and Dr Hassall offered to store them in his stables prior to distribution to members. This clearly indicates that members were more than self-sufficient, at least in potatoes.

The earliest documents I have been able to locate are the committee minutes from the 1950s, long after the formation of the Association, but these give a fascinating insight into the Association's past and how it differed from the current activities. In the beginning, the need to grow more food was the primary objective of the organisation and achieved with help and guidance from the Oxfordshire and National Federations of Village Produce Associations, formed at the same time, to assist local village organisations with their task. Help was given in the bulk provision of seeds and seed potatoes for local distribution. The government played a major part with their highly effective poster campaigns and ensured that an allowance of forty-two pounds of the newly developed artificial fertiliser "National Growmore" was made available to each allotment holder to boost yield. National magazines were keen to be involved and printed practical tips, in some cases even providing prizes or certificates for winners in the horticultural shows. Lectures and slide shows of the type that we associate with the V.P.A. seem not to have existed to the same extent as they do now. Instead, in the winter months, there were whist drives and quizzes on horticultural topics to pass away the time until spring arrived.

In the 1950s two headmasters, Mr Glen Evans and Mr Fred Anson moved to the village and both became prominent members of the VPA for many years. Mr Anson, especially, expanded the membership to its highest ever level and was instrumental with others in expanding the range and scope of the events organised for the benefit of members.

In her book, "Extracts from Tales from Village Folk" (1992) Margaret Axford tells how she was persuaded to become a committee member in 1967 when only six members attended the AGM that year. The officers consisted of the Chairman, Fred Anson, Secretary and Treasurer, Glen Evans, Show Secretary, Wilfred Sheldon with Ron White, Rose Robinson, Cyril Harding and Margaret Axford forming the committee. Clearly the V.P.A was in difficulty and three years later at the 1970 Annual



General Meeting, then held in March, the V.P.A. nearly ceased to exist when replacements for the vacant offices of Secretary, Treasurer and Show Secretary could not be found from the few members present. The Association was about to be wound up after thirty years, but fortunately was saved by Mrs Axford stepping into the breach and as she says managed to run the V.P.A. almost single handed, including running the Annual Show.

When Margaret took over the organisation of the V.P.A., she says that the membership was about 30. They paid 15 pence to join for one year, the year running from June 1<sup>st</sup> and not as now from November. The membership gradually increased as the population of Wheatley expanded. The highest membership being just over two hundred in the 1980s when Mr Anson was extremely active in encouraging new members to join. The membership has fluctuated over the years and now stands at about one hundred and thirty-five, a good number of members for a village group where the majority of members still live in Wheatley or close by.

Activities have expanded to suit the needs of the membership and the fashions of the day with programmes of talks, lectures, slide shows and demonstrations. Initially these took place in the United Reformed Church hall but moved to the Merry Bells when the hall was being refurbished and the membership expanded at the same time.

In 1972, a highly successful course of weekly flower arranging classes covering the four seasons was held in the old primary school on Church Road.

Over the years the V.P.A. have tried to take part in and support activities initiated by other Wheatley organisations and have variously assisted with tree planting and the Queens Jubilee celebration parade, to name but two events.

The VPA Committee March 1988  
Photograph taken in the Manor House garden



#### Federation of Village Produce Associations

As mentioned on page six, at the start of the Second World War the Government encouraged the formation of local Village Produce Associations. These were guided and administered by the Oxfordshire Federation of Village Produce Associations and the County Agricultural Adviser, Miss M. G. Hodgman. In Oxfordshire there were V.P.A.'s or affiliated associations in Adderbury, Blackthorn, Bletchington, Ducklington and Hardwick, Hailey, Islip, Launton, Somerton, Weston-on-the-Green and Wheatley and there may have been more that are unknown to me. Again early records have not been traced, but by the 1950s minutes of the Oxfordshire Federation show that gardening was thriving in Oxfordshire and regular horticultural and social events were being held throughout the year, such as

Summer and Autumn shows, quizzes and outings to gardens of note.

Mr Knowles, from Wheatley, was at various times Treasurer and Vice President during the 1950s. Wheatley residents were active in supporting events organised by the Federation, often winning prizes in their shows.

There was also a higher level of organisation; the National Association of Village Produce Associations, which guided the shires, held conferences, facilitated the bulk purchase of things such as hop manure, organic and chemical fertilisers, John Innes composts etc. They also printed a national monthly magazine called Country Life to which Wheatley subscribed. Oxfordshire news was apparently printed in the magazine three times each year.

Sadly, by 1962 the future of the Oxfordshire Federation was in doubt. It was reported that V.P.A. activities in the villages had slackened off as older members were able to do less and their places were not being taken by younger people. It was acknowledged that during wartime and when rationing was in force after the war, the V.P. A. 's had served a great need but now things were different. Conferences, shows and outings were not supported sufficiently to warrant continuing and it was agreed to suspend the County Federation. It was hoped that suspension rather than disbanding would allow the affiliated villages to have access to materials such as show cards and it was hoped that village V.P.A.'s would organise some of the events.

#### Outings and holidays

Coach outings have long been a highlight of the V.P.A.'s summer programme. I believe that they first started in the nineteen seventies and were organised by Mr Anson and Mrs Axford. The first venue was to the Royal Horticultural Societies gardens at Wisley, followed in subsequent years by visits to Kew and Arthur Billet's "Clacks Farm" which featured on the Friday night television gardening programmes. Initially one coach was sufficient to meet demand but as the popularity of outings grew, two coaches were often hired.

Over the years most of the major gardens and horticultural shows in the south of England have been visited at least once and favourites such as Wisley, Saville Gardens and Kew, many times, with the occasional trip further north. I remember the first outing I went on when I was a new member, to see the newly opened Thames Barrier. We had a guided tour inside the Barrier as well as a boat trip along the Thames. This was followed in the afternoon by a visit to Kew Gardens. Outings have remained an enjoyable part of the V.P.A.'s activities for many years and continue to this day, but usually one coach is now sufficient to meet the demand.

Holidays started late in the association's life with the first outing in 1990 to the Gateshead Garden Festival. New garden festivals built and opened to the public were a feature of these times and were funded by the government to provide local employment and attract visitors to the area.

This was eminently successful and was followed in 1991 by a tour of Scotland and in 1992 to the next garden festival at Ebbw Vale. Subsequent years saw many more holidays to all parts of the British Isles and on occasions to Europe as well. There was a short break in the mid part of this century but by popular demand holidays were restarted in 2009 by Mrs K. Hillsdon, assisted by Miss J. Edwards, with a most successful visit, over five days in June, to Kent and Sussex. An action packed week with visits to Denbies Vineyard, Pashley Manor gardens, Sissinghurst, Mount Ephraim Gardens, Canterbury, Merriments Garden, Scotney Castle and finally, on the way home to Wheatley, a visit to Chartwell. By popular demand there will be another holiday during 2010.

#### The V.P.A.Wine Circle

In 1972, there was a suggestion that the committee should try to locate all the amateur winemakers in Wheatley, Holton, Littleworth and Horspath with a view to forming a winemaking section to increase interest and hold a Wine Festival as part of the Annual Show. Mrs Axford and her husband Dennis hired the White Hart Clubroom for the first meeting, which took place on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1972

From the beginning, the Wine Circle was a great success with twenty-two initial members. A sub-committee was formed to help run it. To give the new venture an identity a logo was made by Mr D.Axford. The Wine Circle held monthly meetings which consisted of speakers and demonstrators to instruct on how to make wine and beer and no doubt a certain amount of tasting took place as well.

Making wine and beer at home was a popular hobby at the time. Other groups in the locality were invited to the Wheatley meetings and were visited in due course. The success of this venture is illustrated in their Wine Show. Another competition was held later at Cramphom's Garden Centre on the London Road, where the aquatic centre is now, with thirty-six entries in five classes. New trophies were keenly contested at the Annual Show when fifty-five entries were made in eight classes and they remain to this day, even though the attraction of homemade wine and beer has decreased.

After a successful first year, Mrs Axford had to step down due to family commitments and a successor could not be found, so the venture closed. Later a new Wheatley and District Wine and Beer Making Circle, separate from the V.P.A., was formed that still hold regular monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month.

### The Annual Show

As far as I am able to understand there have been shows held since the inception of the V.P.A. Horticulturalists are always keen to show the fruits of their labours to their friends. Exhibitors would rarely become rich on their winnings, but the prestige of winning and perhaps taking a trophy home more than compensates for this as it does today, so in a way "Dig for Victory" is perpetuated.

The V.P.A. balance sheet for 1953 shows expenditure for both a summer and an autumn show and this seemed to continue to 1955, after which I think that there was only one show each year, held in late August or early September. Looking back over the available records, I noted that the location, style, and fortunes of the show changed over the years.

At various times, the shows have been held in the school, the Merry Bells and on at least one occasion in a marquee in Morland House grounds where the Doctor's surgery is now. As well as staged exhibits on the show benches, there were also competitions for complete gardens which were judged prior to the show, but this was discontinued in the early 1960s due to lack of response.

The shows were open to all-comers at one stage, but in 1960 it was agreed that only VPA members would be eligible to enter. That year while the show was a success, it managed to lose twelve guineas. As the current events often struggle to balance the books this is clearly not a new phenomenon.

In 1963, in an attempt to make some profit, the show was held in the school, (I presume the old Primary school in Church Road) and consisted of a fete with sideshows which was a success and returned a profit of seven guineas. This formula was repeated in 1964 with White Elephant, Aunt Sally, teas, ice creams and a raffle being some of the many attractions on offer and had the desired affect in almost doubling the previous year's profit, as well as hosting an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment for the village. This style of event continued with attractions such as the Headington Quarry Morris Dancers until 1968 when following reduced takings the fete style of event was discontinued. In 1969, the show was staged at Morland House and the following year was held in the Merry Bells.

The 1972 show, the thirty-second, must have been one of the best ever with forty-one members entering a total of three hundred and five exhibits. Astonishingly, it was attended by approximately three hundred and fifty people.

The judges at the show were always taken to lunch, sometimes at the Bridge Cafe near to the current "Harvester". This seems a civilised thing to do after all their deliberations and before the show opened to a public anxious to see how well their exhibits had been perceived by the Judges.

At the end of each show and following the prize-giving there was usually an auction of produce, this continues to this day. Much fun has been had at times with people overbidding, sometimes for their own exhibits, in order to create more enthusiasm and swell association funds.

### The Annual Dinner

At the end of each growing season, it was customary for the Association's members to meet socially for a meal to talk about the past year, look forward to the coming year and hope for good results for the table and the show. The meal, sometimes called the Harvest Supper and now the Annual Dinner, has clearly always been well attended. It has been held at different venues over the years, including the Primary School, where I remember the chairs being a little on the small side for adults, the "Merry Bells" and in later years at Holton Village Hall.

Catering was provided by Wheatley residents and certainly for many years consisted of cold meats, potatoes, with lots of pickles, followed by apple pie or the like. The minute books indicate that this format was successfully repeated for many years. Nowadays however, professional caterers relieve the committee of a lot of the hard work. It was customary for many years to provide a glass of sherry to guests on arrival and to serve wine at table. It was always a pleasure to assist with the purchase of the drinks and of course when possible taste them prior to the event. Stewards were appointed for each table with the idea that they could perhaps be a little frugal in serving the wine in the hope that there would be sufficient stocks left over for the Annual General Meeting. As I recall this plan did not always work and it was often necessary to purchase more wine for the A.G.M. Guests now usually provide their own drinks or a bar is available.

The evenings were a bit more formal in structure than those held today. Following the meal and the instruction that "Gentlemen you may remove your jackets" and the today unheard-of "you may now smoke" there were the toasts and responses and usually a guest of honour who may, or may not, have provided some after dinner entertainment. In 1973 Mrs Axford contacted Dr Orchard's son the

actor Julian, and invited him and his wife to attend the dinner. He duly accepted, engagements permitting, and was able to attend and help with the entertainment. Reading some of his correspondence to Mrs Axford it is clear that he thoroughly enjoyed the visit remembering many of the people there and conversing on events in Wheatley during his childhood.

When I presided at the Annual Dinner in the Merry Bells as Chairman for the first time I felt a little nervous. Mr Anson however had everything under control and had written little notes that he passed under the table telling me what to do and when, so the evening passed without a hitch, I think. I have never forgotten the kindness that Mr Anson showed me when I was a “new boy” so to speak.

Over the years entertainment has somewhat followed the tastes of the time with organised games, country dancing, Wheatley Morris Men, plays by local amateur groups, magic from Brian Barnes of the Magic Circle and various musical groups, choirs and pianists all of whom rounded off an enjoyable evening. Whenever possible it seems that the entertainment was either local or had a local connection, which continued in 2009 when the newly formed Wheatley Community Choir entertained.

Of course, no V.P.A. Dinner would have been complete without a raffle and then as now, the raffle helps to contribute to the cost of the evening’s event and occasionally shows a small return. I hope that despite spiralling costs that the Dinner will continue to be a major event in the V.P.A. calendar.

### Trophies

The V.P.A. has a magnificent collection of trophies awarded to exhibitors on show day. Most were named after the people who worked hard to start and maintain the Association over the years and whose names may not be familiar to some of our current members.



THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY’S BANKSIAN MEDAL awarded to the winner of the largest total amount of money in prizes in the whole of the open horticultural classes. This prestigious, non-returnable award, is purchased each year by the V.P.A. and is keenly contested as the V.P.A.’s premier award.





THE KNOWLES CUP, given by the V.P.A. in 1958, as an expression of thanks to Mr Knowles for his work as founder and secretary. It was awarded to the winner of the best collection of vegetables class. Due to lack of entries over recent years, it has not been awarded for some time.

THE WILFRED SHELDON TROPHY for Class 34 "housewife's choice collection." (first awarded in 1972) and THE SHELDON ROSE BOWL for the winner of the most prize money in the "Domestic classes." Mr Sheldon was a founder member of the V.P.A. and was secretary and the Show Secretary for many years until he retired from office at the age of 86 in 1971.

THE FRED DAVIES CUP for the best exhibit in Classes 8, 9 and 10 "Tomatoes."

THE R.F.WHITE CHALLENGE SHIELD for Class 33 "heaviest marrow." Ron White presented this trophy for the "Giant marrow class" in 1975. Mr White was the Show Secretary for eighteen years prior to handing over to Mr Morgan - Jones, the current Show Secretary.

THE GEORGE BOWLER AWARD for the best exhibit in Class 26 "Onions from seed." Mr Bowler was a member for many years and was a noted onion grower and this trophy instituted in his memory was to reflect his success as an onion grower.

Dr ORCHARD'S CUP for the "best flower exhibit."

Dr Orchard was the village's General Practitioner at the time the V.P.A.'s formation in 1940 and was its first President until he retired from practice and left the village in 1958.

THE WYEVALE GARDEN CENTRE TROPHY for the winner of the largest amount of prize money in "Classes 41 to 56." This award was given to the V.P.A. by the Wyevale Company in August 1995 when they had a garden centre in the village.

THE MARKHAM JUBILEE TROPHY for the best presented single exhibit in Classes 60, 61, 62 and 63. Donated to the V.P.A. by Mr & Mrs Vic Markham in 1978. This award when first presented carried the generous offer of a free visit to Covent Garden in London.

THE GEORGE SMITH "COUNTRYMAN" TROPHY for Class 40 "Single rose. A relatively new award given by his wife Dorothy in memory of Mr Smith to commemorate his love of gardening. Currently awarded for the best single rose exhibit.

THE WHEATLEY V.P.A. PRESERVE CUP for the winner of the most prize money in Classes 70 to 75. From the 1970s when the VPA formed a wine section.

THE WHEATLEY V.P.A. WINE CUP for the winner of the best red in the wine classes. This cup was presented to the VPA by Mr. G. Evans in 1972.

THE FRED ANSON WINE CUP for the winner of the best

white in the wine classes. Mr Anson was a very active member of the V.P.A. serving as Hon Secretary and Treasurer until 1992.

THE HAROLD PIGEON AWARD for the best photograph in the Show. Mr Pigeon was a Vice President of the V.P.A. and an eminent horticulturist.

THE HARDING AWARDS (3) for junior Classes 91 to 100 awarded according to merit and THE HARDING CUP for junior Class 101 "The juniors garden." These awards are in honour of Mr Cyril Harding a committee member from the early days of the association.

THE MILLENIUM TROPHY Purchased by the V.P.A. in 2000 at a cost of £187 and awarded to the winner of the most prize money in sections 2, 3, 5, and 6 provided they have made valid entries in three or more sections. Neither the Banksian Medal winner nor the previous year's winners are eligible.

THE DESMOND COVELEY AWARD this is the latest trophy awarded for the first time in 2009 is presented by the current Vice President and his family for the best exhibit in Class 3 "Runner beans."

In the early days of the show there were other awards to be contested over which reflected the way people lived then and prior to many of today's trophies being purchased or given to the Association. Some of these were purchased annually by the V.P.A. and others were sponsored by local and national publications.

THE WOMENS OWN BRONZE MEDAL for the most meritorious exhibit in the cooking classes.

THE RHS AFFILIATED SOCIETIES SILVER MEDAL for the winner of the largest amount of money in the vegetable section of the show.

THE RHS AFFILIATED SOCIETIES BRONZE MEDAL for the winner of the largest amount of money in the flower section.

THE SMALLHOLDER BRONZE MEDAL for the winner of the largest amount of money in the fruit section.

The Smallholder and Women's Own, gave certificates of merit awarded by the judges to individual exhibits. Amateur Gardening publications also gave a "Blue ribbon award". Cramphorn's, the Garden Centre that used to be on the London Road, gave gift vouchers from time to time. Later the Wyevale Garden Centre that took over the Cramphorn's business donated the trophy that bears its name.