

# **Bradford on Avon Flower & Produce Show 2024**

***If you grow it, show it!***

Fruit, Flowers, Vegetables,  
Craft and Produce

St Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon  
Sunday 8 September, 2024  
2-4pm

Admission free

Supported by Bradford on Avon Town Council



# Welcome to the Bradford on Avon Flower Show 2024

Dear Friends

Welcome to the great and glorious enterprise that is the Bradford on Avon Flower and Produce show.

You, our competitors, are members of a select band. An obsession with the uniformity of potatoes sets you apart. A commitment to the platonic ideal of a sponge cake marks you out. A consuming preoccupation with the friability of compost tells its own story. We salute you. You are the people who make the show what it is, a cornucopia of beautiful strangeness.

In honour of your peculiar personalities, we are delighted to announce a new category, developed over long, intense hours of discussions during our committee meetings. We give you the 'Cake Made to Resemble a Vegetable', and we await your entries with genuine excitement. We are also introducing a delightful new category in the drinks section – elderflower cordial. (We realise the non-alcoholic nature of the drink may upset some people and we apologise in advance.)

Meanwhile, in a triumph of good sense over political-correctness-gone-mad, the Victoria sandwich returns as a category open to everyone, not only the under-18s. And on that topic, let's be clear: children can enter ANY category (out the way, boomer).

The controversial men-only lemon drizzle cake remains, despite protests from the Lower Meldrew Ladies' Circle and threatening emails from an obscure group of Wiltshire activists named the Juicy Lemons. We invite the men of this town to rise up and prove once and for all that they too know the difference between baking powder and bicarbonate of soda (please tell us next time you see us).

Elsewhere in the schedule, you will be relieved to see that calm and order prevail. The dahlia categories are unchanged. (We would merely draw your attention to the delightful category 'The Best Dahlia in My Garden This Morning', specially designed for those who occasionally forget the difference between a pompon and a ball.)

The much-loved Longest Carrot, the marvellous Cake Containing Vegetable and the matchless Traditional Cornish Pasty – all are here. Long may these categories remain, and the same for you, our curious competitors and enthusiastic visitors.

Now let us remember, as George Bernard Shaw counsels us, "A life spent in making mistakes is not only more honourable, but more useful, than a life spent doing nothing." We encourage you to begin planning your flower show mistakes now.

*The Bradford on Avon Flower Show Committee*

# Schedule

## Section I: Fruit and Vegetables

*Please include an indication of the variety/cultivar, if known, with your display. All exhibits should include one variety only, unless otherwise indicated.*

1. **Bradford on Avon Potato Challenge Cup:**  
Five potatoes on a plate, similar size, one variety
2. **Runner beans, 6**
3. **French beans, 6**
4. **Onions, 3** (onions should be tied or whipped with string or raffia)
5. **Shallots, pickling, 6** (under 30mm/1.2in)
6. **Shallots, large, 6** (over 30mm/1.2in; should be tied or whipped with string or raffia)
7. **Beetroot, 3**
8. **Courgettes, 3**, no longer than 200mm/8in
9. **Tomatoes, 5**, ordinary cultivar, calyx on
10. **Tomatoes, 5**, small fruited cultivar (under 35mm/1.4in), calyx on
11. **One truss of cherry tomatoes**
12. **Cucumber**, indoor
13. **Cucumber**, outdoor
14. **Carrots, 3**, trimmed
15. **Sweetcorn, 2 cobs**
16. **Squash**, edible
17. **Vegetables**, collection of 5 different kinds, 1 specimen of each
18. **Salad vegetables**, collection of 5 different kinds, 1 specimen of each
19. **Chillies, 5** (please include name of variety, if known)
20. **Apples, cooking, 3**
21. **Apples, dessert, 3**
22. **Pears, 3**

“There are no gardening mistakes,  
only experiments”

Janet Kilburn Phillips

23. Plums, 4 (stalks on)
24. Raspberries, 12 on a plate (stalks and calyces on)
25. Tastiest apples, dessert, 3
26. Herbs, fresh, culinary, 5 in water (more than 5 types of herb will be disqualified)
27. Largest cabbage – any variety
28. Longest runner bean
29. Biggest marrow
30. Longest carrot
31. Tastiest tomatoes (please include name of variety, if known)
32. Heaviest tomato
33. Hottest chilli (please include name of variety, if known)
34. Most amusing vegetable – rude as you like!
35. Hedgerow selection – 5 foraged edible fruits/herbs/vegetables
36. Home-made compost – in container, maximum size 1 litre

*The Avonfield Cup will be presented to the exhibitor gaining most points in the fruit and vegetable classes.*

*The Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust Compost Cup will be presented for the best compost entry.*

*The Robin Gould Memorial Cup, sponsored by the town council, will be presented for the tastiest tomatoes.*

“There is nothing that is comparable to it, as satisfactory or as thrilling as gathering vegetables one has grown”

Alice B. Toklas

## Section 2: Children (12 and under)

37. Animal made from fruit and/or vegetables
38. Mayoral chain made from recycled materials (must be wearable)
39. Miniature garden in a recycled container (max 300mm/12in diameter/width)
40. Miniature flower arrangement in an eggcup
41. Constructed fruit or vegetable (made from Lego, Plasticine, wood, fabric – whatever you like)

*Please include child's age on entry form*

## Section 3: Craft (all ages)

42. Fashion accessory made of recycled materials
43. Greetings card made from recycled materials
44. Any item of woodwork
45. Any item of hand-made embroidery
46. Any item of hand-made tapestry
47. Any item of hand-made patchwork
48. Any item of machine-made patchwork
49. Mayoral chain made from recycled materials (must be wearable)
50. Any cross-stitch item
51. Any knitted article
52. Any crocheted article
53. Soft toy – knitted, crocheted or sewn, any material

*The Ms B Avon WI Craft Cup will be presented to the exhibitor gaining most points in the craft classes.*

*The Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon trophy will be presented for the best entry made from recycled materials, in the Children's and Craft classes.*

## Section 4: Flowers and Ornamentals

*Please include an indication of the variety/cultivar, if known, with your display.*

54. Cut flowers – 1 vase of 5 stems, different varieties
55. Cut flowers, single colour theme – 1 vase of white flowers, 5 stems, 2 or more varieties

- 56. Roses – 1 vase of 5 stems, 1 or more varieties
- 57. Rose – 1 vase of 1 specimen bloom
- 58. Hydrangeas – 1 vase of 3 blooms, any variety
- 59. Shrubs, flowering – 1 vase of 3 different kinds (overall width not to exceed 450mm/18in)
- 60. Shrubs, non-flowering – 1 vase of 3 different kinds (overall width not to exceed 450mm/18in)
- 61. Pot plant – specimen in flower (pot not to exceed 200mm/8in diameter)
- 62. Pot plant – foliage specimen (pot not to exceed 200mm/8in diameter)
- 63. Succulent (pot not to exceed 200mm/8in diameter)
- 64. Ornamental grasses – 3 stems of one or more varieties

## Dahlias

**If you are unsure about the classification of your dahlia exhibits, please refer to the *RHS Horticultural Show Handbook*.**

- 65. 1 vase of 1 specimen, medium, large or giant blooms (over 170mm/6.6in diameter)
- 66. 1 vase of 3 single-flowered blooms
- 67. 1 vase of 3 blooms, any kind, excluding giant
- 68. 1 vase of 3 blooms, ball or pompon
- 69. 'The best dahlia in my garden this morning' (1 vase of 1 bloom, any kind)

## Novelty flower classes

- 70. Sweetest smelling rose
- 71. Most artificial-looking flower
- 72. Longest piece of bindweed
- 73. Largest sunflower head (measured by diameter)

*A trophy will be presented to the exhibitor gaining most points in the flower classes.*

“The garden year has no beginning  
and no end”

Elizabeth Lawrence

## Section 6: Cookery

74. Marmalade – 1 jar, fresh fruit
75. Jam – 1 jar, any variety
76. Jelly – 1 jar, any variety
77. Lemon curd – 1 jar
78. Chutney (smooth) – 1 jar
79. Ginger cake – own recipe
80. Traditional Victoria sandwich – 3 eggs, 20cm/8in tin, raspberry jam
81. Cake containing vegetable – any recipe (must be labelled to indicate type of vegetable used, eg, courgette, carrot, beetroot)
82. Gluten-free cake
83. Lemon drizzle cake (men only)
84. Bakewell Tart
85. Chocolate brownies, 3
86. Flapjacks – 3, plain
87. Cake made to resemble a vegetable – any recipe
88. Cheese scones, 3
89. Fruit scones, 3
90. Sausage rolls, 3
91. Traditional Cornish pasty – max 20cm/8in long
92. Cheese straws, 3
93. Vegan pasty – max 20cm/8in long
94. Bread – hand-made, brown or white
95. Sourdough loaf – hand-made, brown or white
96. Bread rolls, 3 – hand-made, brown or white

*Please note: a slice will be cut from each cake – and eaten by the judges!*

*A trophy will be presented to the exhibitor gaining most points in the cookery classes, the Town Council Jam Cup will be presented for the best jar of jam or jelly, and the Bloomfield's Marmalade Cup will be presented for the best jar of marmalade.*

## Section 7: Drinks

97. Sloe gin – 1 bottle
98. Any other liqueur, fruit or forest, eg plum brandy, blackberry vodka – 1 bottle
99. Elderflower cordial – 1 bottle

*The Dog & Fox Trophy will be presented to the exhibitor gaining most points in the drinks classes.*

# Top tips for tip-top exhibits

## General hints

- Read the show schedule carefully – use the information provided and, if in doubt, contact the show secretary for clarification: email [nicola.jr@icloud.com](mailto:nicola.jr@icloud.com) or leave a message on 07903 533550.
- Give yourself enough time to stage exhibits and check that you have entered the right number of specimens. Write any labels – naming varieties/cultivars etc – at home to save time on show day – it always takes more time than you expect to set up.
- Arrange your exhibits as attractively as possible – in a close competition, good presentation can make the difference between a first prize and a highly commended.
- Use plain white plates to exhibit your entries – paper or china.
- Take spares along in case of last-minute disasters.
- Don't apply polish of any kind to vegetables or fruit – the natural bloom should be preserved as much as possible.
- Definitions of fruit and vegetables are according to RHS guidelines.

## Cookery

- Jams and jellies must be sealed with either a twist top lid, or waxed disc and clear film top.
- Entries must be labelled with plain white labels showing contents and date made.
- Chutneys must be at least three months old, and presented in jars with either a vinegar-proof plain plastic-lined twist top or a plastic top. Ingredients must be finely chopped or minced, although sultanas may be left whole.
- No cloth 'mob caps' please – they slow the judge down too much.
- Victoria sandwich cakes should be dusted with caster sugar, not icing sugar.
- To avoid rack marks on your Victoria sandwich, cover the cake rack with a folded tea towel before turning out your cake.
- Make sure you stick to the specifications in the schedule, eg, raspberry jam (and no cream) in your Victoria sandwich, correct number of fruits or vegetables – these things matter!

## Flowers

- Think about which plants may be ready to exhibit about two months ahead of time. Removing side shoots on roses and dahlias will help the development of the central flower. Keep the soil moist at all times in the period leading up to the show.



- Make sure there are no blemishes on your exhibits.
- If several specimens are required for an entry, try to make sure they are as uniform as possible.
- Make sure you include the correct number of blooms or stems in your entry.
- Label specimens accurately – if the plants have been grown from seed or bought from a garden centre the cultivar should be known and indicated on a label alongside the exhibit.
- Please use the preparation area to arrange flower exhibits.
- If you are unsure about the classification of your flower exhibits, please refer to the *RHS Horticultural Show Handbook*.

## **Vegetables**

- The judges will be looking for vegetables which are similar in size and length.
- All vegetables should be properly prepared – roots should be washed with a soft sponge and plenty of water to prevent skin damage. Scrubbing with a brush will damage the skin.
- Potatoes should be medium-sized, shapely, clean, clear-skinned tubers with few and shallow eyes.
- Tomatoes should be fresh, ripe but firm, well-developed fruits, blemish-free and with calyces attached.
- Onions and shallots should have skins on.
- A black base cloth may be used to display collections of fruit or vegetables.

## **Fruit**

- Choose large, shapely, solid fruits **with stalks intact** and clear unblemished skin.

For further hints and tips, refer to the *RHS Horticultural Show Handbook* for expert advice on showing vegetables, flowers and produce ... and remember: the judges' decision is final!

*Points will be awarded as follows: 1st prize – 4 points; 2nd prize – 3 points; 3rd prize – 2 points; and, at the discretion of the judge, highly commended – 1 point*

# Rules

1. All entries must be made on the form on page 11 of this schedule, or the online form available at [www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk), and handed in to the Town Council offices by 5pm on Thursday 5 September.
2. Entries to be staged at St Margaret's Hall on Sunday 8 September between 8.30am and 10.30am.
3. Judging will start at 10.30am. The hall will be open to the public, after exhibits have been judged, from 2 to 4pm.
4. **One entry only** per exhibitor per class.
5. Exhibits in all classes **MUST** be the work of the exhibitor.
6. The judges' decision is **FINAL** in all cases.
7. Exhibitors must provide their own vases/white plates/black fabric (see Top Tips, p8).
8. The committee will take every possible care of all exhibits but will not be liable or held responsible for any breakages or damage to said exhibits.
9. Exhibitors **MUST** live in Bradford on Avon parish, or Avoncliff, or be pupils at one of the town's schools or nurseries.
10. The trophies are the property of Bradford on Avon Town Council and are to be held for one year only, and must be returned to the Town Council offices not later than Thursday 21 August 2025 in a clean condition.
11. Exhibits are to be cleared between 4 and 4.30pm – **BUT NOT BEFORE 4pm, PLEASE.** It spoils visitors' enjoyment of the show if exhibits are taken away early.
12. Any objections should be delivered in writing to the show secretary or one of the stewards before 4pm on the day of the show. They will be considered carefully and answered within 48 hours. It is hoped, however, that in the spirit of local friendly competitiveness, this process will not be needed.

**Awards will be presented from 3.15pm**

All enquiries to the show secretary at [nicola.jr@icloud.com](mailto:nicola.jr@icloud.com)  
or leave a message on 07903 533550

Refreshments, in aid of Save the Children, will be served  
from 2 to 4pm

# Bradford on Avon Flower & Produce Show 2024

## ENTRY FORM

This form must be completed by writing each class number entered, one in each square, as in the examples shown.

**PLEASE SUBMIT A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ENTRANT.**

The form should be returned to the Town Council offices by 5pm on  
Thursday 5 September.

An online version of this form is available at  
[www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

eg 59	eg 4						

Please fill in the details below, USING BLOCK CAPITALS.

Full name: ..... Phone no: .....

Email: .....

Address including postcode: .....

.....  
.....



The Hub@BA15  
Church Street  
Bradford on Avon  
BA15 1LS  
Tel: 01225 920748  
Email: [info@boahub.co.uk](mailto:info@boahub.co.uk)  
Website: [www.boahub.ac.uk](http://www.boahub.ac.uk)

The Hub is a registered charity and run by volunteers from the community.

It seeks to provide services which include the foodbank, debt and welfare benefit advice, access to computers, a safe place with the opportunity for a chat and a time to be listened to. We seek to support people with advice (some from recommended websites) and signpost to other organisations.

If you or anyone you know could benefit from any of the above please contact the Hub between 10am and 1pm Monday to Friday.

We would be interested to expand our services, which can only be done with your help - so any suggestions would be appreciated.



## Community Emergency Volunteers

The Bradford on Avon Community Emergency Volunteers (CEVs) are a group of volunteers drawn from our local community who wish to help others during times of severe weather, civil emergency or at large-scale events in the town; they are supported by the Town Council.

With our strong partnerships with the emergency services and other agencies, our aim is to be an important link in the chain of community resilience, and fully integrated into the emergency plan for the town.

If you would like to join the team please get in touch via the town council website: [bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/community-emergency-volunteers/](http://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/community-emergency-volunteers/)