

The Cottagers' Horticultural Society

The Rossett Horticultural Society was founded in 1875 and is still in existence and holds its annual show in the parkland of Llyndir Hall. It was originally called the 'Cottagers Horticultural Society' and was supported by Gresford, Pulford and Dodleston villages. The following extract was printed in the *Church Magazine* in 1888:

The thirteenth annual exhibition of the Rossett, Gresford and Dodleston Horticultural Society, was held on Wednesday 8th August, in Trevalyn Park Rossett, by kind permission of Capt Griffith-Boscawen. In contrast to the recent inclement weather, the day was brilliantly fine throughout and this justly popular show fully sustained its well earned reputation, both in general quality of its exhibits, staged in two spacious marquees, and the attendance of persons to view them. The Rossett Church Choir Band was in attendance and played choice selections of music.

Of the merits of the display taken all through, there was a very creditable show of vegetables and greenhouse plants, and notable a collection of splendid fuchsias, shown by Mr. Edmund Swetenham, Q.C., M.P., which ensured universal commendation. The specimens were hugh and very densely covered with bell-shaped flowers, eight feet high, and measuring five feet across, completely encircling the pot. One variety, an avalanche fuchsia, was very fine, and although struck but six months ago, it now measures three feet at the base. A good number of blooms, particularly the Alfred Colomb were much admired. They were from Messrs Dickson's, of Chester. Included in this display were some young croton plants, but none from this Firm were for competition.

Of fruit, it can be said that it was backward in size and quality, owing naturally, to the tardiness of seasonable weather. The garden flowers were a handsome lot, and judged to be very meritorious in quality, Several bouquets of garden and wild flowers were on view, and attracted attention by the elaborate way they were made up.

At half-past four o'clock, the prizes were distributed near the tents by Lady Cunliffe.

The following kindly acted as Judges;

Cottages Gardens: Mr. Mills (Stoneleigh), Mr. Cromer (Mount Alyn). Flowers and Vegetables: Mr. Strackham (Wrexham), Mr. King, Mr. Reddington (Chester). Wild Flowers: Mr. C. W. Townshend (Trevalyn), Mr. Wright (Gresford Bank). The Industrial Arts: Mrs. Wickham (Rossett Vicarage), Mrs. Parker (Springfield). Inspectors: Mr. Woolam (Rossett), Mr. Edward Jones (Burton).

The Society at one time held their annual show on land near Cam-yr-Alyn until the Rossett By-pass was built. Afterwards, most of the land was taken for the by-pass and the showground became too small so it was moved to the area near Llyndir Hall.