

2016 AREA 4 SUMMER SHOW & GARDEN PARTY

The Area Show was blessed with nearly perfect weather, just managed a spot of rain during one class and enough for the Judge and Stewards to get their raincoats out, only to find that the sun came out again!

What a turnout of horses, ponies and riders, 28 Competitors in total. We had numerous new members who took part in a variety of classes (14 choices!) and thoroughly enjoyed themselves when they relaxed and breathed. Angela Wells had the task of sorting out the winners and placings. Angela's Australian visitors, Jo and Andrea joined in and made excellent Rosette Girls and Collecting Ring Stewards.

The Beyton House Park, as always, was a pleasure to be riding in. The two dressage arenas had Dressage Judge, Simon Somers, and his writer playing "musical cars" as they went from the large arena to the small arena and back again as people came up to do their tests when ready. These classes proved very popular and were ridden both astride and side saddle.

The Sponsors, **Alan Boswell Insurance Group**, were once again represented by David and Jo Jacob, were on hand to present prizes and watch with great interest to see if the Judge got the same result as they did.

Tricia's caravan was a hive of activity for anyone to make themselves tea and coffee (5 gallons of water for the kettle!) and extra supplies of milk were brought in as supplies ran low.

Having completed most of the classes everyone stopped to sit down for, the now traditional lunch, and this year was no exception, although we were at maximum capacity (90 people), even borrowing Mrs Barham's kitchen chairs, not to mention every table and relevant piece of equipment, which Tricia could find.

It was great fun, the drinks flowed, the last Raffle Tickets were bought and the Raffle drawn. This was the biggest raffle to date and thanks to everyone for your generosity with prizes and ticket buying. As always the boxes of Asparagus were much sought after.



As lunch came to an end there was a surprise presentation to Maureen James, made by Mrs Barham, a Founder of the Association, on behalf of Area 4, to mark the occasion of Maureen's forthcoming retirement as the Association's President in 2017, having been so for 10 years. Maureen has been a regular visitor (& helper) to the Area 4 Summer Show and Area 4 Events/Display Teams for too many years to mention and so it was felt appropriate to present her with a small gift by way of acknowledgement and thanks for all the help given to all SSA Members for so many years, and of course in particular SSA Area 4, who we do hope Maureen will continue to visit frequently!

We then held an "Auction of Promises" given by the Area's Committee members to raise funds for the Area. Donna Clayton took well to her role as the Auctioneer (not a great surprise there!) and managed to give the Winners much more than was originally offered by the Donors but they generously appeared to be happy to go along with it.

As with all these events a lot of work goes on behind the scenes and grateful thanks go to all those who helped set up and clear up. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Barham for allowing us to use the Park, Darryl for all his help with the mowing (the straight lines in the Arenas are greatly appreciated) and helping clear up with his entire family on his day off (although they do enjoy the Lunch!) and to Tricia whose house becomes the local B & B, washing up and laundry department. Lastly, but by no means least, thanks and congratulations to Dale for providing, yet again, a delicious lunch.

Thanks also go to the Sponsors, Judges, Stewards & Helpers, Competitors, Supporters (in whatever capacity) because you all, there would be no Show.

PS Dale, as Area Chairman has received a lovely letter of thanks from Maureen (which will be published in the Area Newsletter) and here is a photograph of the Whippets "At Home"!

