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# the village show

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Every year, as the end of May approaches, I watch the RHS Chelsea Flower Show on television and I begin to think about our local flower and produce show. The Petersham Horticultural Society is affiliated to the RHS and is just as challenging and as much fun for the contestants as the far grander affair at Chelsea.

I go online and look up the show's schedule and regret that I am not a gardener, there are so many interesting flower, fruit and vegetable categories to choose from, and the village hall always looks splendid with beautiful floral displays, and plates or baskets adorned with the freshest, most perfect fruits and vegetables.

Fortunately there are other classes and over the last few years I have got into the habit of entering some of the Cookery categories. I tend to enter a bottle of homemade elderflower cordial, a homemade jam, and some baking. This year there is a separate category for lemon curd so I'll certainly enter a jar of that too.



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Last year my eight year old daughter entered the junior classes for the first time, I'm proud to say that she won first prize for her 'decorated gingerbread person' and third for her 'decorated cup cake', so this year she is determined to have a further attempt at both these, and she's going to enter 'a paper plate of home-made sweets (no more than 5)'.



Next week, during half term, we'll both be in the kitchen preparing and practising our chosen recipes/classes for the July Summer Show.

Many towns, villages and suburbs, throughout the country, run similar shows, some are run by the Woman's Institute, others (like ours) by the RHS or maybe the local allotment society, but all are great fun. It is wonderful to see the results of peoples hard work; the flowers, fruit and vegetable are quite remarkable. I especially love the fact that even here in Richmond (*on the edge of London*) there are several entries into the egg class, I think it's fabulous that people are rearing their own chickens in their urban back gardens.

Whatever your skill or hobby there will be a class for you. In addition to the flowers, fruit and vegetables, in our local show, there is a separate flower arranging class. There there are the cookery classes as well as the art and craft classes, which embrace embroidery, wool crafts, painting, drawing, pottery, woodwork, paper craft, handicraft and photography.

Do try and find a local show, and enter. You never know until you try, and you may find yourself, just like my daughter and I coming home with certificates and rosettes!



Have a go, and let us know how you get on.

Thanks for reading,

Jude

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