

Extract from the *Berwickshire News*, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1881

**AYTON AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.**

PATRON:—Alexander Mitchell-Innes, Esq., of Ayton Castle.

PRESIDENT:—John Allan, Esq., of Peelwalls.

VICE-PRESIDENT:—James Bowhill, Esq.

Secretary: — Mr. William Cook.

Treasurer: — Mr James Wood.

**FIRST ANNUAL SHOW**

Following the example of other places in the county, the pretty village of Ayton has added to its institutions a horticultural society. With favourable locality and climate, and many trimly-kept cottage gardens, few districts offer brighter prospects for such an enterprise; and the gratifying display made at the first annual show in Ayton Volunteer Hall, on Tuesday, augurs for the society a future of success. Though only organised a few months ago, the office-bearers of the Society had their arrangements completed in a most satisfactory manner; and having had placed at their disposal subscriptions to the amount of about £30, they were enabled to offer a lengthy and enticing prize list. It will be observed, however, from the frequent recurrence in the list of awards of the words “no competition” that the rivalry was not all over so brisk as it should have been. This is, we believe, due to the extreme youth of the Society—many of the members having had insufficient time to prepare for a show, and having timidly held back ordinary garden produce. This drawback was expected, but, doubtless, will disappear before next show. For the occasion the Hall was neatly decorated with flags; and the tables on which the flowers, &c., were arranged were placed with due regard to effect and the convenience of spectators. While the entries of flowers and fruit were of a description that did credit to the exhibitors, it was in the vegetable section that the best competition took place, and where the greatest number of meritorious articles were found. Potatoes, carrots, turnips and leeks may be mentioned as of special excellence. The appearance of the Hall was greatly enhanced by several splendid lots of foliage and flowering plants sent for exhibition. Conspicuous amongst these was an assortment of stove and greenhouse plants from Ayton Castle, effectively arranged on a large table in

the centre of the Hall. The other plants sent by Mr Bowhill, Ayton; the Misses Chartres, Ayton; and Mr Martin, Bleachfield. Specimens of seedling carnations and seedling peas were shown by Mr J. Cowe, Coldingham Hill, and so pleased with these were the judges that they awarded them a "very highly commended" card. Messrs Waite Brothers, Hope Nurseries, Berwick, displayed a choice assortment of roses and French marigolds, which also were "highly commended." Mr William Shaw, postman, Eyemouth, a naturalist of considerable eminence, showed a collection of over 100 dried specimens of different orders of British plants, many of which he had gathered himself in the district. Another diligent naturalist, Mr Simpson Buglass, gardener, Ayton, showed a magnificent collection of 800 moths, arranged in glass cases. Additional novelty was found in a display of oatmeal cakes, plain flour scones, and tea cakes, baked by the wives, sisters, and daughters of members of the Society, and for which a series of prizes were offered. The judges in this department were Mrs Mitchell Innes of Ayton Castle, and Mrs Bowhill, Ayton. There was also a competition for honey, which brought forward three "caps" of very fine quality. The show was opened to the public at one o'clock afternoon by Mr Mitchell Innes of Ayton Castle, who, in doing so, briefly expressed the pleasure which it gave him to preside upon that occasion. He hoped the Society would tend to elevate the tastes of the people and would prove a source of enjoyment and benefit to the whole neighbourhood. During the afternoon and evening the show was largely patronised by the inhabitants of Ayton and district. At intervals Mr Hogg's quadrille band from Berwick discoursed lively music, and the visitors seemed much pleased with the successful nature of the show and the arrangements. Amongst the ladies and gentlemen who visited the show were: —Mr and Mrs Mitchell Innes and family, Ayton Castle; the Misses and Master Innes, Millbank; Mr and Mrs Allan of Peelwalls; Mr and Mrs Mickle and party, Stoneshiel; Mr and Mrs Bowhill, Ayton; Mr and Mrs Mack, Coveyheugh, Mrs Doughty, Ayton; Miss Coulson and party, Houndwood; the Misses Mack, Berrybank; Miss White, Ayton Law; Mrs Hardy, Horsley; the Misses Holland, Ayton; Mr and Mrs Thomson, Ayton; Miss Hay, Nunlands; Rev. Mr Bisset, Houndwood; the Misses Chartres, Ayton, and Mrs Blair, Bridge-of-Allan; Miss Beater, Leith; Mrs Martin, Edinburgh; Misses Martin, Berwick; Miss Wotherspoon, Glasgow; Mr Allan, East Reston; Mr and Mrs M'Craith, Reston; Mrs and the Misses Wood, Ayton; Mr Fulton, Whitfield; Mrs Weatherhead and party Berwick; Mr Middleton, Cocklaw, Ayton; Mr Milligan, Foulden New Mains; Rev. Mr McFarlane, Coldingham; Mrs Gibson,

Eyemouth; Miss Milligan, Coldingham; Mrs and Misses Lawton, Ayton; Mr and Mrs Muirhead, Glasgow, &c, &c.

There was collected at the door for admission during the day a sum exceeding £14. After the awards had been fixed, the committee, judges and others, to the number of 20, dined in the Red Lion Hotel. Mr William Cook, Secretary, in the chair while Mr John Yule officiated as croupier. After the usual loyal and other toasts, the Chairman gave that of "Success to the Ayton and District Horticultural Society," and briefly narrated the effects put forth in its organisation, and which had been attended with so much success. The judges of flowers, fruit, and vegetables were:—Messrs Rhind, Renton; Jack, Kimmerghame; Loonie, Dunglass; and Crockett, Manderston. The prizes were similar in value to those of other country societies, namely firsts, 2/, seconds, 1/ and extras ranging from 10/ to 1/. The awards, as follows, gave general satisfaction:—

### **CLASS I, GARDENERS AND AMATEURS**

#### **FLOWERS IN POT**

Two Fuschias, light; and dart: 1, J. Sinclair; no competition.

Two Zonal Geraniums: 1, John Wilson; 2, Ralph Shaw.

Two Scarlet Geraniums: 1, J. Wilson; no competition.

Two Double Geraniums: R. Shaw; 2, J. Wilson.

Hydrangea: 1, R. Shaw; no competition.

Two Ferns: 1, J. Wilson.

Three Begonias: 1, J. Sinclair; 2, John Wilson.

Two Pots Lobelia: 1, J, Sinclair; no competition.

Two Bronze Geraniums: 1, R. Shaw: no competition.

#### **CUT FLOWERS**

Six Trusses Geraniums: 1, J. Wilson.

Six Roses: 1, John Wilson; 2, Miss Lawton.

Six Carnations: 1, Mrs Lawton; no competition.

Six French Marigolds: 1, J. Wilson; 2, Simpson Buglass.

Six African Marigolds 1, John Aitchison, 2, Charles Lugton.

Four Feathered Asters: 1, Miss C. Holland, 2, J. Wilson.

Four Quilled Asters: 1, William Cook. J. Wilson.

Four Picotees: 1, Mrs Lawton, no competition.

Four Herbaceous Plants (spikes): 1, William Lugton; no competition.

Six Pansies: 1, Archibald Edington; no competition.

Hand Bouquet: 1, J. Wilson; 2, Miss C. M. Holland.

### VEGETABLES

Two Cauliflowers: 1, S. Buglass; no competition.

Two Early Cabbages: 1, James Buglass; no competition.

Two Vegetable Marrows: 1, J. Wilson; 2, Miss Holland.

Two Cucumbers: 1, John Wilson, 2, Mrs Lawson.

Six Turnips: 1, J. Wilson; no competition.

Six Carrots: 1, Simpson Buglass; no competition.

Six Onions (spring sown): 1, J. Wilson; 2, Miss White.

Six Leeks: 1, J. Wilson; 2, S. Buglass.

Two Stalks Rhubarb: 1, J. Wilson; no competition.

Six White Potatoes: 1, A. Edington; no competition.

Six Coloured Potatoes: 1, A. Edington; 2, Miss White.

Six Pods Peas: 1, William Middleton; 2, A. Edington.

Six Pods Beans: 1, Wm Middleton; 2, Wm Cleghorn.

Basket of Vegetables: 1, John Wilson; 2, Miss Holland.

### CLASS II—COTTAGERS.

#### FLOWERS IN POT

Light Fuschia: 1, James S. Wood; 2, William Cleghorn; Rebecca Johnston commended.

White Geranium: 1, Dr Crole; 2, John Yule.

Scarlet Geranium: 1, W. Lugton; 2, J. Yule; 3, J Johnston, commended.

Scarlet Geranium: 1, James Buglass; no competition.

Calceolaria: 1, J. Buglass; 2, Rebecca Johnston, James Edgar commended.

Pot of Thyme: 1, Mrs Henderson; 2, J. Buglass; J. Johnston commended.

Fern: 1, J. Buglass, 2, Mrs Wilson.

Pot of Musk: 1, J. Buglass; 2, J. Lewis; Mrs Chartres commended.

Pot of Lobelia: 1, J. Buglass; 2, R. Johnston; J. S. Wood commended.

Pot of Mignonette: 1, J. Buglass; 2, J. Edgar; Mrs Chartres commended.

Pot of White Daisies: 1, J. Edgar; no competition.

Pot of Red Daisies: 1, J. Edgar; no competition.

Window Box; 1, J. S. Wood; 2, Mrs Henderson; A. Spratt commended.

Six Pansies: 1, C. Lugton; 2, T. Bruce.

Six French Marigolds: 1, C. Lugton; 2, John Aitchison.

Six Asters (3 quilled and 3 feathered): 1, C. Lugton; no competition.

Six Antirrhinums: 1, J. Aitchison; no competition.

Hand Bouquet: 1, J. Lindores; 2, Dr Crole.

Bouquet of Wild Flowers: 1, J. Lindores; 2, W. Cleghorn.

#### VEGETABLES

One Cauliflower: 1, J. Buglass; 2, A. Edington.

One Drumhead Cabbage: 1, C. Lugton; no competition.

Two Parsnips: 1, Buglass; no competition.

Two Early Cabbages: 1, John Foster; 2, A. Edington.

Two Curly Greens: 1, J. Buglass; 2, A. Edington.

Four Turnips: 1, Thomas Muir; 2, A. Edington.

Three Stalks Rhubarb (for weight): 1, R. Swanston; no competition.

Four Leeks: 1, J. Buglass; 2, W. Cook.

Four Carrots: 1, J. Buglass; 2, J. Foster.

Four Onions: (Spring-sown): 1, J. Buglass; 2, T. Bruce; commended, John Henderson.

Six White Round Potatoes: 1, G. Lugton; 2, J. Buglass; D. Simpson, commended.

Six Kidney Potatoes: 1, J. Buglass; 2, A. Edington; D. Simpson commended.

Six Coloured Potatoes: 1, J. Lindores; 2, C. Lugton A. Edington, commended.

Six Pods Peas: 1, W. Cleghorn; 2, A. Edington.

Six Onions (autumn-sown): 2, C. Lugton, no competition.

Heaviest Cabbage: 1, C. Lugton; 2, A. Edington.

#### FRUIT

Four Dessert Apples: 1, C. Lugton, 2, J. Lindores.

Four Dessert Pears: 1, W. Cook; 2, W. Cleghorn.

Four Heaviest Baking Apples: 1, A. Spratt; 2, T. Muir;

Twelve Gooseberries (red): 1, A. Edington; 2, R. Swanston.

Twelve Gooseberries (white): 1, J. Henderson; 2, C. Lugton.

Pint Red Currants: 1, Miss Holland; 2, W. Deans.

Pint White Currants: 1, A. Edington; 2, R. Swanston.

Six Plums: 1, W. Cook, no competition.

Two bunches of Grapes (black and coloured): 1, John Wilson; no competition.

#### EXTRA PRIZES.

By Mr Gemmel, Millbank, for 12 Fancy Pansies: 1, J. Wilson; 2, C. Lugton; A. Edington, commended.

By Mr Doughty, Ayton, for three Begonias: 1, R. Shaw; no competition.

By Messrs Downie and Laird, for Collection of Animals in bloom: 1, Miss Fender; 2, Miss Holland.

By Miss Martin, Berwick, for Two Ferns: 1, J. Wilson; no competition.

By Mr Ewart, Ayton, for collection of Potatoes: 1, A. Edington; 2, J. Buglass.

By Miss Agnes Buglass, Ayton, for collection of wild Flowers, confined to children: 1, Sarah Spratt; 2, Alice Connochie; 3, A. Trotter; 4, Mary Lugton; 5, Agnes Young; 6, Helen Macadam; 7, Fanny Wood; 8, Jessie Aitchison; 9, Helen Trotter; 10, Maggie Spratt; 11, Isa Fraser; 12, Jeanie Richardson.

By Mr James Edgar, Ayton, for Drawing of Flowers from Nature; 1, James Edgar, junr.; no competition.

By the Society for best Cap of Honey: 1, W. Richardson; 2, J. Foster; R. Swanston commended.

By the Society for Oatmeal Cake: 1, Mrs Richardson; 2, Miss Cooper; Mrs Gemmel commended.

By the Society for Plain Flour Scone; 1, Mrs Richardson; 2, Miss A. Berry; Mrs Cleghorn.

By the Society for Tea Cake; 1, Miss Cooper; 2, Miss A. Berry; Mrs J. Wilson commended.