

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **THOUSANDS TURN OUT FOR FLOWER SHOW**

More than 16,000 visitors once again flocked to Knowsley Flower Show at the weekend – the North West's largest free horticultural event.

Crowds dodged occasional showers to see the impressive displays of colourful fruit, vegetables and flowers, while entertainment was provided by a daring dog display team and seaside themed fun for children.

Foodies were able to browse for tasty treats in the popular farmers market and food marquee, while green fingered visitors were in their element swapping tips with fellow gardeners and browsing the numerous gardening trade stands and plant stalls.

There was also a large craft marquee, a circus skills workshop and a display by Hawkeye Falconry.

With more entrants than ever before judges had a hard time picking winners from the 572 entries in the various categories. Overall winner this year was James Middleton from Huyton, who won the coveted Best Exhibit in Show. And, in the children's categories, Rowan Williams from Huyton took Best in Section and Best Girl Exhibitor, while five year old Lewis Norfolk from Roby was Best Boy Exhibitor.

Cllr Eddie Connor, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Community and Culture, said: "The Knowsley Flower Show is a really important date in our calendar, and over the years the event has grown considerably in number – and no wonder, it rightly deserves its reputation as a really fantastic day out.

"There are so many activities for families but it is also an event which gardening enthusiasts from right across the region look forward to attending.

"The standard of entries this year was extremely high as always, congratulations to all the winners and to everyone who took part."

Thanks go to the show's partners, trade exhibitors and sponsors, which this year included main sponsors Mackrell and Thomas, Knowsley Community College, Home Bargains, Love Food Hate Waste Campaign, Morgan Sindall, Chill Out Spa, Balfour Beatty, Grassroots Fund from Community Foundation for Merseyside, Knowsley Housing Trust, Eli Lily, Mayfield Construction, King Construction and Knowsley Parish Council.

The Knowsley Flower Show is organised by Knowsley Council in partnership with Roby Horticultural Society, Whiston Gardening Society, Cuper Crescent and Bowring Park allotments association, and Friends of Court Hey Park.

## **PHOTOS:**

More photos are available to view on the council's Flickr page at [www.flickr.com/knowsleycouncil](http://www.flickr.com/knowsleycouncil)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

### **The Arthur Jackson Master Gardener Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize      Richard Burniston
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize      Vinnie Kilshaw
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize      Stuart Clensy

### **The Freda Gabrielsen Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize      Tony and Alice Bracegirdle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize      Richard Burniston
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize      Stuart Clensy

### **One Trug of Mixed Vegetables Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize      James Middleton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize      Paschal Doyle
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize      David Lewis

**BEST IN GENERAL CUT FLOWERS** - Stuart Clensy

**BEST IN DAHLIAS** - Stuart Clensy

**BEST IN ROSES** - Tony and Alice Bracegirdle

**BEST IN POT PLANTS** - Chris Bright

**BEST IN VEGETABLES** - James Middleton

**BEST IN NOVICE CLASSES** - Paul Longman

**CHILDRENS CLASSES:**

Runner up - Ellie Gough

BEST IN SECTION - Rowan Williams

Best Boy Exhibitor - Lewis Norfolk

Best Girl Exhibitor - Rowan Williams

**BILL SANDIFER TROPHY** - Sabah Khan

**BANKSIAN MEDAL** - Chris Nightingale

**BEST EXHIBIT IN THE SHOW** - James Middleton

**ENDS**

For more information contact

Gemma Melling, Communications Officer (Media), Knowsley Council, 0151 443 3537.