

The National Vegetable Society (NVS) was formed in the 1960s and recently celebrated its golden anniversary. The society is a registered charity and is dedicated to the growing of vegetables for both kitchen and exhibition purposes. The principle aim of the society is to promote the cultivation of vegetables across, all ages and standards. There are five Branches across the UK of which we are the Southern one. Each Branch holds its own annual championships and there is also a National Championship each year, the hosting of which is rotated around the 5 branches. We are next due to host this event in 2019.

At The New Forest and Hampshire County Show we host 2 shows in parallel. The NVS Southern Branch Championships, open to all members of the society and the New Forest Open Show which invites entries from all growers across the country. Both sections attract good numbers of high quality exhibits.

In addition to organising competitive shows the NVS also actively trains and appraises new judges. Candidates are put through theory and practical examinations and have to pass both to a high standard, in order to become a fully accredited NVS Judge. When evaluating the exhibits at the show, the judges will be looking at a number of different criteria including condition and uniformity so contrary to popular belief it not all about size!

Each of the NVS Branches is made up of District Associations (DAs), usually at a county level, who hold regular meetings where invited, expert speakers will come and discuss a wide range of horticultural topics. DAs also hold outings to various horticultural growers, seed suppliers, shows and open gardens etc.

The NVS also produces a high quality quarterly publication, Simple Vegetables, that all members and affiliated societies receive as part of their membership package. There are also a number of Books and DVDs and blogs produced by experts within the society to assist you in your growing exploits independent of your experience and horticultural goals. These are available from our website: <http://nvsuk.org.uk> where you will also find a magnitude of other information about the NVS, vegetable growing, and how to join the Society.

I hope that this has given you a flavour of what the NVS is about and I look forward to seeing you at this year's show.

Ian Clemens

Southern Branch Chair and Show Secretary



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