

Show Secretary Report 2025

Spring Show – 6th April 2025

The weather was much kinder to us this year, compared to the very wet winter and spring of 2024, we enjoyed more favourable conditions which was reflected in the number of entries. The highest number since I have been Show Secretary (2011). The move away from a Friday evening to a Sunday afternoon in 2019 has proved a success, as entry numbers reflect below. The bulb challenge where we grew “Amadeus” saw 11 entries, all in flower compared to the previous year where we had only 3 entries. Our judge John Eckton was impressed with the quality of the blooms on display.

Spring Show

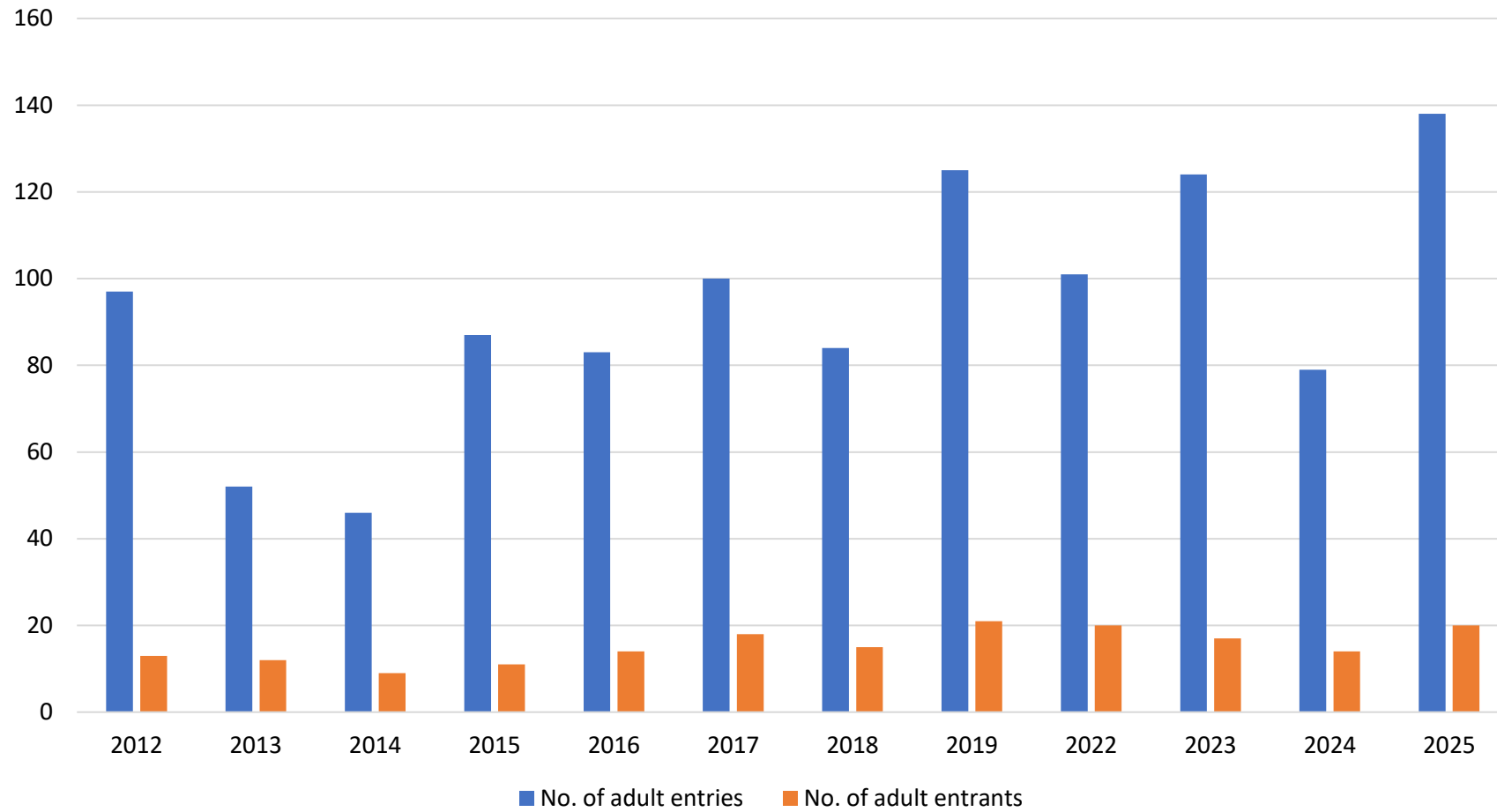
Year	No. of adult entries	No. of adult entrants
2011	95	14
2012	97	13
2013	52	12
2014	46	9
2015	87	11
2016	83	14
2017	100	18
2018	84	15
2019	125	21
2022	101	20
2023	124	17
2024	79	14
2025	138	20

Snow mid March

Held on Sunday for the 1st time

Very wet winter & spring

Spring Show



Summer Show - 5th July 2025

What a difference in weather conditions this year compared to last year. In 2024 we had heavy rain and cold temperatures in the run up to the summer show, but this year we had very dry and warm temperatures.

There were a higher than normal number of classes with no entries. Hybrid tea roses, hanging basket, blackcurrants, strawberries and ugly veg all had no entries. No doubt impacted by the dry weather.

Overall the number of entries was up significantly, 198 compared to 157, although the number of entrants saw little change, 21 compared to 20.

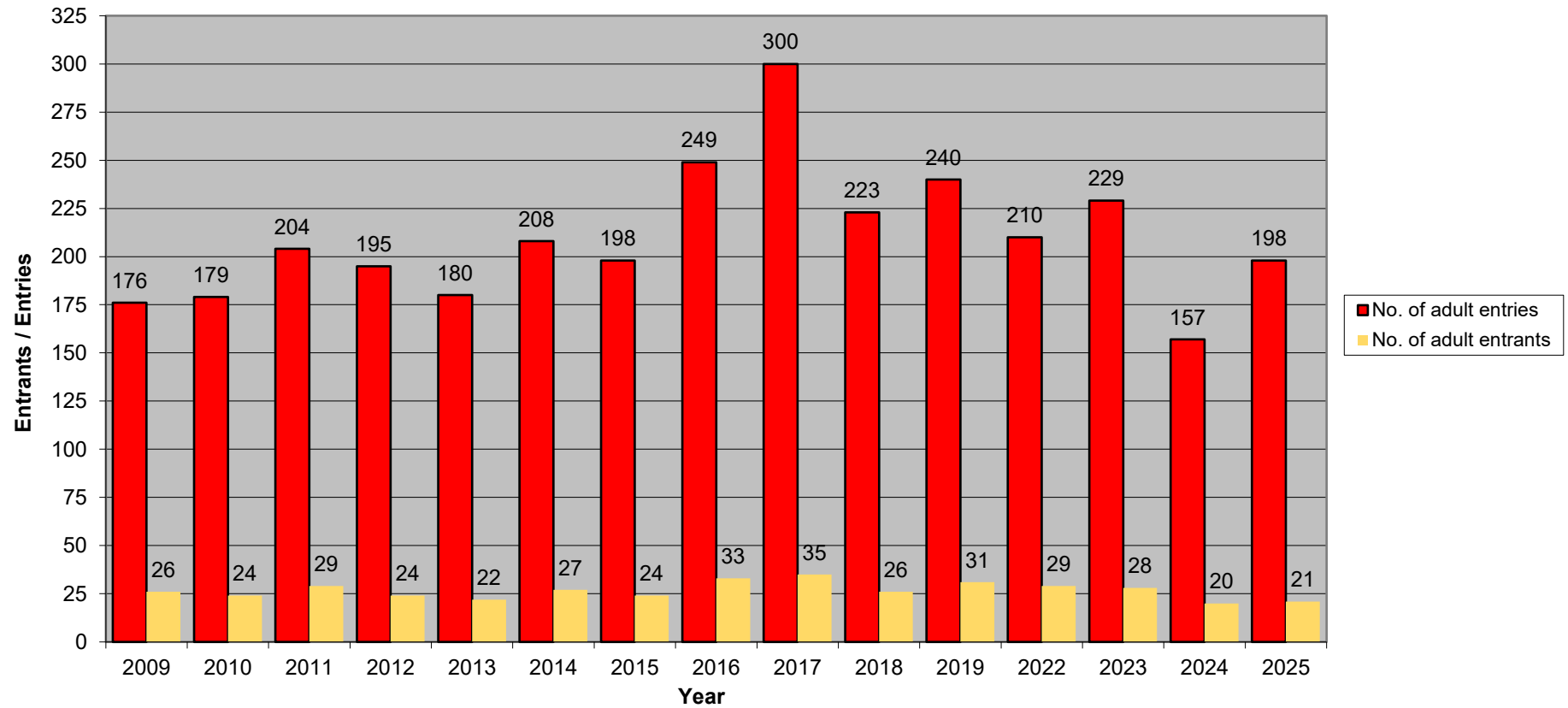
Our judge for flowers, fruit and veg was Geoff Morton who complimented the standard of exhibits.

The most popular classes were 30 (three potatoes) and 55 (handicraft) both having 8 entries.

The children's classes remained disappointing, early July is a busy time in schools and parents and children are running low on energy, so I wonder if this is a factor. The numbers in the Autumn Show are often higher.

The afternoon tea proved as popular as ever and visitor numbers were very good.

Summer Show Entrants and Entries



Autumn Show - 6th September 2025

I must start by apologising for my absence at the Autumn Show, moving my son to London meant I was unable to join you on Saturday. I am incredibly grateful to Wynne and other committee members who helped with the entry cards and prize calculations. You did an amazing job, thank you.

Last year I lamented about the week long wet weather in the run up to the show and now I find myself at the other end of the spectrum, citing the dry weather as the biggest challenge facing gardeners. Some may say I'm never happy! Thankfully we escaped a hosepipe ban but it was still a mammoth task to keep gardens watered. You managed it somehow because the entries were much higher than last year, 256 compared to 204.

The most popular classes were three dessert apples, 12 entries, three cooking apples, 9 entries and an apple cake, 9 entries.

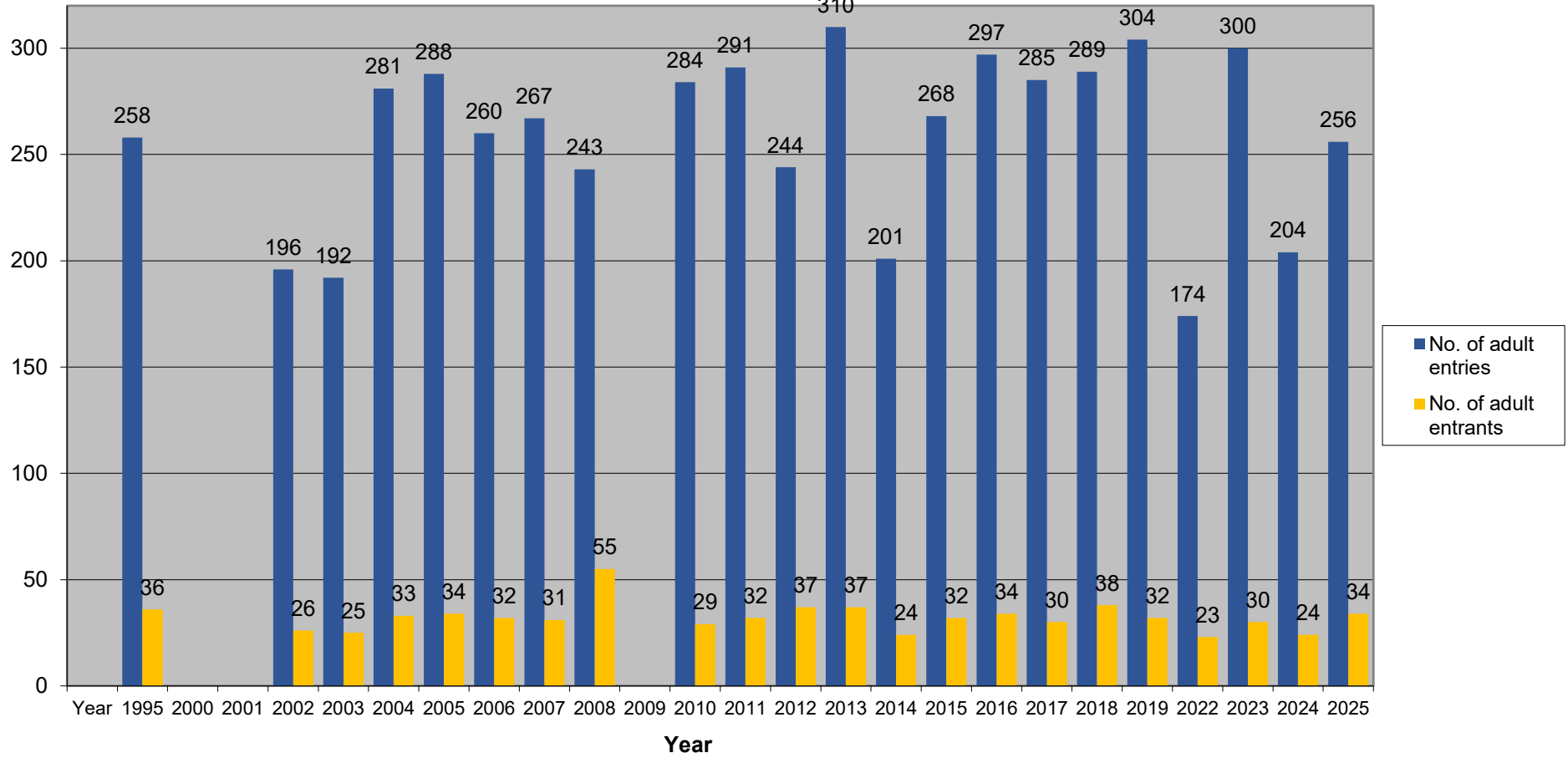
There were no entries for class 32 three onions grown from seed, over 250g.

The judge for flowers, fruit and veg was John Eckton.

I am so happy that I can finally say the Children's classes were not disappointing, instead they were really good. With 23 entries compared to 9 last year and 10 entrants compared to 3 last year.

There were a high number of new exhibitors this year, thank you to those who have made a concerted effort to encourage friends and neighbours to participate.

Autumn Show Entries and Entrants



Overview

Three fabulous shows with entries and entrants up across all three.

Spring - +59 entries, +6 entrants.

Summer - +41 entries, +1 entrant

Autumn - +52 entries, +10 entrants

We introduced a few new classes this year and I am delighted to say they have made a great start.

Five Helleborus blooms floating in water in the Spring show had 8 entries.

An ugly vegetable in the summer show didn't see any entries but I'm confident I'll have an entry for that next year!

Largest diameter sunflower head had 5 entries.

When so many other village societies are struggling to continue, Bucklebury Horticultural Society should be incredibly proud of how it continues to grow and evolve. Only possible with the hardwork and dedication of its committee and the support of members and villagers.

Thank you for making 2025 an outstanding year, I think 2026 is going to be even better!

Kind regards

Jane West

Show Secretary