



Creative talent across the county ripens with Produced in Kent's Create a Fruit & Veg Masterpiece

The county-wide *Create a Fruit & Veg Masterpiece* competition reached its colourful conclusion on Thursday 1st July, as the brains behind the competition – Produced in Kent – hosted a fruity final and prize giving. The award ceremony took place at Broadview Gardens alongside Hadlow College as the top three entries in both the individual and group categories gathered to hear who would be 'pick of the bunch'.

Carl Warner, professional photographer and originator of the 'foodscape', said he faced a really tough decision with dozens of fabulous and original photographic pictures made out of fruit and vegetables grown in Kent this summer.

"The standard has been amazing. It's wonderful to see children from across the county coming up with so many original picture ideas made out of fruit and veg grown here in Kent," said Carl Warner, who has appeared on TV on both sides of the Atlantic. "I've seen everything from Kentish landscapes and the White Cliffs of Dover, to windmills and oast houses made out of local produce. Although not everyone can win a prize today, on behalf of Produced in Kent - the organisers of the competition, I would like to congratulate everybody who took part!"

The After School Allotment Club at All Saints Church of England primary school in Chatham picked up first prize in the group category for the second year running, with its outstanding picture of a tractor on a farm. The group category, which was sponsored by Hadlow College, was presented by the college's new associate director for business & partnerships Katie Smith-Polameque. Created by 15 children aged from 6-10 years, the children picked fruit from the allotment and worked chives, garlic, strawberries, red currants, rhubarb, broad beans, leaf beet and potatoes into their masterpiece. The allotment club was rather appropriately awarded a large hamper donated by Broadview Garden Centre which was packed with gardening goodies including seeds and tools to enable the club to continue growing their own produce.

Finalist certificates and mini garden hampers in the group category went to Hampton Primary School for its original jungle picture created by children from year 6 and Rose Hill Brownies in Tunbridge Wells who made a Kentish oast house.

In the individual category, first place went to eight year old Jaden Doel for his veggie dragon. Jaden who is in year 3 at St Martin's School in Dover won a digital camera to enable him to continue taking photographs this summer.

Meanwhile finalist certificates and artists' materials went to Tamzin Porter, aged 9 of St Martins School Dover and Alberta Leonard, from Granville School in Sevenoaks, for her spitfire picture.

Both the first place winners were also delighted to receive a framed 'foodscape' created by the master of food photography Carl Warner. Carl explained to the children how he created the 'Amazing Amazon Adventure Foodscape' for Blue Peter, to commemorate Helen Skelton's epic charity kayak down the Amazon earlier in the year.

After the prizes were awarded all the children, teachers, parents and Brownie leaders were treated to a delicious afternoon tea in the tearooms at Broadview Gardens.

As Julie Monkman from Produced in Kent said, "This has been a fantastic day and a great competition to really engage children creatively with locally grown seasonal produce. The Create a Fruit & Veg Masterpiece has been a superb way to celebrate the feast that is grown here in the 'Garden of England'."

To see the gallery of winners visit www.producedinkent.co.uk

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