



Produced in Kent's 'Summer Fruit & Veg Masterpiece' is ripe for the picking in Kent's green & pleasant land

Primary schools across the 'Garden of England' have been busy with their pens, paints and fresh boxes of fruit and vegetables throughout the summer in a bid to win the first ever county-wide art and food competition aimed at young children. 'Create a Summer Fruit & Veg Masterpiece' competition was the brainchild of Produced in Kent, the champions of local food and drink producers in the county. Primary school children were challenged to draw, paint or create a collage using real summer fruits and vegetables that were both seasonal and locally grown in the 'Garden of England'.

Over 70 creative entries poured in from schools and clubs across the county. In the end it was All Saints CEP school in Chatham, Kent which won the award for its 'Summer Fruit & Veg Masterpiece' with a fantastic fruit and veg underwater seascape. The watery wonderland was made from fresh produce grown by the after school allotment club, run by children in year groups 2-5 and aged between 6-9 years old. As teacher Lesley Fielding said: "The children created the picture using fruit and veg that was exclusively grown in the allotment – with around 20 different fruits and vegetables going into its composition. We went and dug up more veg as we needed it and then the children all took some of the produce from the picture home and ate it for their tea!"

The All Saints team received a £50 voucher from Great Art (the UK's leading online art suppliers) and a stunning, framed 'Fruit Balloons' masterpiece worth hundreds of pounds from TV's master of the fresh 'foodscape' photography Carl Warner (www.carlwarner.com)

Speaking at the awards ceremony at Eurofair, with the Kent Food & Drink Festival, in Canterbury on Saturday 26 September, foodscape photographer Carl Warner, said: "Whilst I have created my 'foodscapes' for some of the biggest food and drink brands around the world, my heart and home is in Kent and it has been truly inspiring to see the county's young children bringing together fruit and vegetables that they have grown themselves into this wonderfully creative underwater world. Well done to All Saints of Chatham and all the other children who reached the final ten."

Carl Warner then presented all nine ‘Highly Commended’ winners with a fabulous 12-pan ‘White Nights’ watercolour box set from Great Art, including Christopher Haywood, aged just 6 years old of Thurnham infants school, in Bearsted, Maidstone. Christopher created his classic Kentish landmark – an oast house – by using seasonal strawberries , runner beans, carrots and cherry tomatoes to build the walls, whilst he made broccoli and green bean trees and apple birds flying through the sky.

The youngest ‘Highly Commended’ was awarded to five year old Joshua Beesley, of St Margaret Clitherow Catholic primary school in Tonbridge, who made and photographed a lovely clown’s face using fruit and veg that he had grown in the garden.

Joshua’s mother Rebecca Beesley, said: “Josh was inspired to do the clown’s face by our first red tomato from the garden. It was a great competition to do as Josh has been growing loads of fruit and veg this year including carrots, lettuces, tomatoes and apples. He even visited the ‘pick your own’ to get the strawberries and plums for the clown’s mouth and eyes!”

Hannah Wapshott, Rebecca Larkman and Joseph Beurtridge, all aged 9, from Madginford Park Junior School, also grew all the fruit and veg at school to create their ‘Highly Commended’ entry - a rabbit’s face.

Other ‘Highly Commended’ winners included Amy Ling (8) of John Mayne School, Biddenden; Aaron Lee (8) Linden Grove Primary School, Ashford; Harry Kirkwood (9) and Luke Dimbylow (9) of 1st Snodland Beacon Cub Pack, in the district of Malling; Niall Martin (11) Colliers Green Primary School; Jude Lanstone (6) St Peters Methodist Primary School, Canterbury; Katie Oakes (9) Danecourt School, Gillingham.

Visit www.producedinkent.co.uk for more information.

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