

NEWSLETTER
THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY
WESSEX GROUP
(Established 1988)

January 2015



A warm welcome at this chilly time to the latest edition of our newsletter. Starting with the AGM held last year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held on Thursday 23rd October once again at Yatton Village Hall, Yatton, Somerset. Sixteen members and guests attended from a very wide area. The officials and committee were elected en bloc as follows:-

Chairman/Treasurer
Derek Phillips
Vice Chairman
Ray Hayward
Secretary
Basil Billinger
Show Secretary
Jackie Petherbridge
Committee Members
Caryl Cheesewright
Gwynne Davies
Ian Penny

DP, JP and BB gave their respective reports to the meeting that were all agreed. DP and JP had prepared reports and summarised versions are reproduced later in this publication. Yours truly had little to say and hadn't prepared anything!

DP circulated the accounts for the 2013/14 season. A surplus £396 was recorded and he highlighted the donation of bulbs by our major sponsor, Bramcote Bulbs. As a result Bikini bulbs had been purchased with the main aim of encouraging exhibitors and this had in fact made a small profit.

DP felt that our healthy balance should be maintained as there was no guarantee our present income could be sustained. Accounts passed.

JP informed the meeting of impending changes to the hierarchy of the Daffodil Society Committee and there was an exchange of views regarding the revision of the Intermediate Listing with particular reference to North Somerset Show.

The experiment of a mid week AGM was reasonably successful. However, the meeting felt with the car park problems midweek we should revert to a weekend in future.

2014 RAFFLE/BULB AUCTION

Our thanks go out to members who once again dug deep at the AGM to support the only major funding raising of the Group. It is these proceeds that keep the Group on an even keel so to speak.

None of this would be possible but for the outstanding donation from our major sponsor Bramcote Bulbs with back up from Ron Scamp from Falmouth. The donations were so generous this year that we had to appeal for no member donations otherwise we would have been swamped.

There were some real classy bulbs on offer and a number of new introductions including Amber Valley, Qiyana Raine, Wichbold, and Seagrave from Bramcote and Sharon's Champagne from Ron Camp.

I wonder how many of these will be seen on the show bench?

The lottery and auction raffle made a profit of £293. Well done.

2015 SHOW DATES

These are the dates we are aware of at time of publication. This will help in planning your show diaries for the coming session:

Sat 14th March - Burnham on Sea H.S. Somerset (David Bryant 01278 788058)

Sat/Sun 14th & 15th March - RHS Rosemoor, Devon. (Jackie Petherbridge 01934 833641)

Sun 15th March - North Somerset C.D.S. (B Collier 01761 411384)

Sat 21st March - Yatton H.S. Village Hall, North Somerset (Michael Pitman 01934 838047)

Sat 21st March - Broadwey, Upwey & Dist H.S. (Eve Morris 01305 813942)

Sat 28th March - West Moors H.S. Dorset (Sue Hamlett (01202 871536)

Sun 29th March - Cheltenham HS Pump Room, Cheltenham (Barry Stagg 01242 519245)

Sat 4th April - Nailsea H.S. North Somerset (Martyn Davis 01278 855563)

Sat 4th April - Ferndown H.S. Dorset (W Howarth Tel 01425 276164)

Wed 8th April - Parkstone Gardeners Society, Branksome, Poole.

Sat 11th April - Timsbury H.S. (Keith Pursey 01761 402640)

Sun 12th April - The Daffodil Society, Wessex Group, Henton, Somerset (Jackie Petherbridge 01934 833641

Sat/Sun 18th & 19th April, Daffodil Society National Show Coughton Court, Warwickshire. (Mrs T Braithewaite 0115 9255498)

Note: The **New Forest Society** will not be staging a show this year. That being said negotiations are taking place to replace it with a show a **Dorchester on Easter Monday April 6th**.

For further information please contact Ray Hayward 01258 837209.

AGM. SHOW SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jackie reported that 15 exhibitors attended Wessex Show on Sunday 13 April. One or two familiar faces sadly couldn't be with us, the early season once again doing Dorset no favours but we were very pleased to welcome new exhibitor, Jennifer Dean.

Despite the early season and a few of our regular exhibitors not attending we were pleased that the hall was respectably full and

colourful with some quality flowers to give our judges, Janine Doulton

and Richard Hilsom from the South East, some tough decisions. As usual the championship classes took all the guest judges' time and the remainder of the show was divided between the strong field of DS judges/exhibitors that we are fortunate to have in attendance. Many thanks.

It was great to see a strong and closely fought Wessex championship class with seven exhibitors and some very fine flowers. Our Chairman, Derek Philips won the 2014 Wessex championship class. Ivor Clarke's second placed entry, by the narrowest of margins, had both the Best Bloom and the reserve Best bloom within it and Evelyn Jane entry placed third contained the best Div 1 bloom, Disquiet .

Derek's USA flag was carefully fixed behind the ADS ribbon class as we set up and sure enough another USA ribbon was added to his collection. This man needs some serious competition - come on Jennifer Dean.

Not to be outdone Evelyn Jane received the DS bronze medal for a splendid 3x3 class. The Frank Calcraft class of for 6 Div 5-13 blooms went to Jackie Petherbridge with a cheeky exhibit of 6 miniatures. Jackie also won the miniature section which was well supported and a firm favourite with visitors.

Chris Yates deservedly won the silvered medal for most points picking up prizes across the divisions for his seedlings. Thanks to Angela and Alan for organising the raffle and to all those who contributed prizes.

Thanks also to Henton villagers for the bacon butties and refreshments and for visiting the show and making some very appreciative comments.

AGM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It was a good year both for the National show at Coughton Court and for our own show where we had new exhibitors.

Last years AGM was well attended and the bulb auction proved popular. We will be using the same format today with bulbs generously donated by Bramcote and Scamps.

Profit from last years auction was used to purchase Bikini Vases which

were used by novices at our show and also sold off. A second batch has been acquired.

If the Wessex show is to continue, help to put up the show will be needed. Alan & Angela Purnell and Alan Pierce who have always been there in the past will not be there this time due to ill health. The planks are stored in the attic at the hall and these need to be got down.

Thanks were recorded for their help in so many ways in past years, and also Basil Billinger for his help over the year and for his thoughts in E mails.

Judging had been excellent in the last two years. This year **James and Wendy Akers from Yorkshire** will judge the Wessex Show.

No other venues have been suggested for the AGM and so for convenience sake we are likely to remain at Yatton.

SAD NEWS: BOB SYMES

Bob, a longstanding member of the DS Wessex regional group has died. Bob was a well known and successful exhibitor in the Dorset area and also travelled with the Dorset contingent to the Wessex annual daffodil shows.

Bob attended the 2013 AGM but was sadly diagnosed with a serious illness shortly after and didn't manage to show the bulbs he was so pleased to win in the lottery. His friend, David Downton, will grow them for him for the 2015 show season

A great character and a lover of daffodils, Bob will be missed. Our condolences to his wife, family and friends.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

I am indebted to Ian Penny for providing information on the inaugural meeting of the Wessex Group held on 13th September 1988 at the Lord Nelson, Cleeve.

It was agreed that the group be formed and those attending were Jim Brooks, Frank Calcraft, Caryl Cheesewright, Derek Denison, Malcolm Dowling, Ann Jenkins, Philip Kenton, Ian Penny, Jackie

Petherbridge, Peggy Tigwell, Jim Ward and Ken Williams. **Ed: Memories?**

The officials elected were Chair: DD Secretary: JP Asst Sec: CC, Treasurer: FC. And the committee comprised MD, AJ, IP, PT and KW.

There were Regional Representatives elected to cover Avon, Bristol, Dorset, Gloucester and Somerset.

Finances. Annual memberships was agreed at £2.00 **Ed: What other organisation can boast holding fees for over 25 years? By the way, membership is now due!**

More to following in a future edition.

FRANK NEWBERY

We all fully aware of Frank's horticultural prowess growing dahlias and of course daffodils. However, were you aware of the fascinating story of his wartime history?

Under the heading "Saving Bristol from the Blitz" the latest issue of Mendip Times includes a detailed report of his activities in diverting German bombers away from Bristol during the 2nd World War. A copy of the article is attached for information.

Frank, a really remarkable gentleman.

JUST A THOUGHT

Daffodile: A large predatory aquatic reptile that lurks on the river bed pretending to be a flower.

Daftodil: Artificial flower used in comedy routines.

Ouch! It is New Year. A Healthy and Happy one to you all.

Contributions for future issues are vital for the newsletter to continue. Contributions most welcome please to Basil Billinger on 01275 855675 or email b.c.billinger@talktalk.net