

NEWSLETTER
THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY
WESSEX GROUP
(Established 1988)

January 2017



A belated happy and "blooming" good year to you all. Welcome at this chilly time to the latest edition of our newsletter. Saying that the daffodils are coming through nicely and there are reports from around the country of many blooms brightening the scene.

Starting with the AGM held last year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held on Saturday 20th October 2016 once again at Yatton Village Hall, Yatton, Somerset. Eighteen 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
Eric Pickard

DP and BB gave their respective reports to the meeting that were all agreed. JP did not give a show report as it had been covered by DP but confirmed that she would now be able to resume her show duties.

DP circulated the accounts for the 2013/14 season. A surplus £374 was recorded and he highlighted the donation of bulbs by our major sponsor, Bramcote Bulbs plus others from Quality Bulbs.

The question of the Intermediate Listing of bulbs was raised once again. Hopefully this matter has now been resolved.

Note: Daffodil Society has further clarified the situation. See later

2016 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.

None of this would be possible but for the outstanding donation from our major sponsors and some choice varieties (not Div 1-4!) donations from Keith Boxall.

DP was delighted and somewhat relieved that every single bulb so generously donated found a home.

Lottery takings were expectedly down a bit at £165 due to less attending the meeting; but the auction smashed previous records once again, final total being £389.

Many, many thanks.

2017 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 11^h March - Burnham on Sea H.S.
Somerset (David Bryant 01278 788058)

Sat 11th March - RHS Rosemoor, Devon.
(Jackie Petherbridge 01934 833641)

Sat 18th March - Yatton H.S. Village Hall,
North Somerset (Michael Pitman 01934
838047)

Sat 18th March - Broadway, Upwey & Dist
H.S. (Eve Morris 01305 813942)

Sun 19th March - North Somerset C.D.S.
(Bob Ford 01761 436913)

Fri 24th March - West Moors H.S. Dorset
(Sue Hamlett (01202 871536)

Sat 1st April - Nailsea H.S. North
Somerset (Martyn Davis 01278 855563)

Sat 1st April - Ferndown H.S. Dorset (W
Howarth Tel 01425 276164)

Sun 2nd April - Cheltenham HS Pump
Room, Cheltenham (Barry Stagg 01242
519245)

Sat 8th April - Timsbury H.S. (Keith
Purseley 01761 402640)

Sun 9th April - The Daffodil Society,
Wessex Group, Henton, Somerset (Jackie
Petherbridge 01934 833641

Sat/Sun 15th and 16th April, Daffodil
Society National Show
Coughton Court, Warwickshire.
(Gill Griffin 01438 222040)

Sat 22nd April Daffodil Society late
competition. Reading (Gill Griffin 01438
222040)

RESTRICTED CLASSES

The Daffodil Society have provided further clarification as follows. following clarification has

"The Approved cultivars for restricted classes applies to the Daffodil Society Main Competition and the late competition.

Local Affiliated Societies or Regional groups may add named cultivars for exhibiting at their own show particularly if there is a local connection or Society bulk purchasing.

However please ensure that the judge is notified in advance of judging."

This seems a very sensible solution to any anticipated problems. I hope this puts to bed this subject which I know has been an irritant to some show managers.

Additionally currently the list only covers Div 1 - 4. Not so long back it used to cover all divisions, but as there were seemingly no classes anywhere for restricted varieties beyond Div 4 it was considered a waste of effort.

WESSEX SHOW CHECKLIST

With so many experienced exhibitors the following may seem an irrelevance. However, for the novice potential showers this is a very useful aide memoire so to speak with some local Henton necessities. .

- Schedule. (Spares from regional groups tab: Wessex page of the Daffodil Society website **
- DS cultivar eligibility lists. E.g. Intermediates, Miniatures etc from Show page of website **
- RHS supplements 1-9 (available as one alphabetical list online) ++
- Flowers (named). Cut and well-watered in advance. Include spares if possible
- Pots of flowers for the pot classes
- Vases: Take enough for your entries plus spares. Bikini vases - match up vase & base

- Vases: Other vase/containers. Keep plain, stable & takes enough moss to secure bloom
- Moss: Lawn moss is fine. Take out as much debris as you can and trim vase edge
- Dibber or tool to tamp moss or make holes in your moss
- Cotton buds, small brushes to remove fly poo, cobwebs, flea beetles etc
- Water bottle or small plastic watering can
- Lip pins or homemade paper clip equivalent for your bloom labels
- White card labels, pre-cut or pre-prepared with bloom names
- Scissors – for trimming stems, moss etc. Another clean pair for labels?
- Paper kitchen towel – always useful and handy for cleaning your staging area.
- Cloth to clean vase before putting onto the bench.
- Pens – one will always run out
- Personal show checklist of what flowers you want to enter where. Prioritise entries.
- Checklist of what you have taken to the show so that you can collect items at the end
- Lunch or snack and drink for the post bacon butty slump.
- Notebook to write down cultivars you fancy for 2018.
- Catalogues to find an indication of bulb prices
- RAFFLE PRIZE and cash to buy raffle tickets
- Camera or equivalent device for people to snap you and your prize winning blooms.

I can confirm that bacon butties will definitely be on offer thanks again to the Henton Garden Group. Where would we be without you?

By the way, we are delighted to welcome back Janine Doulton from Folkestone, Kent as our senior judge again.

This useful guide has been provided by Wessex Show Secretary, Jackie Petherbridge. Thanks.

OBITUARY - ALAN PURNELL

By now we will all know of, and have been saddened by the passing of our dear friend Alan Purnell; on 6th November 2016. The principal daffodil shows in the Wessex area are just not going to be the same without him. Alan managed to produce quality blooms early on in the season, and he always did well at Burnham on Sea; North Somerset; West Moors; and Nailsea shows.

Alan always set out to win and was hard to beat; but as we all know, he never minded if he didn't win and was so genuinely pleased for whoever did.

Alan was nothing if not meticulous, and his attention to detail, record keeping and general order to his daffodils was an inspiration. At least it was to me, as we were chalk and cheese in that respect. Nonetheless we had some enjoyable times, staging together at many shows like partners in crime, both Alan and Angela doing their best to keep me all tidy and orderly.

We had good fun also over many seasons collecting data on growth patterns for different varieties. At 11:00 every Sunday from January to April, Alan and I would catch up with our updates and have a good chin wag. His wise counsel will be missed on so many things, not just daffodils. Alan was always willing to help and pass on his own life experiences.

As well as his friendship over many years though, it is the unfailing support, enthusiasm and encouragement for the Wessex Group Show from both Alan and Angela that I shall remember most fondly.

Their quiet support, and the knowledge that whatever else happened they were both certain to be there at 8:00 on the Sunday morning to help set up, has been such a help and reassurance over the years.

Given Alan's (and of course Angela's) commitment to this show, the committee thought it fitting, that he should be honoured and remembered in some way. Alan's favourite class at Wessex was the championship class for 3 x 3 blooms from Div.s 1-4, which he has won many times.

By now you will have received the Wessex Show schedule, and will notice that the class for this year and henceforth will be known as the **Alan Purnell Memorial Class** as a lasting tribute to this lovely man from all his friends in Wessex.

Our kindest thoughts go of course to Angela.

Contributed by Derek Phillips

Editor's note: Let's have bumper entries in Class 3 to mark this sad loss.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

As Derek mentioned at the AGM he now had yet another hat to wear.

He now finds himself on what is called the technical and classification committee, and will have some say about this list.

He tells me he would certainly like to see some oldies like Rainbow back on the Restricted list. The list cannot be endless and it in part is to guide exhibitors towards worthwhile show varieties, which is where the North Somerset favourite St.Keverne loses out. It used to be a classic starters variety, but there is so much better 2Y-Y stock now.

His own thoughts are to allow anything registered before say 2000, and then just have a short list for the newer varieties. It would save a lot of work.

Editor: Best of luck Derek in your endeavours

and finally some thoughts from our friend Chris Yates

"I have just returned from my "daffodil allotment" where I've been spreading well rotted farmyard manure. I'm not sure this is the best time to be doing it but my cousin (the farmer) has only just got around to delivering a load for me. I would have rather done it last autumn but beggars can't be choosers! Some areas were in desperate need of some organic matter, so better late than never. In any case, there is little sign of life yet, with the exception of Avalanche (up 4 inches) and my first flowers of the season on Early Sensation just opening. Last year's mild winter had Early Sensation in flower with me 20th December. So maybe we are in for a "normal season" - I'LL BELIEVE THAT WHEN I SEE IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We'll just have to wait and see. I guess it will be "a funny old year".

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