

NEWSLETTER
THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY
WESSEX GROUP
(Established 1988)

September 2016

I am starting to compile this show edition newsletter with record temperatures forecast for tomorrow (13th). Just the time to reflect on the last show season and look forward to planting this seasons bulbs that will arriving soon no doubt.

However, let's start with the AGM. Derek and I have had problems in arranging date taking into account availability of bulb donations and also the Village Hall at Yatton.

I know it will not be to everyone's cup of tea, is it ever, but we have had to go for midweek. We looked at alternatives venues but with no suggestions from the members we have stuck with Yatton. To obtain a weekend at the village hall we would have been into mid November. This was considered far too late,

The meeting will be held on Thursday, 20th October. Formal notice is enclosed with the newsletter.

There will, fingers crossed be the usual bulb auction/raffle with donations from Bramcote backed up with some from Ron Scamp. These will be sort after bulbs. Please do your best to attend.

BURNHAM ON SEA H.S. -SATURDAY 12TH MARCH

Prize winning varieties in the cut flower classes were Harvington, Barnum, Bravoure, Midas Touch, Pink Silk, Loch Hope, Happy Valley, Drayton, Trena and Island Pride.

The prize-winners were David Bryant, John Chinn, Lakin Earl, Marilyn Turner and Hilary Scott. David Bryant won best cut flower exhibit with 5 Drayton, Paul Ware won best Exhibit in pot classes with a pot of Jetfire and John Chinn won the Society Cup with pots of Jetfire, St Keverne and Ice Follies.

A good early show all round

By David Bryant

BROADWEY, UPWEY & DIST - SATURDAY 19th MARCH

Some quality exhibits were once again on show despite the awkward growing season.

Bill Howarth, as usual, saved the day in many of the classes that no one else could find a flower for including the difficult collection class of Divs: 5,7 & 8. The number of entries Bill contributes to the show is in itself meritorious.

The Best Exhibit in the show though was Ray Hayward's entry in the six vase collection class

with: Banker 2Y-O; Ombersley 1Y-Y, Truculent 3W-WWY; Rebecca's Fire 2Y-YYO; Arleston 2Y-Y; and Ambergris Caye 1YYG-Y. The Banker in this entry was also Best Bloom.

Second was Eric Pickard and Third Bill Howarth.

Ray Hayward also won the Championship Salver class for 3 Vases X 3 Blooms, with an unusual combination of: Banker 2Y-O; Tao 3Y-O; and Warbler 6Y-Y. Bronze Medal for the Best Vase in Show went to Ray's vase of three Banker.

Second was Eric Pickard and Third Bill Howarth.

Eric won the 2 Vases X 3 Blooms with: Strines 2Y-Y, and Resplendent 2Y-R. Bill Howarth Second.

The collection class of 3 single blooms was won by Ray with: Ombersley 1Y-Y; Truculent 3W-WWY; and Rebecca's Fire 2Y-YYO. There was then only half a point between the Second and Third entries of Eric Pickard and Mark Read.

The final diploma being left to the judge's discretion was awarded to Eric's lovely vase of the miniature daffodil Snipe 6W-W, for being the Best Miniature in the show and Reserve Best Vase.

Among the other classes, it was good to see a couple of new names appearing on the award cards.

By Derek Phillips

NORTH SOMERSET C & D. S - SUNDAY 20th MARCH

Class 1. The Daffodil Championship Cup calls for 9 distinct cultivars, from divisions 1 - 4, 1 bloom per vase and was won by David Bryant showing Harvington, Lennymore, Pink Silk, Midas Touch, Tutankhamun, Loch Hope, Truculent, Sherborne and Bravoure. Derek Phillips 2nd, with Demmo, Pink Silk, Lennymore, Dorneywood, Cameo Frills, Queen's Guard, Gympie, Latchley Meadows and Impeccable. Ivor Clark 3rd showing Arleston, Honeybourne, Ombersley, Queen's Guard,

Crowndale, Pink Silk, Banker, Pop's Legacy and Cape Cornwall.

Class 2. Division 1, 6 blooms, 1 bloom per vase, not less than 2 and no more than 3 of the same cultivar.

1st Derek Phillips, two Pink Silk, two Gympie and two Queen's Guard. 2nd Frank Newbery, two Corbiere, two Goldfinger, two English Caye. Richard Patrick 3rd showing, Dorneywood, Corbiere, Beaulieu and three unnamed blooms.

Class 3. Rose Bowl Trophy. Div.2 and/or Div:3, 6 blooms, 1 bloom per vase, not less than 2 and no more than 3 of the same cultivar. 1st David Bryant, Demmo, two Happy Valley, two Tutankhamun and Resplendent. 2nd Richard Patrick, Banker, Sea Legend four unnamed blooms. 3rd Derek Phillips, two Demmo, two Punter and two Lennymore.

Class 5. G.V. Patrick Trophy. Division 1 - 4, 3 vases, 3 distinct cultivars, 1 cultivar per vase. 1st Nick Toogood, unnamed blooms. 2nd I. Clark, showing, Arleston, Pop's Legacy and

Ombersley. 3rd Richard Patrick, with Banker, Sea Legend and Impeccable. Class 10 Division 4 1 vase 3 blooms. 1st David Bryant, showing Sherborne which won a DS Diploma with Ivor Clark 2nd and John Chinn 3rd.

Two entries in Class 18 G.L.J.Perpetual Trophy. Division 1 - 4, 3 vases, 3 distinct cultivars, 1 cultivar per vase. 1st David Bryant, showing Drayton, Pink Silk and Midas Touch, also winning a DS Diploma. 2nd Richard Patrick, with, Fiona McKillop, Pink Silk and Pop's Legacy.

David Bryant winning every award apart from the G.V. Patrick Trophy, he had best bloom in show with "Harvington" and also won the Jim Kerton Cup for Highest Points in Show with 44 points, and Richard Patrick came in next with 18. Other exhibitors who won cards in the Daffodil classes at the show are Keith and Loraine Pursey, Russell Dare and Frank Newbery.

With the early season and 13 more entries, and 3 extra exhibitors, it turned out to be a good show, congratulations and thanks to all the exhibitors who exhibited, and thank you all for your loyalty and support.

By Bob Ford

WEST MOORS HS SHOW - SATURDAY 26th MARCH

West Moors Spring Show is always well supported especially by the local community who provide a membership base anyvillage would be proud of. It is a friendly show which, as far as daffodils are concerned caters both for top class competition attracting exhibitors from other counties; but also importantly for

the novice grower and local gardeners in what they term members 'small growers' classes. In fact there are as many classes for daffodil small growers as there are in the main competition, with special classes for garden favourites such as 'Ice Follies', 'Tahiti', 'St Keverne', and 'Rainbow'; to a trophy class for an all yellow daffodil, won this year by Miss Erica Pickard with a very nice Impeccable 2Y-Y; and even their own small growers championship class for four vases, won this year by Master Ken Pickard. There seemed to be no shortage of first time exhibitors in these small grower's classes which is good to see.

In the open daffodil classes there were four exhibitors in the West Moors Championship Class: Derek Phillips is this year's winner with: Gympie 1Y-Y; Dorneywood 1W-Y; Pink Silk 1W-P; Lennymore 2Y-R; Banker 2Y-O; and Latchley Meadows 2W-Y. Dave Manston was runner up and Ray Hayward third. Derek's Banker was also judged to be Best Bloom in Show, and the entry was awarded Best Exhibit in the Daffodil classes.

Dave Manston came good in the Div:1 classes winning all three with: Midas Touch 1Y-Y; 3X St Budock; and 3X Swanvale 1W-W. 'That's nice' were my thoughts when Dave put up his vase of three Swanvale, which quite rightly was awarded Best Vase in Show.

The remaining multi stem vases in Divs:1-4 were won by Derek Phillips with:

3X Impeccable 2Y-Y; 3X Demo 2Y-O; and 3X Heamoor 4Y-Y. There were no entries for 3X Div:3.

The two multi head classes were both won by Tony Beard with Ice Wings 5W-W.

The homemade cakes for sale with a cup of tea in the afternoon also deserve a mention, absolutely scrummy.

By Derek Phillips.

NAILSEA H.S - SATURDAY 2ND APRIL

The standards were higher this year than I can remember. Entries topped 170 and with an increased number of exhibitors competition was stiff. All the exhibitors should be congratulated for their commitment after such a topsy turvey spring. Both open and member's classes produced some lovely blooms.

Derek Phillips gave up the opportunity to lock horns with us in order to judge the open classes and we were grateful for his sacrifice. We would also like to thank Ivor Clark for judging the members and local resident's classes.

Class 1 The Daffodil Society Centenary Trophy was won by Ivor Clark with his Sunbronze, (Which also won the Daffodil

Society Diploma award for the best bloom in show) Moonshadow, Crowndale, Ombersley, Touchdown, Centenary Gold, Arleston, Lakeland Fair and Cape Cornwall.

Class 2 The Jim Tigwell Trophy was also won by Ivor with three threes of Touchdown, Fireblade and Watership Down.

Class 3 The Frank Calcraft Memorial Trophy awarded to the best of three vases of three from divisions 5-9 11 and 12 was also won by Ivor Clark with vases of Rapture, Ice Wings, and Dan Du Plessis.

Class 4 The R N Coate Cup was won with an entry by Ivor Clark with six blooms from six different divisions made up of Disquiet, My Belle, Moonshadow, Crowndale, Causeway Sunset, and Diversity.

The Thelma Howells Memorial Trophy for the most points in the daffodil classes went to a new entrant at Nailsea Rodney Veale. A fine achievement to enter so many fine blooms.

The Barbara Randall Trophy awarded to the winner of the most points in the member's classes went to Val Davies who also won a Ron Scamp voucher

for the best bloom in the member's classes with her Bravoure.

Bill Knight won a Daffodil Society Diploma for the best exhibit in the member's classes with a pot of Falstaff. Bulbs for the member's classes are supplied by the Society unnamed so growers have to guess how to produce the best blooms. Not an easy task!

Ivor Clark also won Daffodil Society Bronze Medals for the best and reserve best exhibits in the open classes with his sets of five and nine respectively.

He received Nailsea Society Diplomas for the best blooms in Division 1 Disquiet. Division 2 Sunbronze, Division 3 Moonshadow, Division 4 Crowndale, and Best Miniature Dan Du Plessis. Adjudged the best bloom from divisions 5 to 12 was Pantomime grown by me. Thanks to all those who made the show possible and a great success. All the best for next season.

By John Hamblin

DORCHESTER SHOW - SUNDAY 3RD APRIL

Despite the "challenging season" which I'm sure will have received plenty coverage elsewhere, there was a good spread of exhibitors from around the South West and some quality blooms on display.

In the "Championship Class" calling for 9 individual blooms from at least 3 divisions there were 6 entries, making an impressive display along the opposite wall as one entered the hall.

Derek Phillips was the winner here with his set containing blooms of Banker (best div 2 and best bloom) and Truculent (best div 3). Second place was taken by David Basil who included a very good example of Pink Silk (best div 1) confirming that the older

Varieties when well grown and in peak condition can still mix it with the newer (and more expensive) varieties. David also had a nice bloom of Banker. Evelyn Jane took 3rd and her best flower was a very nice Corby Candle. It was later discovered that Derek's best bloom Banker had received the same accolade at West Moors show the previous weekend.

Class 2 called for 6 singles from the approved ("price limit") list. One of the entries contained a decent bloom of the old favourite Rainbow which, whilst not on the new "approved list" is still readily available in the garden centres at fill a bag prices. In the true spirit of this class and with the agreement of Judges & committee this exhibit was allowed to stand. Note to exhibitors - If you intend to use an "old favourite" that has fallen off the list, be sure to get committee clearance before judging as every judge will not necessarily take a pragmatic approach.

The winner in this class was David Basil with notable flowers being John Daniel (best div 4) and another good Pink Silk. In second Dave Manston included a nice Whisky Mac (a variety that displayed well in other parts of the show as well). Evelyn Jane came third and her best was another good Corby Candle (doesn't grow as big as some, but smoothness and "presence" give this one real impact - wouldn't we all love Banker with this much colour!)

Class 3 is the 3 x 3 blooms - Won by Dave Manston (more nice Whisky Mac). Second was Derek Phillips (Banker awarded Best Vase of 3 blooms). A very creditable third place was taken by Mark Read whose vase of 3 Ombersley definitely had the look of Best Vase material until one flower was seen to have a front petal tucked half way behind the back one. Isn't it maddening in a multi vase, multi bloom class when I bad flower spoils the chances for the whole exhibit.

Class 4 - "divs 5-9" 3 individual blooms was won by Eric Pickard (nice examples of Hoopoe and Sabrosa). Second placed David Basil included a Kokopelli which, had the award existed, would have been in contention for best 5-9. Evelyn Jane was 3rd.

Single Bloom Classes. Flowers of note: Cape Cornwall (David Basil). Jenna (Darlene Hayward obviously learning from one of our top exhibitors!). Heamoor (maybe reserve best 4 - Derek Phillips). Angel's whisper (probably best miniature - Ted Perrin)

Vases of 3 worthy of note: Pink Silk (again! This time by Derek Phillips). Demmo (also Derek). Plenty of good Rapture (Evelyn Jane being unlucky when a superb looking vase contained a flower with only 5 petals - so hard to spot with those swept back petals!). Angels Breath (3 lovely mini's - that man Derek again).

Harking back to "oldies" there were some good examples of Broomhill in various places.

The two best from the novice section were David Ennall and Bill Britton - well done and good luck for the future. The visiting public in the afternoon seemed to enjoy the show and the hospitality (Well done and many thanks to all the "behind the scenes" workers). Most photographed seem to be Dave Manston's Pink Polynomial and David Basil's vase of 9 blooms (Diploma winner). There were also high quality Hyacinths, Tulips, Amyrillus, polyanthus and primroses on display.

By Chris Yates

THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY WESSEX GROUP - SUNDAY 10TH APRIL 2016

The 28th Wessex Group Show at its usual venue at Henton in Somerset was an event that everyone seemed to enjoy even more than usual this year. Our senior judge, James Akers MBE, had his work cut out in the six championship classes though, which contained 141 vases between them, most of which James patiently pointed. 28 exhibitors in total which, without looking at old results, I believe was a record number of exhibitors.

The quality of all the exhibits was very high, especially in the Wessex Championship class requiring 6 vases covering all Divisions 1-4. We have a new Champion this year (About time, I can hear you thinking!), winner of the **Society Gilt Medal** was a really excellent exhibit put up by Ivor Clark, with: Sun Bronze 2Y-O; Moon Shadow 3W-GWW; Cool Crystal 3W-GWW; Disquiet 1Y-Y; Tasmeg 4Y-Y; and Touchdown 2W-P. Ivor's Cool Crystal was **Best Div.3** bloom and also **Reserve Best Bloom** in show. Erica Pickard was Second, which out of 9 entries was a commendable result for a novice exhibitor. Derek Phillips scraped a Third Place, although his exhibit did contain the **Best Div.1** bloom Ombersley 1Y-Y, and **Best Div.2** bloom Banker 2Y-O. This Banker was also the **Best Bloom** in the show.

The **Society Bronze Medal** for the Best Exhibit in Championship classes 2-5, also went to Ivor for his 3x3 vases of: Samsara 3Y-YRR; Touchdown 2W-P; and Fireblade 2Y-YYO. The Touchdown in this class was also awarded **Best Vase** of three blooms in the show. Second in the 3x3 Divs.1-4 was Derek Phillips; Third was Ken Pickard another novice exhibitor, fast leaving father Eric Pickard behind. Also in this class was **Best Div.4** bloom Gay Kybo 4W-O from a vase of three shown by Richard Patrick. 7 Entries.

The Frank Calcraft Memorial Class for 6 vases from Divs.5-13 was won by Angela Purnell with an exhibit also awarded **Best 5-13 collection**. Dan du Plessis 8Y-O; Trigonometry 11W-P; Silver Chimes 8W-W; Rapture 6Y-Y; Penny Perowne 7Y-Y; and Ice Wings 5W-W. Second was Basil Billinger, and Third was Jennifer Dean. Jennifer's entry did contain another of

her nice Avalanches awarded **Best Div: 5-13** bloom in show. 7 Entries.

Class 4 for 3x3 Divs. 5-13 was won by Angela Purnell once again with: Dan du Plessis 8Y-O; Silver Chimes 8W-W; and Penny Perowne 7Y-Y. Second Evelyn Jane, Third Jennifer Dean. 4 Entries.

Class 5 for 3x3 miniatures was won by Ivor Clark with: Minnow 8W-Y; Yellow Xit 3W-Y; and Pacific Coast 8Y-Y. Second Evelyn Jane, Third Jennifer Dean. 3 Entries.

The **American Daffodil Society Ribbon** was won once again by Derek Phillips with: River Queen 2W-W; American Dream 1Y-P;

Rose Lake 2W-P; Trigonometry 11W-P; and Oregon Pioneer 2Y-P. Second Chris Yates, Third Jennifer Dean. Three very nice entries.

The **Society Silvered Medal** for most points in the show was won by Chris Yates for a terrific contribution in terms of number of entries in the show including of course a selection of his wonderful seedlings.

There were multiple entries in 44 of the remaining 46 classes, mostly for single blooms. Chris Yates picked up four of the Section Winners rosettes for most wins in:- Div: 1, Div: 2, Div: 3, and the Misc classes. Derek Phillips picked up two rosettes, for Div: 4, and the Miniature classes (Yes miniatures, you did read that correctly). Evelyn Jane won the Divs: 5-13 section. Also in these classes was to be found the **Best Miniature** Pixie's Sister 7Y-Y shown by Basil Billinger.

A new team from Henton GC provided the much loved bacon rolls in the morning, and the support from the garden Club Members generally is as ever appreciated. The **Best Exhibit in**

Thanks too, to James and Wendy for travelling so far to judge the show, to Gwynne Davies for taking on the often thankless task of Show Secretary, and to all my friends, family and exhibitors who unflinchingly turn up to put the show up and then clear the hall afterwards. Without your support the show couldn't happen.

By Derek Phillips

WESSEX MEMBERS AT THE NATIONAL SHOW SAT/SUN 16/17 APRIL

There were perhaps less Wessex members at the National this year, but we still left a mark in what was another bumper year for blooms. The quality and quantity of exhibits were of a high standard, and once again to get a card in such well supported classes is a real achievement.

Chris Yates, as one of the few true amateur raisers left, took along his seedlings. He won the prestigious **Dr. Lower Challenge** cup for 3 trumpet daffodils raised by the exhibitor. He was also first for a seedling raised by the exhibitor judged on novelty value or colour combination. In a class for 3 different seedlings raised by the exhibitor he was second. Finally, in the Amateur Section he won the **Knight Challenge Cup**, a class requiring 6 different cultivars raised by the exhibitor.

We recorded no actual wins in the open trophy classes which are dominated by the big names such as Roger and Terry Braithwaite, but with that in mind we still took some cards against top class exhibitors. Derek Phillips was: Second in the **Williams Challenge Cup** for 6 yellow cultivars; Second in the **Leamington Challenge Cup** for 6 blooms with orange/red in the corona; and third in the **Ernie Darlow** for 6 whites. Jennifer Dean repeated her success of last year coming second only to Terry Braithwaite in the **James Barrington** for 6 blooms from Divs 5,6,7, &8. That is a massive achievement as Jenny has the least facilities for growing daffodils of anyone that I know.

Moving on to the vases of 3, **Crystal Trophy Classes**, and as we saw at Wessex, Ivor Clark territory. Ivor was first in both Div 1 with 3xThe Baltic 1Y-Y, and in Division 2 with 3x Touchdown 2W-P. Both vases were taken up to be assessed for possible best bloom or best vase. Touchdown was of course best vase for Ivor at Wessex. Jackie Petherbridge had a first too in Div: 8 with 3 x Falconet 8Y-R.

Not too much success for us in the single bloom classes Div 1-4, but some of the entries into these were 20+ all of

the Local Classes went to an unnamed double exhibited by David Heath.

excellent quality. Ivor managed a couple of seconds; Derek a second and a third; and Ted Perren a second.

More success in the single blooms from 'other divisions' with Jennifer Dean showing the way. Jennifer had two firsts, admittedly in classes that she was the only entry: Div 8 Poetaz form with Dan Du Plessis 8Y-O; and Div 9 Blisland 9W-YR. This Div 9 being seemingly the only one in the country received a best Divisional Best Bloom rosette, but it was a nice example. In other classes, Jennifer also picked up a second and a third. Frank Newbery had a second; and Eric Pickard a second and a third.

In the Overseas Cultivar Classes, Derek repeated his success at Wessex and won the **American Daffodil Society Ribbon** with

River Queen 2W-W; New Penny 3Y-Y; American Dream 1Y-P; Trigonometry 11W-P; and Rose Lake 2W-P. Jackie was third. Derek was third in the New Zealand Class.

Wessex was evident in the miniature classes too, with Ted Perren having a go

and coming third in the **Miniature Challenge Trophy**, a difficult class requiring three vases of 3 different cultivars. Ted did get a first elsewhere with a lovely vase of Clare 7Y-Y, as well as three other thirds. Jennifer Dean also had a first with a vase of 3 Pacific Coast 8Y-Y, one bloom of which received a rosette for Best Bloom Div 8. Jennifer had one other third in the miniatures. Surprise convert to the world of miniatures Derek Phillips picked up a first for a vase of Yellow Xit 3W-Y, which was also a squeak away from being awarded best miniature vase. He also managed two other seconds.

In the Amateur and restricted classes Ken Pickard was first in the **Sankey Trophy** with Doctor Hugh 3W-GOO; Samsara 3Y-YRR; and Limbo 2O-R. Ken was also second in the **Post and Mail Trophy** for 3 whites.

In the unrestricted 3 cultivars in a vase class, Ivor was second.

Finally, there was no Wessex society entry this year. Usually masterminded by Frank Newbery, perhaps we could bring along a few extra blooms and give Frank a hand next year?

By Derek Phillips

Our senior judge for the Wessex Show next year will be Mrs Janine Doulton from Folkestone in Kent

Henton Hall is already booked for Sunday 9th April. Put this Date in your diary **NOW.**

and FINALLY

A solution to green back on blooms at Dorchester (not recommended)

just remove the offending petals leaving the back row as pink petaloids (4PW-WP??) The Judge was not impressed!!!!!!!!!!

By Nameless ??

Editor's note

What can I say but a big "thank you" to all contributors, old and new. It was nice to see some new names.

This is the largest newsletter ever produced. I did consider editing some of the report down but this would be a disservice to the contributors. Plus, I'd probably make a hash of it.

The next news letter will be published shortly before the show season so let me have your dates now. Also, who went to the late daffodil show in Reading? How did Wessex members do?

My abiding memory of the show season was of the three Burnham on Sea members coming to the Wessex show late in the afternoon just to help with the clear up. Well done all.

Contributions for future issues to Basil Billinger on 01275 855675 or email b.c.billinger@talktalk.net