

NEWSLETTER
THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY
WESSEX GROUP
(Established 1988)

July 2015



I am compiling this Show Edition on the hottest day of the year where temperatures in the South West are set to rise to 30c and more. Whew! A far cry from the daffodil season. I hope these snippets of shows will whet your appetite for next season.

NORTH SOMERSET C.D.S. 15TH MARCH . Judge: Richard Hilson

A cold start to the season and the absence of a couple of regular exhibitors didn't prevent another well presented quality show at the usual venue of Paulton Rovers Social Club.

The welcome presence of David Bryant and John Chinn who had travelled from Burnham on Sea helped to fill the benches. In fact David picked up the trophy for most points; as well as trophies for Class 3 – a collection of six blooms from Div's 2 or 3, not less than 2 cultivars with: 'Watership Down'; 'Tehidy'; 'Loch Hope'; and 'Demo'; and for Class 18 – 3 Vases of 3 Restricted varieties with 'Rathowan Gold'; 'Resplendent'; & 'Tehidy'. John Chinn won Class 6 with five blooms of 'Drayton'.

Elsewhere Richard Patrick recovered the G.V. Patrick Trophy, his favourite 3X3 Class with 'Banker'; 'Honeybourne'; and 'Ombersley'.

Nick Toogood was awarded a Daffodil Society Diploma for an excellent bloom of 'Strines', and Keith Pursey championed the miniatures winning first and second in Class 15 for three miniature stems.

Derek Phillips won the Championship Class for nine distinct cultivars, and also a Daffodil Society Bronze Medal for Best Exhibit with: 'Renovator'; 'Clubman'; 'Impeccable'; 'Queen's Guard'; 'Demo'; 'Park Springs'; 'Heamoor'; 'Broomhill'; and 'Aberfoyle'. Second was David Bryant, and third was Richard Patrick. Derek's 'Impeccable' was judged to be 'Best Bloom in Show'.

Derek also won Class 2 for six blooms from Div 1 with three

varieties: 'Clubman'; 'Queen's Guard'; and 'Pink Silk'.

An enjoyable show with a good spread of awards, every exhibitor winning something.

By Derek Phillips

BROADWEY, UPWEY & DIST. 21st MARCH. Judge: Derek Phillips

Entries were perhaps a little bit down on previous years, but there were still some quality exhibits on show.

Ray Hayward won the Championship Salver for 3 Vases X 3 Blooms of 'Foffs Way'; 'Sea Legend'; and 'Tao'.

Eric Pickard was second in the Championship showing three vases of cyclamineus cultivars: 'Emcys'; 'Surfside'; and 'Rapture'. The vase of three 'Rapture' was judged to be the 'Best Vase' in the show and earned Eric the Daffodil Society Bronze Medal.

Bill Howarth was the only entry in Class 2 for 2 Vases x 3 Blooms with a good entry of 'Sealing Wax' and 'St.Keverne'.

Ray won the collection class of 6 Vases / 6 Cultivars with an excellent entry judged to be the 'Best Exhibit' in the show, and containing both the 'Best' and 'Reserve Best Bloom' in the show: 'Banker' (Reserve); 'Ombersley'; 'Beaulieu' (Best Bloom); 'Foff's Way'; Tao; and a Scamp seedling '683'.

Ray also won the other collection of 3 single vases, with: 'Foff's Way'; 'Sea Legend'; and 'Banker'.

Many of the single bloom classes would have been unrepresented without Bill Howarth's contribution. Bill was also the only exhibit in the collection of 3 vases from Divs 5,7, & 8.

Well done Bill.

It was good to see a couple of new Daffodil Exhibitors from within the Broadway/Upwey society as well. Stalwart supporter of the show

Frank Newbery also made the journey down from Pensford.

By Derek Phillips

NAILSEA H.S. 4th April Judge: Derek Phillips.

The show held in the atrium of Nailsea School was again a great success despite some up and downs.

There were some class daffodils on show that were bolstered by a new exhibitor who had travelled some distance but had local connections. Then the appointed judge did not turn up. I won't go there! However, Wessex came to the rescue with Derek Phillips, who was exhibiting, taking over the judging mantle and what a good job he did. Well done Derek. How many times have I heard that!

The Daffodil Society Bronze Medal for the best 9 blooms went to Ivor Clark which included best bloom Div 1. Queens Guard. The Memorial Trophy for the most points in the Daffodil classes was awarded to Terry Miller exhibiting at Nailsea for the first time and who also picked up the cup for six blooms from different divisions. There was no argument that Derek gave his Heamoor best in Div 4.

John Hamblin took the three blooms divisions 1-4 and the Frank Calcraft Memorial Trophy for best three vases of three divisions 5-12 (Chipper, Itzem & Chickadee) was picked up by Basil Billinger who took up the challenge from Alan Purnell the previous year to enter this class.

The best miniature was an outstanding *bulbocodium* shown by local member, Roz Mizen.

By Basil Billinger

Dorset County Spring Flower Show 6th April Judge: Gwynne Davies

The first sunny day of spring, and a venue in Dorchester surrounded by the Dorset Downs welcomed the first Spring Show sponsored by the Dorchester Agricultural Society.

Major exhibitors came to support Ray Hayward's initiative to provide a show venue to replace the popular New Forest Show, which sadly is no more.

Six top class entries in the 9 vase championship was won by Derek Phillips with: 'Banker (Best Bloom in Show) 2Y-O'; 'River Queen 2W-W'; 'Ombersley 1Y-Y'; 'White Tie 2W-W'; 'Hampton Court 2Y-YOO'; 'Denali 1W-W'; 'Midas Touch 1Y-Y'; 'Dorneywood 1W-Y'; and 'Heamoor 4Y-Y'. Ray Hayward was second and Angela Purnell Third. Derek's entry was also awarded Best Exhibit in Show and received the Daffodil Society's Bronze Medal.

Evelyn Jane won the restricted list class for 6 vases covering four divisions with: 'Pink Silk'; 'Midas Touch'; 'Ffitches Folly'; 'Avalanche'; 'Tracey'; and 'Heamoor'.

Angela Purnell was awarded a Daffodil Society Diploma for her entry in the 3x3 vases, winning with: 'Honeybourne'; 'Impeccable'; and 'Banker'. Evelyn Jane was second and Mark Read third.

The other collection class for 3x3 from Div.s 5-9 was won by Evelyn Jane with: 'Grand Promo'; 'Kokopelli'; and 'Lemon Silk'. Eric Pickard was second.

Among the other classes Ted Perren received a Daffodil Society diploma for an excellent vase of nine blooms which included: 'Beaulieu'; 'Grafton Brook'; 'Heamoor'; 'Bravoure'; 'Corbiere'; 'Honeybourne'; 'Corby Candle'; and 'Tazetta Orientalis'. In the vase of 3 from outside Europe Derek Phillips won with 'Good Fella' (New Zealand); 'Banker' (Australia); and River Queen (U.S.A.). Evelyn Jane was second with three cultivars from the U.S.A.

A very successful first show will hopefully establish it for the years to come

By Derek Phillips

Wessex Group Show. 12th April 2015 Judges. James & Wendy Akers:

A record number of exhibitors turned up early on a Sunday morning to get Henton Hall ready for what was a vintage year in terms of both quality and quantity of blooms. James and Wendy Akers came down from Yorkshire to judge the

championship classes, whilst a good humoured group of judges

consisting of Chris Yates; Ted Perren; Derek Phillips; and Keith Boxall made light-hearted work of judging the single bloom classes. Gwynne Davies kindly stepped in as Show Secretary in Jackie's absence.

These were the results:-

The Society's Gilt Medal was awarded to Derek Phillips for the Wessex Championship winning entry requiring six cultivars from four divisions, with: 'Ombersley' (Best Div 1), 'River Queen', 'Banker' (Best Div 2 & Best Bloom in Show), 'Centrefold', 'Tasgem' (Best Div 4), and 'Badgeworth'. It was a closely fought contest between seven exhibitors and Chris Yates, as runner up, was only half a point behind, and third placed Angela Purnell whose entry included Best Div 3 & Reserve Best Bloom 'Evesham' just another half point behind that.

The Society's Silver Medal for most points in show went to Evelyn Jane, which was well deserved having made such a major contribution to the show throughout the single bloom classes as well as the championships.

The Society's Bronze Medal was won by Angela Purnell, whose 3X3 exhibit of 'Ombersley', 'Evesham', and 'Impeccable' was the Best Exhibit in Championship Classes 2-5.

The American Daffodil Society ribbon for five American bred varieties was won once again by Derek Phillips with a colourful vase of 'River Queen', 'Oregon Pioneer', 'Denali', 'Pacific Rim' and 'Chaste'.

The Frank Calcraft Memorial for a collection of Div. 5-13 blooms went to Evelyn Jane.

The rosette for Best 5-13 collection also went to Evelyn but with three vases of three 'Ice Wings', 'Rapture', and 'N.Taz. Orientalis'. The vase of 'N.Taz. Orientalis' also earned Evelyn Best Vase of Three Blooms and Best Div 5-13 Bloom.

Ted Perren won the 3x3 miniature championship with 'Pacific Coast', 'Angel's Whisper', and 'Yellow Xit' (Best Miniature Bloom)

Section Rosettes were awarded for most wins in: Div 1 Evelyn Jane; Div 2 Ivor Clark; Div 3 a draw between Ivor and Evelyn; Div 4 Derek Phillips; Div 5-13 Jennifer Dean;

Miniatures Ted Perren; Misc classes Chris Yates.

The local Henton Class was won this year by Shirley Angelinetta with three very nice 'Rainbow'.

The Chairman thanks everyone for the support which makes this show possible.

By Derek Phillips

Wessex at the National

Once again Wessex members made a major contribution to the National Show held at Coughton Court on 18th & 19th April.

Frank Newbery made sure Wessex Group had an entry in the twelve cultivar Society class, and achieved a respectable second place for us with: 'Banker' 'Dailmanach' 'Round Oak' 'Cape Point' 'Unique' 'Chobe River' 'Sheelagh Rowan' 'Goonbell' 'Cape Cornwall' 'Silent Valley' 'Arona' & 'Evesham'. John Hamblin entered a six bloom collection on behalf of Nailsea Society and although it was the only entry, had a well deserved first with: 'Badbury Rings' 'Fragrant Rose' 'Merlin' 'Stratosphere' 'Goldfinger' & 'Hawera'.

In the Open Trophy classes Derek Phillips won the 'Williams' for a collection of six yellow daffodils with 'Ombersley' 'Round Oak' 'Impeccable' 'Happy Valley' 'Tasgem' & 'Disquiet'. Frank N was 3rd in the 'Arkwright' which calls for six bi-colours with 'Stormy Weather' 'York Minster' 'Lighthouse Reef' 'Chanson' 'Elmbridge' & 'Corbiere'.

Jennifer Dean who has lost her 'novice' status on her first visit to the National was a commendable 2nd out of six entries in the 'James Barrington' for six Div: 5-8 with 'Mowser' 'Churchfield Bells' 'Dainty Miss' 'Tender moments' 'Stratosphere' and 'Avalanche'. Her Avalanche was also Best Div:8 in the show.

The other collection classes for Divs: 5-9 were monopolised by Wessex, with Evelyn Jane being awarded a Society Bronze Medal for most points. Of the five classes, Evelyn had 4 Firsts and a second. Frank N picked up the other First and 4 seconds.

Chris Yates entered the 'Dr Lower' for three trumpets raised by the

exhibitor and was second out of three good entries, but Chris's entry

did contain the Best Seedling in the show '1-10-98'. Chris also had 3 Firsts in the single bloom seedling classes, and a second place in the Knight Challenge cup for six

cultivars raised by an amateur exhibitor.

The 'vases of 3' Crystal Trophy classes had 65 entries, so to pick up as card of any kind was exceptional. Jennifer Dean had 2 Firsts (Div,s 5 & 11) and a Second (Div 7). Ivor Clark had a second (Div 1). Ken Pickard had 2 Seconds (Divs 5 & 6). Frank N had 2 Seconds (Divs 8 & 9) and a Third (Div 6). Keith Boxall had a Third in the multi-bloom class.

There were record numbers of entries in the single bloom classes also. It is a great effort then that Wessex members: Evelyn; Jennifer; Ivor; Derek; Ted; & Eric, picked up over thirty awards between them. That's too many to list here but worth noting: that Evelyn was awarded another Bronze Medal for runner up most points in the single blooms; Jennifer Dean had best Div:7 in show 'Stratosphere' and Best Div:9 'Blisland'; and Ted Perren had Best Div: 12 'Upalong'.

In the miniature classes, Ted Perren picked up 2 Firsts and 3 Seconds, and Jennifer Dean had a second for miniatures growing in a pot (Hawera).

In the American Daffodil Society class, Derek was second and Evelyn was third.

In the classes restricted to amateurs Frank N made an entry in the extremely popular 'Derek Bircumshaw Trophy' a six vase collection class, and although unplaced out of 12 entries, Frank did have Best Div 4 in show in his entry with 'Dorchester'.

In the class for three cultivars in one vase, Ivor was First and Derek Second. Roles were reversed in the three blooms of one cultivar class, Derek First, Ivor Second.

As a group we can be proud of bringing home a trophy; two medals; an amazing six best in show rosettes; and an awful lot of cards. Well done all

By Derek Philips, Frank Newbery and Chris Yates

Editor's Comment: *Derek will have to look to his laurels, or should that be daffodils. His daughter Jennifer is giving him some real family competition. Well done Jennifer.*

FINAL SHOW THOUGHTS by Barry Stagg

Although I have grown daffodils for many years I have never entered them into a show, apart from my

local society. To be honest I felt a little overwhelmed at the prospect; however, my long suffering wife persuaded me to go and visit the Wessex show and at least see what happens and what sort of daffodil numbers are entered.

And what a lovely event it was. We did have a good look around and I took some confidence that some of the winning daffodils were names I recognised! Some impressive daffodils and even my wife was impressed by the number of different types and colours.

I was also pleased that many of you took the time to stop and talk to us, explaining what was and was not a good specimen. So I don't have any excuse for not entering next year. I have the vases, I have seen the set up, I have the bulbs so all I need now is a few good specimens and I will see you next year!

Barry Stagg

SAD NEWS

I have to pass on the news our long standing stalwart in the New Forrest region John Edsall has died, John had been unwell for some time and had a bad fall recently.

For many years he has been in the forefront of organising shows and successfully exhibiting. He loved to show not only his daffodils but all flowers he loved to grow and was always pleased to help others in any way he could.

He was respected in all horticultural circles and well liked by all who knew him, he will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATIONS

Two of the three candidates taking the Society judging test in April 2015 came from the Wessex region. Congratulations to **Ivor Clark** and

Eric Pickard who are now accredited Society judges.

Editor's Comment: *I am told this judging test is not just a stroll in the park so to speak. It entails written and practical elements that is quite exacting. All this at the same time as exhibiting. Perhaps Ivor or Eric could share their experience with us. Again, hearty congratulations.*

NARCISSUS FLY

Jackie Petherbridge feels it has been a really bad year for narcissus fly. So bad that even her husband noticed them! She suspects having to neglect her bulbs for a couple of years have made them stressed and even more tempting. Has anyone else in the area noticed an increase?

There is an item on the website in the Pests and Diseases section that gives further guidance.

NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome to Terry Miller from Wokingham, Berkshire who has family connections with Clevedon. North Somerset

He made a great impression at Nailsea show where he was assisted by his son. A potential new exhibitor at Wessex possibly?

WESSEX A.G.M.

This event will again be held at Yatton Village Hall, Yatton, North Somerset. The date has yet to be finalised but will be sometime in October. The date is dependant on the availability of bulbs from our major sponsor.

The date will be advised by email, website and mail as appropriate but will not be mid week like last year.

Thanks to the show reports to this bumper edition especially to our new contributors. Without your input there would be no newsletter.

Future contributions on any related topic to Basil Billinger on 01275 855675 or email b.c.billinger@talktalk.net