

NEWSLETTER
THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY
WESSEX GROUP
(Established 1988)

May 2017



Welcome to this 2017 show edition of our newsletter. I hope this will be of interest and a prompt on what went well and what went not so well.

My thanks go out to the contributors. Without their input, as well as showing, there would be no newsletter.

14TH MARCH – BURNHAM ON SEA H.S.

The first of the local shows and it was pleasing how many supported.

Prize Winners in the Daffodil classes were Angela Purnell, Hilary Scott, John Chinn, Marilyn Turner, Lakin Earl, John Shattock and David Bryant.

Winning varieties included Monkswood, Midas Touch, Pink Silk, Lenymore, Oops, Demmo, Rapture and Avalanche.

It was great to welcome back Angela Purnell to the show bench after a difficult year. Good to see you.

David Bryant

14/15TH MARCH - ROSEMOOR RHS

The early date of the second weekend in March didn't faze Ivor Clarke of Alveston, South Gloucestershire.

All his entries at the RHS Daffodil competition at Rosemoor won first prizes and an immaculately grown and presented set of six blooms, Ombersley 1Y-Y and Honeybourne 2W-Y, Silent Valley 1W-W and Cameo Joy 2Y-R, with Arleston 2Y-Y and Queens Guard 1|W-Y deservedly won him the Crystal trophy. The Best Bloom

however eluded him. This was a 2W-W seedling F41 exhibited by Carlos van de Veek

Jackie Petherbridge

18TH MARCH - BROADWEY, UPWEY & DISTRICT H.S.

One of the earliest shows in the Wessex area, BUDS show near Weymouth nonetheless attracted 7 daffodil exhibitors and 51 entries.

The championship class for 3 vases of 3 blooms, 3 cultivars, had a new winner this year. Mark Read won with three nicely uniform vases albeit all with yellow perianths. His vase of 3 x Viking 1Y-Y was awarded 'Best Vase', and the exhibit also contained 3 x Uncle Duncan 1Y-O, and an unknown 2Y-O. Other awards in the championship were Ray Hayward 2nd, and Eric Pickard 3rd.

A class for two vases of 3 blooms was won by Darlene Hayward with Lennymore 2Y-R and Olly's Medal 1W-Y.

Ray Hayward won the 6 vase collection class with a Banker 2Y-O which was awarded 'Best Bloom', along with Misquote 1Y-Y; Pops Legacy 1W-Y; Latchley Meadows 2W-Y; Lennymore 2Y-R; and Truculent 3W-WWY. 2nd was Mark Read, 3rd Eric Pickard.

It was the 3 vase collection class though that was awarded 'Best Exhibit' and a Daffodil Society Medal. Three lovely flowers exhibited by Darlene Hayward: Beaulieu 1Y-Y; Tycoon 3W-WWY; and Eastbrook Sunrise 1Y-O. 2nd was Eric Pickard, 3rd Mark Read.

A Daffodil Society Diploma was awarded at the judge's discretion to a smashing vase of three miniatures: Little Becky 12Y-Y. This was exhibited by Eric Pickard.

Finally the 18 single vase classes were bolstered by the exhibits of the one-man show that is the indomitable Bill Howarth, who of course very deservedly had most points.

Derek Phillips.

25th March - WEST MOORS H.S.

The early season was in evidence at West Moors in Dorset with a bumper show of daffodils. Dave Manston had a good day, particularly in the classes for vases of 3 blooms and was a worthy winner of the Glory of Spring Challenge cup for most points in the daffodil classes.

The Daffodil Society Medal is awarded to the winner of the West Moors Daffodil Championship class. This is for a collection of 6 single bloom vases each a different cultivar and as ever was once again hotly contested. This year's winner was Derek Phillips, with Ray Hayward 2nd, and Dave Manston 3rd.

The winning blooms were: Honeybourne 2W-Y; Seedling 38-25 4Y-Y; Misquote 1Y-Y; Latchley Meadows 2W-Y; Truculent 3W-WWY; and Banker 2Y-O.

The entry itself was awarded 'Best Exhibit in Show', and the Honeybourne from this set was judged to be the 'Best Bloom in show'. The seedling double 38-25 was also a cracking flower for

a Division 4 and is one to look out for if it is ever registered.

Dave Manston was winner of both of the Div.1 'vase of 3' classes with: Viking 1Y-Y and Pops Legacy 1W-Y. Darlene Hayward won the single bloom class with a very nice Eastbrook Sunrise 1Y-O. John Gillingham dominated Div.2 with awards in all three classes. His vase of 3x Ashmore 2W-GWW was the 'Best Vase in show'; he also won the single bloom class with Celestial Fire 2Y-O and continued his wins in Div.3 with 3x Cool Crystal 3W-GWW. Ray Hayward was also a winner with 3x Cape Cornwall 2Y-YYO.

Winners of the remaining open classes were as follows: Dave Manston took the single blooms with Badbury Rings 3Y-YYR and Dorchester 4W-P. Derek Phillips won with his old favourite 3x Heamoor 4Y-Y. Tony Beard took both the multi-headed bloom classes with Castanets 8Y-O, and finally the class for a vase of 3 blooms not otherwise covered in the schedule was won by John Manston with 3x Rapture 6Y-Y.

There is also a trophy class for a single all yellow daffodil from any division; won this year by Darlene Hayward with a beauty of an Ombersley 1Y-Y.

West Moors Horticultural Society has a very large village membership and novice growers are encouraged and well catered for in what they term members 'small growers' classes. In fact there are as many classes for daffodil 'small growers' as there are in the open competition, with special classes for garden favourites such as 'Ice Follies', 'Tahiti', 'St.Keverne', and 'Rainbow'. Small growers also have their own championship class for four vases, won this year by Lyn Mathews. All of these small growers classes are very well supported and interest in the daffodil in this very lovely part of the world is clearly alive and well.

Derek Phillips.

2ND APRIL - DORSET COUNTY SHOW

This show is now well established as a venue for some of the top exhibitors in the South west, where the Championship class for 9 blooms from at least 3 division attracted 5 entries. Derek Phillips was the winner with a fine, consistent set which all scored well to achieve top score without having any extra special blooms. His bloom of seedling 38-25 which was awarded best division 4 did have sufficient form to suggest that we may see more of it. Ray Hayward who came second included good flowers of Disquiet (best div 1 and BEST BLOOM) and Astrids Memory (almost as good as the one he showed in the single blooms that earned best div 3 and reserve best bloom).

Unfortunately his supporting cast lacked strength in depth. David Bassil came third and his best flower was Dailmanach (best div2) There were 4 good entries in the 6 bloom price limit class. 1st Mark Read (good flowers of Golden Joy & Midas Touch), 2nd Darlene Hayward (fine Dunley Hall) and 3rd David Bassil.

In the 3x3 Mark again took 1st place (more good Midas Touch) and Eric Pickard was runner-up (his best - Camaraderie).

The 3x3 from divs 5-9 attracted 5 excellent entries with David Bassil just edging Jennifer Phillips for top spot. David's set included a vase of 3 well balanced Ice Wings (9 matching florets).

Blooms of note among the singles were Ombersley, White Tea and the previously mentioned Astrids Memory. The best vase of 3 was Ombersley which earned David a diploma. There were 3 attractive entries in the class for 3 blooms with pink, which was popular with the afternoon visitors. Derek won the "Outside Europe" class with 3 American cultivars.

Other vases of note David Bassil's 9 quality blooms in 1 vase and Jennifer Phillips' 3 Trena (well travelled but still in fine form!). David Ennals received a diploma for best novice exhibit - a bloom of Banker good enough to indicate that he is ready to move up. David Bassil also gained first place in both the Tulip classes to round off a significant contribution to the benches.

Chris Yates

2ND APRIL - NAILSEA H.S.

This was very well supported show with a near a record entry of daffodils. Ivor Clarke almost had a clean sweep of the major classes but he had to fight hard with some top competition in some well contested classes.

He won the Daffodil Society Bronze Medal for best exhibit and diplomas for reserve best exhibit, best loom and best vase of 3 blooms plus the Frank Calcraft Trophy.

Ivor's winning nine vases comprised Touch Down, Altun Ha, Evesham, Sun Bronze Cool Crystal, Crowndale, Moon Shadow, Cherrygardens and Chobe River. His 3 blooms - 3 vases were Crown Dale, White Star** and Sun Bronze. The Frank Calcraft Award, 3 Blooms Div 5 - 12 were Kokopelli, Trigonometry and Dan du Plessis ** Best bloom in show.

His clean sweep of the major classes was broken by Rod Veale, from Kingston Seymour, with an excellent vase of five blooms, Chanson, Drayton, Sportsman, Cool Crystal and Pacific Rim.

Special congratulations must go to Terry Miller who won the overall prize for most points in the daffodil classes displaying almost 70 vases with blooms grown in his garden in Wokingham.

Ivor also won best miniature with Fairy Chimes and yours truly crept in with best bloom Div 5-12, Chipper.

Basil Billinger

9TH APRIL THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY WESSEX GROUP

The 29th Wessex Group Show at its usual venue at Henton in Somerset, was held at the end of a week of summer temperatures. There was some apprehension about how many blooms would make it, due to the hot weather. Fears were unfounded however, and as usual our Wessex exhibitors came good, 28 of them in fact equalling last year's record. It was a splendid show, perhaps one of our best, giving our senior judge this year Janine Doulton from Folkstone, plenty to deliberate on.

The quality of all the exhibits was very high, especially in the Wessex Championship class requiring 6 vases covering all Divisions 1-4. Derek Phillips regained the Championship this year, together with the **Society Gilt Medal** his six cultivars being: Crowndale 4Y-O; River Queen 2W-W; Moon Shadow 3W-GWW; Banker 2Y-O; Disquiet 1Y-Y; and White Tea 2W-W. Second place went to Chris Yates, and third was Ivor Clark.

Unusually none of the Best Bloom awards were to be found in the top three exhibits of the championship, such was the high standard of blooms across the whole show. **Best Div.3** bloom however was residing in the unplaced championship exhibit of Evelyn Jane: a very nice Stanway 3Y-ORR.

The **Society Bronze Medal** for the Best Exhibit in Championship classes 2-5, went to Evelyn Jane for her 3x3 Alan Purnell Memorial Class entry of: Best Friend 3Y-YYO; Cameo King 2W-W; and Lemon Haze 2Y-GWY. Second in the 3x3 Divs.1-4 was Ivor Clark, and Third Derek Phillips. As if once again to

underline the overall standard: the **Best Vase** of three blooms in the show; the **Best Div.1** bloom; and **Reserve Best Bloom** in show all came from a vase of Ombersley 1Y-Y in Derek Phillips Third placed exhibit. As it is me that's writing this report, I'm allowed to say what you must be thinking, that his other two vases couldn't have been much of it! True.

The Frank Calcraft Memorial Class for 6 vases from Divs.5-13 was won once again by Angela Purnell with an exhibit also awarded **Best 5-13 collection**. Trigonometry 11W-P; Silver Chimes 8W-W; Ice Wings 5W-W; Crill 7Y-R; Kokopelli 7Y-Y; and Blisland 9W-YYR. Second was Jennifer Phillips and Third Frank Newbery.

Class 4 for 3x3 Divs. 5-13 was won this year by Jennifer Phillips with: Kilstar 6W-P; Penny Perowne 7Y-Y; and Jamage 8W-Y. Second Angela Purnell and third Evelyn Jane. The ladies are monopolising this class chaps.

Class 5 for 3x3 miniatures was won by Angela Purnell, with Baby Boomer 7Y-Y; Hawera 5Y-Y; and Golden Bells 10Y-Y. Ivor Clark was Second and no Third awarded.

The **American Daffodil Society Ribbon** was where Chris Yates took his revenge on Derek and won with a lovely vase of: Emerald Empire 2W-GWW; Cool Crystal 3W-GWW; Spun Honey 4Y-Y; Phaonician 2W-W; and Culmination 2W-P. Second Derek Phillips, Third Evelyn Jane. Three very nice entries.

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

WESSEX MEMBERS AT THE NATIONAL SHOWS **18/19th April - Coughton Court**

Just six of us made it to the National at Coughton Court on 15-16 April. Despite our lack of numbers and scratching for blooms, we still took 47 cards, a trophy, ADS ribbon, and 2 Best Division blooms between us. At National level where exhibits are of a high standard, a card of any colour is a real achievement.

Once again we recorded no actual wins in the open trophy classes which are dominated by the heavyweight exhibitors, but three of us at least had a go and were not disgraced. For the third year running Jennifer Phillips was second only to Terry Braithwaite in the **James Barrington** for 6 blooms from Divs 5, 6, 7, & 8. A tremendous achievement once again, and perhaps resigned to the fact that Terry is in a different league; it's as good as a first.

Derek Phillips managed to put up 6 White cultivars in the **Ernie Darlow**. Roger Braithwaite won this class; with Frankie Charlton second, so being third and not last in that sort of company was another good result.

Frank Newbery and Jennifer entered the collection classes for Divs. 5-9. These are tough classes requiring 3 cultivars, three blooms of each, for each division. Five classes in all and Wessex had a card each of them. Jennifer had a 1st in the Div.7 class with 3x'Stratosphere'; 'Dainty Miss' and 'Regeneration'; plus a 3rd in Div.5. Frank had a 2nd in Div 9, plus two 3^{rds} in Divs. 6 & 8. One of Frank's 3x'Blisland' was also **Best Div.9** in show.

Moving on to the single vases of 3 blooms, **Crystal Trophy Classes**, and four of us took 7 cards. Derek had two 1st s with 3x'Stratosphere'in Div.7, and 3x 'Blisland' in Div 9. One of his 3xStratospheres was proclaimed **Best Div:7** in show. He also had a 2nd & a 3rd. Ivor Clark, Frank, and Jennifer each had a 2nd award.

We did better than last year in the open single bloom classes. One of the largest classes was for '1Y-Y' with 16 entries, of

which Wessex took 1st and 2nd spot. Derek 1st with 'Disquiet' and Ted Perren 2nd with 'The Baltic'. Derek had other 1st s with 'Gay Kybo' Div.4, and 'Stratosphere' Div.7, plus three 2nd s. Jennifer had two 1st s with 'An Gof' Div.7, and 'Dan du Plessis' Div.8, plus two 3rd s. Eric Pickard had a 2nd with 'Corky's Song' Div.2W-Y.

In the Overseas Cultivar Classes, Derek failed to put up a New Zealand entry this year but did win the **American Daffodil Society Ribbon**, albeit a hollow victory as it was the only entry. It shows how good we are in Wessex though, as we have at least three entries every year under the star spangled banner at our show.

Wessex did quite well in the non-trophy miniature classes too: Ted and Ivor each picked up 4 cards, Derek 3 and Jennifer just one, although that was a 1st for a nice species 'N.Poeticus Hellenicus'. Ted had two 1st s with 'Stafford' and 'Fairy Chimes', plus two 3rd s. Ivor had two 2nd s and two 3rd s. Derek two 2nd s and a 3rd.

In something more unusual Ted put up an entry in the 'Evaluation' Class for miniatures not on the list but ought to be considered. 'Bobbysoxer' 7Y-YYO earned one of Ted's 3rd s. We shall have to see if it makes it onto the miniature list. First registered in 1949 it's had a long wait!

On to the 'Amateur' restricted cultivar section of the show, and to our only trophy winner. Well done Frank who won the **GKN Challenge Bowl** for three yellow cultivars: 'The Baltic', 'Goldfinger'; and 'Strines'.

Ivor also picked up a 1st for 3x'The Baltic'.; Derek a 1st for 3x'Dainty Miss'; and Jenny a 2nd in the single bloom Div.5-8.

But how's this for a finale? Eric took a first in all four restricted list single bloom classes Div.1 -4 with: 'The Baltic'; 'Inverpolly'; 'Evesham'; and 'Gay Kybo'. Well done all of us.

22nd April - Henry Street Garden Centre, Reading.

Two weeks after our Wessex show and the weather still relentlessly hot, it was an achievement to have anything at all to take to Reading on 22-23 April. Ted Perren, Keith Boxall, Terry Miller, Derek and Jennifer Phillips kept the Wessex flag flying with a surprising number of blooms. Enough to pick up another 42 cards; 2 medals; and no less than 5 Best Bloom awards.

Greatest achievement has to go to Jennifer up against Terry Braithwaite yet again in the **Silver Medal** class for 6 cultivars from Divs.5-9. After a recall of the judges for a double check, it was confirmed that Jennifer had won by just half a point. Perseverance paid off and Jenny won her first ever medal, silver at that. Winning blooms were: 'An Gof'; 'Regeneration'; 'Stratosphere'; 'Jingle Bells'; 'Lemon Drops' and 'Mowser'.

Jennifer also won the vase of three Divs.5-9 with 'Mowser'.

This show also has classes for vases of 7 blooms Div.5-9. Derek had a 1st in this with 7x'Stratosphere', and Ted a 2nd with 7x'Sun Disc'.

Nothing much to report in the miniatures, although Ted did pick up a 2nd, and Jennifer a 3rd.

In the open single blooms Div.1-4, Ted picked up a second, and Derek half a dozen mostly 2nd s and 3rd s except in one of the strongest contested classes 2W-P, with 10 entries, in which 'Editor' earned Derek a pleasing first.

In the open single blooms Div.5-11 the group did much better. Terry Miller had a 1st and **Best Div.10** with 'Golden Bells'. Jennifer beat her dad with 5 award cards to 3; but Derek did have a 1st and **Best Div.7** with 'Stratosphere'; and a 1st and **Best Div 9** with 'Blisland'.

In the Amateur Classes, Derek did have a go at both the 6 vase collection, and the 3x3 class, more to boost entries on the

bench than anything. With some tired blooms he was 2nd out of two entries in both classes. On the positive side however his 6 did contain **Best Amateur Bloom** 'Editor' 2W-P which earned him a **Bronze Medal**.

The amateur single blooms were good for Keith Boxall who had 3 x 1st s with 'Armidale' Div.3; 'Mission Bells' Div.5; and 'Angel Eyes' Div.9, plus a 2nd. Ted Perren had a 1st with 'The Baltic' Div.1. Derek had a couple of 1st s with 'Seagrave' Div.4; and 'Stratosphere' Div.7, plus a couple of 2nds. Jennifer had a 1st and **Best Div.11** with 'Tripartite', plus as 2nd.

Finally the novice classes, and Terry Miller put up entries in most of these. He had 4x 1st s with 'Wychbold' Div.3; 'An Gof' Div.7; 'Golden Bells' Div.10; and 3x 'Cheedale' Div.4, plus 2x 2nd s and a 3rd.

STOP PRESS

Annual General Meeting + Bulb Auction/Raffle

This year we have been able to secure a booking on a Saturday in October. The date is the 21st at 2.30p.m at the usual venue, Yatton Village Hall. Official notification will be sent out nearer the time. In the meantime put this date in your diary now.

Derek will be doing his best to acquire some sought after bulbs for the auction/raffle which will make your attendance well worthwhile.

STOP PRESS, AGAIN

Derek Phillips has just been elected as Vice President of the Daffodil Society at the recent AGM. Hearty congratulations

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