

NEWSLETTER  
**THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY**  
**WESSEX GROUP**  
(Established 1988)

**JULY 2018**



What an odd assortment of weather from the dank, dreary wet and white early months to the unusual hot later in the growing and showing season. The Beast from the East certainly made its mark.

I am aware that a number of early shows were cancelled; North Somerset and Cheltenham come to mind and probably others. However, despite the early setbacks the blooms bounced back so the later shows were well supported. Well done every one.

This is predominately a show edition so thanks for the reports. I compile this with temperatures in the 80's with no sign of any rain. Role on autumn!

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> March - Burnham on Sea H.S.**

It was tricky getting flowers to be ready for this early show.

Angela Purnell had some very good exhibits and won most of the cut flower classes. She exhibited some fine blooms of Beaulieu, Honeybourne, Special Envoy and Heamoor plus three stems of Soleil D'Or.

Best exhibit in the pot classes was a pot of Jetfire in perfect condition exhibited by Paul Ware.

**David Bryant**

**18<sup>th</sup> March - BROADWEY, UPWEY & DISTRICT H.S.**

BUDS show near Weymouth was held on a day more like Mid-Winter than spring. Snow was falling as judging commenced, with other local shows the following day having to be cancelled due to the weather. Nonetheless daffodils and their growers are a hardy bunch and 5 exhibitors had defied the bitterly cold March conditions to produce 44 entries. It was notable that every Division except the late flowering Div.9s was covered by these entries, including miniatures.

Mark Read repeated his success of last year winning the championship class for 3 vases of 3 blooms, 3 cultivars. The three cultivars being: 'Midas Touch' 1Y-Y; 'Uncle Duncan' 1Y-O; and 'Gallipoli Dawn' 2Y-Y.

Whilst this exhibit contained no white perianths, it was a worthy winner, all three vases being very uniform and the whole exhibit well staged. This entry was also awarded a Daffodil Society Bronze Medal for 'Best Daffodil Exhibit', and the vase of 'Gallipoli Dawn' a Daffodil Society Diploma for 'Best Vase'. Runner up was Ray Hayward, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Howarth.

Two more vases of 3 'Midas Touch' and 'Uncle Duncan' gave Mark another First in class 2.

The six cultivar collection was more of a battle; Ray Hayward's experience gave him a healthy 2 point lead just on presentation, but after the flowers were pointed, Mark Read had clawed this deficit back and won by just half a point overall. Two very good and close entries. Mark's cultivars were: 'Banker' 2Y-O; 'Tropical Heat' 2Y-R; 'Midas Touch' 1Y-Y; 'Uncle Duncan' 1Y-O; 'Gallipoli Dawn' 2Y-Y; and 'Brindabella' 4Y-Y. 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to Eric Pickard. Mark's 'Uncle Duncan' from this entry was awarded a Daffodil Society 'Best Bloom' card.

Darlene Hayward won the three cultivar collection with: 'Foff's Way' 1Y-O; 'Oops' 2W-Y; and 'Beaulieu' 1Y-Y. Runner up, Mark Read.

Of the other classes, notable was the class for three blooms of one cultivar from Div.6. Three good entries: 1<sup>st</sup> Eric Pickard 'Swift Arrow' 6Y-Y; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Howarth 'Rapture' 6Y-Y; 3<sup>rd</sup> Darlene Hayward 'Warbler' 6Y-Y.

Another vase of Eric's Division sixes caught my eye in the miniature section, 3x 'Mite' 6Y-Y which was awarded the judges discretionary Daffodil Society Diploma.

Finally 'most points' was once again awarded to Bill Howarth who manages to find entries for nearly

every class, and the show is all the richer for it.

**Derek Phillips**

**24<sup>th</sup> March - WEST MOORS HS**

A very different season than last year left organisers a bit worried about entries. However the usual culprits in the open classes turned up with blooms leaving the show only a little down on numbers. The unseasonal cold weather affected Dave Manston's entries the most as he grows outside in unheated frames. Derek Phillips on the other hand benefitted from growing inside in pots and consequently had a wider choice of blooms this year. Not enough to match the numbers of entries from Bill Howarth though who was once again 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Dave Manston 3<sup>rd</sup>. The winning blooms were: Honeybourne 2W-Y; Beaulieu 1Y-Y; Drayton 2Y-Y; Rosemary Pearson 2W-P; Truculent 3W-WWY; and Lennymore 2Y-R. The entry itself was awarded 'Best Exhibit in Show'

It was Derek's year in the vases of three blooms, winning four firsts from the five awarded with Dorneywood 1W-Y; Impeccable 2Y-Y (Best Vase in Show); Finchcocks 2Y-R; and Truculent 3W-WWY. Dave Manston picked up the other First with St. Budock 1Y-Y.

Best Bloom in show was to be found in the single vase classes, a lovely Beaulieu 1Y-Y shown by Darlene Hayward who also won the Bill Stanton Trophy for an all yellow daffodil with another example of the same cultivar. Darlene won both the multi-head classes as well with a vase of 3 Falconet 8Y-R and a single vase of Martinette 8Y-O.

Being such an early season show I am surprised there is not more in the schedule for the naturally early Division 6s which are always relegated to the 'any other' class at this show. This was won by Bill with a nice vase of Rapture 6Y-Y.

As I have mentioned in previous reports, the support for the 'small growers' classes is always good. West Moors Horticultural Society has a very large village membership and it's good to see novice growers encouraged and well catered for with a range of their own classes. They also have their own championship for four vases. Winner this year was Tim Hamlett with St Keverne 2Y-Y; Ombersley 1Y-Y; Cape Cornwall 2Y-YR; and Thalia 5W-W. Tim also won the Trumpets with Mt.Hood 1W-W. Congratulations too to Mrs R Dunning who won both the Large and Small cups. Bill Howarth cleared up in the members 'named variety' classes with Firsts for Salome; St Keverne; and Mt.Hood. Nobody managed a Tahiti understandably given the coldness of the season.

Once again another enjoyable show in a lovely part of Dorset with lovely people.

**Derek Phillips**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> April – NAILSEA H.S.**

Another good show at Nailsea even though it has been a trying year. At least three new exhibitors, the youngest being 5 years old, and the widest variety of cultivars I can remember.

The society would like to thank Derek Phillips who judged the open classes and Ivor Clark who cast his eye over the member's exhibits.

The Daffodil Society Centenary Class Award, and bronze medal for best exhibit, was awarded to Rodney Veale for his set of singles, Banker, Moonshadow, Qiyana-Raine, Alto, Treasure Hunt, Cryptic, Pacific Rim, Aston Wold and Fireblade.

Rodney also won the R.N. Coate Cup and bronze medal for reserve best exhibit in the show with six blooms from six divisions. They were; Qiyana-Raine, Silent Valley, Park Springs, Banker, Menehay and Avalanche.

He also won the Jim Tigwell trophy for three vases of three from divisions 1-4 with Pacific Rim, Online and Bramcote Village.

Normally the best bloom at a show comes from one of the first four divisions and from one of the group exhibits, but on this occasion Roz Mizen won a Daffodil Society Diploma for a lovely Lilac Charm.

The member's competition was run so that the exhibitors did not know what varieties they were given. They only knew the division and colours and there were four types to choose from supplied by Scamps.

Valerie Davis received the most points in the member's classes and so received the Barbara Randall Trophy. She also received a Daffodil Society Diploma for the best exhibit in the member's classes for her pot of Cudden Point. The best bloom in this section was also a Cudden Point grown by Bill Knight.

Best vase of three was awarded to John Hamblin with a trio of Flying High making a rare appearance. He also provided the best division one bloom with a Midas Touch.

Rodney Veale gained diplomas by providing the best blooms from divisions two, three and four with Banker, Park Springs and Qiyana Raine. He also won the Thelma Howe's Memorial Trophy for the most points in the Daffodil classes.

Basil Billinger won his diploma for the best miniature with one of a delightful trio of Minnow.

Terry Miller was rewarded for the many miles he had travelled by winning the Frank Calcraft Memorial Trophy, for three vases from divisions 5-12, with three very colourful vases of three stems of Menehey, Shrike and Saxby.

**John Hamblin**

#### **8<sup>th</sup> April -THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY WESSEX GROUP**

Last year I was reporting on summer temperatures, but this year as we all well know it was more like Arctic ones in the run up to the 30<sup>th</sup> Wessex Group Show. Held at its usual venue in Henton, Somerset, exhibitors had been reporting that they 'didn't have much'. Fearing the worst and having visions of empty benches, I even scoured the garden for entries in the more obscure classes, and took the most serious step ever taken in the history of the show, by reducing the bacon roll order. As usual however such claims should have been taken

with a pinch of salt as 27 exhibitors produced a great display of blooms. It may have been a bit thinner in the Div3 and multi head classes, but otherwise as good a show as ever. A bit of economy with the bacon and all was well. We even had six new exhibitors in the open classes, which bodes well for the future.

Seven exhibits in the Wessex Championship class requiring 6 vases covering all Divisions 1-4, gave our senior judge this year Janine Doulton from Folkstone, plenty to deliberate on. Ivor Clark took the Championship this year together with the **Society Gilt Medal** his six cultivars being: Ombersley 1Y-Y; Cherrygardens 2W-GPP; Touchdown 2W-P; Crowndale 4Y-O; Online 2Y-Y; and White Tea 2W-GWW. Second place went to Ray Hayward, and third was Derek Phillips.

Once again however none of the Best Bloom awards were to be found in the top exhibit.

**Best Div.1** bloom and **Best Bloom** in the show was an Ombersley 1Y-Y in Chris Yates' entry. **Best Div.2** bloom was Ray Hayward's Banker 2Y-O. **Best Div.3** bloom was my Truculent 2W-WWY although it was just the best of a poor number of Div 3s and was already drawing its pension.

The **Society Bronze Medal** for the Best Exhibit in Championship classes 2-5, also went to Ivor Clark for his 3x3 Alan Purnell Memorial Class entry of: Snowboard 2W-GWW; Tycoon 3W-WWY; and Queen's Guard 1W-Y. Second in this class was new Wessex exhibitor Rodney Veale, and Third Eric Pickard.

The Frank Calcraft Memorial Class for 6 vases from Divs.5-13 was won this year by Evelyn Jane with Boslowick 11aY-O; Avalanche 8W-Y; Quail 7Y-Y; Abbey Road 5WYY-W; Rapture 6Y-Y; and Tracy 6W-W. Second was Jennifer Phillips whose Rapture 6Y-Y in this exhibit was **Best Div: 5-13** bloom: and Third was Frank Newbery.

The ladies continue to dominate Class 4 for 3x3 Divs. 5-13, Darlene Hayward was awarded **Best 5-13 collection** winning with: Pipit 7YYW-Y; Abbey Road 5WYY-W; and Quail 7Y-Y. Second was Jennifer Phillips whose vase of 3x Rapture 6Y-Y was awarded **Best Vase** of three blooms in the show. Third was another new Wessex exhibitor Roz Mizen. Class 5 for 3x3 miniatures was won by Ivor Clark, with Yellow Xit; N.Intermedius; and Angel's Whisper.

Evelyn Jane was Second and no Third awarded.

There were only two entries in the **American Daffodil Society Ribbon** class this year, but both excellent. Chris Yates won this once again with a stunning vase of: Pink Silk 1W-P; Phaonician 2W-W; Trumpet Warrior 1YYW-WWY; Oregon Pioneer 2Y-P; and Miss Primm 2Y-Y. Second was Evelyn Jane.

Chris Yates also won the **Society Silvered Medal** for most points in the show for another great contribution of entries. However Evelyn Jane and Ted Perren were right on his tail in terms of points.

There were multiple entries in most of the remaining 46 classes, mostly for single blooms. Amazingly there were over a dozen entries in several of them including classes for 1Y-Y; 1W-W; 2Y-Y; 2Y-O; 2W-P. A couple of Best Blooms were found in this section: Derek Phillip's Tasgem 4Y-Y **Best Div.4** bloom; and a Xit from a vase of three, shown by Ivor Clark and awarded **Best Miniature** and **Reserve Best Bloom** in show.

Chris Yates picked up three of the Section Winners rosettes for most wins in:- Div:2, Div:3, and the misc. section. Evelyn Jane for Div.1. Derek Phillips for Div: 4. Terry Miller for Divs:5-13. and Ivor Clark for the miniatures.

Our dear friends from Henton GC were there early in the morning and provided the much appreciated Bacon Rolls during staging. The club also provide tea and cakes for visitors to the show, something which our group members do not have the resource to do. Thank you Henton GC and congratulations to Diana Wagstaff winner of **Best Exhibit in the Local Classes**.

Thanks too, to Janine for travelling so far to judge the show, to Gwynne Davies who once again covered as 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. I am truly grateful to you all, and especially to the non exhibitors who troubled to come to Henton only to help. Thank you all.

**Derek Phillips**

**WESSEX MEMBERS AT THE NATIONAL SHOWS 2018**

**Coughton Court**

The following Wessex group members received awards at the Daffodil Society National Main Competition held at Coughton Court on 21-22 April: Ivor Clark; Zara Evans; Evelyn Jane; Terry Marshall; Frank Newbery; Ted Perren; Derek Phillips; Jennifer Phillips; and Chris Yates.

Nine of us, which is a pretty good representation, and between us took 61 cards; Two Trophies; 2 medals; the ADS ribbon, and 3 Best Division blooms. At National level where exhibits are of a high standard, that's not a bad haul.

Chris Yates was our only Trophy winner in the open collection classes, this being for three trumpet daffodils raised by the exhibitor; the **Dr lower Challenge Cup**. Chris was also 2<sup>nd</sup> in the **Bourne Cup** for 12 cultivars raised by the exhibitor, and 2<sup>nd</sup> for a single bloom seedling. However Jennifer Phillips did earn a bronze medal for having most points in the three cultivar classes for Divs 5-9 having won two out of the five classes for divisions 7 (Evelyn Jane 2<sup>nd</sup>) & 8. The other open trophy classes are dominated by the heavyweight exhibitors, but three of us took up the challenge and were not disgraced. Chris was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the **White Daffodil Trophy**. Derek Phillips was 3<sup>rd</sup> in both the **Williams** for 6 yellows, and the **Ernie Darlow** for 6 whites. Roger Braithwaite won both of those, with Frankie Charlton second. Jennifer Phillips was unplaced with stiff competition in the **James Barrington** for 6 blooms from Div's 5, 6, 7, & 8. but had a very acceptable exhibit.

Moving on to the single vases of 3 blooms, **Crystal Trophy Classes**, and four of us took 11 cards. Only Terry Marshall won anything in Divs:1-4 with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place for his doubles. In classes for Div's 8 & 9 Wessex took 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in both classes. Evelyn Jane had two 1sts with 'Geranium' Div:8, and 'Blisland' **Best Div:9** in show. Terry Marshall had a 1<sup>st</sup> in Div:6 with 'Elizabeth Ann'. Ivor Clark had a 2<sup>nd</sup> in Div:5 and Frank Newbery two 2nds in Div's: 8 & 9.

In the other Multi Bloom classes we picked up 4 cards but no firsts. However I would give mention to Frank Newbery's vase of pre 1950 cultivars. I think it was an excellently presented well balanced exhibit giving registration dates and truly in the spirit of the class. The only other entry won the class, but in my

opinion, if anyone was robbed of a 1<sup>st</sup> this year then Frank was.

In the open single bloom classes Evelyn Jane did pretty well, and I believe may have been in the running for a medal on points (but this is unconfirmed as I write this). She had 1sts for 'Cutting Edge'; 'Sir Winston Churchill'; 'Golden bells' **Best Div:10**; and Cornish Chuckles **Best Div:12**, as well as 4x 2nds, and 3x 3rds.

Ted Perren had a 1<sup>st</sup> for his double 'Seagrave'. Terry Miller had two 1sts for 'Silver Chimes' and 'Penjerrick' Div:9. Ivor Clark, Zara Evans, and Jennifer Phillips all also picked up cards but no 1sts.

In the miniatures, only Ted Perren and Jennifer Phillips received awards. Ted had a 1<sup>st</sup> for a single bloom of 'Bebop', plus two other awards. Jennifer had a 1<sup>st</sup> for her single bloom of 'Yellow Xit', plus two other awards.

In the Overseas Cultivar Classes, Derek won the **American Daffodil Society Ribbon**, against three other entries. Evelyn Jane was 2<sup>nd</sup>. The five American Blooms were; Pacific Rim; American Dream; River Queen; Trigonometry; and Oregon Pioneer. This made up for Derek not being able to find a single American bloom for the Wessex show just one week earlier.

In the members classes for Amateurs, Chris Yates won the **Knight Challenge Cup** for six cultivars raised by the exhibitor. Zara Evans was first for three cultivars in one vase 'Rose Lake'; 'Demmo'; and 'Centenary Gold'.

To finish, I note that Frank Newbery was placed (2nds and 3rds) in all of the following: **Norfolk Cup** 12 Cultivars; **Webb Trophy** 3x3; **GKN** 3x yellows; **Sankey** 3 with red or orange in corona; plus a three in a vase class. Which is altogether a great achievement by Frank, and overall I think a good showing from the Wessex group. Well done all of us.

**Orchard Community Centre, Biggleswade.**

Only three Wessex members managed the long haul to Biggleswade: Terry Miller, Derek and Jennifer Phillips. We had a few small successes with what end of season blooms we could muster after the mini heat wave.

Div 5-9 Collections. - Jennifer was still up for competition in the 6 vase class. She was third out of five entries, and it's no disgrace to be beaten only by Terry Braithwaite and John Gibson. Even so Jennifer's exhibit still contained two Best Blooms; 'Lilac Charm' **Best Div:6;** and 'Stratosphere' **Best Div:7.**

Derek had a 1<sup>st</sup> for three blooms in a vase 'Dainty Miss' Div:7. Terry was 3<sup>rd</sup> for his vase of 7 blooms. Jenny was 3<sup>rd</sup> for a vase of 7 Division 9s.

Miniatures. - Derek's vase of three 'Stafford' was **Best Miniature Vase** in show, and one of the three blooms was **Best Miniature.**

In the open single bloom classes we fared OK : Derek had 4x 1sts; 3x 2nds; 2x3rds. Jennifer had 2x1sts; 2x2nds. Terry had 1x1st; 1x2nd; 3x3rds.

In the amateur classes Derek managed a second place in the 6 vase collection; and second (out of two!) in the 3x3.

All three picked up cards in the Amateur single blooms, but only Terry had 1sts with 'Stratosphere' and 'Petrel'.

**Derek Phillips.**

## **THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY WESSEX 2019 SHOW**

Following the hiccup over this year's Sunday date I am pleased to tell you that Derek has secured the usual second Sunday in **April, 14<sup>th</sup>**, for our show at Henton Village Hall.

We are delighted to tell you that our senior judge will be Mr Peter Wilkins from Buckhurst Hill in Essex. We are sure he will be given a warm welcome. Put this date in your diary now.

## **THE DAFFODIL SOCIETY WESSEX GROUP – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018**

This will be held at the usual venue, well known to all, namely Yatton Village Hall, Yatton, North Somerset. We will aim for a Saturday which seems to suit most.

However, the date has still to be confirmed. This will be dependent on hall availability together with the situation regarding bulbs for the raffle auction.

We will let you know the date as soon as confirmed.

Just to advise that the Jack Crease Room and kitchen at Yatton Hall has been booked and confirmed for **Saturday 20th October 2018.**

Put this date in your diary now. Further details will be sent out near the time.

***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](mailto:b.c.billinger@talktalk.net)***

## **STOP PRESS**

Just heard From Martyn Davis of Nailsea Horticultural Society that there has been a hiccup over their usual booking at Nailsea School for the Spring Show.

Historically it has always been held on the first Saturday of April. Not next year. The date for next year's show is **Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April.** For regulars at this show please make a note of the changed date.

It will revert to its usual April Saturday date from now on as Martyn has made a booking for the five years. That's what I call advanced planning