



# NEWSLETTER

✉ [yeovil.dahlia.chrysanthemum@gmail.com](mailto:yeovil.dahlia.chrysanthemum@gmail.com)

f <https://www.facebook.com>

l <https://www.instagram.com>

🌐 <https://www.ydcds.org/>

No.5 December 2024

---

**In this Newsletter, Karen Forrester (our Show Secretary) starts with a report on the 2024 Late Shows. More photos from the shows are on our Facebook page and Website. A Yeovil team took part in the Stonehenge Dahlia Festival. Neal Hatch looks at new dahlia varieties. We take a look at Karen's 'mystery' dahlia and we see Steve Wilcox's wonderful pot chrysanthemum.**

---

## YEOVIL & DISTRICT CHYSANTHEMUM & DAHLIA SOCIETY LATE SHOW REPORT



Yeovil & District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society held their open late show the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November. 52 entries were recorded and the quality of blooms was exceptional.

The Supreme Championship was won by Ivor Mace with his entry of *Rita Fox*, *Mancetta Symbol* & *Jessie Habgood*. Ivor was awarded the Hambley Trophy for Best Vase in Show for *Jessie Habgood* along with the NCS Silver medal. Ivor Mace's wonderful entry of 6 large exhibition won him The Aldon Cup. The entry was made up of *Jessie Habgood*, *Cream Jessie Habgood* & *Primrose Jessie Habgood*.

The Denning Cup is awarded to the best exhibit in Class 3 – 6 Blooms Medium Exhibition. This was won by Harry Godden for his entry of *Lundy*, *Trident* & *Phenoux*. Harry Godden won the Brigham Cup for his entry of *Peach Fairweather* x2 and *Mancetta Symbol*. Harry was also awarded the Show Committee Cup for the most points gained in the show.

The Diment Rose Bowl for 3 vases with 3 blooms of incurved was won by Steve Wilcox for his entry of *Fairweather* & *Salmon Fairweather*.

The Arthur Bicknell Memorial Trophy was also won by Steve Wilcox. This class contained Steve's entry of *White Fairweather & Doreen Statham*. Steve also won Class 9 for 5 incurved with a vase of *Fairweather*, and he was awarded the NCS Bronze Medal for this entry. The judges awarded Steve Wilcox the NCS Certificate of Merit for his entry of 5 *Doreen Statham* in Class 13.

The singles classes were supported by 3 exhibitors. Chris & Jill Bond won the O.A. Wiles Builders Trophy for their entry of 3 vases of small/medium singles. The entry was *Brierton Sunset, Shirley Dyer & Mustard Pot*.

The Joyce Trophy for the best vase of singles in the show was awarded to Mark Hatcher for his entry of *Primrose Kath Stevenson*.

The anemone championship for the Hawes Cup was won by Harry Godden for his entry of *Anderton Gold*.

Unfortunately, we did not have any entries of sprays or fantasies.



## STONEHENGE DAHLIA FESTIVAL, 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September

**Roger Downting, Graham Edwards & Neal Hatch**

Late September saw Roger Downting and Neal Hatch make a trip up to help with the Stonehenge Dahlia Festival. Neal's dahlias were joined in the car by some cracking late-season blooms from Graham Edwards. Despite the downpours we had a fun time staging about 30 vases outside the Stonehenge Visitor Centre with friends from South Wiltshire – all orchestrated by Graham Young.

It was the first time Neal had ever staged in newspaper – having started showing after floral foam had become widely available. Even Agrawool feels good to use after that!

All in all, a really fun end of season trip!





## THE HUNT FOR A NAME

Karen Forrester exhibited a lovely vase of medium decoratives at our early show.

Karen had grown the plants as 2024 cuttings from a tuber bought the previous year (2023) from a well-known supplier. She thought that she was buying *Clearview Loise* – but what turned up seemed to be something different!

After posting a question on the NDS Facebook page – it appears that it is most likely to be *Dikara Jodie*.

However it happened, it was a fortuitous mishap. We were treated to a fantastic vase at the show!

We are all hoping for some rooted cuttings next year!



---

## NEW DAHLIAS GROWN FOR THE 2024 SEASON by Neal Hatch

A quiet year for me on the new dahlia variety front. *Blyton Red Ace* is a new (to me) miniature ball that I enjoyed seeing exhibited by someone else at our 2023 show. It's been a great addition to the plot and I aim to grow it again in 2025. I found it a little on the small side, so must grow fewer stems on it next year. It seemed to hold up well against the weather.



*Blyton Stella* (miniature decorative) was also a dahlia I saw others growing in 2023, and so joined my stable in 2024. It has been quite late flowering and seems a delicate plant with fairly small flowers. As it is fairly short it stood up well to the wind. It looks stunning and I will certainly be growing it again in 2025.



I tried *Tracy Diane* (small decorative) this season. And, just as with all the other *Dianes* I have tried, I found out that I can't grow it! It had the same tendency to weedy/weak stems that I get with all the *Dianes* (despite some potash feed).

I tried the new introduction from Halls - *Hillcrest Charlie* (medium semi-cactus). It looks promising despite flowering (uncovered) during some atrocious weather. It made a couple of outings for me after my main batch of *Ryecroft Helen's* had finished. I would certainly grow it again, alongside my banker in this classification – *Ryecroft Helen*.



I tried some different pompons this year, but with little success. *Winkie Lambrusco* was late and it seems very large for a pompon. *Rhonda & Willos Borealis* suffered in the early dry conditions and were open-centred. *Small World* did produce a few vases for me, and I would give it another try – especially after seeing some of Graham's fabulous blooms.

Following Roger's success with dahlias like *Fred Swabey* and his sport of *Roger's Choice*, I've taken an increasing interest in growing some seedlings of my own, so

these also took up a larger proportion of my dahlia beds this year! *Fairplace Lesley* made a debut (then unnamed) appearance at Taunton. I suspect that it is not going to challenge the top varieties in the Medium Semi-Cactus category, but I have used it a fair bit during the 2024 season. I may see if I can push it up towards a large, where its loose petal formation could be less of a drawback. *Fairplace Amber* (unc miniature ball) is not very different in form to its seed parent *Mary's Jomanda* – but has a slightly brighter orange than *Jomanda*. *Fairplace Ruby* (unc miniature ball) is probably more of a cut flower or a garden variety – as it doesn't have a very dense petal count. But it seems bulletproof in the rain and sun – so I love it and have used it extensively in mixed display classes. The final registered/named variety for 2024 is *Fairplace Firecracker* (unc small cactus). It showed better form in the early part of the season, but needs to be covered as it bleaches. I need to have another try at growing in 2025 to see what I make of it. All four appeared at our early show in the three container displays I did. None of these varieties will, in all likelihood, make a mark at the National, but I've had a lot of fun raising them – which is what counts! A couple of 2024 seedlings and a sport look promising and will be grown for the 2025 season – watch this space!



Fairplace Lesley (unc M Sc) Fairplace Amber (unc Min Ball) Fairplace Ruby (unc Min Ball) Fairplace Firecracker (unc Sm Cac)

## STEVE WILCOX GREW THIS FROM A PLANT RESCUED AT DOBBIES!



One of our well-known exhibitors, Steve Wilcox, brought a fantastic pot chrysanthemum to our late show – which was much admired by visitors and exhibitors alike.

It turned out that Steve had rescued a plant at an end-of-season sale at Dobbies Garden Centre. This was the result of his taking cuttings and nurturing the resulting plants over several years. This particular example is three years old, I believe. We will all be off to our local garden centres shortly!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Early Show:

20-21<sup>st</sup> September

2025

Late Show:

15-16<sup>th</sup> November

2025