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In this Newsletter, Karen Forrester (our Show Secretary) starts with a report on the 2025 Late Show. Additional photos from the shows are on our Website. We also include some photos from the Western Group's Late Show. Graham Edwards has success with taking autumn dahlia cuttings. We take a first look at Oasis Renewal.

YEOVIL & DISTRICT CHYSANTHEMUM & DAHLIA SOCIETY LATE SHOW REPORT



Yeovil & District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society held their open late show the weekend of 15th & 16th November. An exceptional display of late chrysanthemums was put on show by all exhibitors.

The Lush Cup, which is awarded to the winner of The Supreme Championship, was won by Ivor Mace with his entry of **2 x vases Jessie Habgood and 1 vase White Fairweather**. The NCS Bronze medal was awarded to Ivor for this entry.

Ivor's 6 large exhibition blooms, an amazing display of **Yellow Duke of Kent, Pink Duke of Kent, Jessie Habgood x 2, Jessie Habgood Cream & Jessie Habgood Primrose** saw him awarded the NCS silver medal.

Ivor's success in the show continued with him being presented with The Arthur Bicknell Memorial Trophy, 2 Vases 3 Blooms in each Vase selected from incurved, reflexed, intermediate and singles, the Aldon Cup for the best exhibit in Class 2, and the Hamblet Trophy for Best Vase in Show.

Harry Godden also had a very successful show, the first success being The Dening Cup. This cup is awarded to 6 medium exhibition blooms in which Harry displayed **Phoenix & Trident**. Harry was then awarded the

Diment Rose Bowl for his entry of **Peach & White Fairweather** & the Brigham Cup for his entry of **Yellow Manchetta** Symbol, Salmon Fairweather, White Fairweather.

Singles entries were slightly lower than in previous years, however, exhibitors put on a lovely display of the blooms that they had available.

Chris Bond was the overall winner of the singles classes, taking home The Joyce Trophy for the best vase of singles in the show with his entry of **Primrose Lydia Manyan**. Chris also won the OA Wiles Builders Trophy for his 3 vases of singles made up of **Primrose Lydia Manyan, Brierton Sunset & Jenny Atkinson**.

The anemone classes were well supported and Brian Pople was the winner of The Hawes Cup for the best exhibit. Brian's entry consisted of **Apricot & Ruby Mundial**.

The show was delighted to welcome back Dave & Val Thorrington with their amazing fantasies. Dave & Val were awarded the Derick Hooper memorial trophy for their 6 blooms made up of **Coral Reef, Salhouse Joy, Yellow Knight**. This entry also resulted in them being awarded the NCS certificate of merit.

The final cup to be presented is the Show Committee cup for the most points gained in the show. This awarded to Harry Godden who achieved 30 points throughout the show for his entries.



A FEW PHOTOS FROM DAY 2: THE WESTERN GROUP OF THE N.C.S LATE SHOW

Another fabulous day 2 at our late show. We were very pleased to host the Western Group for their late show – and a few pictures are show here.



TUBER SALE

Our Dahlia Tuber Sale, held in conjunction with our late show, was as popular as ever - with visitors from all over the South West, Wales and the Midlands! Although there were slightly fewer varieties available than last year, there were plenty of top-quality tubers on offer. They had bulked up well in the autumn, despite the dry and hot conditions earlier in the year. Many thanks to those who donated tubers or bought some. Without the funds from our tuber sale, our shows could not continue.



TOP TIP

Ever wondered how to clean and reuse plant label? A top tip from Graham Edwards is to use wheel cleaner. Apparently, this does a fabulous job of removing ink writing, so that labels can be reused!



AUTUMN PROPAGATION

Two of our members, Graham Edwards and Brendan Curry have been keen to experiment with taking autumn dahlia cuttings – with some success. Graham's setup (see right) has managed to produce some rooted late-season cuttings from some valuable varieties he was keen to overwinter. This year, achieving an incredible 60% success rate (after 60 days) using *Clonex Rooting Gel*, *Clonex Pro Start* and *Root It* foliar spray, compared with a still very creditable 40% autumn success last year. While Brendan too, is trying to keep a



dahlia sport going over the winter, rather than relying on it shooting 'true' in 2026. I've not tried autumn dahlia cuttings myself, it seems quite a challenge! But my autumn system (see left) uses a Vitapod and LED growlights – in my case to root carnations, pinks & geraniums. The mild conditions this autumn have been ideal.



OASIS RENEWAL

Watch out for the new 'Oasis Renewal' foam! This is a plant-based alternative to traditional foams (made from petroleum products). The new product is still going through tests to show whether it is fully biodegradable – which necessarily takes some time. Nonetheless, I wanted to try some to see how it behaves. It feels and looks like traditional Oasis. It is a little more brittle when cutting, but when in the vase seems to work very much like traditional green foams. I shall look forward to trying it properly in 2026, but in the meantime, a quick photos of some end-of-season collarettes (**Fairplace Betty**) held firmly in the new foam.



NEXT YEAR'S DATES

Early Show 19-20 September 2026

Late Show 14-15 November 2026