



MIDAHL 2013

The Midlands Dahlia
Society Magazine



The Midlands Dahlia Society

Photographs provided by Rob Cheetham.

Front page.

Tim Williams with his Trooper Dan blooms to win class 24.

Gabby Hayes won the Bruce Watson Trophy with his 20 blooms.

Back page.

Ron Guest won Midlands Champion with Kenora Challenger, Oakwood/Cherwell Goldcrest, Hillcrest Candy and Mary's Jomanda.

Rob Cheetham won the intermediate class 72 Trophy for his vases of Toy Boy and Winholme Diane.

Mark Williams won the Giant, Small and Miniature novice classes

From the Editor

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the MDS Executive Council. Many thanks to all who have contributed to the articles for this issue of MIDAHL.

Chairman's Report

Here we go again, yet another twelve months has flown by. On reflection it was not too bad for our Society

We held a successful plant sale, I know we did not make the record breaking profits of the previous years, but it was enough to keep the Society in business.

Our three shows again were a credit to our Society and its members. I must admit that at times throughout the season I had my doubts that we would have enough blooms to hold shows with the weather playing all kinds of tricks on us and as we know now it was the second wettest year on record, with the midlands taking the brunt of the rain fall. It was the first time I have seen my allotment under standing water.

We managed to exhibit at both the National shows, although we did not finish in first position at either we were always in the prizes. I must thank all who gave their time and efforts on behalf of the Society.

Also we held open meetings throughout the year that managed to cater for all our members needs, and our presentation dinner is the envy of many societies, and long may it continue.

I must make comment about that young Dave Gillam, what a friend to our Society he is, he travelled all the way to our show with five vases of flowers. OK I know he won the Best vase of poms the Dunkley and the Pam Parsons Trophies along with the Silver and Premier awards, but who else would travel a round trip of 350 miles, Thanks Mate.

Ron Guest

President's Report

By the time you have read this, no doubt all our tubers will be lifted and stored away safe from the frost.

Reflecting back over the last year and the inclement weather we had, I was surprised to see the quantity and quality of blooms staged at our three shows. The novice section in particular, had some great blooms on display. This is so encouraging for the future years.

I congratulate the Executive Council and their willing band of helpers for all their hard work both in the preparation and breakdown of each show.

Our committee work hard to ensure that all exhibitors are well cared for at our main show, where some travel many miles to support us and we hope to see them return each year. I would like to thank our catering staff in particular for their endeavours not forgetting the early morning bacon batches!

Congratulations to all members who did well at the National Shows especially at Shepton Mallett where we collected quite a lot of silverware. It is nice to see Gavin Carter staging once again, seems like old times. The Carter family always stage tip top exhibits. A little bird tells me that Gavin has volunteered to take over the mantle of the Birmingham Dahlia Society. I would like to wish him well & hope he gets plenty of support.

In closing may I wish you all a Happy New Year and a successful season in 2013.

Les Jones.

Midlands Dahlia Society, 54th Annual Show

Considering the season this year with everything being late, the **Midlands Dahlia Society Annual Show** was excellent. The quality of exhibits, especially the Giants, was outstanding. Prizes were spread around exhibitors and the number of visitors was higher than last year. There were more exhibitors than last year and the number of entries was higher.

The **NDS Silver medal** was won by **Dave Gillam** with a vase of Gurtla Twilight. This vase showed magnificent form, uniformity of blooms and attracted the attention of all the judges. This also won the **Violet Davies Premier Award** for best vase in the show, the **H. Dunkley Trophy** for best vase of poms in the Show. The vase of poms, together with a vase of Barberry Pip, which had terrific form, won **Dave Gillam** the **Stella Trophy**. Even though **Dave Gillam** only had 4 vases of poms and a vase of min decs, he travelled the 350 miles to enter the show because he considers the Midlands to be a very friendly society. A vase of Willo's Violet and two more vases of Gurtla Twilight saw **Dave Gillam** win the **George Irvine Perpetual Challenge Cup**.

Ron Guest won the **Midlands Championship**, his winning entry used: Kenora Challenger, Oakwood / Cherwell Goldcrest, Hillcrest Candy and Mary's Jomanda. **Ron Guest** also won the **NDS Bronze medal** for the second best exhibit in show - Mary's Jomanda which also won Ron the **S & E Braddock Perpetual Challenge Trophy** for the best vase of Small/min Ball in show.

Ron Guest also won the **Lady Godiva Trophy** with Andrea Clarke, Trelyn Kiwi, Hillcrest Candy and Ruskin Diane. In a strongly contested class, an entry of Hillcrest Candy and Ruskin Sunshine won **Ron Guest** the **Dennis Watson Challenge Cup**. Hillcrest Candy is still favoured by exhibitors – for the second year.

The **Pauline Eales Award** – previously a strong class had a single entry with **Ron Guest** showing Gateshead Festival and Amber Festival, obviously the weather had affected the small dahlias **Ron Guest** also won the **Evening Telegraph Cup** for the most points in the trophy classes.

Tom Bebbington won the **Philip Damp Trophy** for 6 Giant Decs. He showed Sir Alf Ramsey, Bonaventure and two terrific Alvas Supremes. In the same class **Brian Caswell** won the **George Woodfield Trophy** for a superb Sir Alf Ramsey. Showing Janal Amy, **Brian Caswell** also won the **Leicester Challenge Cup** and the **Leslie Jones Perpetual Challenge Trophy** for the best vase of Large or Giant Cactus and /or Semi-Cactus in the show, as well as the **John Griffiths Senior Cup** with Blyton Softer Gleam and Westerton Folly (starting to appear after its release last year).

The **Irish Challenge Trophy** saw **Ian Hill's** trip from Thirsk pay off winning with 3 large decs of Grace Kendall. **Paul Jee** won the **Gordon Steel Trophy** with a strong entry showing Mascot Maya and White Charlie Two, both popular varieties in this class, which in past years has been a 'Cinderella class'. The miniature ball and miniature decs were popular classes with **John Digweed** successful in both – winning the **Pam Parsons Challenge Cup** and the **Friendship Trophy**.

The **Intermediate** classes saw more entries and exhibitors than last year - reflecting the move up from the novices. There was a good quality of flowers with six competitors competing for prizes. **Rob Cheetham** won the **72 Trophy** for small dahlias with his vases of Toy Boy and Winholme Diane. **David Glasock** won the giants with Sir Alf Ramsey. **George Elliott** won the medium dahlia class with White Charlie Two and Charlie Two. **Mark Williams** won the miniature class with Mary's Jomanda.

Gabby Hayes won class 24 with Trooper Dan. His seedling in class 32 also won the **William Daffern Trophy** for best exhibit in the **Members** class.

The **Novice** classes encouraged a lot of entries. It is pleasing to see so many up & coming novices for the 1st time in a few years. The standard of entries suggests they may not be novices for long. The high quality of blooms shows that advice from senior society members is working through! Winners included: Medium dahlia: **David Glasock** with Hillcrest Candy; Pompon dahlia: **Kevin Hammond** with Gurtla Twilight.

Mark Williams won the Giant, Small and Miniature novice classes. He won the **Don Brawn Trophy** for the best exhibit - his Winholme Dianes. He also won an **NDS bronze medal**. Surely this is the last time we see **Mark Williams** exhibiting as a Novice!

The **Special** classes brought a lot of entries once again, although this year it was dominated by miniature and small varieties. **Gabby Hayes** set himself the target of winning the 20 bloom class and achieved it - winning the **Bruce Watson Trophy!**

Frank Bolsover won class 44 and the **Elaine Fenton Trophy** showing Gateshead Festival, Oakwood Goldcrest and Scaur Tango. This was the 2nd most popular class in show with 11 entries; a spread of varieties was also exhibited.

The 3 vase class 45 was the most popular with 13 entries: indicative of the weather and it gives everyone a chance to exhibit – no one variety dominated. **Frank Taylor** came out on top showing Blyton Softer Gleam, Oakwood Goldcrest and Ruskin Diane.

The basket class is still dominated by **Marie - Jane Roberts** winning the **Lillian Hall Rose Bowl** yet again, although Tim Williams is still trying to wrest it from her.

A new class this year to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee was a 5 blooms – any variety class to be judged by the public. Over 50 votes were received with **Gabby Hayes** getting the highest.

The **Seedling** class encouraged several small / medium dahlia exhibits. **Terry Bratcher** won the newly named **Roger Turrell Trophy** with **Sheval Megan**. Although there were no new giants **Les Jones** won the members Large Pom class as well as the any variety new seedling with Jodie Wilkinson.

We must thank all members for assisting with setting up and closing down the show. Special thanks to **Angie Guest** and team for the bacon batches & hot drinks early Sat morning; as well as to **Bruce Watson** and his team for the lunches on Sat & Sun. Exhibitors commented that they look forward to the friendly reception they get at the Midlands and that is what keeps them coming year after year, so once again thank you. We also thank our show judges for their time and efforts.

Rob Cheetham

The Midlands Dahlia Society Show Results 2012

Category	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
The Midlands Championship for the Mawby trophy	R.Guest	F.Bolsover	N.Johnson
The Lady Godiva Trophy	R.Guest	-	-
The Phillip Damp Trophy	T.Bebbington	G.Hill	B.Caswell
The Leicester Challenge Cup	B.Caswell	G.Hill	-
The Irish Challenge Trophy	I.Hill	B.Carter	B.Carter
The Christy Brookes Challenge Cup	-	-	-
The Gordon Steel Trophy	P.Jee	C.Wragg	R.Vickers

The Dennis Watson Challenge Cup	R.Guest	P.Fulford	N.Gasby
The Pauline Eales Award	R.Guest	-	-
The Styvechale Trophy	-	-	-
The John Griffiths Senior Cup	B.Caswell	B.Carter	-
The Pam Parsons Challenge Cup	J.Digweed	F.Taylor	C.Wragg
The Friendship Trophy	J.Digweed	A.Hayes	R.Vickers
The George Irvine Perpetual Challenge Cup	D.Gillam	-	-
The Stella Trophy	D.Gillam	F.Taylor	M.J.Roberts

Section B Intermediate Classes.

Category	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
3 Blooms Giant or Large Dahlias 1 Bloom Per Vase	D.Glasock	G.Elliott	P.Freeman
2 Vases Medium Dahlias 3 Blooms in Each Vase	G.Elliott	P.Fulford	-
2 Vases small Ball, Small Cactus, Semi Cactus, or Small Decorative Dahlias, 3 Blooms Per Vase	R.Cheetham	M.Williams	K.Hammod
2 Vases, 3 Blooms Per Vase, Miniature or Pom Pon Dahlias	M.Williams	K.Hammond	P.Fulford
2 Vases, 3 Blooms Per vase, 1 Vase Medium, 1 Vase Small Dahlias	-	-	-

Section C Members Classes

Category	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
3 Blooms Giant Decorative Dahlias	I.Hill	G.Hill	F.Bolsover
3 Blooms Giant Cactus and /or Semi-Cactus dahlias	B.Caswell	-	-
3 Blooms Large Decorative Dahlias	R.L.Jones	-	-
3 Blooms Large Cactus and/or Semi-Cactus dahlias	T.Williams	F.Wilson	M.Williams

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
3 Blooms Medium Decorative Dahlias	P.Jee	F.Bolsover	N.Gadsby
3 Blooms Medium Cactus and/or Semi-Cactus Dahlias	P.Jee	P.Fulford	G.Hill
5 Blooms Small Decorative Dahlias	R.L.Jones	-	-
5 Blooms Small Cactus and/or Semi Cactus Dahlias	R.L.Jones	-	-
5 Blooms Miniature Decorative dahlias	J.Digweed	F.B.Taylor	R.L.Jones
5 Blooms Miniature Cactus and/or Semi Cactus Dahlias	MJ.Roberts	-	-
5 Blooms Small Ball Dahlias	B.Caswell	A.T.Hayes	K.Hammod
5 Blooms Miniature Ball Dahlias	M.Williams	T.Williams	A.T.Hayes
6 Blooms Pom Pon Dahlias	R.L.Jones	R.L.Jones	G.Elliott
5 Blooms Collerette Dahlias	F.Newbery	H.Richards	R.L.Jones
5 Blooms Waterlily Dahlias	C.Wragg	G.Elliott	R.L.Jones
3 Blooms Fimbriated Dahlias	-	-	-
3 Blooms Bi-coloured Dahlias	M.J.Roberts	-	-

Section D Novice Classes

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
One Giant or Large Dahlia	M.Williams	M.Williams	J.McClem
One Bloom Medium Dahlias	D.Glasock	M.Williams	D.Glasock
One Bloom Small Dahlias	M.Williams	M.Williams	K.Hammod
One Bloom Miniature Dahlias	M.Williams	M.Williams	K.Hammond
One Bloom Pom Pon Dahlias	K.Hammond	K.Hammond	-

Section E Special Classes

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Bruce Watson Trophy – 20 Blooms from 20 Varieties 4 th F.NEWBERY	A.T.Hayes	T.Bratcher	M.J.Roberts
Eileen Fenton Trophy – 9 Blooms 3 Varieties 3	F.Bolsover	N.Gadsby	F.B.Taylor

Blooms of Each Variety			
3 Blooms of Dahlias 1 Bloom Per Vase 3 Distinct Classifications.	F.B.Taylor	M.J.Roberts	R.Guest
2 Vases Waterlily 5 Blooms Per Vase	C.Wragg	T.Upton	R.L.Jones
2 Vases Collerette 5 Blooms Per Vase	-	-	-
2 Vases, Miniature Cactus/Semi Cactus 5 Blooms Per Case	M.J.Roberts	-	-
Lillian Hall Rose Bowl - Basket of Dahlias	M.J.Roberts	M.J.Roberts	T.Williams

Midlands Dahlia Society Seedling Classes

Category	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
3 Blooms Small or Miniature Dahlias	T.Bratcher	-	-
3 Blooms Medium. Large or Giant Dahlias	T.Bratcher	-	-
3 Blooms any Other variety of Dahlias	R.L.Jones	-	-

Additional Awards

Category	Recipient
M.D.S Silver Medal	D.Gillam
Premier Award	D.Gillam
N.D.S Bronze Medal	R.A.Guest
N.D.S Bronze Medal	M.Williams
The Cactus Cup	F.B.Taylor
Edward Durrant Memorial Trophy	F.Bolsover
The Decorative Cup	F.B.Taylor
George Woodfield Trophy	B.Caswell
Leslie Jones Trophy	B.Caswell
S & E Braddock Trophy	R.A.Guest
H. Dunkley Trophy	D.Gillam
William Daffern Trophy	M.J.Roberts
The Evening Telegraph Cup	R.A.Guest
Don Brawn Trophy	M.Williams
The 72 Trophy	R.Cheetham
The Bruce Watson Trophy	A.T.Hayes
The Roger Turrell Trophy	T.Bratcher
Eileen Fenton Trophy	F.Bolsover
Most Points Members	R.L. Jones
Lillian Hall Rose Bowl	M.J.Roberts
Tom Bebbington Overall	

Variety Analysis For 54th Annual Show

As usual in the following analysis only vases containing one variety were counted. This year the most popular variety was ‘**Sir Alf Ramsey**’ (24) followed closely by ‘**Hill Crest Candy**’ (22). Because Jomanda and Mary’s Jomanda are now dual classification we’ve grouped them as small ball. The report does not take into account seedlings.

388 vases were staged and 3 baskets

Giant Decoratives	2012	2011
SIR ALF RAMSEY	24	11
BRYN TERFEL	11	16
KENORA VALENTINE	6	2
JEAN SHAW	5	6
HAMARI GOLD	4	1
ALVAS SUPREME	4	-
JOHN HILL	3	-
WANA CAPELLA	2	-
BONA VENTURE	2	-
GO AMERICA	2	-
FAIRWAY SPUR	2	3
MARK HARDWICK	1	-
RHANNA TAMMY	-	1
KIDDS CLIMAX	-	1

Large Decoratives	2012	2011
ELMA E	6	1
SILVER CITY	6	1
GRACE KENDAL	3	1
SHEILA MOONEY	2	2
KENORA WILDFILE	-	10
RYCROFT ICE	-	2
RYCROFT REBEL	-	2
VASSIO MEGGOS	-	1
HILLCRESRT LIAM	-	1

Medium Decoratives	2012	2011
MASCOT MAYO / CHARLIE TWO	11	13
ALF’S MASCOT / WHITE CHARLIE TWO	8	10
ANDREA CLARK	3	2
MILLENIUM	1	3
AVOCA AMANDA	-	2
DIKARA MOON	-	2
MARY CRICHTON	-	1
AVOCO CHEYENNE	-	1
HILLCREST KISMET	-	1
RUSKIN APACHE	-	1

Small Decoratives	2012	2011
AMBER FESTIVAL	6	4
PRIMROSE DIANE	4	3
WINHOLME DIANE	4	2
RUSKIN DIANE	3	1

RYCROFT BRENDA T	1	1
BARBARY SUNTAN	1	-
GATESHEAD FESTIVAL	1	3
RUSKIN DIANE	-	1

Miniature Decoratives	2012	2011
MARSTON GEORGE	9	4
RYECROFT JAN	3	2
MARSTON SUSANNE	3	5
KAREN GLEN	2	1
SCAR WHISPER	2	1
MARSTON LILAC	2	1
BLYTON GOLDEN GIRL	2	1
BARBARRY SURPRISE	1	
BLYTON ROYAL VELVET	1	

Miniature Decoratives (cont.)	2012	2011
DAKARA SURPRISE	1	
BARBARRY PIP	1	2
BARBARRY SUNBEAM	1	1
BARBARRY SUPERB		1
BLYTON LADY IN RED		1
CARSTON VALIANT		1
DIKARA SUPERB		1
NICK NACK		1

Giant Cactus & Semi Cactus	2012	2011
JANEL AMY	9	14

Large Cactus & Semi Cactus	2012	2011
KENORA CHALLENGER	10	8
TROOPER DAN	10	1
NARROWS TRICIA	-	4

Medium Cactus & Semi Cactus	2012	2011
HILLCREST CANDY	22	9
VAL'S CANDY	3	-
RUSKIN SUNSHINE	3	2
GRENADOR PASTELLE	2	12
RUSKIN SENSATION	1	1
EASTWOOD MOONLIGHT	1	1
KILBURN FIESTA	1	-
BARBARA'S PASTELLE	-	2
PEACH DELIGHT	-	2
CREAM MOONLIGHT	-	1
OAKWOOD FIRE	-	1
SUSAN GILLIOT	-	1

Small Cactus & Semi Cactus	2012	2011
OAKWOOD GOLDCREST	5	-
RUSKIN LISA	4	-
WHITE KERKRADE	2	-
TRELYN KIWI	2	2
ROCK CLIFF BILLY	1	1
RUSKIN MYRA	1	1
ORETI BLISS	1	1
KILMORE	1	1
RUSKIN RESPECTABLE	1	-
RYCROFT ZOE	1	-
CHERWELL GOLD CREST	-	5
BAUTUN MEMORY	-	3
KIWI GLORIA	-	2
EMBRACE	-	1
EVELYN TAYLOR	-	1

Min Cactus & Semi Cactus	2012	2011
WESTON SPANISH DANCER	4	1
WESTON MISS	3	3
WESTON PIRATE	3	2
CAROLS SPANISH DANCER	1	-
HARPER IDEAL	-	1
RYCROFT SPARKLER	-	1
TOM MACLELLAND	-	1
WESTON BUCANEER	-	1
WESTON CORSAIR	-	1
WESTON DUSKY	-	1
WESTON STAR DUST	-	1

Small Ball	2012	2011
JOMANDA	16	4
MARY'S JOMANDA	16	-
BLYTON SOFTER GLEAM	5	4
ELMDON SUPERB	-	1
CHERWELL LINNET	-	1

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Min Ball	2012	2011
MEGAN DREAM	4	-
DAVE'S CHOICE	3	3
LAURA	3	-
LANCRESSE	1	-
MARY'S JOMANDA	-	6
JOMANDA	-	1

Waterlily	2012	2011
BRACKEN BALLERINA	3	-
PAM HOWDEN	2	-
SHEPS MEMORY	1	-
WHITE BALLERINA	1	-
TARATAH RUBY	1	-
GWYNETH	1	-

Collerett	2012	2011
DON HILL	2	-
WHEELS	1	-
TEES BROOK REDEYE	1	-

Large Pom	2012	2011
JUDIE WILKINSON	3	-
FRANZ KAFKA	2	-

Pom Pon	2012	2011
GURTLA TWILIGHT	7	-
WILLO VIOLET	3	-

The analysis was collated by R. L. Jones and Brian Caswell.

The Members Show, Kenilworth

What a way to end the season, 20 members put up 115 vases of quality blooms. It was good to see father and son exhibitors Brian and Gavin Carter back at the Sunday Show. The Silver and Bronze medals both went to the small cactus class judge Robin Pearce awarding the Silver to Gavin Carter for this excellent vase of Trelyn Kiwi and the Bronze to Gabby Hayes for his vase of Kiwi Gloria.

The results were as follows:-

Cls	Type	1st	2nd	3rd
1	Giant Dec	P Fulford	G Carter	B Carter
2	Giant Cactus	N Johnson	-	-
3	Large Dec	B Carter	A Hayes	G Carter
4	Large Cactus	G Carter	B Carter	R Cheetham
5	Med Dec	R Guest	B Carter	L Jones
6	Med Cactus	G Carter	B Carter	A Hayes
7	Small Dec	R Guest	R Cheetham	T Williams
8	Small Cactus	G Carter	A Hayes	R Guest
9	Min Dec	J Digweed	A Hayes	L Jones
10	Min Cactus	G Carter	R Cheetham	-
11	Small Ball	B Caswell	L Jones	M Williams
12	Min Ball	R Guest	J Digweed	G Carter
13	Waterlily	M Williams	L Jones	B Carter
14	Collerette	T Williams	N Johnson	L Jones
15	Fimbriated	-	-	-
16	Pom Pon	R Guest	J Digweed	L Jones
17	Large Pom	L Jones	R Guest	A Hayes
Cls	Type	1st	2nd	3rd
1	Giant/Large	J McClem	M Williams	P Bugden
2	Medium	M Williams	P Stanoch	-
3	Small	M Williams	P Stanoch	J McClem
4	Min/Pom	M Williams	G Wilson	P Bugden

Novice Section:-

Having five novices showing can only be good for the future. Let us hope that we can keep their interest in dahlias and have another good show in 2013.

Tim Williams

The Herbert Brown, Shepton Mallet

Peter Clubb, Robert Cheetham and Tim Williams made up the team again this year. Tim met Gabby Hayes at Ron Guest's Allotment to cut blooms while Ron was at work. We met at Leek Wootton Barn to pack the van at 7pm. We had quite a good selection of blooms but the weather had taken its toll.

We staged:

3 Janal Amy	21 points
3 Sir Alf Ramsey	20 points
3 Oakwood and 2 Cherwell Goldcrest	21 points
5 Mary's Jomanda	20 points
5 Gateshead Festival	19 points

Total 101 points

Consistent scoring but not good enough, Vagabonds were winners this year with Kent C&D second and we were third. The weather played its part this year, but the quality was not good enough.

Tim Williams

Arthur Luck, Harrogate

Two weeks later it was off to Harrogate with a van load of booms. The quality was lacking in some of the blooms and we had 3 weak vases. We were third this time with only 6 points between the first 3, Kent C&D were first with 93 points, Bishops Auckland second with 88 points, Midlands DS third with 87 points. Northhants DS fourth with 72 points.

We Staged:-

1 Sir Alf Ramsey & 2 Bryn Terfel	14 points
3 Eastwood Moonlight	15 points
5 Barbarry Delta	16 points
3 Kenora Challenger	22 points
5 Kiwi Gloria	20 points

Total 87 points

A disappointing season overall with the wet weather not helping, but I would like to see members committing themselves to growing for the society so that we can do better next year. Finally, I would like to thank all the members who contributed blooms and to Pete and Rob for their work in staging and driving to these events.

Tim Williams

A lot of effort for nothing!

My husband Les, as you will know is now getting on in years, but still has the same enthusiasm for growing and showing dahlias as he had in the 1950's. So, as usual each year the national schedule came, our entries made and cheques sent off to the two shows. We travelled to Shepton Mallet in our own small car just managing to get the blooms in. We arrived at the venue mid afternoon, collected the entry cards, already filled in as usual and managed to stage everything and be back at our lovely farm house B&B by 8:30pm for an early night, which has to be considered nowadays! Then it came to the Harrogate show, Les's old friend volunteered to drive there as usual (can't manage to drive the long distance himself now). So flowers packed, alarm set, and off they went at two am! Now apparently as Les has not received confirmation of his entries he should have telephoned but did not notice this (small print in schedule). Arriving at the show he mentioned this to the people at the desk and was told he had to make his own entry cards. His name was confirmed and his exhibitors number 230. Les staged his entries and they were duly judged, awarded 3 second prizes and then afterwards disqualified, as he was told that they had not received his entries. Now rules are rules, but sometimes common sense and a little discretion does not come amiss, for an elderly gentleman who has been exhibiting in Harrogate since the 1960's, travelling about 150 miles overnight, knows most of the people involved, surely a little common sense could have been used here, even if the entry had gone astray. I feel very disappointed in the attitude of the show committee of the northern national.

Audrey Jones

State of the art

The unprecedented summer weather conditions of 2012 have no doubt left every exhibitor with their own particular experiences. It was certainly frustrating at times and only goes to show how important sunshine is to the development of plants. Looking around for any positive points is somewhat difficult, but I do recall I didn't see a single wasp. The previous year I had a nest of them in my compost heap. Also I suppose the hose pipe was not used to its normal requirement. I lost around 100 plants due to bad drainage. People with light soils were to an advantage under the conditions. I have heard of some exhibitors whose plants rotted off at ground level.

Despite the subsequent lateness of bloom development and all the debilitating factors, quality blooms were staged, but there was a reduction in entries at the early shows and the national show suffered as a result. The late shows benefited from the lateness, especially the Harrogate show, where the staging's were well filled. Personally, I had trouble with form of the blooms of Kenora Challenger. The petals at their base took on a very broad shape and the blooms looked more like B.J. Beauty. I even contemplated replacing the stock. But with more sunshine their form returned to normal. As a result of the poor conditions plants at the N.D.S. Leeds trials were slow to develop.

Never the less there were varieties that performed well and it was to their advantage that they did under the circumstances. The over all winner, with a clear majority was a waterlily, Kilburn Glow from G. Hill of Thirsk. This one is a real beauty and a new colour into the class. It is best described as florescent pink and red blends. It will be in great demand when released probably in 2014. Western Lillian, a primrose large decorative also did well and will be a great addition to its class which has not had many in recent times. This dahlia has excellent form with good depth and is produced on very robust growth. It is on release from Halls of Heddon in 2013. I forecast that we will see a lot of this one in future. Another variety that did well in the trials was Vals Candy the sport of Hill Crest Candy. I didn't like the look of this one when first seen in the sport class at the national show in 2011, especially the pale lavender colour, but in the care of the top exhibitors it has been a winner on the show bench as well. I like Arthur Hayes new medium semi cactus aptly named Jubilee Boy which won the Hamari Cup in the seedling classes at the national show in 2012. A new colour, with very good form it is a welcome addition to a section badly needing something different from the usual shades of

yellow. In the seedling classes some judges are not assessing new ones according to the recommendations outlined in the judging rules, ie a new colour is considered meritorious.

Of the recent new introductions, Western Folly is a very good small ball and a welcome variety to a class that hasn't much choice. The lavender blooms require some shading to retain their colour. For the hybridising fraternity, I did get a few well developed seeds from it via the bees.

I have been impressed in recent years of the form of the medium semi cactus, Ruskin Michelle, a pale pink one. This dahlia struggles to get the top size and needs severe restriction. Phil Watson, a national champion in the class at the national in 2012 grows it to perfection. He tells me that his ground can not grow the 'Pastelles well and now uses this one.

Miniature decorative continue with their popular attraction, both to raisers and exhibitors; a far cry from some years ago when they didn't even have their own championship class at the national show. How it has all changed with a regular supply of new ones, it is a problem keeping up to date. John Digweed's very dark Marston George has made a successful debut and he informs me that he has another in the pipe line which is darker in colour and better! Amongst the recent introductions Barberry Delta, dark red was used by our society's national entry, in 2012. Others include, Barberry Surprise, Blyton Golden Girl, which will be released by Frank Taylor in 2013. Barberry Sunbeam looks good, but it has a tendency to have heavy centres. The present leaders in the class are Marston Suzanne but be careful of being over sized. As well as double stopping you can leave the side buds on until later. Barberry Pip has also been well used by the top exhibitors. Dikara Superb looks like it has all the makings of one that will be around for some time. Good form, depth of bloom, good stems and appears to stand the weather. I still like Lorretta which has immaculate form, but a bit shy on bloom production. Rycroft Jan whose blooms tend to be slightly smaller but finishes very close onto the stem to produce a really cracking exhibit when grown to its potential.

Considering all the many varieties available, the golden oldie Karenglen is still picking up red cards across the country. We have come a long way since Abridge Taffy led the popularity of the class. The most successful variety in 2012 was Mary's, Jomanda streets ahead of the rest. Despite its dual classification it is naturally a miniature and very few have been staged as smalls. The white Dave's choice after a brief difference of opinion of its classification is fast making progress as a very good miniature ball, along with Jomanda and Blyton Lady in Red which had a brief flirtation as a miniature decorative when first classified. Then, not to be forgotten the well tried white L'Ancess is still favoured by some. Giant decorative growers will be looking forward to trying John Hill the bronze coloured winner of the 2011 Leeds trials. It has had a limited exposure on the show bench and has performed well and is on release from Halls of Heddon for 2013.

New giant semi cactus introductions have been few and far between in recent years the last one was Janal Amy in 1999 which is favoured in the Midlands and the south, whilst the northern growers prefer the Jupiter varieties. I was recently informed of a new one in the country from Canada which can be likened to as a larger version of Kenora Challenger. It could be the first of its type in many years, being white. The nearest in white previously was the giant cactus Polar in 1960 which came from Holland.

Some reservations have been voiced in recent years that Kenora Challenger was showing signs of diminishing quality but it is still the leader in its class. Narrow's Tricia which was looked upon as a rival did not have a good year and was one that did not perform to its full potential and hope that this will only be a seasonal blip. Les Jackson is releasing a red large semi cactus in 2013, a colour in this class we haven't seen since Purbeck Lydia in 1984. Les assures me that this one does not suffer from dampening off and stands well on compact growth and should be grown 4 up. It won its seedling class in Harrogate in 2012. Despite all the new ones in recent times, Reginald Keene the leader in the class for many years can still be a winner.

Along with the previously mentioned Westerton Folly, the top small ball varieties are Blyton Softer Gleam, so reliable and easy to grow, plus the dual classified Mary's Jomanda and Jomanada. Elmdon Superb, raised in

the midlands by the late Arthur Ross, is very good. Although never officially released, it is available from a local grower. The blooms in a bronze blend and a hint of Jomanda in its breeding.

I grew the waterlily Gwyneth for the first time. The bronze/yellow blooms are produced early, on compact growth and easily conforms to the form ideals. Never the less, the surprise for many at the national shows was the staging of Glooie van Heemsted, raised by Gerlings in 1947, rated the best of its type and sets the standard.

The miniature cactus/semi cactus like the other miniature championships is one of the best supported classes at the nation shows. It all began in 1959 when the late Tom Clemon began his very successful program of specialist breeding. At the time there were only 3 showable varieties, now there are over 13 to choose from. Weston Pirate has been the most successful on the show bench and firm banker.

Across many shows both nationally and local I am surprised by some of my fellow judges in the assessment and judging of the giant decorative Bryn Terfel. Regularly it gets awards in preference to other ones despite its very serious faults in form, as explained the classified directory which states quote "paragraph (J) seriously departs from the standard formation of the class of dahlia for which the class calls for." Also that the recommendation that size shall not be meritorious without quality of the bloom!

Dave Gillum's bloom of the Pom, Gurtla Twilight has been a great topic of discussion when ever staged in 2012 and has helped him to a remarkable show season across the U.K. After winning individual champion ships at the National, he then went on to win in Wales, Scotland and at Harrogate narrowly beaten by one point to complete a grand slam of championships.

Dave Reid

The Gardeners Hymn (Submitted by Tim Williams)

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true,
Is when He made the goodies, He made the baddies too.

All things spray and swatable,
Disasters great and small
All things paraquatable,
The Lord God made them all

The green fly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills our noses, He also gave us these.

The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.

The drought that kills the fuchias, the frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds.

The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.

The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardeners outlook, though green may be his thumbs.

But still we gardeners labour midst vegetables and flowers,
And spray what hits our neighbours will somehow bypass ours.

Barbara Robinson

MINUTES – 53rd AGM of MIDLANDS DAHLIA SOCIETY

Held at KENILWORTH SPORTS and SOCIAL CLUB on Wednesday 8th February 2012

PRESENT – The President Mr L Jones, supported by members of the Executive Council of the MDS.

Opening the meeting the president asked all members present to stand for a minutes silence to remember those members who had passed away during the past year.

ITEM 1 – the secretary read the notice convening the meeting

ITEM 2 –APOLOGIES – Mrs D Cheetham , Mrs MJ Roberts, Mrs J Taylor, Mr T Bratcher, Mr J Brooks, Mr B Cash, Mr P Clubb, Mr R Evans, Mr P Fulford, Mr N Johnson, Mr F Newberry, Mr G Russell, Mr K Smart, Mr F Taylor, Mr C Wragg.

ITEM 3 – the minutes of the 52nd AGM had been circulated to all members via publication in Midahl. The chairman asked if they could be taken as read - carried.

ITEM 4 –MATTERS ARISING –none

ITEM 5 –CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – see attached report.

Proposed by Mr T Williams and seconded by Mr A Hayes that this report be adopted – carried

ITEM 6 –SECRETARY’S REPORT – secretary reported that the proposed programme of events for 2012 was as printed in Midahl. The judges for Annual Show are Mr L Allen, Mr D Bates, Mr E Collins, Mr D Kent, Mr A Lawes, Mr K Perrin, Mr R Pearce, Mr S Travis.

There will be a special Jubilee Class included consisting of 5 blooms of any variety to be judged by the public.

The Seedling Shield to be renamed the Roger Turrell Trophy.

ITEM 7 – TREASURER’S REPORT

Another successful year – he reminded the meeting that this was his 14th year as treasurer .He was pleased to report that having regard for the current economic/financial situation it had been a very successful year.

Excellent Tubor and Plant sales made £2591 which set us up for the year. The Annual Show made a loss of £1392 but a profit of £488 was made for the year.

We Have assets of £12374 for which we received £5 interest

(see attached balance sheet for detailed report)

Proposed by Mr F Wilson and seconded by Mr M Crump that the balance sheet be adopted – carried

ITEM 8 – ELECTION OF PATRON – nominee – Mr F Wilson

Proposed by Mr M Roberts and seconded by Mr J Digweed

ITEM 9 – ELECTION OF PRESIDENT - nominee - Mr L Jones

Proposed by Mr A Hayes and seconded Mr M Crump.

ITEM 10 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

NOMINEES

Chairman - Mr R Guest

Proposed by Mr B Watson seconded by Mr M Crump

Vice-chairman - Mr T Williams

Proposed by Mr R Guest and seconded by Mr M Woodfield

Gen. Secretary- Mr B Caswell

Proposed by Mr T Williams seconded by Mr D Bates

Ass, secretary –post not filled

Show secretary - Mrs A Guest

Proposed by Mr F Wilson and seconded by Mr A Hayes

Treasurer - Mr B Watson

Proposed by Mr R Cheetham and seconded by Mr M Woodfield

Midahl Editor - Ms J McClements

Proposed by Mr B Watson and seconded by Mr M Crump

Publicity Officer- Mr R Cheetham

Proposed Ms J McClements and seconded by Mr Williams

All the above nominations were carried

ITEM 11 – ELECTION OF COUNCIL

NOMINEES

Mrs D Cheetham, Mrs A Jones, Mrs MJ Roberts, Mr P Clubb, Mr P Fulford, Mr D Glascock, Mr A Hayes, Mr N Johnson, Mr D Reid, Mr M Roberts, Mr M Woodfield.

Proposed by Mr R Guest and seconded by Mr D Cave – carried

ITEM 12 –AOB - Mr M Crump asked why a 2nd Agenda had been sent out – secretary stated that this was due to an error on the initial letter ie Tuesday 8th February 2012 instead of Wednesday 8th February 2012

Meeting closed at 21 00hrs

Midlands Dahlia Society Chairman's
A.G.M. Report 08/02/12

It seems like only yesterday that I was standing here giving you a report about the years activities for 2010 but believe it or not it is twelve months. As I travel around the country I hear about other societies that have folded because they cannot get people to run them.

We seem to be going from strength to strength. We are still holding three shows a year and an annual dinner, this is due to our council who never stop working for your Society. Also we are managing to keep our membership at a steady number. I will give the report of the activities for the last year but as I have said before it's hard not to repeat one self.

JANUARY.

We started the year with our annual tuber sale held here at the Kenilworth Sports and Social Club. As always it is the first of our two major fund raising events of the year. I keep asking you the members to dig deep into your pockets to support us and again you did just that. If you can remember this time last year we were just getting over the snow and frost's that hit us in the December and the early part of the month. People had lost stocks up and down the country, and you will see that reflected in the balance sheet. I thank all who supplied the tubers and more important those that purchased them. Again thanks go to Fred and Edna Wilson for providing us with the refreshments something they do throughout the year.

FEBRUARY.

We held the A.G.M at the Kenilworth Sports & Social Club. On the whole the members present were happy with the way the Society is being managed. A number of subjects were discussed.

MARCH.

We were treated to a talk by Mark Roberts who as you all knows grows fantastic vegetables. Mark showed us how Medwyn Williams prepares his Gold Medal winning vegetables for the Chelsea Flower show. It was amazing how he timed them to perfection Our members also supported the National Dahlia Societies Dinner at the Kenilworth Golf Club held on the Saturday evening prior to the National AGM also held in Kenilworth at the School in Leyes Lane.

APRIL

We were given a talk by one of the country's top growers of Pom pons Mr Robin Pearce. He gave us an insight into his method of growing and showing Poms. I must say it was the first time I had heard that he actually disbudded certain varieties to get them up to size.

Robin also spoke about the trials he is involved with at Wisley.

MAY.

We held our annual plant sale on Sunday the 9th May, in the village hall at Wellesbourne. I think the date is about right in the month and again as you will see from the Accounts it was another major success.

We must not get carried away with this years prices, the fact that we had just experienced the coldest winter for many years and people had lost tubers up and down the country certainly accounted for the high prices being paid. I keep on saying this only happens because of the generosity of every one. Thanks to Sue and John Digweed for organizing the bedding and pot plants, and once more we have to say thanks to the ladies of the society for the cakes and sandwiches, these ladies work solid for two hours preparing it all, and again after the break in collecting the cups and saucers and plates. We are very lucky to have in our society ladies who are prepared to give up their Sunday afternoon, without whose help

we could not run the event. I must say a thank you to Bruce Watson our treasurer, who organizes the room for us and also has the onerous task of collecting and counting the money. Again, thanks go to Freddie Wilson, and his gang, who sort, and collate the plants, so the auction runs smoothly. Also thanks to those of you who do the running about with the plants to the purchasers.

JUNE and July.

Again we are busy planting out and getting a holiday in before the season gets under way.

AUGUST.

We held a one bloom show at the Kenilworth Sports and Social club on Tuesday the 16th. This has turned out to be a huge success. We had numerous exhibitors who staged 150 vases and they were all worth a prize. The most successful member being Peter Clubb who won five firsts one second and a third along with the best exhibit Paul Fulford was the runner up. We moved on to our main show held on the August bank holiday weekend. The venue being the Kenilworth Lower School. We had exhibitors from the West Country from Manchester, Hull and Doncaster and places in between. Tom Bebbington made a successful return to the show bench by winning the Phillip Damp Trophy. Dave Gillam made it three in a row for the Midlands Championship. Along with another four trophies for best vases in the show. Frank Bolsover is making a habit of winning the Godiva Trophy he also won the Violet Davis award for the best vase overall. I hope we gave enough hospitality to the exhibitors to make them want to return again. I just wish we could encourage more of the public to come and visit us. Thanks go to Bruce and his team of ladies who provided our judges and all our helpers and friends with lunches and the welcome cups of tea.

Once again our exhibitors and helpers were treated to Bacon batches early on the Saturday morning provided by Rachel and Angela. Thanks also to Angela, and her friend Paula for the efficient way they produced the prize cards, and collated the prize monies. Finally thanks to all who helped erect on the Thursday evening and those break down the show down on the Sunday, it could not be done without your help. If I have missed any one out of the thanks I am sorry.

SEPTEMBER

Once again we made our annual trip to Shepton Mallet and The N.D.S. show Tim Williams, Rob Cheetham and Peter Clubb leading the Herbert Brown team. We were beaten by a good exhibit from the Kent Society and finished third I did think we deserved second.

Once again thanks to the people who supply the blooms and also those who travel on our behalf. It is pleasing to report that many of our members won with their own exhibits. Marie-Jane Roberts once again winning the Weston Trophy a long with the Bowl & Basket classes. Brian Caswell winning the Harry James Trophy for small ball. Terry Bratcher winning the Ernest Luckhurst for seedlings and Paul Fulford winning the under 100 plants award and also the Jim Mills award for the best giant or large in the novices section. We also had many of our members finishing second and third in many other classes. From here we moved to Harrogate and the Northern National again to be beaten by Kent in the Arthur Luck. Again I thank the team that travelled on our behalf, and the support group that followed later that night. Once again many of our members were winning trophies in their own names. We again held our members show at the Kenilworth sports and social club in what is a friendly get together at the end of the season.

It was nice to see that the prizes were shared out but Les Jones took four firsts along with the silver medal with a vase of Trelyn Kiwi Peter Clubb once again showed his skills in winning the Bronze for a vase of Amber Festival. The recipient of the Silver medal was Gabby Hayes for his miniature Ball and the Bronze went to Brian Caswell for his Giant Cactus. The best Novice prizes went to M.Tunnicliffe.

OCTOBER.

We were given a talk slide show by Tom Bebbington about his trips to the Himalayas and Mount Everest. If you missed this you missed a wonderful evening as the slides were magnificent.

NOVEMBER

We held our Annual Dinner and Prize giving. The Kenilworth Golf Club was chosen to be our host once again. The dinner committee also decided to continue with the carvery style meal that has been successful for the last few of years. We were privileged to have as guest of honour Mr Mick Crump and his wife, who presented our Winning exhibitors with the trophies. I am pleased to report that it was very well supported by our members and friends. Also I must thank all who donated raffle prizes. Frankie Taylor came and entertained us with his musical talents. I will add that we have booked the same venue for our dinner, next year the date being the Saturday 10th November.

DECEMBER.

We had the two David's David Reid and David Bates who between them gave us an insight into what to expect regarding new varieties, photographed from his travels up and down the country and the two Nationals Along with the Northern Trials.

The ladies once again supplied us with the mince pies to start the festive season, thanks to all those who provided them. As you have already heard we lost our good friend and Midahl editor Roger Turrell early last year. Just after he had produced another good MIDAHL this being the publication before his untimely death. I have to thank Jane McClements for volunteering to take over the editors role and for producing this years.

Throughout the year members of the society have given talks to various clubs and societies on behalf of the M.D.S. and to those concerned I thank you. I would like to thank all who gave raffle prizes for the talks throughout the year, and also Freddy & Edna for providing the refreshments and to Mike Crump for the cakes and Maurice Woodfield for his Sausage rolls. Our web site is still the envy of many societies thanks to Rob Cheetham.

Finally I must thank all the officers and committee for all their help and support over the past year, in which I have been proud and privileged to have been your chairman.

Ron Guest



DATES for YOUR DIARY 2013/14

- Feb 27 AGM 8pm Kenilworth Sports and Social Club
- Mar 20 Speaker Ursula KEYES (Fibrex Nurseries) 8pm KSSC
- Apr 17 Speaker John CARRIER (Sweet Peas) 8pm KSSC
- May 12 Plant Sale 2:30pm Wellesbourne Village Hall
- Aug 13 Single Bloom Show KSSC
- Aug 24- 25 Annual Show - Kenilworth School Leys Lane
- Sept TBA Southern National Dahlia Show TBA
- Sept 13-14-15 National Dahlia Show Harrogate
- Sept 15 Members Show KSSC
- Oct 16 TBA 8pm KSSC
- Nov 9 Annual Dinner Kenilworth Golf Club
- Dec 11 Speaker Dave Reid (New Varieties) 8pm KSSC
- Jan 15 Tuber Sale 8pm KSSC

