

Newsletter

Chairman's Comments



Members looking at the display of plants at Brownhills show

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My goodness where has the season gone and more to the point what a season! From a long cold winter, I don't seem to have noticed spring, and then a really scorching hot spell, which was not the greatest conditions for our chosen flower.

Most of you seemed to have coped reasonably well and indeed must have done to put on such a wonderful array of QUALITY PLANTS at our own show at Brownhills only three plants down on the previous year but quality was definitely up, OK certainly you could see fading on a number of exhibits but that was no more than I would expect given the conditions. I congratulate everyone who put plants in the show.

The Society show season at present going very well, two more shows before the end of season, Silver Gilt at Tatton this year still a good achievement by Frank and Mary, awards also at other shows. This is probably one of the most difficult seasons to provide plants for the stands yet they keep coming off Frank's production line somehow.

My own season has been fraught with a few problems but I have managed to put on two or three displays and support the Society. Most of the problems members have had this year have been watering in that very hot spell and Powdery Mildew. Remember when it is so hot the plant and flower will wilt during daytime **DO NOT WATER AT THIS TIME!** Wait until the evening watch for the plant lifting back up to its normal way, if it does not then investigate and take the appropriate action. Powdery Mildew, the way that I deal with this, is when going through my plants I'm on the lookout for the first signs which are whitish circles almost like a little circle of cigarette ash appearing on the leaves or sometimes the flower stems. I keep a hand sprayer with a fungicide mixture handy (Systhane) if you can catch it at this point just spraying the immediate area affected is usually enough. Enjoy your growing and the rest of the season.

And now I must end on a sad note, for and on behalf of the Society.

At the time the Newsletter was preparing to print we had the sad news that the wife of our treasurer, Don Corfield, had sadly passed away after suffering a heart attack. Our thoughts and condolences are with Don and his family at this time.

Ken Jones
Chairman



*Keith Capper
Wondering if he has won!*

Fund Raising For Myton Hospice

By Shirley Willis

It was not the best of days for selling streptocarpus plants from an open air stall. After the blazing heat of the previous week, Sunday 9 July started overcast with a dash of rain. Much worse however, was the brisk northerly breeze, blowing the pots over, spilling the contents and ripping petals off my precious blooms. Yet by the late afternoon, we knew it had all been worthwhile.

Myton Hamlet Hospice, on the outskirts of Warwick, provides in-patient care for people with a life limiting illness throughout Warwickshire and the City of Coventry. It is a registered charity and after donations from local Primary Care Trusts, still needs to raise £2.4 million each year from its lottery, charity shops, sponsorship and fundraising events. In 2001, a £5 million appeal was launched to build and run a second hospice in Coventry (for further details see our website) www.mytonhospice.org.

I have been a voluntary helper at one of the Coventry shops for several years and when Frank Davies very generously offered me nearly 150 of his surplus plugs to grow on for selling at the Myton summer fete, I was thrilled. As a relative novice to the art of streptocarpus culture, how was I to guess what the following months were to hold? Getting them to grow, remain healthy and come into flower for the beginning of July was to take over my life. Their living quarters were the shelves of my small greenhouse, moving into the space left when the existing tenants had been evicted to new homes. Repotting, watering, feeding and lots of TLC were by early June delivering some quite promising results, but streptocarpus do not like the scorching sun of a midsummer heat-wave. So started a routine of maximum ventilation, shading with an old tablecloth and regular inspections for the first signs of decline.

You can imagine my relief when 9 July arrived and the collection was still intact and looking good. There were just a few sickly looking plants and some that were yet to come into flower, but most of them had done well. We added a couple of my own plants with 'not for sale' notices to show how spectacular streptocarpus can be when fully mature. The fete itself was a lively affair. There were stalls selling all manner of things from bric-a-brac to soft toys and of course my streptocarpus. There was face painting for the children and even a man having his head shaved to raise money for the charity. Music and entertainment was continuous throughout the afternoon. My husband, who was supposed to helping me, seemed to lose his concentration when the ladies' belly dancing display came on.

There were a few plants left unsold at the end of the afternoon, mainly those that were yet to come into flower. I will give them a few more weeks and then sell them in the shop. Despite all the challenges of the English weather, I hope that when the rest of the plants have been sold, our contribution to the Myton fund could be as much as £300. But it was also fun to be part of an afternoon that was great family entertainment in aid of such a worthy cause. I have since learnt that on the day, the fete managed to raise over £13,500.

Shirley Willis
Coventry



Shirley on her stall

Secretary's Report

Last year on this page I passed on a few pointers from the show judge (Derek Ford) I am pleased to report that you all seemed to take note and to quote Derek "a very good show and a very high standard of plants all round" he was very impressed.

Although the number of members entering plants in the show was down, the number of plants entered was up and the quality was also up, very slightly on last year after all you can only go so far, and to equal will be very good for next year as I think we have reached a standard which will be hard to beat.

If you did not get a place with what you entered your plants were worth looking at so please try again next year.

I know that the heat effected some parts of the country more than others, so looking on the bright side lets think of the plants we are going to enter next year, you can pick a few out now stick an extra label in so that you can give these plants a little extra TLC.

Some tips for the winter months.

Sort out the pots you have empty get them into sizes, throw any that are odd away, this way you will not get mixed up if you do put any plants into a show anywhere, the ones you keep wash well with Jeyes fluid.

Sort the plants out, those that have flowered well, take the old leaves off as low down to the base of the plant as possible. This is best done in late December or January, it may make the plant look small but this will let the new leaves through, these are the leaves that your flowers will come from for the new flowering season 07.

Water is another thing that you can cut down, just keep the plants damp without any feed as they are only growing slowly they will not need feeding until the end of February or early March.

Those of you who grow plants in the house, or take your plants into the house for the winter out of the greenhouse, make sure they have plenty of light and if possible turn the plants once or twice a week so that the growth is even all round the plant.

Seed.

I had a seed pod ripen at the end of July, it is self seed from a seedling this year, a very different flower to what is about, I sowed it and it's come up very well and is growing quite quick compared to seed sown earlier in the year, but it has been colder and duller than usual for August so that may be the reason.

I have also for the first time put 28 lots of species seed in I did this on the 11th of August most of it from the seed fund, all being well I may have a few spare plants in the spring, fingers crossed. I have found over the time I have been growing seed that now (October) is one of the best times to sow it, seed sown now in the house or greenhouse will start to flower in June or July the following year. The best way to grow seed is in a heated propagator with the top off just follow the seed sowing instructions on page 7 in the information leaflet sent to you when you joined the society. If you have lost it please ask for a copy, we will send you another one.

While I am on the subject of seed Sue Long (seed fund) would like any spare seed you have please, a lot of the seed in the seed fund is getting very low, we need species seed as well very urgently as seed sent to us from overseas is not germinating very well owing to the very stringent rules introduced since 9/11 regarding post and small packets, it seems to go through a lot of x-raying and this is affecting the rate of germination in the seed.

Secretary's Report (Continued)

I will start off with Malvern Spring Show, the stand had a Silver-Gilt, we were over the moon with this as the spring had been so dark and most of my plants had very little flower, but with 15 plants we had from Dibleys in April and 35 of our own, a few species on a table it did not look too bad.

Friday was the best day (we came home Thursday evening) three members looked after the stand. Thanks Lads.

We had a few new members, but the sale of seed and leaflets were down on last year, people seemed reluctant to part with a quid for a leaflet.

By the way we went back for Saturday and Sunday.

Next one BBC Gardeners World Live at the NEC Birmingham. Well what a waste of time this year, all we seemed to do was talk to each other, no punters in any quantity. Those who did have a chat finished up asking where the rest of the plants for sale were, everyone was grumbling about it, one or two suggested that it was a very dear car boot sale.

We did meet up with some members and had a good chat, also collected a few new members but not many.

Thanks to all who helped and I am sorry it was so boring.

Weston Park, Ken did this one and he was very pleased with the results a lot of people showing interest.

At the same Mary and myself went off to Tatton Park to set the stand and notice board in place, ready for the plants on Tuesday, this year we were in the middle of the last row in the showground and we thought this may make a difference to the attendance in the marquee, before we had been right by one of the entrances.

We put on our usual display and also a small display of species, by Brian and myself, to show the different types of growth, this went down very well.

But we could not make that third gold we only had a Silver-Gilt not bad, but I was a little disappointed.

When the lady with our feedback about the medal arrived on the stand and asked to speak to me in such a friendly way I had not experienced before from a judge acting on behalf of the RHS. We had quite a long chat and she gave me quite a few pointers, things other judges had never remarked on, so I asked her why it was not good enough for gold. The panel did not like the red backing on the notice board and the flowers on the stands top row just covered the word society, other than that everything was 100% and we would have had gold. The thing I can't make out is the notice board was red last year!

The society show came next and again it was excellent, as you will see from the show report. Shrewsbury was our next one, turned up on Thursday about 11am to find that our space had been reduced from 6 metres (19feet) to 6 feet, after stating that if no more space was available we would be off home without opening the van doors.

The marquee manager said he would swap us with the Dahlias, no way Mary said they are our friends (2 coppers and a plumber) did you see them on TV very good, back to the show, come and have a look, we did, well the space given to the Dahlias was no bigger, but on the dividing wall of the marquee, two empty spaces, what going here I asked, you are if you want to, was the reply. I could not refuse, so we set up.

During that afternoon other things went on that I will not write about, but the society will not be at Shrewsbury in 2007.

As I write this we are thinking about the next 3 shows, and the plants are poor not as good as last year at this time, a lot of the flowers are not opening, I think the petals must have got fused together when the bud was half formed during the heat.

Frank Davies

Show Report Saturday July 29th 2006

by Mary Davies

Friday the 28 July, tomorrow it's the society show AGAIN! Off to get all the food etc must get more ham this year and even more next.

As we had booked an hour in the hall again after the Friday dance, we had the van loaded and ready to go when Sue and Gordon arrived, a quick cup of tea and a few words regarding weather the heat and lack of rain. We came to one decision that owing to the heat the entries would be down, ah! you made us eat our words.

On arriving at the Memo at 4.30pm, the four of us could not remember how the layout had been last year, so instead of running the classes in order we decided to put the three plant classes on the tiered tables around the outside of the room, this we hoped would give us more room on the centre table, and it did we even had space to spare.

Next year we hope to give a little more space to the three and six plant classes Frank will be doing some more legs during the winter.

Saturday morning, will it be good, how many do you think will turn up, is it going to be hot in the hall, these are questions flying round during breakfast.

Most of the work being done we had time to just think about the single plant classes, Frank having looked up last years we rearranged the tapes and hoped that we had given each class room, we had, Gordon had photographed the layout while empty for a reference for next year.

The first one to arrive was Keith Capper how he gets all those plants into his car, well! After Keith a gentle flow, I don't think it ever came to a rush every one seemed to fit the plants in, in very good time in fact they had all finished well before judging. Sue set her seed fund table up in one corner with Lorraine in the other one booking the entries in. My thanks to all of you who helped in the kitchen especially Ann, who I seemed to have forgotten in the afternoon, sorry Ann. My thanks also go to all of you who entered plants and to those who turned up just to see, I think you will agree with me, another very good show, so can we do it all again next year please same place same times and the date is July 28th the hall is already booked.

Entries. 23 members showed plants this is 7 fewer than last year, with 139 entries, putting in 196 plants and this was well up on last year (169 plants) so the heat did not get them all!

Thank you all once again Mary. (Mary Davies show secretary)

CLASS RESULTS.

Greenhouse Grown.

Class 1. 1 Plant 4-inch (10cm) pot. 19 Entries, 19 plants.

First. Tricia Heath, with her own new one called AURORA.

Second. Geoff Atkins, with a German one called Fleischle Princesse.

Third. Tricia Heath, with a seedling as yet un-named.

Fourth. Geoff Atkins, with Ella Mae.

Class 2. 3 Plants 4-inch (10cm) pot. 8 Entries, 24 plants.

First. Geoff Atkins, with Fleischle Princesse, Kelly and Elegance.

Second. Tricia Heath, with Aurora, Emma and a seedling.

Third. Keith Capper, with 3 of his own seedlings as yet un-named.

Fourth. Tricia Heath, with Demiter, Bethan and Mary.

Class 3. 1 Plant 6-inch (15cm) pot. 34 Entries 34 plants.

First. Tricia Heath, with Persephone.

Second. Rodney Woods, with Tina.

Third. Frank Marsh, with Dainty Lady.

Fourth. Stan Gorman, with Bethan.

Class 4. 3 Plants 6-inch (15cm) pot. 7 Entries 21 plants

First. Keith Capper, with 3 of his own seedlings. (210) (IMPI) (202)

Second. Keith Capper, with 3 of his seedlings. (223) (250) (HLF)

Third. Tricia Heath, with 1 of her own seedlings, Albatross and Gloria.

Fourth. Frank Marsh, with 1 of his own seedlings, Isa and Sunsweet.

Show Report (continued)

Grown in House or Conservatory.

Class 5. 1 Plant 4- inch (10cm) pot. 17 Entries 17 plants.

First. Pauline Benton, with Mulberry Lady.

Second. Betty Holden, with Blushing Bride.

Third. Annabelle Thomas, with?

Fourth. Tricia Heath, with Picotte Dream.

Class 6. 3 Plants 4- inch (10cm) pot. 6 Entries. 18 plants.

First. Pauline Benton, with Melane Night, Butter Blues and Beacon.

Second. Annabelle Thomas, with Branwen, Mabel and Polka-Dot.

Third. Pauline Benton, with Jelly Bean, Little Gem and Mini Pink.

Fourth. Peter Wilson, with 3 of his own seedlings, very nice ones as well.

Class 7. 1 Plant 6- inch (15cm) pot. 10 Entries. 10 plants.

First. Margaret Ereaud, with White Wings.

Second. Betty Holden, with Falling Stars.

Third. Betty Holden, with Emma.

Fourth. Mr. W T Powell, with Cry Beauty.

CLASSES 8 TO 13 CAN BE GROWN ANYWHERE.

Class 8. 1 Plant any size pot. 5 Entries. 5 plants.

First. Keith Capper, with his own seedling (Jacaranda)

Second. Keith Capper, with his own seedling (Blue Confetti)

Third. Keith Capper, with another of his seedlings (Summer Snow)

Fourth. Mrs J Dale, with Emma.

Class 9. Any Species need not be in flower, any size pot. 2 entries 2 plants.

First. Brian Grieve.

Second. Brian Grieve.

Class 10. 6 Plants in flower. 3 Entries 18 plants.

First. Keith Capper. The 6 are all Keith's own breeding. Jabulani, Moonshadow, Incosi, Thandi, China Doll and Smokey Blue

Second. Derek Smith. Sorry Derek we seem to have lost your card with the names.

Third. Jim Ellis, with Emma, Kelly, Isa, Modbury Lady, Dibleys Charlotte and Dainty Lady.

Class 11. Any new seedling. Judged by members.

We had 28 entries in this class, and the results were very close.

First with 23 votes. A red by Stan Gorman.

Second with 21 votes. A dark velvet by Jim Ellis.

Third with 18 votes. A small flowered blue by Peter Wilson.

Fourth with 17 votes. A dark veined seedling out of Dainty Lady seed by Brian Grieve.

Class 12. A photograph of a single streptocarpus. Only 2 entries this year.

First. Ann Morris.

Second. Ann Morris.

Third. Geraldine King.

Fourth. Geraldine King.

Fifth. Not given

Class 13. A photograph of a group of streptocarpus. Only 2 entries this year.

First. Ann Morris

Second. Not given

Third. ::

Fourth. ::

Fifth. ::

A Short Article

by Susan Royston

At the time of writing it is early August and I am looking back on the last five weeks. At the beginning of July I was feeling so pleased, the Streps were at last in full swing. Cuttings taken last Autumn had made nice plants and the surplus had been a hit on a local charity stall. I was lucky enough to have bought some young plants from Frank and from Bob and enjoyed seeing them come into flower. It was a joy watching for the first buds to open and to see new varieties for the first time having only seen pictures of them before. Persian Carpet was a real surprise being much darker and richer in colour than I imagined. This year got off to a slow start here in Cornwall. It was colder and darker during the Spring than usual. Then came the sun, suddenly the days were scorching hot and dazzlingly bright. My greenhouse has bubble wrap on the inside and we put coolglass on the outside but that was not enough. Some of my poor plants got badly scorched so we went to our local farm supply shop and bought a roll of silage netting and put a double thickness layer over the whole greenhouse. Silage netting is black and it provided a lot of shade. That worked, it was noticeably cooler and darker inside the greenhouse after that. My plants flourished but needed watering two or three times a day. Then typical of the Cornish weather it clouded over and we were subjected to days of thunderstorms and heavy rain. It was hot and humid and I noticed some of my plants had spots of powdery mildew on them. A spray with a fungicide seemed to do the trick. Then back came the searing sun again.

This time the heat was so intense that the plants, which were not under the bench wilted badly and the nights, were also so hot that a lot of them did not perk up again by morning. I started losing plants, mostly the seedlings that were just beginning to flower. My husband suggested putting a bench in an old open barn at the top of our garden. It is always much cooler in there because of the huge beech trees which have grown across it. So that is where my plants are now and they have not wilted since they have been up there. The down side is that the bumblebees have found them and really damaged a lot of flowers. I don't mind as long as the plants live. Hopefully I will not have lost too many of my seedlings as I took cuttings from the ones which died and they are looking good. I have invested in some large gravel trays and some capillary matting to help with the watering. I have always worried about using this method knowing how temperamental Streps are if they get too wet but I will try it and see. Frank says it works for him!! This year I have many more varieties than last year and also lots of seedlings I've grown myself so if it helps with the watering it will be well worth the investment.

I started taking cuttings in May this year and those are just showing plantlets and I am still taking cuttings now. I want to make sure I have more than one of each of my favourites as a lot of them are unnamed varieties and I doubt if I could get them again.

The prospect of the coming Winter was a worry as I doubt if I could get all my plants into my greenhouse and on my windowsills but my daughter says I can use her greenhouse so I will have to get some bubble wrap and line it and install the gas heater in there.

For now however, I will just enjoy them. At present I am in my front room with a dazzling display on the deep cottage windowsill, which holds fifteen different varieties and an Orchid, which arches over the top of them. There is a deep velvety red Midnight Flame on the heater and on the floor by the glass door; Amanda, Fine Wine and Bristol's Blackbird display a riot of richly coloured blooms. I hope everyone else enjoys their plants as much as I do and thanks to Frank and Bob for being willing to talk Streps with me.

Susan Royston

Seed List 2006

STREPTOCARPUS SEED HYBRID LIST 2006.

Sophie x Athena
Fine Wine.
Bethan.
Beryl (s.a.)
Australian Hybrids No 2
Concorde.
Blue Ice.
C.S.W. x Winter Dream (u.s.a)
Bristol's Popsicle (s.a.)
Ruby River.
Elegance.
Crystal Beauty
Garnet.
Mary.
Charlotte
Izzy.
Maiden's Blush.
Pixie
Fricker Frack (s.a.)
Athena x Lynn's Ruby
Georgette
Hannah Ellis.
Texas Seed
Jennifer
Susan x self.
Laura. {s.a.}
Heide x Lynette
Judith.
Lynn's Ruby Red
Melanie.
Midnight Flame.
Sue's Min's
Moonlight.
Nerys.
Patricia.
Tartan Blue.
Party Doll.
Gower Daybreak
Sheila Emily.
Nicola
Sandra x Festival of Wales
Brimstone.
Terracotta.
Tanga
Vanessa.
Maassens White.

Karen
Phaser Blaster
Lemon Ice
Susie
Gower Summertime
Pink Panther
Dainty Sprite (small flowered)
Stella
Orchid Lace
'Royal' Red Strain
Plumb Crazy
Blue Beryl
Carys
Misty Pink
Red Seedling SG6
Kaye.
Texas Heatwave
Something Special X Cynthia.
Amanda
Athena x Marie
Beverley Ruth.
Blue Skies.
Bluebird
Bristol's Hobgoblin (s.a.)
Bristol's Pett coat. (s a)
Cynthia
Isabella.
Ella Mae.
Ella.
Mini Mxd.
Emily
Falling Stars.
Franken Charlotte
Gillian.
Gloria.
Heide x Daphne
Heidi.
Ice Castle.
Ice Iced Baby
Ida. {s.a.}
Jane Elizabeth.
Joanne
Joshi
Kens Yellow Centre Mxd.
Laura x Nicola
Magpie.
Marie

Seed List 2006

Megan.
 Midnight.
 Mixed Seed.
 Modbury Lady.
 Passion Pink.
 Paula.
 Purple Haze.
 Raspberry Dream.
 Ruby Anniversary.
 Ruffles.
 Sandra
 Something Special x Lynn's Ruby Red
 Spectacular Velvet Midnight
 Stacey.
 Texas Sunrise.
 Inky Fingers
 White Wings.
 Kim
 Kissie
 Paper Moon
 Mulberry Lady
 Pink Sprite (small flowered)
 Phoebe (u.s.a.)
 Blue Sprite (small flowered)
 Bristols Tye Dyed
 Something Special
 'Royal' White Strain
 Ruby
 Carolyn Ann
 Purple Ripples
 Misty Blue
 Pink N'Stripey
 Lynette.
 Something Special

STREPTOCARPUS SPECIES SEED LIST

Cyaneus. [s.a.]
 Prolixis
 Caeruleus. {v.s.a.}
 Cyanandrus. Small pale purple veined
 Cooperi.
 Daviesii. Violet bell shaped flower.
 Dracomontanus.
 Trabeculatus

Formosus. {s.a.}
 Gardenii Rosette, flowers whitish with an unusual green in the tube.
 Grandis. Single leaf, white to pale violet.
 Glandylossimus.
 Mixed Species.
 Meyeri Lt. Flowered. {s.a.}
 Polyanthus x Dracomontanus.
 Pentherianus. Rosette, one to three leaves, flowers white/violet, pale yellow in the throat
 Pusillus (v.s.a.) Monocarpic. White. Flowers.
 Rexii Grassland form. Mauve, purple stripes.
 Thompsonii.
 Vandeleurii {v.s.a.} Large leaf, scented white.
 Rexii
 Cyanus
 Baudertti.
 Caulescens. {s.a.}
 Haygarthii.
 Cyaneus. Rosette Blue form long flowers.
 Confusus x Polyanthus x Verlandus.
 Dunnii. Large single leaf, tubular red flowers.
 Eylesii.
 Fasciatus. Rosette whitish with violet lines. {s.a.}
 Galpinii.
 Goetzeii. Single leaf or two, flower violet-ish narrow tube one for the enthusiast.
 Fanniniae.
 Kirkii.
 Meyeri Dk flowered {s.a.}
 Primufolius.
 Polyanthus.
 Porphyrostachys. Single leaf these are beetroot purple on the side, flowers
 Rexii x Gar-Rosette.
 Roseo-Albus Rosette, pink flowers
 Variabilis.
 Wilmsii.
 Unnamed
 carpic



You could grow plants like these with your free seed! Mono-

under-
 violet.
 denii
 {v.s.a.}
 rose
 {s.a.}

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If you have pictures you want printed in the Newsletter please send photos, 35mm negs or slides to Tom Causer or Ken Jones these will be returned after publication.

Many thanks
Tom
The editor

Letiers from members

Following the show and AGM yesterday I returned home thinking about what a good day it had been. Then thinking further I wished I had thanked you all at the end of the meeting, here it is as an e-mail instead.

On behalf of all the members I would like to thank all those responsible for the society for all your hard work on our behalf and for giving so much pleasure to those of us who enjoy our streps, come along to see others efforts, and have some friendly advice. You enrich all our lives without any thought of gain to yourselves.

THANKYOU
Shirley Churchman 484/07
11 Brecon Close
Spondon Derby



*Members at the AGM held on Show day
at Brownhills*