

West and Midlands Show Report – Highnam Village Hall 5th June 2016.

A change of venue if not a change of location was the order of the day for our 2016 show. The Queen's official birthday occurs in the summer to celebrate in better weather, especially this year as her ninetieth clashed with the date for our show, where she made a significant appearance. The good people of Highnam used their hall to mark the occasion so we relegated to the small, quaint village hall. Did the weather affect the celebrations and our irises? After a mild wet El Niño winter leading to a long cool dry spring, then May warmer and damper, how did our irises cope? The shorter bearded and PCI's had peaked but enough of the TB's held on to make the show, where the sibs enjoyed both the weather and double figures entries. And the winners were:-



'Queen's Circle' – best in show for Fred Raines

Class 1 & Gloucester Cup 1st Anne Milner with two bearded from the past.

Class 3 1st Fred Raines 'Rose de la Vallee' and the stunning 'Queen's Circle' which won best in show. 2nd Judy Pollitt with 'Tevenacee Cove' and the very pretty pale blue 'Amadora'. 3rd Fern Harden showing a yellow spike.

Class 4 1st Fred Raines seedling spike of deep blue and navy, 2nd Judy Pollitt with 'Carnaby' joint with Anne Milner with 'Clematis', 3rd Malcolm Allison with 'Benton Apollo'.

Class 5 1st Fred Raines with a stunning pale blue spike of 'Sliverado', 2nd Sue Bedwell with a pale lemon to white spike.

Class 7 1st Judy Pollitt with a range of florets including 'Mer du sud', 'Best Bet', 'Black Beard', 'White Patina' and 'Fresno Frolic', 2nd Fred Raines showing 'Among the Clouds', 'C'est et Moir' and seedlings.

Class 8 1st and the **Rainbow Trophy** to Fred Raines presenting blooms in the yellow colour range including 'Louis d'Or' and 'Wild Jasmine' 2nd Fern Harden with blooms in the mauve range. 3rd Jill Whitehead with some beautiful blues of 'Jane Phillips', 'Evening Pond' and 'Blackbeard'.

Class 9 More than ten entries to select from with 1st and the **Malvern Bowl** Fred Raines showing a deep mauve seedling, 2nd Fred Raines displaying a mauve seedling with gold edging. 3rd Pat Jacobsen with a very dainty pale coloured sib.

Class 11 1st Sue Bedwell with *I. x hollandica* 'Red Ember'.

Class 12 1st Jill Whitehead with *I. foetidissima*, 2nd Alun Whitehead with *Libertia grandiflora*, 3rd Malcolm Allison showing *I. pseudacorus*.

Class 13 1st Sue Bedwell with delightfully plum scented *I. graminea*, 2nd Sue Bedwell displaying the unusual *Moraea spathulata*, 3rd Fern Harden with *I. pseudacorus*

Class 14 One of the best entries for many years with 1st Sue Bedwell a stunning bowl of *I. gracilipes*, joint second Fern Harden with *I. setosa* and Sue Bedwell showing *Gladiolus comos*. Joint 3rd Judy Pollitt with a yellow bearded iris and Jill Whitehead with *G. nanus* 'Claudia'.

Class 15 1st Fern Harden with a crisp display of a deep purple bearded iris on a print, napkins and coasters, 2nd Fred Raines with an informative display of seed to seedlings to established plant

Class 16 A strong display of flower arrangements that would have graced any wedding with 1st Sue Bedwell's bronze bearded supported by sibs, 2nd Fern Harden's very pretty using white Dutch irises and freesias set off against purple Heuchera. 3rd Michael Castle with a display of *I. 'Blue Sapphire'* set against a range of interesting foliage.

Class 17 1st was Alun Whitehead with an interesting photograph of a sib in focus, 2nd was Anne Milner with purple bearded and 3rd Alun Whitehead with a close up of a bearded iris.



Bearded Iris from Fred Raines



Irisiana exhibited by Fern Harden

Class 18 1st went to Alun Whitehead with a very effective photograph of sunlight through *I. pseudacorus*.

Class 19 1st was a seedling presented by Fred Raines with a beige frilled edged bearded iris, 2nd to Pat Jacobsen with a tall bearded with tan standards and deep mauve falls.

Class 20 1st went to Fred Raines with a sib seedling showing deep purple to gold. 2nd was a deep blue sib from Fred Raines, and also third a sib with gold edged cream standards to beige falls.

The Somerset Trophy for most points in show went to Fred Raines who also won the **Shropshire Cup** for best in show.



Sue Bedwells winning flower arrangement



Iris gracilipes class 14 winner



Some of the siberians ready to judge



I. gaminea



Judy selling a large number of plants, Malcolm, Sue and Anne on the books and seed, and a huge thank you to Gill who was hidden away in the kitchen, but kept us refreshed and supplied with much needed cake and tea. We return next year in our usual haunt across the way but a week earlier, 28th May so will the bearded force be with us or will the sibs be out in force. See you there.

A busy afternoon raising interest and funds, a number of visitors making it a successful show despite the limited room available. Sterling work by

