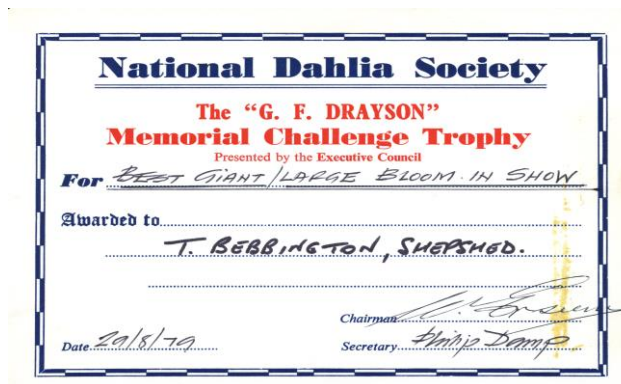




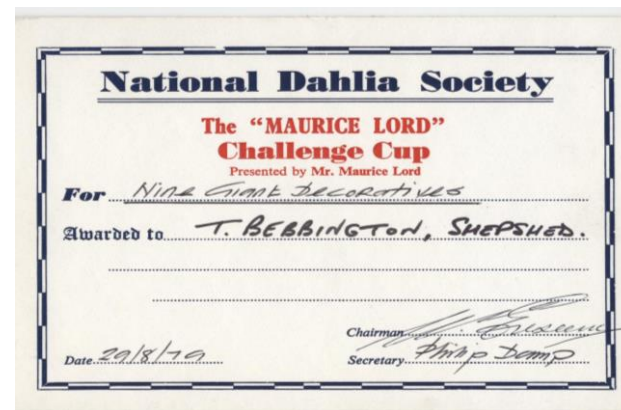
Paul Hassall staging a bloom of Jocondo for his A.T. Barns Exhibit London 1976



Kidds Climax Best Giant Decorative in N.D.S.Show London 1979



Opposite Page. Top Row -  
Lula Pattie -Hamari Girl -  
Alva`s Supreme. Middle  
Row .Kidds Climax-Leycett-  
Almands Climax .Bottom  
Row Playboy -Mauve  
Climax- Jocondo.







The Maurice Lord Challenge Cup Winner 1979





Tom with blooms of Nantenan L S C at  
Loughborough Dahlia Society Show 1968



Leycett GD ten years later at NDS Harrogate Show



# GIANT DECORATIVE'S -MY WAY



**Fig No 1.**

I have dug tubers up in the snow and they have been in perfect condition, but a heavy frost down to minus 10 degrees will penetrate the ground and damage the tubers, so lifting must take place before this can occur. The tubers then need to be kept in a well-ventilated frost free environment and placed upside down to allow all moisture to drain from the stems. An ideal temperature is 40 degrees of which a cellar, if you happen to be very lucky and have one, is an excellent place for storage, and a small greenhouse is possibly the worst place as the temperature in November/December in a closed greenhouse can be as high as 70 degrees and would cause the tubers to rot.

I hope by the time you have read this article that I will have given you enough information to become a National Champion. I always thought that the year started when the dahlia plants had been frosted This normally happens late October or early November, but if by any chance the plants have been frosted earlier they would have been left until this time as the dahlia makes a tuber in September/October See fig.1 - a dahlia tuber being lifted using a spade, rather than a fork which could rip the tubers from the crown. The top growth is cut down to 9 to 12 inches and the most important part is to label the plants securely in order that you don't end up with a load of unknown tubers.



**Fig No 2**