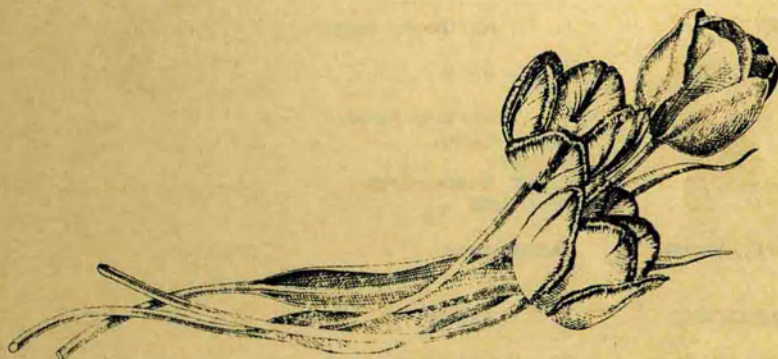


Wakefield & North of England  
Tulip Society

*Established 1836*



NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 1988

Wakefield & North of England

Tulip Society

Established 1836

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Annual Subscriptions

Members are reminded that Annual Subscriptions are due on or before the date of the Annual Show and are for the minimum sum of £2 per member or £3 for Family Membership.

## C O N T E N T S

| <u>T I T L E</u>   | <u>P A G E</u> |
|--|----------------|
| EDITORIAL  | 2.             |
| THE ANNUAL SHOW 1987   | 3.             |
| NOTES ON THE CULTIVATION OF OLD ENGLISH FLORISTS' TULIPS<br>By Hubert V. Calvert | 7.             |
| PORTRAIT OF SAM BARLOW 1825 - 1893<br>By Trevor Mills                            | 10.            |
| SAM BARLOW - THE FLOWER  | 12.            |
| THE SOCIETY'S TROPHIES - No. 1 THE SILVER CHALLENGE CUP                          | 13.            |
| THE SOCIETY'S TROPHIES - No. 2 THE LOCAL CHALLENGE CUP                           | 14.            |
| THE SOCIETY'S TROPHIES - No. 3 THE NEEDHAM MEMORIAL CUP                          | 15.            |
| HORBURY FAMILY ROBINSON  | 16.            |
| PREVIOUS SHOWS   | 19.            |
| PUBLICITY  | 23.            |
| TAIL-PIECES  | 23.            |
| <br>   |                |
| <u>I L L U S T R A T I O N S</u>   | <u>P A G E</u> |
| SAM BARLOW   | 11.            |
| THE 1938 SHOW  | 17.            |

## EDITORIAL

Anyone who has tried in even the smallest way to draw up his family tree will know the problems that occur once the memories of any living relatives have been exhausted. The main problem of where to start looking next is one that has dogged members of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society when in the past they have investigated the history of the society. That is one of the reasons why we have decided to publish an annual newsletter, to give more details of what is happening in the society and of the people involved.

Since the demise of the National Tulip Society more than 50 years ago left us as the National Society in everything but name only, we have carried the sole responsibility of preserving the English Florist Tulip. Numerically in terms of membership the society is stronger than it has ever been in its more than 150 years of existence. As important, since the florist tulip is essentially a show flower, the number of members exhibiting at the annual show continues to grow and the overall quality of the blooms to rise. This is due to the unselfish attitude now adopted by members who distribute good 'breaks' among the showing members at planting time rather than keeping them for themselves as seems to have been the custom in the dim and distant past. At this point tribute should also be paid to our secretary Keith Eyre who almost single handed in recent times has been responsible for the preservation and distribution of the breeders which are so vital for a show collection.

Confirmation that we are indeed more than just a local society can be found in examination of the prizewinners at the 1987 show who came from such exotic places as South Cave (near the Humber Bridge), York, Manchester, Sheffield and Walsall.

One of the features of the newsletter is a more detailed examination of the varieties shown in 1987. The purpose of this is twofold. Firstly to record for future generations what varieties were in existence at this time, and secondly to help newer members to determine which varieties to seek out in order to be more adventurous in their showing by entering the collection classes rather than just the single bloom classes. In harmony with this, when the bulbs were distributed in 1986 all members present received a varied selection so that they had the potential to enter at least the 6 rectified and hopefully the nine (breeder, flamed and feathered from the three colours). The results of this were only mildly encouraging but the very large number of entries in the 3 stages class causes us to look forward to 1988 with some optimism.

Other features are brief descriptions of individual varieties, details of members and other tulip growers from the past, and mention of other publications in which the society has been featured, a clear demonstration of the wide interest in the Florist Tulip. Tell us of any we have missed. The society would like to build up a scrap book of the past and therefore we are keen to hear of any item in your possession, (a photocopy would be an added bonus), concerning the society or florist tulips in general.

We hope that you will enjoy this newsletter and that it stimulates you to contribute articles that we can include in future issues. Please feel free to comment and make suggestions on topics you feel would be interesting.

# THE ANNUAL SHOW 1987

Reading through reports of the shows from the past makes one think that there has never been a good year for growing tulips and 1987 was no exception. April saw more sun than we normally see in the whole of a good summer and so the show which had originally been fixed for the 23rd May was advanced by one week. Despite that, a week before the show any unshaded roses were virtually over and a room full of Royal Sovereign and Dr. Hardy seemed likely. Then for the week before the show cold dark weather was the norm and once again it became a struggle to get the later varieties like Columbine out in time. In the end the show was far better than anyone expected with 284 blooms in the Dutch and English vase classes and 466 blooms in the English Florist classes and full marks should be given to the judges Colin Harrison (Dutch classes) and Jane Eyre (English).

A full analysis of the prize winning entries by both class and type follows. Two flowers need a special mention. Firstly Sarah Headley, a rose flame, shown by Keith Eyre who has nurtured back to flowering size a single offset given to him by the late Jim Akers which is probably the only bulb of this variety still in existence. Secondly Cyrano (which many members grow but which appeared in a prize winning entry for probably the first time since a single bulb was reintroduced into the Society exactly 30 years ago in 1957).

All the still existing older breeders were represented, and it seems fairly certain now that no George Hayward without the dreaded black break still exist. Keith Eyre (who else could?), even produced a Bill Beddows though not in a fit condition to win a prize so this superb red bizarre isn't lost yet.

The rectified winners remind us of how few really good breaks there are, with particular problems with Rose and Bybloemen feathers. When you examine old show records and see the number of Bessie and Talisman feathers that won prizes then it begs the question why don't either break like that today? We hope that giving the prizewinners in this way will help members to seek out varieties to complete a collection class because it should be the aim of every member to have an entry in at least the 6 rectified.

## OPEN CLASSES

|                |   |     |         |     |             |            |
|----------------|---|-----|---------|-----|-------------|------------|
| <u>Class 1</u> | - Vase of 18 Tulips other than English Florist  |     |         |     |             | 5 entries  |
| 1st            | A.M. Taylor                                     | 2nd | W. Tear | 3rd | W. Tear     |            |
| <u>Class 2</u> | - 3 Vases of Tulips o/t English Florist (9/6/3) |     |         |     |             | 3 entries  |
| 1st            | W. Tear   | 2nd | W. Tear | 3rd | R. Smales   |            |
| <u>Class 3</u> | - Vase of 9 Tulips o/t English Florist          |     |         |     |             | 7 entries  |
| 1st            | W. Tear   | 2nd | W. Tear | 3rd | A.M. Taylor |            |
| <u>Class 4</u> | - Vase of 6 Tulips o/t English Florist          |     |         |     |             | 7 entries  |
| 1st            | J. Gibson                                       | 2nd | W. Tear | 3rd | W. Tear     |            |
| <u>Class 5</u> | - Vase of 3 Tulips o/t English Florist          |     |         |     |             | 10 entries |
| 1st            | J. Gibson                                       | 2nd | W. Tear | 3rd | W. Tear     |            |
| <u>Class 6</u> | - Vase of 5 Parrot Tulips                       |     |         |     |             | 4 entries  |
| 1st            | J. Ollerenshaw                                  | 2nd | W. Tear | 3rd | D. Brears   |            |
| <u>Class 7</u> | - Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips             |     |         |     |             | 1 entry    |
| 1st            | K.N. Eyre                                       |     |         |     |             |            |
| <u>Class 8</u> | - Vase of 9 English Florist Tulips              |     |         |     |             | 2 entries  |
| 1st            | Ian Mills                                       |     |         |     |             |            |

|               |                  |            |            |               |
|---------------|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| 1st J.L.Akers | Rose - Mabel     | Juliette   | Gloria     | Seedling      |
|               | Biz - Goldfinder | James Wild | Sam Barlow | Garfield Hunt |
|               | Byb - Music      | Talisman   | Bessie     | Huberts No.4  |
| 2nd K.N.Eyre  | Rose - Mabel     | Juliette   | Gloria     | Jessie        |
|               | Biz - Goldfinder | James Wild | Sam Barlow | Lord Stanley  |
|               | Byb - Music      | Talisman   | Bessie     | Columbine     |

Class 10 - Stand of 12 Rectified English Tulips (Dissimilar) 3 entries

|               |                  |                  |            |           |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|
|               | Feather          | Feather          | Flame      | Flame     |
| 1st J.L.Akers | Rose- Wakefield  | Julia Farnese    | Akers      | Mabel     |
|               | Biz - James Wild | Lord F Cavendish | Sam Barlow | Paxton    |
|               | Byb - Adonis     | Habit de Noce    | Bessie     | Columbine |

|              |                  |                  |            |        |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------|--------|
| 2nd R.Smales | Rose- Wakefield  | Julia Farnese    | Akers      | Mabel  |
|              | Biz - James Wild | Lord F Cavendish | Sam Barlow | Cyrano |
|              | Byb - Columbine  | Habit de Noce    | Columbine  | Adonis |

|              |                       |                  |           |           |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 3rd K.N.Eyre | Rose- Wakefield       | Mabel            | Seedling  | Mabel     |
|              | Biz - Royal Sovereign | Lord F Cavendish | Dr. Hardy | Paxton    |
|              | Byb - Agbrigg         | Habit de Noce    | Bessie    | Columbine |

Class 11 - Stand of 9 English Tulips (Dissimilar) 5 entries

|               |                    |                  |            |        |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|--------|
|               | Breeder            | Feather          | Flame      |        |
| 1st J.L.Akers | Rose- Juliette     | Wakefield        | Akers      |        |
|               | Biz - Sam Barlow   | Lord F Cavendish | Sir Joseph | Paxton |
|               | Byb - Huberts No.4 | Agbrigg          | Columbine  |        |

|                 |                  |               |            |  |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------|--|
| 2nd Sarah Akers | Rose- Juliette   | Wakefield     | Mabel      |  |
|                 | Biz - Goldfinder | James Wild    | Sam Barlow |  |
|                 | Byb - Talisman   | Habit de Noce | Bessie     |  |

|              |                  |            |            |        |
|--------------|------------------|------------|------------|--------|
| 3rd R.Smales | Rose- Juliette   | Wakefield  | Mabel      |        |
|              | Biz - Goldfinder | James Wild | Sir Joseph | Paxton |
|              | Byb - Bessie     | Adonis     | Columbine  |        |

Class 12 - Class of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips 4 entries

|               |        |            |            |        |
|---------------|--------|------------|------------|--------|
|               |        | Feather    | Flame      |        |
| 1st J.L.Akers | Rose - | Wakefield  | Seedling   |        |
|               | Biz -  | James Wild | Sir Joseph | Paxton |
|               | Byb -  | Agbrigg    | Columbine  |        |

|                 |        |               |            |        |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|------------|--------|
| 2nd Sarah Akers | Rose - | Wakefield     | Akers      | Flame  |
|                 | Biz -  | James Wild    | Sir Joseph | Paxton |
|                 | Byb -  | Habit de Noce | Columbine  |        |

|              |        |            |            |         |
|--------------|--------|------------|------------|---------|
| 3rd K.N.Eyre | Rose - | Mabel      | Sarah      | Headley |
|              | Biz -  | James Wild | Sir Joseph | Paxton  |
|              | Byb -  | Agbrigg    | Columbine  |         |

Class 13 - 6 Breeders (dissimilar) 5 entries

|               |        |            |            |  |
|---------------|--------|------------|------------|--|
| 1st J.L.Akers | Rose - | Juliette   | Mabel      |  |
|               | Biz -  | Sam Barlow | Goldfinder |  |
|               | Byb -  | Columbine  | Music      |  |

|              |        |            |            |           |
|--------------|--------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 2nd R.Smales | Rose - | Juliette   | Helen      | Josephine |
|              | Biz -  | Sam Barlow | Goldfinder |           |
|              | Byb -  | Talisman   | Bessie     |           |

|             |        |            |              |
|-------------|--------|------------|--------------|
| 3rd C Marsh | Rose - | Juliette   | Gloria       |
|             | Biz -  | Sam Barlow | Lord Stanley |
|             | Byb -  | Talisman   | Music        |

Class 14 - Pan of 3 Stages 9 entries

|                 |                  |            |             |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|-------------|
|                 | Breeder          | Feather    | Flame       |
| 1st T.Mills     | Rose - Gloria    | Wakefield  | Akers Flame |
| 2nd R.Smales    | Biz - Sam Barlow | Sam Barlow | Sam Barlow  |
| 3rd Sarah Akers | Biz - Sam Barlow | James Wild | Dr.Hardy    |

Class 15 - 3 Breeders 9 entries

|                 |          |            |           |
|-----------------|----------|------------|-----------|
|                 | Rose     | Bizarre    | Bybloemen |
| 1st J.L.Akers   | Juliette | Sam Barlow | Music     |
| 2nd Sarah Akers | Mabel    | Sam Barlow | Music     |
| 3rd R.Perraudin | Juliette | Sam Barlow | Music     |

Class 16 - Pair of Flamed (dissimilar) 13 entries

|               |              |                   |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1st T.Mills   | Lord Stanley | Sir Joseph Paxton |
| 2nd J.L.Akers | Mabel        | Sir Joseph Paxton |
| 3rd J.Hardman | Columbine    | Lord Stanley      |

Class 17 - Pair of Feathered (dissimilar) 15 entries

|                 |           |                  |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1st Sarah Akers | Wakefield | James Wild       |
| 2nd J.L.Akers   | Wakefield | Lord F.Cavendish |
| 3rd R.Perraudin | Wakefield | James Wild       |

Class 18 - One Breeder 16 entries

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1st R.Perraudin | Sam Barlow |
| 2nd J.Hardman   | Juliette   |
| 3rd J.Akers     | Goldfinder |

Class 19 - One Flamed 20 entries

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1st A.Hayward | Akers Flame |
| 2nd J.L.Akers | Sam Barlow  |
| 3rd T.Mills   | Sam Barlow  |

Class 20 - One Feathered 18 entries

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1st J.L.Akers | James Wild       |
| 2nd R.Smales  | Lord F.Cavendish |
| 3rd A.Hayward | James Wild       |

NOVICE CLASSES

Class 21 - Pan of 3 Stages 12 entries

|                  |            |                  |                   |
|------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                  | Breeder    | Feather          | Flame             |
| 1st M.Hainsworth | James Wild | Lord F.Cavendish | Sir Joseph Paxton |
| 2nd P.Lister     | James Wild | Wakefield        | Mabel             |
| 3rd D.Bromley    | Sam Barlow | Wakefield        | Bessie            |

Class 22 - 1 Breeder 20 entries

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1st J.Vemyss-Cooke | Sam Barlow |
| 2nd B.Kitching     | F.R.Hunter |
| 3rd Ian Mills      | Juliette   |

Class 23 - 1 Flamed 19 entries

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1st M.Hainsworth    | Sir Joseph Paxton |
| 2nd Ian Mills       | Akers Flame       |
| 3rd J. Wemyss-cooke | Sir Joseph Paxton |

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1st M. Hainsworth | Lord F. Cavendish |
| 2nd D. Brears     | James Wild        |
| 3rd P. Lister     | James Wild        |

|                              |          |              |           |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| <u>Class 25 - 3 Breeders</u> |          | 7 entries    |           |
|                              | Rose     | Bizarre      | Bybloemen |
| 1st D. Barnes                | Juliette | F.R.Hunter   | Columbine |
| 2nd M. Hainsworth            | Gloria   | Sam Barlow   | Music     |
| 3rd P. Lister                | Mabel    | Lord Stanley | Columbine |

EXTRA OPEN CLASSES

|                             |            |           |  |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|--|
| <u>Class 26 - 1 Breeder</u> |            | 9 entries |  |
| 1st Sarah Akers             | Goldfinder |           |  |
| 2nd J. Wemyss-Cooke         | Gloria     |           |  |
| 3rd D. Brears               | Music      |           |  |

|                            |                   |            |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|--|
| <u>Class 27 - 1 Flamed</u> |                   | 10 entries |  |
| 1st Sarah Akers            | Sir Joseph Paxton |            |  |
| 2nd J. Taylor              | Mabel             |            |  |
| 3rd J. Wemyss-Cooke        | Sir Joseph Paxton |            |  |

|                               |            |           |  |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|--|
| <u>Class 28 - 1 Feathered</u> |            | 9 entries |  |
| 1st Sarah Akers               | Wakefield  |           |  |
| 2nd M. Hainsworth             | James Wild |           |  |
| 3rd D. Brears                 | Adonis     |           |  |

ANALYSIS OF PRIZES WON BY VARIETY

| Breeder         | Rose        | 1 | 2 | 3 | Bizarre         | 1 | 2 | 3 | Bybloemen        | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----------------|-------------|---|---|---|-----------------|---|---|---|------------------|---|---|---|
| Juliette        |             | 5 | 4 | 4 | Sam Barlow      | 6 | 5 | 4 | Music            | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Gloria          |             | 2 | 3 | 1 | Goldfinder      | 3 | 3 | 2 | Columbine        | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Mabel           |             | 2 | 2 | 1 | James Wild      | 2 | 2 | - | Huberts No 4     | 2 | - | - |
| Seedling        |             | 1 | - | - | F.R.Hunter      | 1 | 1 | - | Talisman         | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Helen Josephine |             | - | 1 | - | Garfield Hunt   | 1 | - | - | Bessie           | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Jessie          |             | - | 1 | - | Lord Stanley    | - | 1 | 2 |                  |   |   |   |
| <u>Flame</u>    | <u>Rose</u> | 1 | 2 | 3 | <u>Bizarre</u>  | 1 | 2 | 3 | <u>Bybloemen</u> | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Akers           |             | 4 | 3 | - | Sir J. Paxton   | 7 | 2 | 5 | Columbine        | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Mabel           |             | 1 | 5 | 2 | Sam Barlow      | 1 | 4 | 1 | Bessie           | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Seedlings       |             | 1 | - | 1 | Lord Stanley    | 1 | - | 1 | Adonis           | - | 1 | - |
| Sarah Headley   |             | - | - | 1 | Cyrano          | - | 1 | - |                  |   |   |   |
|                 |             |   |   |   | Dr. Hardy       | - | - | 2 |                  |   |   |   |
| <u>Feather</u>  | <u>Rose</u> | 1 | 2 | 3 | <u>Bizarre</u>  | 1 | 2 | 3 | <u>Bybloemen</u> | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Wakefield       |             | 6 | 5 | 4 | James Wild      | 4 | 5 | 6 | Agbrigg          | 2 | - | 2 |
| Julia Farnese   |             | 1 | 1 | - | Cavendish       | 4 | 3 | 1 | Habit De Noce    | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Mabel           |             | - | - | 2 | Sam Barlow      | - | 1 | 1 | Adonis           | 1 | - | 2 |
|                 |             |   |   |   | Royal Sovereign | - | - | 1 | Columbine        | - | 1 | - |

Best Blooms in Show

|                              |                   |             |          |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------|
| Premier Bloom and Best Flame | Sir Joseph Paxton | Sarah Akers | Class 27 |
| Best Feather                 | Wakefield         | Sarah Akers | Class 17 |
| Best Breeder                 | Goldfinder        | J. L. Akers | Class 13 |
| Best Bloom in Novice Classes | F. R. Hunter      | D. Barnes   | Class 25 |



Notes on the cultivation of Old English Florists' Tulips  
Hubert V. Calvert April 1980

The reason for these notes is that we are very concerned about the large number of our Old English tulip bulbs that are being lost through improper cultivation.

As there are now no commercial supplies available, we depend on members who have bulbs to maintain stocks. It is not always easy, but in most cases it can be done if we are prepared to make the necessary effort.

The ideal method of successfully cultivating our English florists' tulips is described by Chas. Needham in the Society's booklet, and again in more detail in "The Book of the Tulip" by Sir A. D. Hall, published by Martin Hopkinson Ltd. London, 1929. Although conditions have changed since these articles were written and we have much smaller gardens in which to grow our bulbs, the fundamentals remain the same. Although traditionally, Florists' tulips were grown in the same bed year after year, the 6 inches or so of soil covering the bulbs was changed annually to prevent a build-up of pests and diseases, the beds were usually raised above the surrounding level to assure perfect drainage, and the bulbs were lifted at the correct time and properly dried and stored until the time for replanting.

In our smaller gardens we must exercise a certain amount of ingenuity to grow our tulips to perfection on our particular plot, but the essentials remain the same. We must not plant them in the same soil every year, we must provide good drainage as waterlogging is fatal, we must lift the bulbs at the right time and store them in good conditions, and to get the best results we must grow them in fertile soil. Chas. Needham used to say "If you can grow good cabbages you can grow good tulips."

My plot is on the North side of our semi-detached Council house, with a slight slope away from the house. The soil is a mixture of what the builders dumped on it and contains a lot of flat stones of various sizes. Because of this it is impossible to dig with a spade and I always use a garden fork. The sub-soil is clay, but as it is on the slope and stoney it never gets waterlogged. When I took it over about 40 years ago it was so infertile that even the weeds were stunted. After a few years of cultivation, the removal of the larger stones and incorporation of humus-forming materials and general fertilisers, the weeds grew taller which indicated that fertility was being improved.

When I started growing Old English tulips in 1950, planting in fresh soil each year presented no problems as I had only a few bulbs, but as stocks increased they were grown in the vegetable plot as part of a four year rotation. I find it convenient to plant tulips where potatoes have grown. The area has been well cultivated and is vacant by October when the tulips are planted. The area may be forked over and made level and the tulips planted 5" apart and 5" deep with a trowel, moving the line back 6" for the next row. Another method is to make a V shaped drill with the hoe, plant 5" apart and draw back the soil to leave a ridge over the row. I find it more convenient to take out a trench and proceed like planting potatoes. It is a good idea to line the trench with a mixture of peat and sand, apply a good handful of raw bone meal per yard run and plant the bulbs on this. The line is moved back 8" or 9", and the soil turned over into the trench. I use a border fork for this purpose as it is narrower and not as long as a garden fork and enables the rows to be nearer together. When covering up I work backwards down the line so that a twist of the hand deposits the soil in the trench. This is easier and better than standing 'square on' and throwing the soil forward and is less likely to disturb the bulbs. The 7th

row is dug over like the others but not planted, to form a path between the beds.

Breeders are planted first, each variety separately with a label at the beginning and a substantial stick to indicate where the next variety begins. The largest bulbs go in first, up to 6" apart, followed in the row by smaller bulbs and offsets. Smaller bulbs may be planted closer together and offsets may be touching. When planting flamed and feathered sorts, offsets are best planted with the parent bulb which should have been lifted and stored together in a separate container or bag. Ideally, breeders should be planted well away from broken varieties. In a small garden this is difficult, but as large a space as possible should be left between them.

I plant my bulbs from left to right in the row in alphabetical order and write down immediately the name and position in the bed and, if labels get lost or displaced, the bulbs don't get mixed at lifting time. If the soil is on the acid side, which it may be following a crop of potatoes, the whole area should be dressed with lime after the bulbs are planted. This will be washed in by winter rains and will help to release nutrients in the soil.

It is possible to grow tulips singly in 7" or 8" pots sunk half-way into the ground and the soil pulled over them in a ridge. Advantages of this method are that they may be grown in sterilised compost, e.g. John Innes No.2 or 3, are easily lifted and do not get mixed with other varieties.

Here in West Yorkshire, the first leaves show through in February and by April, if the ground is dry enough, it can be lightly hoed, being careful to avoid cutting off any of the young leaves. Weeds can be a problem as the plants increase in size and it may be necessary to remove them by hand.

A constant watch should be kept for botrytis which attacks the leaves in warm humid weather. It causes the leaves to collapse, covering them with a grey mould. At the first sign of attack, all the plants should be sprayed with Benlate. Aphis may also be troublesome and an insecticide can be mixed with the Benlate as directed by the manufacturers. There are two kinds of slugs which may attack tulips, one lives in the ground and the others migrate from grass and rough areas. The best remedy is to use P.B.I. SLUG GUARD pellets containing DRAZA. These are more effective than the usual pellets containing metaldehyde and, in the long run, much cheaper. Some may be sprinkled in the drill when bulbs are planted and more used on the beds in the summer when slugs are active.

Blooms of Florists' varieties for exhibition are best gathered early in the morning or late at night, as they are then closed and charged with sap and the stems snap off easily, sometimes too easily and we must be careful not to knock off their heads. Nine inches of stem is adequate, and no leaves must be removed as they gather nutrients which help to build up the bulb for the following season. (This does not apply for those needed for the vase classes, which are better with long stems with a couple of the top leaves attached.) The blooms are placed upright in containers of water up to 2" below the bloom and stored in a cool, shady place. Mine go under the "stone" in the pantry until the morning of the show when they are sorted out according to the schedule into their various classes. It is helpful when gathering the blooms to have a schedule handy so that a rough estimate can be made of the classes to be entered according to the number of blooms that are available. If there is any difficulty in selecting

feathered and flamed sorts, one of the more experienced exhibitors will, no doubt, be pleased to help, but my advice is to study afresh the "Properties" explained by J. W. Bentley in our booklet which our Secretary will be pleased to sell you if yours is lost or mislaid. It will, no doubt, be discovered that there are no perfect blooms, but some will be better than others and we should bring to the Show the best we have. It is very pleasant and encouraging to win and we should praise those who, by their expertise and devotion, take away the trophies, but remember the success of an exhibition depends on all the exhibitors and those who do not win must not be too discouraged.

When the tulips are in full bloom is the time to sort out any really bad breaks. If set far enough apart they can be lifted with a trowel while in bloom and straight away destroyed.

Among the Breeders, Music always breaks badly, Helen Josephine and Jessie will show darker areas on the petals and George Hayward a partial break on the petal edges. All these are then no use for showing and should be destroyed. Sam Barlow sometimes breaks very badly and should then be discarded. It will, however, also break into a super flamed bloom and then should be carefully preserved together with all its offsets. Mabel is in the same category and when right often receives the Premier flamed award. Bessie, Columbine and Lord Stanley break both flamed and feathered and it is worthwhile persevering with any doubtful ones before discarding them. Juliette and Goldfinder break very attractively but, usually, just below the best standards, but they will be shown in the 12 and 9 bloom stands, so only the very bad ones need be discarded. It is said that good ones can go bad in subsequent years, but bad ones never come good and it takes the same amount of time and effort to grow either sort.

Bulbs should be lifted before the foliage has completely died down, usually early July, dried in a warm airy place and the foliage removed before storage. A small quantity can be stored in open paper bags, keeping each variety separately, while larger quantities can go in a single layer in tomato boxes, which may be stacked one on another with an ample air space between. To prevent botrytis and mould during storage the bulbs may be immersed for 15 to 30 minutes in a solution of one sachet of Benlate in 2 pints of water within 24 hours of lifting and allowed to dry before storage, or, for protection during growth, immersed in a similar solution immediately before planting. A "Technical Bulletin" dealing especially with bulbs, corms, vines and peonies is available from Pan Britannia Industries Ltd., Britannica House, Waltham Cross, Herts. on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

Our long established and unique Society is indebted to those who have gone before us, we depend for our future on those who continue to grow our tulips and on those who compete to maintain their high standard, and we are grateful to all who, in their various ways, continue to support us.

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#### EDITORIAL NOTE:

As this article was originally distributed among members 7 years ago the current availability of the chemicals and/or leaflet is not known, however with the explosion of garden centres over the whole of the country access to similar products is assured. The rest of the advice is still bang up-to-date. Any good breaks of the varieties mentioned should be sent in a plain envelope to the editor well before planting time.

Portrait of Sam Barlow 1825 - 1893

*"A true Victorian, a person with a great sense of duty and a strict moral code that set the pattern for 19th century Britain."*

This quote referred to the reigning queen Victoria but could equally well be applied to the 'Prince of Stakehill' Sam Barlow. What lies behind a name, especially one that is also the name of an English Florist Tulip which has reigned supreme since the beginning of this century?

Initially Sam Barlow's education was at a village school and one can assume that part of the curriculum included horticultural practice. Reports tell of his being given seeds by his father at the age of seven years and it was from this early encouragement that his love of flowers grew and remained one of his greatest pleasures throughout his life.

He followed his father into the cotton industry, finding employment with Otto Hulme and Sons and taking up residence at Stakehill House, Castleton in 1847 at the age of 22.

He became sole manager of the bleachworks in 1861 in conjunction with partners, the business being conducted under the style Samuel Barlow & Co. His love of mixing with the not-so-fortunate meant that he could often be found in the local inns listening to stories and enjoying his tankard of beer. He showed his generosity in 1864 by taking his work-people on a charabanc trip. By now Samuel Barlow had become a man of some financial standing, and also a grower of many things.

A year after taking up residence at Stakehill he had begun to exhibit flowers, his earliest triumphs came from showing Tulips, gold-laced Polyanthus (on which he was an authority), Ranunculus and Goose-berries.

Interestingly, during this period but further south at the Melanathons Head, Park Street, Derby, Thomas Storer was showing winning ways with gooseberries, in the company of his friends James Wild and Joseph Lakin.

Over the years the gardens at Stakehill were considerably extended and the house was almost entirely rebuilt. Inside the house the walls were covered with paintings and drawings including a large number of examples of the work of the "Manchester school" of great French artists. Samuel was President of the Art Club of Manchester and on the council of the Manchester Academy.

In the year 1863 he had a narrow escape when his four wheel drag collided with another vehicle. The rear wheels became detached and his horse bolted but with great courage he managed to bring it to a halt suffering only a small abrasion on one finger, the other vehicle unfortunately ending up wrecked.

He was a colourful character and read papers before the Todmorden Botanical Society and at the Manchester Horticultural Improvement Society recounting gardening yarns about well known gentry of the area. May of 1883 saw a pilgrimage of florists to his garden where enquiries were made about the amount of top soil. This had been brought from the Great Orme, Llandudno where he had recently acquired more land to grow his flowers, believing it would provide better growing conditions than the industrial atmosphere of the Lancashire area.

At the showbench in October 1890 he won an award for his apples at the Guildhall in London, proving himself not just a florist but something of a pomologist as well!

Political life was beginning to take its toll of his time as he became Alderman and Mayor of Middleton, then in May 1893 he broke his arm after a fall down a flight of stairs. His untimely death on May 28th was felt as a great loss to the community, particularly since, despite

having difficulty in being heard by a large audience due to bronchitis he had been considered as the next Liberal candidate to stand for parliament.

Alas, only a lone oak tree marks the garden today, it has been swallowed up by a factory estate.

Today, the visitor to St. Leonard's Church, Middleton with its wooden belfry can see in the adjoining churchyard the final resting place of Sam Barlow, a name which is repeated over and over each year at the Wakefield Tulip Show. His wife Hannah survived him for seven years until 25th July 1900.

The English Florist Tulip which carries his name today did not appear in the awards until after his death. The bulb was taken from seedlings left by Tom Storer and selected by Joe Lakin to be the glorious and fitting epitaph of a man held in high esteem by his fellow florists.

### Trevor Mills



SAMUEL BARLOW.

Born 18th January, 1825.

Died 28th May, 1893.

### SAM BARLOW - The Flower

In The Book Of The Tulip written in 1929, Sir Daniel Hall wrote of this variety that "the breeder has almost disappeared". Fortunately, almost 60 years later, we can record that this variety still exists as a breeder and because of its vigour and ability to covert the one bulb planted into two flowering size bulbs and an offset it is a variety which is in most members' collection.

Raised by Storer, a seedling from Dr. Hardy X Sir Joseph Paxton, at the end of the last century, Sam Barlow is a Bizarre, ie. has a yellow base, and the breeder is a darkish brown with reddish shades and has a lighter coloured line up the centre of the petals which is a feature of many other English Florist Tulips. Although of slightly less than average height the flower which is produced early in the season is large and if shown at the right stage of development is of good shape. In 1986 it was best breeder in the show and in 1987 won the class for single breeder and carried off the Cochrane of Cults vase as best flower in the single bloom classes.

Sam Barlow often breaks well and produces both flamed and feathered flowers which enables it to be shown to advantage as a single variety in the Stages Cup. Such an entry won the cup in 1985 and was second in the 1987 show. Of the two broken types it is as a flame that Sam Barlow excels and the Society's records show many 'best flame in show' awards for the variety over the years. As a feather it is rarely free of extraneous colour away from the edges of the petal and is therefore less likely to win as a single bloom but it is still worth showing in collection classes where dissimilar varieties is a condition.

Sam Barlow is easily recognised because of the size and twisted shape of its stigma but because of its widespread use for breeding new varieties over the years it is possible that virtually indistinguishable unnamed varieties may be intermingled with the stock. Occasionally one with a 'dirty' base may be found and this should of course be marked and discarded.

Because of its earliness it is difficult to produce Sam Barlow in ideal condition on the show bench particularly when the show is late. The colour in the broken flower tends to flush into the base colour as the flower ages and particularly in hot direct sunlight. In addition if the temperature in the show gets too high then the flower will open too far which results in a far from ideal shape. Despite this the results over the past few years show that members still have the skill to produce a good Sam Barlow in all its three forms on show day. Long may they continue to do so!

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+      THE NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY      +
+      (Northern Section)                               +
+      Hon. Secretary                                   +
+      D.G.Hadfield, Esq      Annual Subscription      +
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THE SOCIETY'S TROPHIES - No. 1 THE SILVER CHALLENGE CUP

The decision to buy the Society's first cup was taken at a meeting held on Sunday November 2nd 1919. The proposition was 'that a cup be purchased to encourage more competition chiefly among open showers, the members to "put their shoulder to the wheel", and make the cup worthy of the Society'. Subscriptions to the total value of £17-7s-6d (proper money) were made and the cup was duly purchased in March 1920.

The cup was offered for a class of 9 tulips, 3 breeders and 6 rectified and the first winner in 1920 was Jesse Hardwick the raiser of Lord F. Cavendish. Unfortunately it was his only opportunity to win the cup because he died in December of the same year.

For the next three years 1921, 1922, and 1923, the cup was won by Mr. C. W. Needham of Hale in Cheshire who wrote to the Society asking if, as he had won the cup for three years in succession, it could be given to him on condition that he 'finds this society a cup of equal value in its place'. This was accepted and a cup identical in size and weight was sent to the society just prior to the show in 1924. The present whereabouts of the original cup, if it still exists, is not known.

In 1943 it was decided that the cup should in future be offered for the best pan of 12 Rectified which continued until 1955, since when it has been offered in the class for 6 rectified.

The winners of the cups have been:-

|                         |             |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1920 Jesse Hardwick     | Wakefield   | 1921 Charles W. Needham | Hale        |
| 1922 Charles W. Needham | Hale        | 1923 Charles W. Needham | Hale        |
| -----                   |             |                         |             |
| 1924 Charles W. Needham | Hale        | 1925 Charles W. Needham | Hale        |
| 1926 Charles W. Needham | Hale        | 1927 Charles W. Needham | Hale        |
| 1928 Charles J. Fox     | Birmingham  | 1929 Charles J. Fox     | Birmingham  |
| 1930 Charles W. Needham | Hale        | 1931 Charles W. Needham | Hale        |
| 1932 Frank Fox          | Normanton   | 1933 Charles W. Needham | Hale        |
| 1934 Charles W. Needham | Hale        | 1935 William Priestner  | Northenden  |
| 1936 William Knowles    | Stalybridge | 1937 Ellis Walker       | Altringham  |
| 1938 Reginald Robinson  | Horbury     | 1939 Reginald Robinson  | Horbury     |
| 1940 Reginald Robinson  | Horbury     | 1941 Ellis Walker       | Altringham  |
| 1942 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     | 1943 E. H. Robinson     | Horbury     |
| 1944 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     | 1945 W. Beddows         | Altofts     |
| 1946 E. Walker          | Altringham  | 1947 E. Walker          | Altringham  |
| 1948 W. Beddows         | Altofts     | 1949 E. Walker          | Altringham  |
| 1950 E. Walker          | Altringham  | 1951 W. Beddows         | Altofts     |
| 1952 J. W. Midgley      | Halifax     | 1953 J. W. Midgley      | Halifax     |
| 1954 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     | 1955 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     |
| 1956 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     | 1957 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     |
| 1958 W. Beddows         | Altofts     | 1959 A. Tear            | Altofts     |
| 1960 W. Markham         | Scholes     | 1961 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     |
| 1962 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     | 1963 W. D. Tear         | Altofts     |
| 1964 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     | 1965 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     |
| 1966 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     | 1967 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     |
| 1968 A. Tear            | Altofts     | 1969 A. Tear            | Altofts     |
| 1970 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     | 1971 K. N. Eyre         | Middlestown |
| 1972 K. N. Eyre         | Middlestown | 1973 A. Tear            | Altofts     |
| 1974 K. N. Eyre         | Middlestown | 1975 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     |
| 1976 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     | 1977 Miss D. Taylor     | Altofts     |
| 1978 J. Taylor          | Altofts     | 1979 J. T. E. Akers     | Altofts     |
| 1980 J. L. Akers        | Wrenthorpe  | 1981 K. N. Eyre         | South Cave  |
| 1982 K. N. Eyre         | South Cave  | 1983 J. L. Akers        | Wrenthorpe  |
| 1984 J. L. Akers        | Wrenthorpe  | 1985 J. L. Akers        | Wrenthorpe  |
| 1986 R. Perraudin       | Wakefield   | 1987 J. L. Akers        | Wrenthorpe  |

THE SOCIETY'S TROPHIES - No. 2 THE LOCAL CHALLENGE CUP

The decision to purchase a second cup by the Society was taken on February 2nd 1932 and a sum of £8 was allocated to procure the same from Messrs Perkins of Wakefield. The cup was to be won by the member scoring the most points in the Local Classes on a scale decided at that meeting.

In 1935 it was decided to introduce a class for 9 tulips as in the Open Classes and award the cup to the winner of this class.

The winners of this cup have been:-

|                              |            |                      |             |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1932 Frank Fox               | Normanton  | 1933 Frank Fox       | Normanton   |
| 1934 Frank Fox               | Normanton  | 1935 Robert Robinson | Horbury     |
| 1936 Counr. G. A. Brook      | Altofts    | 1937 G. A. Brook     | Altofts     |
| 1938 W. E. Brook             | Altofts    | 1939 J. W. Midgley   | Halifax     |
| 1940 E. H. Robinson          | Horbury    | 1941 G. Hunt         | Horbury     |
| 1942 G. Hunt                 | Horbury    | 1943 G. Hunt         | Horbury     |
| 1944 R. Robinson             | Horbury    | 1945 N. H. Eyre      | Horbury     |
| 1946 W. Beddows              | Altofts    | 1947 J. T. E. Akers  | Altofts     |
| 1948 K. Robinson             | Ossett     | 1949 K. Robinson     | Ossett      |
| 1950 K. Robinson             | Ossett     | 1951 W. Beddows      | Altofts     |
| 1952 A. Robshaw              | Wakefield  | 1953 J. Burton       | Normanton   |
| 1954 W. Beddows              | Altofts    | 1955 J. T. E. Akers  | Altofts     |
| 1956 Counr. Mrs D. E. Briggs | Horbury    | 1957 J. T. E. Akers  | Altofts     |
| 1958 J. Burton               | Normanton  | 1959 J. Burton       | Normanton   |
| 1960 H. V. Calvert           | Lupset     | 1961 A. Tear         | Altofts     |
| 1962 J. T. E. Akers          | Altofts    | 1963 J. Hardman      | Normanton   |
| 1964 J. T. E. Akers          | Altofts    | 1965 J. Hardman      | Normanton   |
| 1966 J. T. E. Akers          | Altofts    | 1967 J. T. E. Akers  | Altofts     |
| 1968 J. T. E. Akers          | Altofts    | 1969 J. T. E. Akers  | Altofts     |
| 1970 J. T. E. Akers          | Altofts    | 1971 K. N. Eyre      | Middlestown |
| 1972 A. Tear                 | Altofts    | 1973 J. T. E. Akers  | Altofts     |
| 1974 J. Hardman              | Normanton  | 1975 J. T. E. Akers  | Altofts     |
| 1976 J. T. E. Akers          | Altofts    | 1977 Miss D. Taylor  | Altofts     |
| 1978 J. T. E. Akers          | Altofts    | 1979 J. T. E. Akers  | Altofts     |
| 1980 J. L. Akers             | Wrenthorpe | 1981 J. L. Akers     | Wrenthorpe  |
| 1982 J. Taylor               | Altofts    | 1983 J. L. Akers     | Wrenthorpe  |
| 1984 K. N. Eyre              | South Cave | 1985 F. R. Perraudin | Wakefield   |
| 1986 F. R. Perraudin         | Wakefield  | 1987 J. L. Akers     | Wrenthorpe  |



THE SOCIETY'S TROPHIES - No. 3 THE NEEDHAM MEMORIAL CUP

After the death of the Society's President Charles W. Needham in 1936, the National Tulip Society of which he was also President became defunct, the other two remaining members of that society Sir Daniel Hall and Peter Barr found a small sum of money in the bank. It was decided to purchase a large cup, a small cup and a silver plate and present these to the Society in memorial to Mr. Needham.

A class of 9 tulips (as with the other two existing cups) was agreed upon for the large cup and this was to be open to both Local and Open members.

For a period during the 1950's the cup was awarded to the member gaining the most points in the open classes but since 1958 it has given to the winner of the class for 12 rectified.

The winners of the cup have been :-

|                       |              |                     |             |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1936 William Knowles  | Staleybridge | 1937 Ellis Walker   | Altringham  |
| 1938 Wilfred Robinson | Horbury      | 1939 Ellis Walker   | Altringham  |
| 1940 Ellis Walker     | Altringham   | 1941 Ellis Walker   | Altringham  |
| 1942 J. W. Midgley    | Halifax      | 1943 George Downing | Normanton   |
| 1944 Garfield Hunt    | Horbury      | 1945 N. H. Eyre     | Horbury     |
| 1946 W. Beddows       | Altofts      | 1947 W. Beddows     | Altofts     |
| 1948 J. W. Midgley    | Halifax      | 1949 J. W. Midgley  | Halifax     |
| 1950 K. Robinson      | Ossett       | 1951 W. Beddows     | Altofts     |
| 1952 J. T. E. Akers   | Altofts      | 1953 W. Beddows     | Altofts     |
| 1954 J. T. E. Akers   | Altofts      | 1955 J. T. E. Akers | Altofts     |
| 1956 J. T. E. Akers   | Altofts      | 1957 J. T. E. Akers | Altofts     |
| 1958 N. H. Eyre       | Horbury      | 1959 A. Tear        | Altofts     |
| 1960 J. T. E. Akers   | Altofts      | 1961 J. T. E. Akers | Altofts     |
| 1962 W. D. Tear       | Altofts      | 1963 A. Tear        | Altofts     |
| 1964 J. T. E. Akers   | Altofts      | 1965 J. T. E. Akers | Altofts     |
| 1966 A. Tear          | Altofts      | 1967 J. T. E. Akers | Altofts     |
| 1968 A. Tear          | Altofts      | 1969 J. Taylor      | Altofts     |
| 1970 A. Tear          | Altofts      | 1971 Dean Taylor    | Altofts     |
| 1972 J. T. E. Akers   | Altofts      | 1973 K. N. Eyre     | Middlestown |
| 1974 D. Taylor        | Altofts      | 1975 K. N. Eyre     | Middlestown |
| 1976 K. N. Eyre       | Middlestown  | 1977 Miss D. Taylor | Altofts     |
| 1978 J. Akers         | Altofts      | 1979 J. Taylor      | Altofts     |
| 1980 K. N. Eyre       | South Cave   | 1981 K. N. Eyre     | South Cave  |
| 1982 K. N. Eyre       | South Cave   | 1983 J. L. Akers    | Wrenthorpe  |
| 1984 J. L. Akers      | Wrenthorpe   | 1985 K. N. Eyre     | South Cave  |
| 1986 J. L. Akers      | Wrenthorpe   | 1987 J. L. Akers    | Wrenthorpe  |

## HORBURY FAMILY ROBINSON

Throughout the recorded history of the Society a number of families have played a significant part in the preservation of both the Society and the Old English Florist Tulip. Accounts of the shows in the 1830's always include the name Gill among the prize-winners and that name continued to appear until well into the 20th Century.

In an extract from the 1925 report is recorded the death of Mr. Harry Gill,

*' a real tulip enthusiast of 60 years standing, which ends the career of three long generations as tulip growers and raisers of seedlings. His collection of tulips was, perhaps, the oldest and best in the country. Mr. Gill was vice-president and chairman of our committee a great number of years.'*

At the 1930 show -

*'Cordial appreciation of the Presidents remarks was expressed by Mr. Charles Gill, of Crigglestone, a veteran tulip grower.'*

In 1935 Charles Gill showed, completing one hundred years of exhibiting at the Society's shows by the Gill family.

If the 19th century belonged to the Gills then the first half of the 20th can be said to have been borrowed by the Robinsons.

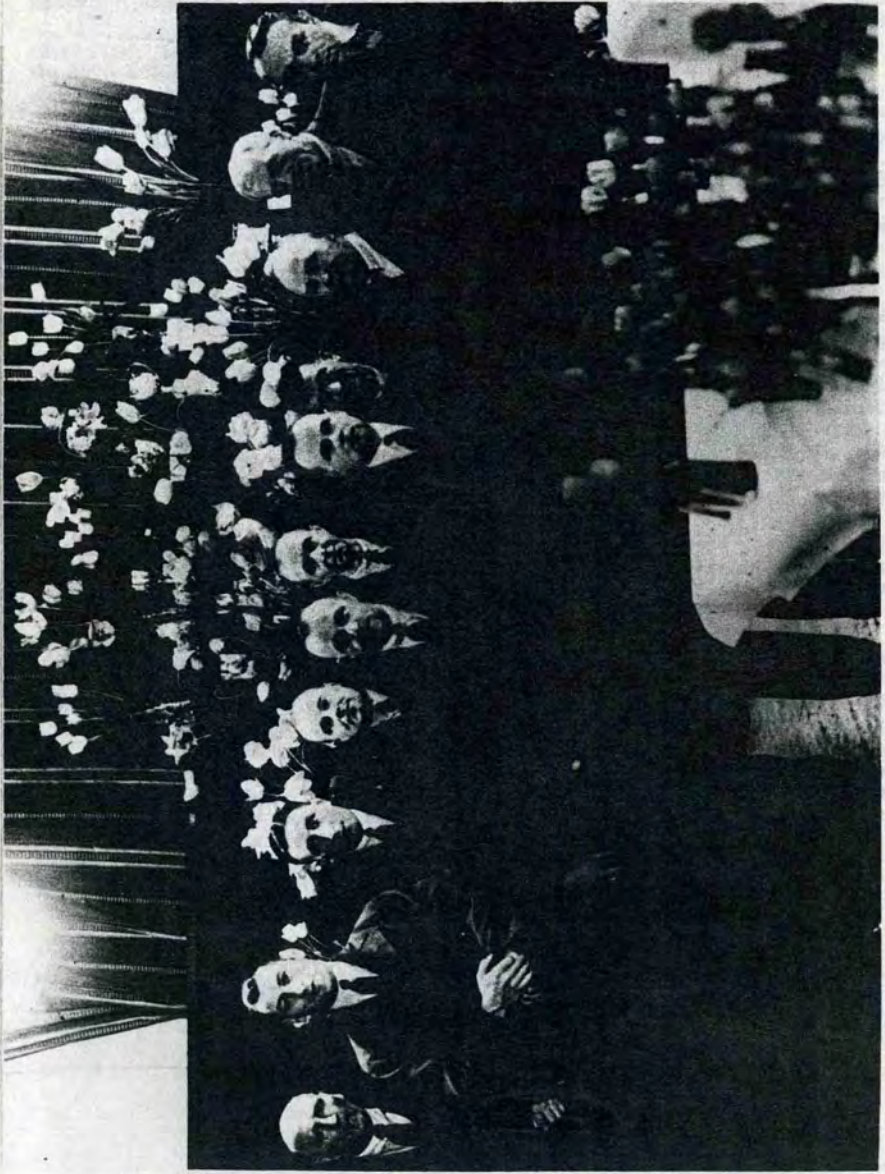
The oldest existing minute book of the society begun in 1907 includes among the exhibiting members then, one Robert Robinson. That he was an established and successful member is borne out by the show results for that year. Among the many prizes won was a 1st in the pan of 6 breeders and 2nd in the pan of three breeders which included the premier breeder in the show, a rose by the name of Madame St. Arnaud.

Robert Robinson was born in 1875/6 and died on March 2nd 1952 at the age of 77. In his working life Robert was a forgerman at the local firm of Charles Roberts but a great deal of his free time for a period of over 50 years was devoted to his love of the tulip and service to the Society which he supported so well over that period.

Exactly when he joined the Society is not known as it predates the oldest existing minute book, however examination of the Wakefield Express over the preceding years show that he was winning prizes at shows at the end of the 19th Century at which time he was living at Junction Lane, Horbury which is about 5 miles from the centre of Wakefield.

In 1917 and 1920 he exhibited the premier breeder in the show with the varieties Mabel and Bridesmaid respectively, and in 1921 the premier flame though the variety is not known.

From 1918 when the Society split the show into Open and Local Classes he showed in both sections, but from 1927 took over the judging of the Open Classes and restricted his showing to the Local Classes where he regularly gained the premier awards in this section. He continued to show until 1938 and to judge until 1948. Because of a gap which exists in the minute book from 1924 to 1929 the election of officers in this period is not known but during this period he was elected Chairman (probably in 1925 on the death of Harry Gill) and a Vice-President, holding the former position until 1934.



Frank Fox  
A. T. Means (Albert)  
William Knowles  
Wilfred Robinson  
Teddy Robinson  
V. H. Nidgley  
Reggie Robinson  
G. E. Still  
Robert C. Robinson  
A. Robshaw  
Bavendale

10

Robert was unable to attend the 1950 show because of illness and the report of the show for that year records that he had attended the previous 55 shows and had judged for 35 years.

A family man, Robert raised four sons and three daughters. The eldest son George never showed any interest in tulips but this lack was adequately compensated for by the interest shown by his other three sons, Edward, Reginald, and Wilfred

Edward Harland Robinson, born 1899/1900, died on February 15th 1965 at the age of 65. A forgerman at the same firm as his father, Teddy as he was known in the Society was elected a member on Oct. 9th 1921 and at his first show in 1922 won the Novice Class and several minor positions in the Local Classes. In addition to being a successful grower he also served the Society well as an official including serving as Hon. Sec. from 1932 to 1943. At the peak of his interest Teddy grew as many as 10,000 tulips which must have required a great deal of effort at planting and lifting time. Teddy stopped showing in 1947 but continued to grow the tulips and judge. In 1950 he was still growing around 3000 English Florist Tulips.

Reginald (Reggie) was the third son and also a very successful showman as an examination of the Society's trophies will demonstrate. This includes winning the Silver Challenge Cup three years in succession from 1938 to 1940. Reggie worked as a Foreman machinist at Bradley & Cravens as did brother Wilfrid. At first his tulips were grown at home at the Riverside Cottage, Horbury but were then moved to the Green Lane allotments at Horbury. They were soon on the move again because these were taken away around 1940 because of the war and the stock was moved to a part of F. R. Hunters garden.

Wilfred, born 1904/5, died tragically young on September 15th 1951 at the age of only 47, however from his early twenties he showed regularly and successfully in the Local Classes

The third generation of Robinsons is represented by Kenneth who although not growing tulips today, still lives in Horbury. Born in 1920, the son of Edward, Kenneth's earliest recollection of tulips is the wrath that came on him from his father when, at the age of 4 or 5, he ate his father's new bulb, purchased for the then princely sum of £7. Kenneth took over Grandfather Robert's allotments when he died in 1952 but he had already become a successful showman by then having won the Local Challenge Cup three times in succession from 1948 to 1950, a cup which already bore the name of father Teddy and uncle Reggie. Kenneth has provided the Society with many press cuttings and the photograph which accompanies this article from the 1938 show, which includes Grandfather Robert and the three sons Teddy, Reggie and Wilfred. Other photographs, one showing Kenneth, father Teddy and grandfather Robert, have been placed in the Society scrapbook.

It seems incredible, but true, that two men Harry Gill and Robert Robinson, who showed together for almost 30 years, span almost 90 years of the Society's 150+ years. What a great pity it is that so little of what they did for the Society and the tulip is recorded for us today.

Previous Shows

The best way to find out what has happened in the past (and to ruin your eyesight) is to sit yourself in front of the microfilm machine in Balne Lane Library, Wakefield and go through the films of old copies of the Wakefield Express. The first edition of this newspaper was issued on March 13th 1852, and from the 5th June' edition which records the show of that year, until the present day there are only a handful of years where they have failed to report the show. To be sure of finding the report you need to start with the first issue of May, (in 1945 the show was held on the 4th May) and read through until the end of June, (in 1879 the show was held on the 14th June). Perhaps someday in this newsletter we will produce a detailed analysis of the shows but until then here are just a few facts to whet the appetite :-

The Society had many names in the 19th Century.

How do we know it's the same society? We don't but from 1852 until now there was only one year, 1864, when two tulip shows were reported by the Express.

In 1877 the report identifies the show as the 44th and from then on the number of the show is usually given.

The 50th show was held at the Brunswick Hotel on 4th/5th June 1885.

In 1923 and 1924 the 88th show was held, our secretary got it wrong, and from then until 1984 when we corrected the mistake we were a year out.

So the 100th show held on 30th/31st May 1936 at the Whinney Moor Hotel, Lupset was really the 101st.

The Society held 60 successive shows at the Brunswick hotel from 1873 until 1932.

**THE WAKEFIELD FLORAL SOCIETY.**—The above society held their annual tulip show on Monday the 31st of May, 1852, at Mr. Pearson's, the Royal Oak Inn, Wrengate, when the following prizes were awarded by the Judges, Messrs. James Drake, Hatfield road, William Whitaker, and John Parker, whose decisions gave satisfaction to all the exhibitors:—*Feathered Bizarres*.—1, Samuel Hartley; 2, John Pearson; 3, John Gill; 4, John Gill; 5, Samuel Hartley; 6, John Gill. *Feathered Byblooms*.—1, John Gill; 2, Samuel Hartley; 3, Samuel Hartley; 4, John Gill; 5, John Gill; 6, Samuel Hartley. *Feathered Roses*.—1, Samuel Hartley; 2, Samuel Hartley; 3, Samuel Hartley; 4, John Gill; 5, John Gill; 6, Mark Blackburn. *Flamed Bizarres*.—1, John Gill; 2, John Gill; 3, Samuel Hartley; 4, John Gill; 5, John Gill; 6, Samuel Hartley. *Flamed Byblooms*.—1, John Gill; 2, John Pearson; 3, John Gill; 4, Mark Blackburn; 5, John Pearson; 6, Samuel Hartley. *Flamed Roses*.—1, John Gill; 2, John Gill; 3, John Gill; 4, Samuel Hartley; 5, Samuel Hartley; 6, John Gill. *Bizarres Breeders*.—1, John Gill; 2, Samuel Hartley; 3, John Gill. *Rose Breeders*.—1, John Gill; 2, John Gill; 3, John Gill. *Byblooms Breeders*.—1, John Gill; 2, John Gill; 3, John Gill. *Selfs*.—1, John Pearson; 2, John Gill; 3, Mark Blackburn. *Calceolarius*.—The best collection, Mark Blackburn, of East Moor. *Pansies*.—Best collection, John Gill, of East Moor. After the show, the members sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by the worthy hostess, in capital style. After which, the usual toasts were given from the Chair, and responded to. The evening was spent in the greatest conviviality and good-feeling.

A five-day show was opened on Monday afternoon in the spacious public room at the Brunswick Hotel, Borough Market, which was again kindly placed for the purpose at the disposal of the committee by the landlord, Mr. Joseph Jaques. The fact that the tulip show is now in its third year shows how popular the cultivation of the bloom is among the gentlemen who uphold so old a society. This year the exhibition is decidedly up to the average. Until last week's high winds, the season had been one of exceptional promise; but the gales that swept over the town and district played havoc with a fine collection of blooms, which for symmetry and for richness of colouring would have been among the finest witnessed since the society was established. The number of entries, though diminished somewhat by the recent bad weather, has been quite as large as that of last year, and the collection has been on the whole remarkably good, evidencing great care and skilful cultivation. The quality throughout has been unexceptionable, and it was noticed with pleasure that the average excellence of the exhibits was worthy of commendation. The officers (this year are:—Messrs. E. Lister (chairman), W. Calvert (vice chairman), Alf. Moorhouse (treasurer), and Jesse Hardwick (hon. secretary). The judges were Messrs. E. Schofield (Lower Wortley, Leeds), J. K. Gill (Eastmoor), and J. Netherwood (Warwengate), for tulips; Mr. T. Garnett (gardener to Miss Edith Mackle, St. John's, Wakefield), for British ferns, of which there has been a select display, for decorative purposes. The awards of the judges were not completed until nearly 5.30 on Monday afternoon. Appended is a complete list of the awards—*Reclined Flowers*—1st pan, A Moorhouse; 2nd pan, E. Lister; 3rd pan, W. Calvert; 4th pan, Thomas Spurr; 5th pan, Geo. Gill; 6th pan, J. Hardwick; 7th pan, Alfred Spurr; 8th pan, Joseph Steele; 9th pan, W. Mellor; 10th pan, B. Lamb. *Six Brecklers*—1st prize, W. Calvert; 2nd, E. Lister; 3rd, A Moorhouse; 4th, Geo. Gill; 5th, Thos. Spurr; 6th, J. Hardwick; 7th, B. Lamb; 8th, A. Spurr. *Three Breeders*—1st prize, E. Lister; 2nd, W. Calvert; 3rd, A Moorhouse; 4th, Geo. Gill; 5th, B. Lamb; 6th, Thos. Spurr; 7th, J. Hardwick; 8th, J. Steele; 9th, W. Mellor; 10th, A. Spurr. *Ferns*—Three—1, A Spurr; 2, E. Gill; 3, J. Steele. *Single specimens*—1, A Spurr; 2, E. Gill; 3, J. Jaques; 4, J. Steele. *Classes*—*Feathered bixarres*—1, Thos. Spurr; 2, E. Lister; 3, A Moorhouse; 4, G. Gill; 5, E. Lister; 6, W. Calvert; 7, Thos. Spurr; 8, G. Gill. *Feathered byblomms*—1 and 4, Thos. Spurr; 2 and 3, A Moorhouse; 5 and 7, W. Calvert; 6, G. Gill; 8, E. Lister. *Feathered rose*—1 and 5, E. Lister; 2 and 4, W. Calvert; 3, A Moorhouse; 6 and 7, T. Spurr; 8, G. Gill. *Flamed bixarres*—1 and 2, A Moorhouse; 3 and 6, E. Lister; 4, W. Calvert; 5 and 7, T. Spurr; 8, G. Gill. *Flamed byblomms*—1 and 4, A Moorhouse; 2 and 5, E. Lister; 3, J. Hardwick; 6 and 7, W. Calvert; 8, G. Gill. *Flamed rose*—1 and 8, E. Lister; 2, A Moorhouse; 3 and 6, W. Calvert; 4, Thos. Spurr; 5 and 7, G. Gill. *Bixarre breeders*—1 and 5, E. Lister; 2 and 4, W. Calvert; 3, A Moorhouse; 6 and 7, G. Gill; 8, J. Steele. *Byblomms breeders*—1 and 4, W. Calvert; 2 and 6, E. Lister; 3, J. Hardwick; 5, A Moorhouse; 7 and 8, G. Gill. *Rose breeders*—1 and 2, A Moorhouse; 3 and 4, W. Calvert; 5 and 6, E. Lister; 7, T. Spurr; 8, G. Gill. *Premier feathered*, A Moorhouse, with "Hercules," premier flamed, A Moorhouse, with "Sir J. Paxton," premier breeder, W. Calvert, with "Annie McGregor."

## WAKEFIELD AND NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY.

102nd ANNUAL SHOW.

### ADVERSE WEATHER HANDICAPS GROWERS.

Tulip growing has suffered under a handicap this season, as the continued drought has tended towards the lessening of the length of the stems and the size of the blooms. This handicap was reflected at the 102nd annual show of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society, held last Saturday, Sunday and Monday at the Whinney Moor Hotel at Lupset, though, subject to the above qualification, the quality was otherwise of a high standard. In regard to quantity, the average number of blooms at these shows is probably somewhere about 750, but on this occasion the total did not exceed 700, the weather conditions having given growers less scope for selection of worthwhile exhibits.

From the formation of the Society in 1836, the show has existed for the purpose of encouraging the culture of the old English florist tulip, but in recent years its range has been extended to some degree, and at this year's show a long table at the end of the room was set apart for the display of Darwins, cottage, parrot and other kinds of tulips.

There were five silver challenge cups for competition, and, we believe for the first time in the history of the show, the winners were all local men, on this occasion hailing from Horbury and Altofts. Mr. Reg. Robinson, Horbury, won the cup for the best stand of nine tulips, in the open classes, and plate for the second best premier flower; Mr. W. Robinson (Horbury) the Needham Memorial Cup; Mr. W. E. Brook (Altofts), the local classes' cup for the best stand of nine tulips, and the cup for the best single bloom in the local classes; and Mr. A. Tear (Altofts), the Novice Cup.

There are special awards for what are known as premier blooms, in both the open and the local classes. In the open classes the winners were: Mr. Reg. Robinson, premier breeder; Mr. E. Walker (Altrincham), premier feathered; and Mr. W. K. Bramham (South Milford), premier flamed. The awards in the local classes were: Mr. A. T. Meens (Wakefield), premier breeder; Mr. W. E. Brook, premier feathered; and Mr. Reg. Robinson, premier flamed.

The judges for both open and local classes were Mr. R. Robinson (Horbury), Mr. W. H. Midgley (Halifax) and Mr. L. H. Robinson (Horbury).

The opening ceremony on Saturday afternoon was a brief one. Mr. W. Beddows (Altofts), a Vice-President, was the opener, and in the course of his remarks he alluded to the fact that the season had been a poor one for tulips, but that the display that afternoon had turned out to be a much better one than they had been expecting.

The challenge cups were then handed to their respective winners by Mrs. G. Nicholson, of Lupset.

The class awards were as under.

#### OPEN CLASSES.

Cup class for best stand of nine tulips, consisting of three bizarres, three byblomen and three roses, each trio comprising one breeder, one feathered and one flamed—1, Reg. Robinson (Horbury); 2, E. Walker (Bramham).

Pan of six rectified, dissimilar—1, Reg. Robinson; 2, E. Walker; 3, W. Beddows (Altofts).

Pan of six breeders, dissimilar—1, W. Beddows; 2, A. T. Meens (Wakefield); 3, E. Walker.

Pair of flamed—1, Reg. Robinson; 2, I. Hewitt (Lupset); 3, W. K. Bramham (South Milford).

Pair of feathered—1, W. K. Bramham; 2, E. Walker; 3, W. Beddows.

Vase of nine English florist tulips, decorations allowed, staged for effect—1, E. Walker; 2, I. Hewitt; 3, W. K. Bramham.

Vase of twenty five English florist tulips (only own foliage allowed)—1, E. Walker; 2, W. Beddows; 3, W. Robinson (Horbury).

Needham Memorial Cup Class for stand of nine tulips (as in Class 1)—1, W. Robinson; 2, E. Walker.

Vase of 18 tulips, any variety other than English florist tulips, only own foliage allowed—1 and 2, W. K. Bramham; 3, A. T. Meens.

Vase of nine tulips, any variety other

than English florist tulips, only own foliage allowed—1 and 3, W. K. Bramham; 2, I. Hewitt.

#### LOCAL CLASSES.

Silver Challenge Cup for best stand of nine tulips (as in Class 1, and Needham Memorial Cup Class)—1, W. E. Brook (Altofts); 2, W. H. Midgley (Halifax); 3, A. Banks (Wakefield).

Pan of six rectified, dissimilar—1, A. Banks; 2, W. E. Brook; 3, W. H. Midgley.

Pan of three breeders, dissimilar—1, A. T. Meens; 2, Reg. Robinson; 3, W. Beddows.

(One breeder, one feather, one flamed, to be all of one colour, that is, all bizarres or all byblomen or all roses, and preference to be given to blooms, as above, of the same name)—1, Reg. Robinson; 2, W. H. Midgley; 3, W. Robinson.

Bizarre breeder—1, W. E. Brook; 2, G. E. Still (Horbury); 3, I. Hewitt.

Bizarre flamed—1, W. K. Bramham; 2, W. E. Brook; 3, W. H. Midgley.

Bizarre feathered—1, W. E. Brook; 2, W. Robinson; 3, Reg. Robinson.

Byblomen breeder—1, W. Beddows; 2, A. T. Meens; 3, W. H. Midgley.

Byblomen flamed—1, W. E. Brook; 2, W. H. Midgley; 3, Reg. Robinson.

Byblomen feathered—1, W. E. Brook; 2, W. Beddows; 3, Reg. Robinson.

Rose breeder—1, Reg. Robinson; 2, G. E. Still; 3, W. Beddows.

Rose flamed—1, I. Hewitt; 2, Reg. Robinson; 3, W. E. Brook.

Rose feathered—1, W. E. Brook; 2, W. H. Midgley; 3, Reg. Robinson.

#### NOVICE CLASSES.

Pan of three, consisting of breeder, feathered and flamed—1, A. Tear (Altofts); 2, A. Robshaw (Alverthorpe); 3, G. E. Still.

Breeder—1, A. Tear; 2, A. Robshaw; 3, G. E. Still.

Flamed—1, G. E. Still; 2, A. Robshaw; 3, A. Tear.

Feathered—1, G. E. Still; 2, A. Robshaw; 3, A. Tear.

We apologise for the quality of the copies of the three shows that we have used but at least they illustrate the problem.

The first, bottom of page 19, appropriately enough is the first reported by the Express and held at the Royal Oak Inn, Wrengate on 31st May 1852. Note the prominence of John Gill and the fact that the show was 'judged through' i.e. every entry was given a position as happens in leek shows today. A class was also held for 'selfs' i.e. all white or all yellow tulips. Also note that a dinner was held for members on the first night, a feature that continued for many years, and which we revived, for one year only unfortunately, at our 150th show, (correctly), in 1985.

The second report, L.H. side of page 20 is of the show 100 years ago held on 28th May 1888, at the Brunswick Hotel. Note the bad weather, 'gales . . . played havoc' and Sir Joseph Paxton, premier flamed, how consistent this variety has been over the years, best flamed again and best bloom in the 1987 show. This is one of the few years where the varieties which won the premier awards are given, which is a great pity when trying to trace varieties.

Classes were still 'judged through', selfs had disappeared but ferns were shown, a practice which continued for many years and which appear down the centre of the show tables in many of the earliest photographs in our possession. Note also the use of the word 'pan' to describe a number of blooms.

The name of one of the successful exhibitors, Mr. W. Calvert, has particular significance for your editor. He was the owner of the Wrenthorpe Rope Works (the building for which was demolished about 10 years ago). When I returned to the North of England in 1969 I purchased my present house from the widow of Mr. Calverts grandson and the garden of his house (demolished also about 10 years) ago now forms part of my garden.

The third report, R.H. side of page 20 and all page 21, is from the show 50 years ago. The 102nd (really 103rd) Annual show opened at the Whinney Moor Hotel, Lupset on Saturday 14th May 1938. If the earliness of the season continues then this years show could be held on the exact same date. The photograph accompanying the article on the Robinson family was taken at this show so you can put the faces to the names of the prizewinners. The show was held over three days as was the practice for the first hundred years or so, it is a great pity that the high costs prevent that today. Surprise, surprise but the weather hadn't been too good again - drought for a change, and the number of blooms was less than the average of 750, the exact number at our 1987 show. The Mr A. (Albert) Tear who took the most prizes in the Novice Section and the Novice Cup was the father of Billy Tear who was so successful with the Dutch at our last show. Like Bill Beddows who was also a prizewinner, Albert Tear has a breeder named after him, a Bybloemen similar to Columbine but flowering a little earlier. Billy swears that after this success his father didn't win another first prize for about ten years. Further research will tell the truth. Watch this space.

The Robinsons were well represented, Robert (the father) and Teddy judging, and Wilfred and Reg well among the prizes. The format of the schedule for the show was very similar to the one we use today and note the description of the fourth class in the Local Classes which are the same conditions we use for the Stages Cup Class.

The E. Walker, (Altrincham), prominent in the Open Classes was the source of the single bulb of Cyrano mentioned in the show report which your editor collected from him in 1957. In 1938 and subsequent years it was a superb flame and feathered bizarre but unfortunately the bulb we secured fits neither bill despite being grown on for 30 years.



## Publicity

The Society/Florist Tulip was featured in a number of publications during 1987 and also on Yorkshire television.

The 1986 show had been visited by Field Magazine and by Harper's and Queen. Both magazines published their articles during 1987.

The Field published, in May 1987, one of the best articles that have appeared in recent years accompanied by good colour photographs. These featured Keith and Jane Eyre, Ray Perraudin, and Mrs. J. Akers senior.

Harper's and Queen published in November 1987 also featured a photograph of Keith and Jane Eyre but unfortunately, as is often the case, a poor example of the tulip.

As a result of a press release published in the Daily Telegraph on the Friday before the show, we were approached by Calendar of Yorkshire Television who filmed James Akers on his allotments on that day and at Homefield House on the day of the show. The item lasting approximately 5 minutes was screened on the Monday.

Please inform us of any items we may have missed.

## Tail-pieces

One of the visitors to the 1987 show was an amateur photographer from Wombwell near Barnsley, Mr. Maurice Evans. Having joined the Society he asked if it was possible to photograph the flowers. He was provided with a selection on the Sunday morning which unfortunately were not in the best condition nor of the best quality as far as the markings were concerned. Despite this, Maurice has produced probably the best slides, technically, which have ever been produced of the Old English Florist Tulips. This was achieved by removing petals to enable the inside of the opposite petals to be photographed in close-up so that the marking can be seen as judged rather than just the outside of the tulip as with most photographs. It is hoped that in 1988 Maurice will be able to produce as full a set of slides as possible of all good examples of the tulips we grow. The problem that we have always experienced in the past of accurately capturing the blue shades of the bybloemens such as Columbine, hopefully can be overcome by the use of appropriate filters.

Many members of the Society will be aware that one of our newer members Mr. Jack Wemyss-Cooke (*Mr. Auricula*) is the author of the definitive work on the Auricula and is also the editor of the National Primula and Auricula Society (Northern Section) Year Book.

Now an even newer member Mr. Don Barnes, who won the Gina Roozen Cup in the Novices Classes and is the Hon. Secretary of the National Daffodil Society has this year produced the definitive work on the Daffodil with the title '*DAFFODILS For Home, Garden and Show*'.

This years show will be the 30th Anniversary of our chairman John Hardman's winning the Novice Cup. The photograph which accompanies the report in the May 24th 1958 Wakefield Express shows that hair was also in fashion in those days.

When using a brush to clean out the pollen which has dropped into the inside of a tulip flower, have you ever knocked an anther off from the stamen? If so don't despair in future, just push it back on again. You can even turn the flower upside down and it won't drop off again. This was a tip passed on by Kenneth Robinson. If you don't believe it try it on a reject bloom by pulling an anther off and then pushing it back on again. It really works. He also explained how in the old days they used to 'doctor' blooms by replacing a bad petal from an otherwise good bloom with a petal from another flower, but we won't go into that.

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Before he died my father Jim Akers expressed the wish to register the two most successful flowers on the show bench that he had raised, Wakefield (a rose feather) and Akers Flame (a rose flame). I have tried to do so with the R. H. S. but the registering body is now in Holland.

With the kind help of our Dutch member Victor Roozen I have obtained forms from Holland together with a translation from Victor. The English Florist Tulip is no longer a recognised type by the registering body so they will be classed as broken tulips of some form or another. These will be I think the first ones to be registered for over 50 years since Sir Daniel Hall.

Depending upon the success I have with this registration, and after seeking the permission of Hubert Calvert I would like to register on his behalf Agbrigg, a bybloemen feather, which like the two previously mentioned flowers has made a significant impact on the show bench in recent years.

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Are any members prepared to do a bit of research on growers from the past and produce articles for subsequent issues of this newsletter? We are hoping to twist Trevor Mills' arm, (not his writing hand), to produce a follow-up article to Sam Barlow on Thomas Storer of Derby or James Wild. What about Willinson who raised Sir Joseph Paxton? He came from Whitby so there is a good excuse for a trip to the sea-side in the summer. Another good subject, closer to home, would be Hepworth, the raiser of Goldfinder. In many articles he is described as Hepworth of Wakefield although in actual fact he came from Huddersfield/Halifax and to the best of my knowledge never ever showed at Wakefield although he judged on a number of occasions.

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Finally, are any local members of the Society aware of the whereabouts of any descendants of the Gill family? It might just be possible that they could still have articles or items of interest to us.

