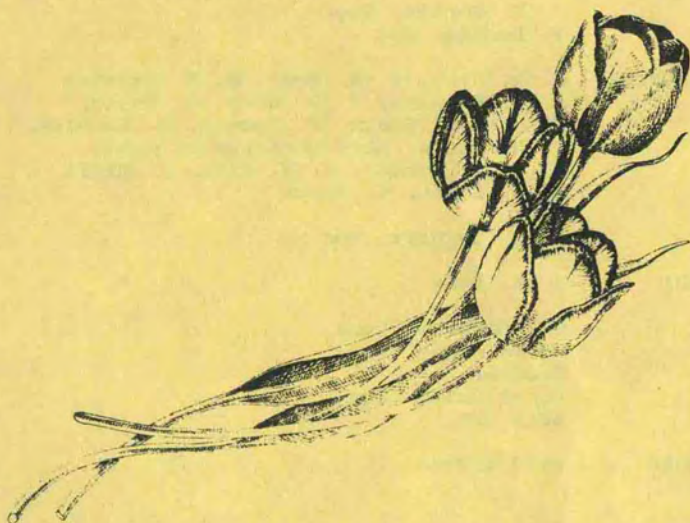


Wakefield & North of England
Tulip Society

Established 1836



NEWSLETTER
SPRING 1989

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.

CONTENTS

PAGE	TITLE
Inside Front	OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY
1	CONTENTS
2	FROM THE CHAIRMAN
3	EDITORIAL
4	THE ANNUAL SHOW 1988
8	THE OPENER'S ADDRESS - Victor Roozen
9	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1988
10	PREVIOUS SHOWS
15	AMATEUR SEEDLING RAISING - John Ollerenshaw
17	LORD FREDERICK CAVENDISH - The Man
18	LORD FREDERICK CAVENDISH - The Raiser
19	LORD FREDERICK CAVENDISH - The Flower
20	THE SOCIETY'S TROPHIES - The Stages Cup
21	THE SOCIETY'S TROPHIES - The Novice Cup
22	CONSISTENCY OF BREAKING
23	RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 1938 SHOW - Bill Tear
24	THE ROYAL NATIONAL TULIP SOCIETY - Ruth Duthie
27	TAIL - PIECES
Inside Back	ACCOUNTS
	PHOTOGRAPHS
Back Cover	THE BRUNSWICK HOTEL - Top
	THE WHINNEY MOOR HOTEL - Centre
	HOLMFIELD HOUSE - Bottom

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It gives me great pleasure to write as your chairman in our second newsletter. 1988 saw further progress in the new venture of our Annual General Meeting. To my mind it was an outstanding success and should become an annual event.

The main advantage of the new type of A.G.M. was the opportunity to talk at length with members who we only see at our annual show. It was pleasing to see so many members, some who had travelled long distances, good show!

I must express my gratitude to my officers who make my duties both pleasant and easy; to James Akers for the huge amount of research he's put in while compiling this year's newsletter, I wouldn't like to have to pay his hourly rate for the job! Then there's our very efficient secretary Keith Eyre who must feel like the Lone Ranger out there in South Cave. Keith carries out a great amount of work for the society on his own initiative and does it excellently.

I also must express our gratitude to Maurice Evans for the superb colour slides on the Tulip which he has produced to a professional standard, and also his kindness in showing them along with his other beautiful flowers on film at the A.G.M. Last but not least thank you Wendy for the wonderful spread which we enjoyed at that meeting.

Having been a member of this ancient and unique society for more years than I care to remember it's good to see that we are in a stronger position both in finance and friendship. If my remarks at the A.G.M. are heeded we shall go on gathering strength, especially if the seedling raising gathers momentum. I understand that some seed will be available in 1989 at a very modest cost.

Finally my thanks to the members (and in some cases their wives!) who turned up to help at the Annual Show. Without this help it would be a very hard task for just a few.

I would like to wish you all a belated happy 1989 and a good growing season for all. Let's hope that we can get a show date that suits everyone. Miracles do occasionally happen.

John G. Hardman

EDITORIAL

Britons have a reputation of being obsessed with the weather and tulip growers of being very obsessed with the weather. Every show report begins by describing the difficulties experienced in getting flowers to the show bench, but is the weather the real reason why so few of our members actually manage to enter the Annual Show? Certainly last year was a difficult season for all growers, but does it really explain why so many members were unable to show even one flower. Over the very long history of the Society, the number of showing members has very rarely exceeded twenty, so the fact that fifteen members still managed to show, although a disappointment, doesn't indicate a rapid decline. Is it uncertainty about the quality of the flowers and what represents a good break? I doubt it because as the Chairman remarked at the A.G.M. we were very well supported by our newer members. It cannot be due to a shortage of flowers to choose from because the days have long gone when members hung on to the best varieties. Anyone attending the past three bulb distributions will have received enough broken varieties to be able to enter all the rectified classes with the exception of the 12, and thanks to Keith Eyre at least one breeder from each of the three classes. The key to success (or lack of it), lies I believe, in the effort put in during the four weeks prior to the show. Try to look at your tulip beds every day in that period, it only takes five minutes. Gauge when the flowers will open and apply shade if they are likely to be open far too early. Remember too that it is far easier to delay the flowers maturing than it is to get them to open early. The flowers need to be open for a week to gain size before being ready to show, and some like Lord Stanley will stand two weeks. Very few will stand full direct sun for any length of time so shading is critical, and I find plenty of water helps to keep the temperature down. If everything else fails then cut them and put the flowers in a cool cellar, garage or even the fridge, and if you live in the Midlands get your car serviced. If you need any advice in this period then please ask, its too late on the day of the show. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have ten entries in the 6 rectified this year?

The Florist Tulip is perhaps unique among show flowers in that hybrid varieties of great age can be shown on an equal footing with the latest novelties. The reason is of course that the virus which causes the superb markings operates virtually at random and therefore it is just not possible to have a breeding programme guaranteed to produce varieties to supersede those we already have. The only serious raisers over the past 50 years have been Hubert Calvert and the late Jim Akers and although they have between them raised several hundred new seedling breeders, only three so far have broken into worthy show flowers, Agbrigg, Wakefield and Akers Flame. This however should not deter each one of us from having a go. The breeder is an essential part of the show in its own right, and the colours so much more vibrant than the "Dutch". New hybrids have so much more vigour than the older ones and with so many of the established breeders close to extinction it is essential that we have new ones to replace them. So please consider doing some crossing yourself this year or at least setting some seed obtained through the Society.

Reading the item from Bill Tear, with his father Albert growing 16,000 flowering size bulbs, reminded me of the job I hate most, planting offsets. Although I always start off with good intentions of planting them individually, I very quickly succumb and end up in preparing a large enough hole and sowing them broad cast. They always come up, and it's well worth it in the end because one offset however small of a good break is worth more than ten flowering size bulbs of an inferior break.

THE ANNUAL SHOW 1988

Despite "getting it wrong" in 1987 a poorly attended meeting of members fixed on May 21st as the date of the show for 1988, that is one week later than the show had been the previous year. This was despite the acknowledged earliness of the season as far as other flowers were concerned, eg. the daffodil which was probably two weeks earlier.

In my own case, where I am normally one week later than most other growers I would have been unable to show the previous week because once again I was struggling to get into flower the Bybloemens, Columbine and Agbrigg which are essential if an attempt is to be made to show throughout the Open Classes. Even then I was forced to pick in bud and turn on the central heating in order to get some out in time with the result that these flowers were very small and the Agbrigg feather in the 12 rectified never managed to open even in the hot show room.

As far as the majority of growers were concerned the date was certainly a week too late and in some cases it was even claimed two weeks. Keith Eyre had suffered from the spraying of his growing flowers with weedkiller by a local farmer in addition to most of his flowers being over the top. Despite this he used his flowers to best effect in the extra open classes winning all three. The best of these was a superb Habit de Noce the feathered Bybloemen which was the best example of this flower that anyone could remember seeing. The flower was in contention for best feather in show but Keith's daughter Jane, who once again judged the Open Classes with great care and skill, decided that it was just a little too heavy for her taste and awarded the Feathered Premier to Ray Perraudin's Wakefield.

The Novice Section turned out to be a two horse race between Don Barnes from Sheffield and Don Brears from Worsborough near Barnsley. In the end they gained equal points and so to decide who should take the Novice Cup it was necessary to go to the winner of the most first prizes. Again they were equal and so after a quick committee meeting it was decided to award this to Don Barnes by virtue of the fact that his Mabel Breeder had been adjudged not only best bloom in the Novices Section but also Premier Breeder and Premier Bloom in the Show. A welcome visitor to his first show was Peter Royles from Wales who in his first growing season managed to win prizes. If he is as successful with tulips as he has been with chrysanthemums and daffodils then we all need to look out.

OPEN CLASSES

Class 1	- Vase of 18 Tulips other than English Florist				1 entry
1st	W. D. Tear (Maureen)				
Class 2	- 3 Vases of Tulips o/t English Florist (9/6/3)				1 entry
1st	W. D. Tear (All Burgundy Lace)				
Class 3	- Vase of 9 Tulips o/t English Florist				5 entries
1st	W. D. Tear	2nd	W. D. Tear	3rd	W. D. Tear
	(Burgundy Lace)		(Maureen)		(Insurpassable)
Class 4	- Vase of 6 Tulips o/t English Florist				3 entries
1st	D. Brears	2nd	D. Barnes	3rd	W. D. Tear
	(Unknown)		(China Pink)		(Maureen)
Class 5	- Vase of 3 Tulips o/t English Florist				5 entries
1st	D. Barnes	2nd	D. Brears	3rd	W. D. Tear
	(Union Jack)		(Unknown)		(Burgundy Lace)

5.

<u>Class 6</u> - Vase of 5 Parrot Tulips				4 entries	
1st	A. Harper (Estella Rynveld)	2nd	D. Brears (Unknown)	3rd	W. D. Tear (Red Parrot)
<u>Class 7</u> - Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips				3 entries	
1st	Sarah Akers	2nd	R. Perraudin	3rd	C. Marsh
<u>Class 8</u> - Vase of 9 English Florist Tulips				3 entries	
1st	R. Perraudin	2nd	K. N. Eyre	3rd	C. Marsh

<u>Class 9</u> - Stand of 12 Breeders				1 entry	
1st	J. L. Akers	Rose - Mabel	Juliette	Jessie	Seedling
		Biz - Goldfinder	James Wild	Sam Barlow	Garfield Hunt
		Byb - Music	Talisman	Seedling	Huberts No. 4
<u>Class 10</u> - Stand of 12 Rectified English Tulips (Dissimilar)				1 entry	
		Feather	Feather	Flame	Flame
1st	J. L. Akers	Rose- Julia Farnese	Wakefield	Juliette	Mabel
		Biz - Royal Sovereign	Cavendish	Sam Barlow	Lord Stanley
		Byb - Adonis	Agbrigg	Bessie	Columbine
<u>Class 11</u> - Stand of 9 English Tulips (Dissimilar)				3 entries	
		Breeder	Feather	Flame	
1st	Sarah Akers	Rose- Juliette	Wakefield	Akers	
		Biz - Sam Barlow	James Wild	Lord Stanley	
		Byb - Music	Adonis	Columbine	
2nd	J. L. Akers	Rose- Juliette	Wakefield	Akers	
		Biz - Sam Barlow	James Wild	Lord Stanley	
		Byb - Music	Adonis	Columbine	
3rd	R. Smales	Rose- Juliette	Wakefield	Akers	
		Biz - James Wild	Lord F. Cavendish	Sir Joseph Paxton	
		Byb - Bessie	Adonis	Columbine	
<u>Class 12</u> - Class of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips				4 entries	
		Feather	Flame		
1st	Sarah Akers	Rose - Wakefield	Akers		
		Biz - James Wild	Sir Joseph Paxton		
		Byb - Habit de Noce	Columbine		
2nd	J. L. Akers	Rose - Wakefield	Akers Flame		
		Biz - James Wild	Lord Stanley		
		Byb - Adonis	Columbine		
3rd	R. Perraudin	Rose - Wakefield	Akers		
		Biz - James Wild	Lord Stanley		
		Byb - Agbrigg	Habit de Noce		
<u>Class 13</u> - 6 Breeders (dissimilar)				2 entries	
1st	J. L. Akers	Rose - Seedling	Seedling		
		Biz - Sam Barlow	Goldfinder		
		Byb - Huberts No. 4	Seedling		
2nd	R. Smales	Rose - Juliette	James No. 1		
		Biz - Sam Barlow	James Wild		
		Byb - Columbine	Bessie		

Class 14 - Pan of 3 Stages				5 entries
	Breeder	Feather	Flame	
1st J. L. Akers	Biz - Sam Barlow	Sam Barlow	Sam Barlow	
2nd Sarah Akers	Biz - Sam Barlow	James Wild	Sir J. Paxton	
3rd K. N. Eyre	Biz - James Wild	Royal Sovereign	Dr. Hardy	

Class 15 - 3 Breeders				5 entries
	Rose	Bizarre	Bybloemen	
1st Sarah Akers	Mabel	Goldfinder	Talisman	
2nd J. L. Akers	Seedling	Seedling	Seedling	
3rd M. Hainsworth	Juliette	James Wild	Talisman	

Class 16 - Pair of Flamed (dissimilar)				10 entries
1st J. Ollerenshaw	Columbine	Sir Joseph Paxton		
2nd J. L. Akers	Columbine	Sir Joseph Paxton		
3rd Sarah Akers	Columbine	Sir Joseph Paxton		

Class 17 - Pair of Feathered (dissimilar)				6 entries
1st J. L. Akers	Wakefield	James Wild		
2nd R. Perraudin	Wakefield	Lord Stanley		
3rd Sarah Akers	Wakefield	Habit de Noce		

Class 18 - One Breeder				15 entries
1st J. L. Akers	Seedling (Rose)			
2nd W. D. Tear	Music			
3rd C. Marsh	Juliette			

Class 19 - One Flamed				14 entries
1st Sarah Akers	Sir Joseph Paxton			
2nd R. Perraudin	Sir Joseph Paxton			
3rd R. Smales	Mabel			

Class 20 - One Feathered				18 entries
1st Sarah Akers	Wakefield			
2nd J. L. Akers	Wakefield			
3rd M. Hainsworth	James Wild			

NOVICE CLASSES

Class 21 - Pan of 3 Stages				2 entries
	Breeder	Feather	Flame	
1st D. Brears	Goldfinder	Adonis	Sir Joseph Paxton	
2nd D. Barnes	Mabel	Lady C. Gordon	Mabel	

Class 22 - 1 Breeder				3 entries
1st D. Barnes	Juliette			
2nd D. Brears	Goldfinder			

Class 23 - 1 Flamed				6 entries
1st P. Royles	Sir Joseph Paxton			
2nd D. Barnes	Columbine			
3rd D. Brears	Akers Flame			

Class 24 - 1 Feathered 2 entries
 1st D. Brears Lord F. Cavendish
 2nd P. Royles Columbine

Class 25 - 3 Breeders 1 entry
 1st D. Barnes Rose Bizarre Bybloemen
 Juliette Sam Barlow Columbine

EXTRA OPEN CLASSES

Class 26 - 1 Breeder 3 entries
 1st K. N. Eyre James Wild
 2nd C. Marsh Bessie
 3rd M. Hainsworth F. R. Hunter

Class 27 - 1 Flamed 5 entries
 1st K. N. Eyre Mabel
 2nd M. Hainsworth Lord Stanley
 3rd P. Royles Columbine

Class 28 - 1 Feathered 4 entries
 1st K. N. Eyre Habit de Noce
 2nd M. Hainsworth Adonis
 3rd C. Marsh Lord F. Cavendish

ANALYSIS OF PRIZES WON BY VARIETY

Breeder	Rose	1	2	3	Bizarre	1	2	3	Bybloemen	1	2	3
Juliette		4	2	3	Sam Barlow	5	3	-	Music	2	2	-
Seedlings		4	1	-	Goldfinder	4	1	-	Seedlings	2	1	-
Mabel		2	1	-	James Wild	2	1	3	Talisman	2	-	1
Jessie		1	-	-	Garfield Hunt	1	-	-	Huberts No.4	2	-	-
James No. 1		-	1	-	Seedling	-	1	-	Columbine	1	1	-
					F. R. Hunter	-	-	1	Bessie	-	2	1
Flame	Rose	1	2	3	Bizarre	1	2	3	Bybloemen	1	2	3
Akers		2	2	3	Sir J. Paxton	5	3	2	Columbine	3	2	4
Mabel		2	-	2	Lord Stanley	2	3	1	Bessie	1	-	-
Juliette		1	-	-	Sam Barlow	2	-	-	Habit de Noce	-	-	1
					Dr. Hardy	-	-	1				
Feather	Rose	1	2	3	Bizarre	1	2	3	Bybloemen	1	2	3
Wakefield		5	4	3	James Wild	3	3	2	Adonis	3	3	1
Julia Farnese		1	-	-	Cavendish	2	-	2	Habit De Noce	2	-	1
Lady C. Gordon		-	1	-	Royal Sov.	1	-	1	Agbrigg	1	-	1
					Sam Barlow	1	-	-	Columbine	-	1	-
					Lord Stanley	-	1	-				

Best Blooms in Show

Premier Bloom, Best Breeder, Mabel D. Barnes Class 22
 and Best Bloom in Novices
 Best Flame Sir Joseph Paxton Sarah Akers Class 12
 Best Feather Wakefield R. Perraudin Class 17

OPENING REMARKS

The following is a transcription of Mr. V. Roozen's comments when opening the 1988 show.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

As the Board of Officers of the Wakefield & North of England Tulip Society invited me to open this show, I realised what honour it is to be probably the first continental guest to be asked to do so. Especially in this remarkable year 1988, the year in which we commemorate that it is just 300 years ago, in November next, that the Dutch Prince William III, who had married the English Princess Mary Stuart, landed at Brixham. A few months later they were King and Queen of England.

Of this Queen Mary we do know that she loved tulips very much, so much that she among others even ordered special vases in which to show them. In her famous collection of blue and white Delfter Fayences and porcelain at Hampton Court, fine examples of these tulip vases can still be seen. This Royal interest in tulips had great influence on the fashion and preferences of the people of those days. From then on, tulips made their entrée into large parts of the population. From there to the founding of Societies of tulip lovers is a small step only.

History tell us that there were a great number of such Tulip Societies all over the country. Of course there were specialists too who in course of time laid down certain rules for the best type of tulips. There were even differences in taste and opinions between the growers in the North and those in the South about the best and most desirable forms and shapes of tulips. So has been built up, by generations of tulip lovers, step by step, by great skill and careful selection, that very special group of tulips that we all like so much, the famous English Florist Tulip, divided as we all know into Roses, Hybloemen and Bizarres. The broken forms of these English Florist Tulips, the flamed and feathered ones, are those we are specially interested in here today.

In a way it is a pity that the Wakefield Society is the only one that survived all the ups and downs of tulip history. It could be wished that still far more people were so actively interested in such magnificent tulips as shown here. Fortunately the Wakefield Society is a very active one. The number of members coming to the Show is the proof, but still more the great number of members bringing their flowers to the show bench.

Looking at the fine collection brought together here today, one gets feelings of deep respect for the difficult, and often not so well appreciated work, done by so many members on behalf of the Society and the Show. I do cordially thank all for that.

Ladies and Gentleman, you did not come here to listen to me, you came to see the blooms. Therefore it is now my honour and pleasure to declare the Show opened.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1988

The Society broke new ground when for the first time it held its Annual General Meeting on a Saturday Afternoon. The date was 8th October 1988 and the venue Wrenthorpe Village Hall. In his welcoming address the Chairman, John Hardman, explained that the reason for holding the meeting at this time was to enable members from more distant parts to attend which had proved to be a great success with around forty members present including ones who had made the long journey from London, Wales, The Midlands, Lancashire and all parts of Yorkshire. He also drew attention to the fact that despite the membership being well over one hundred members, once again at the Annual Show only 15 members had been able to stage exhibits, although he was encouraged by the efforts made by the newest members of the society without whom the show would have been a very poor one indeed. Attention was also drawn to the need for more members to raise new varieties as pressure was continually on the preservation of the existing breeders that we have.

In his report the Secretary, Keith Eyre, confirmed the continuing interest in the Florist Tulip and the Society, shown by the numbers of letters received, and articles written in various publications. He however also regretted that this interest had not resulted in an increase in the number of exhibitors. A very small proportion indeed of the bulbs distributed each year came back as flowers on the show bench. Keith also expressed his thanks for the help given by his wife Valerie each year.

The Financial details appear at the back of this publication.

In the election of officers, thanks were expressed to our Patron Jack Perkins who's support over many years was greatly appreciated. Similar words were expressed by the Chairman in proposing the election of Victor Roozen as Patron and Life Member. Other elections included new Vice-Presidents Keith Eyre, James Akers, Trevor Mills and Colin Marsh whose efforts on behalf of the Society were greatly appreciated. A full list of the Officers of the Society appears inside the front cover.

Among the subjects discussed were the question of seed raising which prompted the article by John Ollerenshaw which follows.

A great deal of discussion took place on the question of reviving the practice of holding a second show to precede the main show. This would allow a 'second bite of the cherry' for growers of the Florist Tulip and also allow more entries of 'Dutch'. Bill Tear felt that it might be even possible to attract exhibitors from Holland if sufficient incentive could be provided. To this end he was prepared to donate three gold medals previously won at the Society's shows. It was agreed that this should be referred to a later meeting.

The meeting concluded with a superb buffet which was enjoyed by all present, and a show of slides by Maurice Evans. The first part was of the Florist Tulip, showing the progress which has been made over the past two years in the attempt to produce a complete record of all the varieties grown and shown in the Society. It had unfortunately been a difficult two years and this was reflected in the quality of some of the flowers photographed although the photographs themselves were superb. The second series was mainly of other bulbous flowers including lilies and crocus'. The photographs were much admired and thanks were given to Maurice for his work.

Previous Shows

Once again thank you to the Wakefield Express for reporting on the Annual Show each year which makes this possible, and to the staff at Kalne Lane Library, Wakefield for their help and use of the equipment.

150 Years Ago - The report, (see page 11), appeared in the Wakefield Journal & West Riding Herald of the 29th May 1839, but the actual date of the show is not given. Unless by great chance every class had six entries, prizes were awarded to the first six in each class with an exhibitor being allowed as many entries as he wished. There were at least eight exhibitors with the two Williams, Thornes and Whitaker, showing together. I assume that the two Gills, John and John junior, were father and son, and that may also have been the relationship between the two Parkers, Thomas and Isaac. Single blooms only seem to have been shown with breeders being described here as selfs. Unfortunately no varieties are named. I have been unable to locate the Royal Oak, Wrengate.

100 Years Ago - When reading the report of the show in 1889, (see page 12), it almost seemed that I had hit upon the one year in the past 150 when it had been a good year for growing tulips, however that was not to be and the usual disasters occurred. Unfortunately the report is very limited with no varieties mentioned, however there are one or two items of note. The show is identified as the 54th, whereas the 1939 report has it as the 103rd because of the mix up previously identified. Jesse Hardwick, (of whom see later in connection with the raising of Lord F. Cavendish), was the secretary and about 500 blooms were staged as well as ferns. The show was held on Monday and Tuesday 3rd/4th June 1889.

50 Years Ago - In contrast the 1939 report is very full and again that year the weather came very close to being good, with disaster waiting until the final week before it struck. Of the varieties which were the premier blooms, Gleam and Lucy Luard are long gone, and Cyrano although still with us doesn't produce good breaks. The other three Sam Barlow (breeder), Sir Joseph Paxton (flame) and Lord F. Cavendish (feather) have all been premier blooms in the past few years. The show was held on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 22nd-24th May 1939, and on the following Saturday the Normanton Paxton Society held a show at the Black Swan at which 300 blooms were shown.

The following item - A Voice from the Past, is very interesting. The letter written in 1840 must have been in existence in 1939 as the handwriting is vividly described, I wonder if it still exists. The Benjamin Ely mentioned in the letter as the source of the tulips was a well known florist of the time who lived at Rothwell Haigh, a village midway between Wakefield and Leeds. Born in 1779 he began raising carnations in 1803 while still a blacksmith at Carlton. About 1827 he became a full time florist and seedsman and also grew tulips. Whether he attended any of the Society's early shows before his death in 1843 is not known, however his son Benjamin who was born in 1810 and carried on the business after his death is known to have judged on a number of occasions.

I wonder what happened to the painting of "Cavendish". If it was of a tulip grown by someone who died in 1842 then it couldn't have been the Cavendish which we grow. (see Lord. F Cavendish, the man and the flower from page 17). Perhaps some of the growers 50 years ago looked at the picture and identified it as Cavendish from its appearance without taking account of the age of the picture. We may never know.

The Annual Show 1839

FLOWER SHOW AT WAKEFIELD.—The Society of Wakefield Florists held their Tully Show on Monday, in the commodious saloon of the buildings in Mr. Haselgreave's public gardens, in Back-lane, (to the improvements in which we have of late frequently called public attention), and the display was highly creditable to the perseverance and judgment of the exhibitors. The showery weather was unluckily against a numerous attendance of visitors. The judges were Messrs. James Hesson, Charles Dews, and John Jackson, who awarded the prizes as follows:—

Feathered Bizarre Tulips.—1, Thomas Frohisher; 2, 4, Thomas Parker; 3, William Thorne and William Whitaker; 5, 6, Isaac Parker.

Flamed Bizarre Tulips.—1, Thomas Parker; 2, 4, 6, John Gill, jun.; 3, 5, Isaac Parker.

Feathered Byblamen Tulips.—1, 4, 5, 6, Thorne and Whitaker; 2, Thomas Parker; 3, John Gill, jun.

Flamed Byblamen Tulips.—1, Thorne and Whitaker; 2, 5, 6, John Gill; 3, Isaac Parker; 4, Thomas Frohisher.

Feathered Rose Tulips.—1, 2, Thomas Parker; 3, Samuel Hartley; 4, Thorne and Whitaker; 5, John Gill, jun.; 6, Thomas Frohisher.

Flamed Rose Tulips.—1, 2, John Gill, jun.; 3, 6, Thorne and Whitaker; 4, Thomas Parker; 5, Isaac Parker.

Self Tulips.—1, 2, 4, Thorne and Whitaker; 3, John Gill, jun.; 5, 6, Thomas Parker.

The competitors afterwards adjourned to the Royal Oak, in Wrengate, where they sat down to an excellent dinner, and hilarity and good humour were kept up during the evening, when the company separated highly gratified with their repast and the good taste displayed by Mr. Haselgreave in fitting up the room.

1939

1889

WAKEFIELD AMATEURS' TULIP SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SHOW.—The fifty-fourth annual exhibition in connection with this society, which was established in 1836, was held on Monday and Tuesday in the large club room at Mr. Joseph Jacques's, the Brunswick Hotel, Borough Market. Prizes to the value of about 27 10s. were offered for tulips and ferns, and a dozen exhibitors staged about 500 tulips and a score pots of British ferns, the latter of which were arranged on the centre of a large and long table, with the tulips on each side and at either end. The past season, from November to May, was very suitable for the growth of tulips, and a few weeks ago there was a prospect of a good show of blooms. The recent heavy fall of rain, together with the lightning which accompanied some of the storms, caused great havoc in many tulip beds, and some of the largest and most noted growers had their blooms battered to pieces by the heavy rain or struck by electricity. The spectacle presented in some gardens after the storms was calculated to cause many tulip fanciers to give up their favourite hobby in despair, but notwithstanding the great disappointment and loss, the bulbs will be ripened off, carefully preserved until the end of Autumn, and then planted again with hopes of better success next year. The British ferns were a very fine collection on the whole, and they were much admired by those who visited the exhibition on the two days. The judges were Mr. Edward Schofield, of Lower Wortley, Leeds, Mr. Lord, of Todmorden, and Mr. J. Netherwood, of Wakefield, and Mr. Jesse Hardwick, of East Moor, discharged the duties of honorary secretary. The following were the exhibitors and prize takers.—Messrs. Alfred Moorhouse, T. Spurr, A. Spurr, W. Maffor, E. Lister, G. Gill, H. Brown, G. Hedden, W. Calvert, J. Hardwick, J. Steel, and J. Jacques.

A HUNDRED AND THIRD YEARS.

WAKEFIELD TULIP SOCIETY'S RECORD.

THE ANNUAL SHOW.

The hundred and third annual show! That is the record, so far, of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society, which for the greater part of its long existence concerned itself exclusively with the old English florist tulip, but which has for some years past widened its range, and though it still devotes itself mainly to the old variety, also includes at its shows some classes for other kinds of tulips. In the earlier years of the Society the Eastmoor district was the chief local stronghold for the culture of this flower, but in recent years Horbury and Lupset have taken the lead, and hence the shows are now held at the commodious and pleasantly situated Whinney Moor Hotel.

This year's show was opened last Saturday evening, and the exhibits were on view until Monday night. Up to a week before the opening, the weather had been favourable for tulip growing, but then came a break, and adverse conditions set in, with some disastrous results. Notwithstanding this handicap, there was a magnificent array of exhibits, the number exceeding last year's figures, though the quality was, on the average, below the usual standard.

In the open classes, Mr. Reg. Robinson (Horbury) won the silver challenge cup for best stand of nine tulips, and Mr. Ellis Walker (Altrincham) was awarded the Needham Memorial Cup in connection with a similar class. As regarded the local classes, Mr. J. W. Midgley (Halifax) was the winner of the silver challenge cup for best stand of nine tulips, and Mr. Reg. Robinson won the "Stages" Class trophy. In the Novice Classes, the Brook Silver Challenge Cup is awarded to the exhibitor securing most points, and Mr. C. Baxendale (Horbury) and Mr. A. Robshaw (Peacock Farm Estate) tied. The cup was awarded to Mr. Baxendale, as being the gainer of most "firsts." We understand this was his first year as a tulip grower. The above trophies are held by the winners for eleven months.

The Annual Show 1939 (cont.)

Prizes for "premiers" were adjudged to the following. Open classes: Mr. Ellis Walker, breeder, "Gleam," and feathered, "Cavendish"; and Mr. Reg. Robinson, flamed, "Cyrao." Local classes: Mr. E. Brook (Altofts), feathered, "Lucy Luard," and flamed, "Paxton"; and Mr. J. W. Midgley, breeder, "Sam Barlow."

The judges were Mr. Robert Robinson (Horbury) Mr. J. W. Midgley, and Mr. W. Beddows (Altofts), and the secretarial duties were carried out by Mr. E. H. Robinson (Green Lane, Horbury).

The President of the Society is Sir Daniel Hall, K.C.B., M.A., F.R.S., Hon. D.Sc. (Oxon.), and Hon. LL.D. (Aberdeen and Cambridge). At one time he was Chief Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture. He has written several works dealing with agriculture, and is also the author of "The Book of the Tulip."

THE OPENING.

Mr. W. G. Robertson, Superintendent of Wakefield City Parks, was the opener of the show, and Mr. W. Beddows presided.

The fact that so far as any known records went, this was the hundred and third show, was mentioned by Mr. Robertson, and he added that there was reason to believe that the Society went back even further than that time, and that there had been shows held before of which there were no extant records. The tulip had a vogue of great popularity from two hundred or more years ago until recent times. Earlier growers had noticed among tulips what we now called "breaking," and this led to the evolution of what is known as the florist tulip. The older growers did not know how this "breaking" came about, but we now know it was caused by a virus. The Wakefield Tulip Society was the only society of its description left in England. Now, there were in Wakefield the Historical Society and other bodies who were trying to preserve different forms of antiquity in connexion with the city, such as, for example, old furniture and old masonry. "While we cannot collect tulips and put them into museums, and while photographs of societies—photographs of a lot of bearded gentlemen many years ago—are not very interesting," said Mr. Robertson, "there are here on these tables some very old bottles for displaying the flowers, and I hope the Tulip Society will some day place in our local museum a collection of these old bottles. These bottles, in some cases I believe, are over a hundred years old."

Mr. Robertson, turning to another matter said the Society's shows now included not only the old English tulips but other tulips as well, mostly darwins. The darwins could be bought at very reasonable prices, and were easily grown. It was hoped by this means to increase the success of the shows, and also that those exhibitors who began with the other tulips might become sufficiently interested to take up growing the florist tulips. He thought it was a great achievement of the Wakefield Tulip Society to have kept in existence, while other societies which had specialised in one particular flower had disappeared. In conclusion, Mr. Robertson declared the show open, after which he handed the various trophies to the winners.

Mr. A. I. Meens proposed a vote of thanks to the opener. Mr. Robertson, he said, was a very busy man, and visitors to the parks would notice the beautiful tulips there, the rose gardens and rockery, and other attractions. Mr. Robertson had not been long with them, but they were grateful to him because of the work he had done in the Parks. He had other activities as well, as, for instance, in connexion with the Naturalists' Society and as a Paxtonian and lecturer.

The proposition was seconded by Mr. E. Brook, and was carried.

THE PRIZE LIST.

OPEN CLASSES.

The prize list was as under.

Challenge Cup class for best stand of nine tulips (three bizarres, three byblomen, and three roses, each trio consisting of one breeder, one feathered, and one flamed): 1, Reg. Robinson (Horbury); 2, Ellis Walker (Altrincham); 3, E. Brook (Altofts).

Pan of six rectified (dissimilar): 1, E. Brook; 2, Reg. Robinson; 3, A. Banks (Wakefield).

Pan of six breeders (dissimilar): 1, J. W. Midgley (Halifax); 2, E. Walker; 3, W. Beddows (Altofts).

Pair of flamed (dissimilar): 1, E. Walker; 2, J. W. Midgley; 3, A. Banks.

Pair of feathered (dissimilar): 1, A. T. Meens (Lupset); 2, E. Walker; 3, J. W. Midgley.

Vase of nine English florist tulips, only own foliage allowed for decoration: 1, E. Walker; 2, W. K. Bramham (South Milford); 3, Reg. Robinson.

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

The Annual Show 1939 (cont.)

Needham Memorial Cup class, for nine tulips (three bizarres, three byblomen, and three roses, each trio consisting of one breeder, one feathered, and one flamed): 1. E. Walker; 2. E. Brook; 3. A. Banks.

Vase of eighteen tulips (decoration allowed), any variety other than English florist: 1 and 2, W. K. Bramham; 3, Tom Booth (Horbury). First prize was a gold medal.

Vase of nine tulips (decoration allowed), any variety other than English florist: 1, G. Hunt (Horbury); 2, A. Tear (Altofts); 3, I. Hunt (Lupton).

LOCAL CLASSES.

Challenge Cup class for best stand of nine tulips (three bizarres, three byblomen, and three roses, each trio consisting of one breeder, one feathered, and one flamed): 1, J. W. Midgley; 2, E. Brook; 3, W. Beddows.

Pan of six restricted dissimulars: 1, E. Brook; 2, A. Banks.

Three flowers (any variety): 1, Reg. Robinson; 2, A. Tear; 3, A. Banks.

Staps class, consisting of one breeder, one feathered, and one flamed, all to be of one colour, namely, all bizarres or all byblomen or all roses, and preference given to blooms of the same name: 1, Reg. Robinson; 2, W. Robinson; 3, A. Tear.

Bizarre breeder: 1, W. Beddows; 2, A. T. Meens; 3, Reg. Robinson.

Bizarre flamed: 1, E. Brook; 2, A. Tear; 3, Reg. Robinson.

Bizarre feathered: 1, E. Brook; 2, A. T. Meens; 3, W. Beddows.

Byblomen breeder: 1, A. T. Meens; 2, J. W. Midgley; 3, W. Beddows.

Byblomen flamed: 1, A. Tear; 2, W. Robinson; 3, W. Beddows.

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

Rose breeder: 1, Reg. Robinson; 2, E. Brook; 3, W. Robinson.

Rose flamed: 1, J. W. Midgley; 2, A. Tear; 3, E. Brook.

Rose feathered: 1, A. Tear; 2, A. T. Meens; 3, E. Brook.

NOVICE CLASSES.

Pan of three (breeder, feathered, and flamed): 1, A. Robshaw (Peacock Farm Estate); 2, C. Baxendale (Horbury); 3, G. Hunt.

Breeder: 1, C. Baxendale (Horbury); 2, A. Robshaw; 3, G. Hunt.

Feathered: 1, G. Hunt; 2, A. Robshaw; 3, C. Baxendale.

Flamed: 1, C. Baxendale; 2, G. Hunt; 3, A. Robshaw.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST.

The above report has to do with the present day, and here is a voice from the past. The amateur tulip growers of the twentieth century are no more keenly interested in their subject than were their prototypes a hundred years ago or thereabouts, as witness the following letter, dated 1840, and addressed to Mr. James Grimshaw, who resided near Colne, and who died in 1842, grandfather of Mr. T. N. Grimshaw, the Town Clerk of Wakefield. Penned in haste, but preserving the characteristic calligraphy of the pre-typewriter age, when handwriting was handwriting, the letter is as follows:—

"Sir,—I have just received the rose tulip (Albert) from Mr. Benjamin Ely, and have delivered it (and a bulb of the Washington) I promised you at Mr. England's office. They said the parcel should be forwarded to you the first opportunity, which I trust you will receive safe. I have made all enquiry in my power respecting the quality of Queen Victoria, and hear that it is only a very middling sort. With respect to the Rose Albert, no one here appears to have noticed it sufficiently to give any account of it, but I hope it will turn out well. Otherwise it will be too bad to publish such high characters on articles not deserving. I had wished to send you a pair of polypheum pink, but at present can't get it. Either it is a very bad grower or those who have it don't like to part with it. I am just leaving here on a journey. Excuse haste and believe me, sir, yours respectfully, M. Rhodes."

One may add that Mr. Grimshaw has in his possession a painting of a tulip grown by his grandfather. It represents a bloom of the old English florist variety, and, we understand, it is a Cavendish.

Amateur Seedling Raising.

By John Ollerenshaw

All my work is done in the unheated greenhouse because outside seeding has always ended in failure.

Flowering size bulbs of breeders (as and when a few can be spared) are potted up at the usual outdoor planting time. Broken varieties which are more readily available can be used, provided that the bulbs are sound, even though the flowers are complete rejects as long as they have the good characteristics of the Florist Tulip.

Enough bulbs of each class, five of each type would probably be ample, should be set to provide a couple of seed pods from each class. I find that even under the closest care a few pods fail to mature due to invasive disease.

The seed produced from breeders will undoubtedly have the edge for vigour, but the seed from breaks is quite good, and fortunately free from passing on the virus infection.

When the bulbs come into bloom this is the time to commence a rather strict regime. Even before a bloom is mature enough to open fully, say when the petals are at a loose bud stage, they should be opened manually just enough to be able to place a small thin pad of cotton-wool over the stigma. The pads should remain in place until the blooms are fully mature.

The crosses are now made with all the blooms in each class, strictly class to class, with no cross classes. The aim is to create a common stock of seed representing each of the three classes.

After depositing the ripe pollen all over each stigma a fresh piece of cotton-wool is placed loosely over the stigma to prevent stray pollen and more importantly botrytis spores from making contact.

During the whole of the time that the seed is maturing there must not be any overhead watering, water spraying, or high humidity in the greenhouse. To this end windows and door should be kept open as much as possible.

When it is seen that pollination has taken place. (the stigmas will be heavily stained), the whole of each stigmatic surface must have a generous coating of green flowers of sulphur and clean cotton wool pads placed over them.

As the petals begin to die off, remove them as well as the stamens. Redust the stigmas and the stamen scars on the stems and cover with a larger thicker piece of cotton wool which will cover all the stigma, and pull down over the stamen scars. This should be tied in place, carefully avoiding pressing down on the stigma. I use a half granny-knot which can be easily untied and retied after each inspection.

Feed the bulbs well and keep a very close and regular watch for signs of rotting especially at the top of the swelling seed pods. Even the slightest rot on the pod is likely to render all the seeds therein sterile.

Eventually the pods will shrivel and dry. The covers should now be removed, the straw-like stems cut and placed in a dry container in the manner of decorative poppy heads. The container may be kept in the house until required

Seed sowing time is mid-September. Empty all the seed pods into a common heap or in separate heaps by class. Put the seeds into screw-top jars of clean warm water and leave on a greenhouse shelf in full sun for two days to soak.

Fill three inch deep wooden seed boxes with good compost, avoiding gritty compost in which the grit is hard to distinguish from the little bulbs which will be produced. Add a generous amount of silver sand and

level the surface. Strain the seeds and place them flat down on the surface of the compost as thickly as possible in a single layer. Cover the seed with at least a quarter of an inch of compost as too thin a layer will result in the seedlings pushing themselves out of the compost and being lost. A good soaking with tepid water and a close fitting glass cover completes the job.

I keep my boxes in the greenhouse at floor level raised on bricks above the soil surface. Before placing the boxes, I water the whole of the bed with a mixture consisting of 1/2 oz. of permanganate of potash crystals dissolved in a gallon of water. This will kill the worms which if they enter the seed boxes could kill all the seedlings. I also scatter slug pellets around the boxes.

The boxes should be kept moist with air being given every few days. Early in the new year the little green loops of new seedlings will push through. At this point raise the glass covers on strips of wood to allow fresh air to them, and remove the glass entirely when the loops are completely unfurled.

Place the boxes in a light airy shaded position for the whole of the growing season and feed every week with liquid feed. the aim is to keep the seedlings growing for as long as possible.

When the seedlings show signs of drying up, the boxes should be placed in full sun to allow the bulblets to be baked so that they harden as in the manner of onions. The boxes can then be left warm and dry until July.

Remove the bulblets carefully from the compost, dust them with green flowers of sulphur, and store them in paper bags until September. The bulblets should then be replanted in deeper boxes with about a one inch covering of compost. The compost should be of the same type as previously used and the boxes should be treated in the same way as in the previous year.

From the third year on, the bulblets may be planted outside in prepared seed beds.

All this may seem long and tedious but should you embark on raising seedlings then weariness will never lie on your brow. With each phase of the work you will be rewarded with the knowledge that you will be providing the very life-blood in the essential supply of good new breeders which are so vital to replace the old varieties which are being lost.

SEED OFFER

As an encouragement to members to raise new breeders from seed, particularly those who currently have insufficient bulbs to consider crossing their own, the Society will offer for purchase in 1989, mixed seed from all three classes, (Rose, Bybloemen and Bizarre) at a cost of 50p for a packet containing approximately 50 seeds. To obtain the seed please send a stamped addressed envelope to the Editor with payment, indicating how many packets of seed are required. Seed will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and money will be refunded if it is not possible to fulfil an order. The seed will be despatched as soon as it is ripe, ie. August or September. Please order in good time so that sufficient flowers may be pollinated to give the required quantity of seed.

Lord Frederick Cavendish.

Having started in the first newsletter with Sam Barlow to describe the man and the flower, this year's choice was really determined for me by the article in the 1939 Wakefield Express which identified the subject of a painting of around 1840 as being "Cavendish". Somehow the timing didn't seem right, but as a poor historian I had no real idea of who the man was, and even less idea of when he had lived. What a surprise I got when I started the research.

The Man

Frederick Charles Cavendish was born on the 30th November 1836, the second son of the 6th Duke of Devonshire.

Elected M.P. for the North Division of the West Riding on the 15th July 1865 his period in parliament included the position of Private Secretary to Mr. Gladstone. It was however his appointment as Chief Secretary for Ireland in 1882 for which he is best known although he held the position for just 6 hours and 10 minutes.

Having travelled to Ireland for his inauguration on Saturday, 6th May 1882 he was on the same day stabbed to death with a colleague Mr. Burke while walking in Phoenix Park, Dublin. In these days of instant worldwide communication by television and radio, and with the "problem" of Ireland still unresolved more than 100 years later, it is difficult to appreciate the effect that this cruel killing had on the people of those days. The newspapers covered little else for a full week. The Yorkshire Post on the Monday devoted its first two pages to the news, and the Wakefield Express the following Saturday the whole of page three from its eight page edition.

Lord Cavendish was buried on Thursday, May 11th 1882 at Edensor Churchyard close to Chatsworth Hall. Newspapers reported that 25000 people attended the funeral including 250 M.P.s and many people from Wakefield took the train to Sheffield and then walked the 13 miles to Chatsworth to be present. As a sign of respect the large bell in the Wakefield Town Hall was rung from 2pm to 4pm and that in the Parish Church from 1pm to 4pm.

During his tragically short life of 45 years Lord Cavendish was very closely involved with education in this part of Yorkshire, particularly the Yorkshire College and the Leeds Mechanics Institute. In addition to the tulip his name lives on in some of the buildings at Leeds University.

A statue in his honour was erected by public subscription in Barrow and I will attempt to obtain a photograph for inclusion in the Society scrapbook.

Our President the Marquess of Hartington is the eldest son of the current Duke of Devonshire.

Lord Frederick Cavendish.

The Raiser.

It would be nice to report that at the 1882 show held just 4 weeks later there was the announcement of the naming of a seedling in memory of Lord F. C. Cavendish. However the Wakefield Express of that year doesn't seem to have printed a report although announcing the show, the previous week. So what do we know of the history of the flower?

The Classified List of Tulip Names 1958 includes the tulip with raiser as G. Hardwick but gives no details of date or information about the raiser.

Hubert Calvert in his article for the 1970 Daffodil and Tulip Year Book includes "...John Hepworth, 'Lord Frederick Cavendish' by G. Hardwicke (sic) both of Wakefield".

Arthur Hellyer in a review of the Rory McEwen illustrations, goes even further when speaking of the tulip, "raised by G. Hardwick, one of the most successful of the early Wakefield fanciers who is said to have been a bootmaker".

In contrast Mr. C. W. Needham, the Society's President, speaking of Cavendish after the 1927 show where it was best feather said "...raised by a Wakefield grower, Hepworth though probably the flower did not come to its present perfection until long after his death.". As Hepworth died in 1883 that was a possibility.

The existence of a Hardwick in the Society's history is well documented as the oldest remaining minute book starts with the A.G.M. of 1907 where Jesse Hardwick resigned as Secretary after 25 years in office which would have meant his taking up the position in 1882, the year of the assassination. Was this another instance, so frequent in our Society, of a son following in his fathers footsteps. If so then it is difficult to prove because prior to Jesse's first association in the late 1870's I have been unable to find a reference to another Hardwick in any show report between 1829 and 1879. Also no reference is ever made to any Hardwick family connections, unlike the Gill family.

It is very tempting to come to the conclusion that Jesse and G. Hardwick were one and the same person, and that the 'J' and 'G' had become confused. The timing would appear to be right. In a lecture to the R.H.S in 1902, A. D. Hall (later Sir Daniel) included 'Cavendish' as a feathered bizarre and in the 1909 show class for 6 breeders, five of the first seven prizewinners included 'Cavendish', showing that it was freely available in the Wakefield area. I suppose I would have rested my case at that point, (and those of you still awake turned on the television), when on examining the results of the Pan of 3 Breeders in 1908, I saw that Jesse Hardwick had included a bybloemen breeder GEO. HARDWICK. Other showings of this flower appear in the records, so who was this raiser of Lord Frederick Cavendish who was sufficiently well known in the tulip world to have one named after him? A telephone call to Jack Wemyss-Cooke produced a real find, a copy of the show report for 1882 printed in the Gardeners Magazine of that year and the news that Samuel Barlow and other major florists of the time came to Wakefield for the show. 'Cavendish' was shown as a breeder which ruined my idea that it was named 'in memoriam'. Sam Barlow visited the gardens of one of the main exhibitors, George Gill, who was a shoemaker. But alas no information on Geo. Hardwick.

A bulb of a new seedling breeder is offered to the first person to supply details including the date of his death.

Lord Frederick Cavendish.The Flower.

In the aforementioned lecture of 1902, A. D. Hall said:-

'Lord Frederick Cavendish.' - The petals are rather long and pointed and weak in substance. When in condition this variety makes a fine red feathered Bizarre, though the feathering is rather "plated" and lacks quality. It is inconsistent and worthless as a flamed flower, and should not be grown strong.

Eighty seven years on I don't think that early judgement can be seriously faulted, except that with time a better break probably occurred which has produced the best feather awards over the years.

As previously described the breeder was very commonly shown at the beginning of the century but I have been unable to find any award as best breeder which is not surprising bearing in mind its shape and petal quality. This makes it difficult to determine when the breeder disappeared, but after declining rapidly, single specimens were shown in the early 1920's with the last appearance I can find in 1927.

It is therefore as a broken flower only that it is known today and although in some years it produces a large amount of colour in the petals this never warrants it being described as a passable flame. This excess colour could be produced by the overfeeding warned against by Hall or might possibly be seasonal as it has been noticed by a number of growers.

"Cavendish" is therefore grown as a Feathered Bizarre, and in the multiple flower classes can be considered as a 'banker'. Despite the feathering being plated, (* see below), it is the most consistent winner of the Premier Feather award over the past eighty years, including 1909, 1910, 1914, 1915, 1927, and in more recent years 1982, 1985, 1986. Because the feathering is plated it is less likely to have the skips which affect the more preferred finely marked feathers.

The bulb multiplies well and the flower is produced slightly later than the average flowering time. The most consistent feathers are likely to be produced from the smaller sized bulbs although it is the large perfectly marked flower from a mature bulb which will win the Premier Feather awards.

* When the feathering on the edges of a petal is wide, and the fine lines of colour have all run together, the flower is said to be plated. (Tulips - Rev. Joseph Jacob 1912)

THE SOCIETY'S TROPHIES - No. 4 THE STAGES CUP

The smaller of the two cups presented in memory of Mr. Needham was originally awarded to the person showing the premier bloom in the show.

From 1939 it was decided to award it to the winner of the class for the three stages i.e. breeder, flame, and feather all of the same type, bizarre, rose or bybloemen.

When judging this class, preference is given to entries where the flower is of the same variety, as this best illustrates the three stages of the Florist Tulip. The Bizarre Sam Barlow is the most likely of our existing varieties to win in this way because it produces very good breeders and flames although the feather usually has excess colour away from the edge of the petals. The Bybloemen Columbine also fits the bill, although the breeder seems to be getting rarer, as does the Bizarre Lord Stanley. The Rose Mabel, (rare as a good feather), and Bizarre James Wild, (produces very few good flames), are also varieties which fit into this category. Based on the records of the Society, the Bybloemen Bessie and Talisman ought to be capable of producing a trio, however there have been few breaks of either variety shown in recent years.

The winners of the trophy have been :-

1930 Counr. G. A. Brook	Altofts	1937 Robert Robinson	Horbury
1933 Eric Brook	Altofts	1939 Reginald Robinson	Horbury
1940 J. T. E. Akers	Altofts	1941 A. Banks	Wakefield
1942 M. H. Eyre	Horbury	1943 R. Robinson	Horbury
1944 R. Robinson	Horbury	1945 N. H. Eyre	Horbury
1946 R. Robinson	Horbury	1947 N. H. Eyre	Horbury
1948 J. W. Midgley	Halifax	1949 J. W. Midgley	Halifax
1950 W. Beddows	Altofts	1951 A. H. Robshaw	Wakefield
1952 W. Beddows	Altofts	1953 G. Hunt	Horbury
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 A. Tear	Altofts	1959 J. T. E. Akers	Altofts
1960 N. H. Eyre	Horbury	1961 Albert Tear	Altofts
1962 A. H. Robshaw	Wakefield	1963 Albert Tear	Altofts
1964 J. T. E. Akers	Altofts	1965 J. G. Hardman	Normanton
1966 W. D. Tear	Altofts	1967 J. T. E. Akers	Altofts
1968 A. Tear	Altofts	1969 H. V. Calvert	Lupset
1970 K. N. Eyre	Middlestown	1971 K. N. Eyre	Middlestown
1973 Dean Taylor	Altofts	1973 Dean Taylor	Altofts
1974 K. N. Eyre	Middlestown	1975 H. V. Calvert	Lupset
1976 A. L. R. Hunter	Horbury	1977 J. T. E. Akers	Altofts
1978 J. T. E. Akers	Altofts	1979 J. T. E. Akers	Altofts
1980 J. Taylor	Altofts	1981 J. G. Hardman	Gateforth
1982 J. G. Hardman	Gateforth	1983 J. G. Hardman	Gateforth
1984 D. Taylor	Altofts	1985 J. L. Akers	Wrenthorpe
1986 P. R. Ferraudin	Wakefield	1987 T. Mills	Burntwood
1989 J. L. Akers	Wrenthorpe		

THE SOCIETY'S TROPHIES - No. 5 THE NOVICES CUP

Having been the first winner of the small cup presented in memory of Mr. Needham, Counr. Brook offered to present a cup to be shown for by novice members of the society. The Novice classes were to consist of four classes, a pan of 3 (breeder, flame, and feather), and single bloom classes for breeder, flame, and feather. The cup was first shown for in 1937 and is the only cup in the Society which can only be won once as winners of the cup are then barred from entering the Novice Section.

The current widespread interest in the Florist Tulip is clearly shown by the winners of this cup over the past ten years, and another encouraging feature is that most of these winners have continued to show and win success in the Open Classes.

The winners of the trophy have been :-

1938 A. Tear		1937 A. Banks	
1940 G. Hunt		1939 C. Baxendale	
1942 A. H. Robshaw		1941 N. H. Eyre	
1944 K. Robinson		1943 J. W. Prest	
1946 H. D. Priestley		1945 C. Woodhall	
1948 A. Bulmer		1947 R. Hall	
1950 E. Burrows		1949 J. W. Moutter	
1952 F. R. Hunter		1951 J. T. Burton	
1954 H. V. Calvert		1953 A. Rogers	
1956 W. D. Tear		1955 D. E. Briggs	
1958 J. G. Hardman		1957 W. Markham	
1960 C. Petts		1959 A. Laycock	
1962 R. Hunt		1961 J. Beddows	
1964 - Not Awarded		1963 - Not Awarded	
1966 J. Taylor		1965 R. D. Wood	
1968 J. Harris		1967 G. Plant	
1970 D. Taylor	Altofts	1969 K. N. Eyre	Middlestown
1972 J. Burton	Altofts	1971 M. E. Jackson	Wakefield
1974 A. L. R. Hunter	Horbury	1973 C. Marsh	Wakefield
1976 D. Taylor	Altofts	1975 A. Hayward	Altofts
1978 J. V. Vickers	London	1977 D. Ward	Horbury
1980 Miss J. L. Eyre	South Cave	1979 J. L. Akers	Wrenthorpe
1982 Miss S. E. Akers	Wrenthorpe	1981 J. Seed	Crofton
1984 R. F. Perraudin	Wakefield	1983 T. Mills	Burntwood
1986 R. Smales	Worsborough	1985 J. N. Gibson	Kirkburton
1988 D. Barnes	Sheffield	1987 M. Hainsworth	York

CONSISTENCY OF BREAKING

When a tulip, previously a breeder, breaks for the first time, the degree to which it breaks, (i.e. the amount of breeder colour which is replaced by the base colour), appears to be random, but in the great majority of cases the broken flower produced is worthless for showing purposes. For many years Florist Tulip growers have thought that an offset from a broken tulip will itself produce a flower virtually identical to that produced by the bulb from which the offset came.

'Two breeders of the same variety may break differently, one may become feathered and the other flamed and feathered. As they have broken, so they will remain, every offset repeating the marking of its parent. - Tulips By Rev. Joseph Jacob - 1912'

When a variety becomes extinct as a breeder then its continuation as a worthy show flower will depend upon the quality and number of the broken strains that exist. We have two good examples of this in Lady C. Gordon (Rose), and Cyrano (Bizarre). Lady C. Gordon, although having a poor shape, in the past produced well marked flowers capable of winning best feather in show. However as the breeder disappeared about a century ago, the broken strain on which we depend today fails to produce good markings but is still grown because of the shortage of broken Rose flowers. Cyrano is an even better example. A superb flower in the 1930s and 1940s, members of the Society regularly appealed to Ellis Walker the main grower to release some to other members. This he was unable to do because he said it multiplied too slowly. Before his death, however, I obtained a single bulb in 1957 on behalf of my father from which all those currently grown have descended. Unfortunately it was a poor strain and despite being widely grown does not produce good flowers.

So is there nothing that can be done to influence the quality of the broken flowers? Many of the old florists recommended starving their tulips to obtain good breaks, but why should this work?

When a breeder first breaks it often has the breaking confined to one part of the petal or even to a single petal, suggesting that the virus has only partly taken effect. Taking this to its logical conclusion implies that a feather has been attacked to a greater extent than a flamed flower. If that were so then it is also reasonable to suggest that if a bulb is grown in rich conditions the vigorous growth produced would be more capable of withstanding the virus and more breeder colour would remain in the petals, so producing less feathers and more flames. This would also explain why more feathers are produced from the smaller bulbs which are less vigorous than more mature bulbs. *Habit de Noce* will sometimes produce a flower which is almost a breeder, although the true breeder disappeared over 150 years ago. Could this be as a result of growing it in particularly rich soil? It may be that the fine feathers which are rarely seen nowadays have disappeared because the general use of chemical fertilizers has resulted in an overall increase in the fertility of our soils. It would not be the first time that so called folk-lore contained a large element of truth.

So what can be said in summary?

Because the tulip multiplies so well, 2 planted this year will, if all offsets are planted each year, produce 1000 in ten years time. Every grower is therefore subsequently faced with the problem that he has insufficient space. Many growers find that they are more successful if they plant the offsets of the best breaks at the expense of mature bulbs of poor breaks.

Don't be surprised at your lack of success even though you grow all the varieties, it may be that you have a bad strain. Walk round the show and compare your blooms with the winners and try and obtain a better break from the grower. He can only say no, but if you have demonstrated your enthusiasm by showing then he might even say yes.

Recollections of the 1938 Show

There was at least one exhibitor at the 1988 show who had been present at the Annual Show fifty years earlier. Bill Tear who was a major prizewinner in the Dutch classes at last year's show has penned the following :-

I remember the 1938 Show held at the Whinney Moor Hotel, Lupset. Uncle Bill (W. Beddows) hired a taxi from Buxton's of Altofts to take us to the show. The Tulip Show was the highlight of my year, better than the Club Trip to the seaside.

On arrival Uncle Bill would be up to the bar for the drinks, including one for the driver Horace Buxton, and a glass of pop for me.

The staging at the end of the room went up in steps and was covered in black cloth. I think the buckets of Darwins were staged there. The buckets were one and a half gallon, galvanised, and painted green with wire mesh grills on the top.

I was eight years old at the time, and my job was to get a few of these buckets and help to fill the stone jars and hexagonal shaped glass bottles. Uncle Bill would be walking round weighing up the opposition and seeing what the Robinsons were doing.

I remember the Walkers of Altringham. Mr. Walker was a big chap with flat feet, wearing either slippers or sandals. Mrs. Walker wore a large hat. They came in either a black or dark green Bentley car with leather straps holding down the bonnet, with the flowers in a large wicker hamper strapped on the back or in the dicky seat.

There was a large garden at the back of the hotel and I think a bowling green.

My dad (Albert Tear) said that Uncle Bill fixed him up with the bulbs which enabled him to win the novice cup in 1938. Dad hadn't the money to buy bulbs from Barrs, they were too expensive in those days.

Uncle Bill had a bit more money, he was a deputy at St. John's Colliery, my dad was the local cobbler (shoe repairer).

After Dad won the Novice Cup in 1938 I think he only won one other prize, the silver plate between 1938 and 1959. He started winning prizes from 1959 onwards when Barr Bros. sold their stocks of bulbs to the Society. Before that date good bulbs were unobtainable from the members, they kept the good bulbs in the family.

Dad built up these stocks of bulbs and in his heyday had more than 16000 in flower. He used to sell these to the new members at £1 per hundred, and he was chuffed when one of his customers won the Novice Cup.

W. D. Tear

THE ROYAL NATIONAL TULIP SOCIETY

By Ruth Duthie

The first of the national societies to be devoted to an individual florist's flower, the National Tulip Society, was formed in 1849. For the first three years it did not have this title for its exhibitions were known as 'The Great Northern Tulip Show', however it is clear from later references that these were regarded in retrospect, as the first shows of the National Tulip Society. The first of these was held in the Guildhall, York on 29th May 1849, the second in Manchester, 29th May 1850, and the third at the County Hall, Derby on 27th May 1851. A very full account of the first of these shows appeared in the York Herald on 2nd June 1849. We know that these early shows were regarded as the first of the National Society from an article describing the formation of the National Carnation and the Picotee Society in 1851; York was chosen as the site of their show because '*it is but graceful that the town which first gave the tulip its present proud importance should have the éclat of giving the Carnation and the Picotee an equal prominence*'. Moreover W. M. Lymbery of Nottingham writing in 1857, stated that he had exhibited at all the shows except '*the first one held in York*'. He also believed that the great improvement in tulips then being exhibited was due to the holding of these annual shows.

Strangely enough in 1850, two tulip shows were held in Manchester, both called 'The Great Northern Tulip Show', the first took place at the Corn Exchange on 28th May and the second the next day at the Belle Vue Gardens (Floricultural Cabinet 1850 Page 282). It was the second of these which was subsequently regarded as the second show of the N.T.S. The Cottage Gardener page 351 of that year reported that '*the Society goes swimmingly*'. In 1852 the Society, by then called 'The National Tulip Society', met in Birmingham and the subsequent annual shows took place at Nottingham, Regents Park Botanic gardens (instead of the Surrey Zoological Gardens where it was to have taken place), Cambridge, The Crystal Palace (instead of Oxford), Manchester again in 1857, and the 10th show in Sheffield. From 1855 the Society was known as 'The Royal National Tulip Society': in reports of the previous year's show, the hope was expressed that the Queen would visit the Cambridge show and though there is no evidence that she did, from this time onwards, 'Royal' was added to the name.

Tulip growing had become very popular about the beginning of the 19th Century, mostly at first in the vicinity of London where the earliest of the English-raised seedlings were grown. Until this time tulip bulbs had been mostly imported, mainly from Holland. Amongst these early Southern florists were Strong, Lawrence, Goldham, and Clarke of Croydon; the latter raised the bybloemen 'Fanny Kemble' and the Bizarre 'Polyphemus' both of which appeared in the list of prizewinners for most of the century. By the time the Society was established, tulip growing including raising new cultivars took place mainly in the industrial areas of the Midlands and the North. The Midland Florist often carried reports of 25 or more tulip shows and many more may have gone unreported.

The young society had its problems; especially in the early years there was a difference of opinion between Northern and Southern florists as to what constituted 'the properties' of a good flower. Southern growers placed most emphasis on the shape of the flower and the purity of the base but did not divide the classes into feathered and flamed as did the Northern growers. In all regions the flowers were divided into Roses, Bybloemens and Bizarres but Northern florists paid great attention to the way in which the colours were distributed in the broken

flowers. Feathered flowers had fine lines of colouring running in from the edge of the petal, while flamed flowers had also a bar of colour up the middle of each petal. There was, too, much criticism of the judging. Gradually agreement was reached on these points; but it continued to be difficult to choose a date to suit growers from different areas; the chosen date was either too early for Northern growers or too late for those from the South. In 1858 a well-known grower, John Hepworth, suggested that there should be a Northern show in the new Town Hall at Leeds, while Southern florists should meet at Charles Turner's Royal Nurseries at Slough. the 11th Annual Show did take place at Slough but no report was found of a show at Leeds.

There was also trouble due to personal disputes: it would seem John Edwards, a noted amateur florist, was accused of cheating at a tulip show held by the Royal South London Floricultural Society, whose secretary J. T. Neville, was also editor of the *Gardeners' Record and Amateur Florists' Companion*. In this journal there appeared a most adverse report of this 'quasi' National Tulip Society, accusing it of having no officers, no list of members, nor any permanent income, but in spite of such criticism the Society prospered. Information about the structure of the Society was given when the National Carnation and Picotee Society was formed in 1851. It was decided to follow the lines of the Tulip Society, which indeed then did not have a central organisation, and hold a show in a different location each year. A meeting, held after the Show dinner, decided on the location of next year's show which was then organised by a local committee in conjunction with a local horticultural society. There was no division between amateurs and nurserymen, unlike the N.C.&P.S, probably because it was mainly amateurs who did most of the raising of new varieties, as well as the growing and showing of tulips.

At the first show in York the flowers 'were shown in bottles', as they are now, but from the Manchester exhibition they were 'shown on boards' as were carnations. The prizes awarded are rarely mentioned but at the 10th show at Sheffield, between £70 and £80 was spent on four silver plated tea and coffee services, and four sets of ivory table-cutlery in mahogany cases. On this occasion 60 people attended the excellent dinner at the York Hotel; Mr. R. Headly of Cambridge, a noted grower of auriculas as well as of tulips was in the chair. after the dinner most people returned to the old Botanical Gardens where a 'large and fashionable company' enjoyed the splendid military band. The National Anthem was sung at 7 p.m. and 'so terminated one of the most agreeable meetings the National has ever had'. at this show there were 14 stands of 6 flowers, 10 of twelves, and 3 of eighteen flowers as well as about 250 single blooms.

Amongst the winners in these early years were Thomas Allestree of Draycott, Debyshire, P. H. Betteridge of Abingdon, Rev. S. Cresswell, Radford, Nottingham, John Edwards of Holloway, John Slater of Manchester, Messrs Lymbery, Godfrey and Gibbons, all of the Nottingham area, Dr. Hardy of Warrington, R. Headly of Cambridge, J. F. Wood (the editor of the *Midland Florist*), William Willison of Whitby and Charles Turner of the Royal Nurseries at Slough. The latter exhibitor won the top award in three consecutive years and was the only nurseryman who exhibited in the early years. Tulips raised by some of these exhibitors are still being exhibited.

The RNTS show of 1867 was held at the Mechanics Institute, Stockport on 28th May, under the management of the Lancashire Tulip Societ. 52 growers entered upwards of 2000 blooms. Exhibitors came from Birmingham, Gloucester, Whitby, York, Leeds, Sheffield, Derby and Warrington as well as from the local area. The show was unanimously pronounced as the best ever seen. In 1870 the Society joined with the Cambridge Horticultural Society to hold a show at King's College; one tent was entirely filled

with tulips and the prize for the best 12 went to Sam Barlow of Stakehill, Middleton, near Manchester. After this time it became the custom to hold the RTNS show as part of the Great Whitsun show at Old Trafford, Manchester. In 1879 the top twelve flowers were shown by another famous Northern florist, the Rev. F. D. Horner of Kirby Malseread, near Ripon, while ten years later Mr. W. Kitchen was first and Mr. S. Barlow second. In 1894, James W. Bentley, a nephew of Sam Barlow, wrote a series of articles about the English Florist's Tulip in the Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener, from which we learn that by then far fewer florists were growing tulips. In the South they had almost ceased to be grown as early as 1855, with a steady decline in the Midlands, but in Yorkshire and Lancashire there were still many keen growers. In the year that these articles were written, a separate Southern section was formed which held its second show in connection with the Temple show. Only three stands of 12 were staged with the first prize going to James Bentley who was once more the winner when the Southern Society met at the Royal Botanical Society's Garden in Regents Park in 1899. The Northern Society met in 1895 at the Free Library, Middleton, on the 4th of June when once more the 'blue ribbon' went to James Bentley while Charles W. Needham, another nephew of Sam Barlow, and living in Sale, Cheshire, was second. In 1899 the northerners held their show at the Coal Exchange, Manchester where Rev. Horner again showed the top 12.

In 1909 the only report found relates to the Southern section, said to be holding its 16th meeting, which took place with one of the RHS fortnightly shows. Mr. Needham took first prize while second went to Miss E. Willmott of Warley Place. It is interesting that she who gardened on such a vast scale should have been showing florist's tulips. By 1919 this kind of flower had almost ceased to be exhibited: for at the Chelsea Show of that year visitors were said to have hardly noticed the rectified tulips shown by the four exhibitors, their stems cut short, sitting nakedly on the show boards. The Society was then referred to, as being 70 years old, so obviously it was regarded as the original RNTS, founded in 1849. Two of those who did exhibit their tulips were Sir Daniel Hall, Director of the John Innes Institute and writer of the standard book on the Tulip and Mr. C. W. Needham. Ten years later the RNTS exhibit was tucked away in a small section of a tent '*swamped and insignificant*'. Finally in 1936 the Society ceased to exist and such assets as it possessed were handed over to the only remaining tulip society, The Wakefield and North of England, which had been in existence since 1836. At a meeting of this Society on 6 April 1936 a letter was received from Sir Daniel Hall informing it of the death of Mr. C. W. Needham and that he had consulted with Mr. Peter Barr, the only other member and that they had decided to offer the Wakefield and North of England a cup or other piece of silver in memory of Mr. Needham. This offer was accepted by the committee and the Needham Cup was to be awarded for a stand of nine tulips, three breeders, three feathered and three flamed of bizarre, bybloemen and rose. Happily this society is still active and holds its annual show each May. Happily, too, interest in these distinctive tulips is increasing and members, true to the ideals of all true florists, are still attempting to raise new varieties.

Notes. The information for the early years was obtained from the Midland Florist, but shows were also frequently reported in the Florist and in other journals of the period; from 1860 onwards information came mainly from the Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener, and/or the Gardener's Chronicle, the latter journal provided all show reports after 1900.

Tail - Pieces

On Saturday 15th October 1988, Keith Eyre and James Akers attended a seminar of the R.H.S. at Wisley, held to discuss the role of Specialist Societies. Among the topics discussed were :-
 Use of R.H.S facilities for shows and trials.
 Inter - society cooperation at shows and with publicity.
 Registration of new varieties.

Although not completely relevant to the aims of our own Society, the seminar was interesting and served to remind many of those present, including the officers of the R.H.S, that the tulip was alive and well and living (mainly) in the North of England.

I have long bemoaned the fact that certain breeders when they break fail to produce broken flowers of a type where we are currently short for choice. Bybloemens are a case in point and yet when you look through the records Talisman Flamed, and Bessie Feathered appear regularly. Imagine my surprise when I found not one, but two, Bessie feathered among the newly broken breeders this past season. Of course they may not produce the same again but just in case I have passed the offset of the better break to Keith Eyre to grow on. Although the shape of Bessie is not the best, we have a photograph of a superb feather dating back 90 years which displays the very fine feathering which is keenly sought after.

In 1970, Hubert Calvert contributed an article to the R.H.S. Daffodil and Tulip Year Book entitled 'Florists Tulips and The Wakefield & North of England Tulip Society'. This year a follow-up article has been included written by your editor with the title '153 Not Out'. The name of the publication is now Daffodils 1988-89, reflecting the change of emphasis. The article is accompanied by photographs by Maurice Evans of Habit De Noce and Sir Joseph Paxton.

I have recently been in correspondance with Ken Atkins in Canada, who although from the Wakefield area was unaware of the existence of the Florist Tulip until he emigrated. I was able to send him some seed which he has previously obtained from Hubert Calvert.

After the first Newsletter I received a number of letters from members who asked if it was possible to include a full list of members together with addresses in a future issue. This was discussed at the A.G.M and agreed in principle. If you have any objection to your address being included please let me know and I will ensure that only your name is included.

The Society has been invited to stage a show at the Gateshead Flower Festival which will open in May 1990. This would be a great opportunity to give a wider audience the opportunity of seeing the Florist Tulip and for that reason cannot be rejected out of hand. There are however a number of difficulties not least of which being accurately forecasting when the blooms will be out in bloom, and ensuring sufficient support from members to make a worthwhile show.

Trevor Mills has always been concerned that showing the Florist Tulip in a beer bottle with a 'Label has detracted from the beauty of the flower. He has therefore obtained from Bass 20 dozen identical unlabelled brown bottles which we will use in future. The Society will provide, the Company's museum at Burton on Trent with flowers to illustrate this unusual usage. Trevor assures us that the bottles were received empty.

Another member of the Society, Ruth Duthie, has published a book. The book entitled *Florist's Flowers and Societies*, looks at all the flowers which have so stimulated the interest of the enthusiast over the centuries, including a generous chapter on the tulip and our Society.

The research work she has carried out into the Royal National Tulip Society and which has resulted in the article in this newsletter obviously will have taken a great deal of time and effort for which we are grateful. When we read how even such a prestigious Society struggled on for so long with only token support from all but a few members it can only put into perspective our own endeavours. Members of our society showed at '*the National*' in the past, both at Manchester and London, and perhaps details of this can be included in future issues.

As the only remaining Florist Tulip Society, should we consider changing our name to reflect that we are the National Society?

Don't be surprised if you visit Castle Howard in North Yorkshire in May, to spy what look remarkably like English Florist Tulips. They will be. Jane Eyre has taken up an appointment there, and resumed growing after a period of education which confined her to the role of Judge. We wish her every success in her chosen career.

In view of the need to preserve the old breeders, I would like to find out which members still have the following and approximately how many flowering size bulbs which are still breeders:-

- Rose - Mabel, Helen Josephine (without black break), and Jessie
- Bybloemen - Talisman, Columbine, and Albert Tear
- Bizarre - George Hayward (believed extinct), and Lord Stanley

These are the ones which I believe to be the closest to disappearing in the breeder form.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the contributors to this newsletter and also to ask for copy for future issues. Don't worry too much about how it is written or that you haven't got a typewriter it's ideas that we are looking for.

At the time of writing this, 11th February, it has been another wonderful spring day with crocus, snowdrops and early daffodils in full bloom in the garden. In addition flowering cherries and other prunus trees are a mass of colour so that in the Wakefield area I would imagine that the season is about four weeks in advance of normal. Although there are instances of the show being held in the first week of May, I have no record of the main show being held in April, although in times when early shows were held, the Altofts show took place in that month. Could this be the year?

**WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND
TULIP SOCIETY**
(Established 1836)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th September 1988

Receipts		Payments	
Subscriptions and Donations	242.63	Postage	64.90
		Engraving	23.00
		Insurance	48.05
		Room Hire	31.50
		Stationery	3.42
		Glassware	15.00
		Newsletter	40.00
		Excess of Income over Expenditure	16.76
Total	242.63	Total	242.63

Balance Sheet

Cash in Bank 30.09.87	735.93	Cash in bank 30.09.88	853.35
Cash in Hand 30.09.87	58.00	Cash in hand 30.09.88	.23
Interest Received	42.89		
Excess of Income/expenditure	16.76		
Total	853.58	Total	853.58

Show Accounts 1988

Donations	50.00	Room Hire	69.00
Raffle	50.00	Glassware	60.00
Door Money	10.06	Stationery	6.00
Sale of Bloom	24.94		
Total	135.00	Total	135.00

+++++

+		+
+	THE NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY	+
+	(Northern Section)	+
+		+
+	Hon. Secretary	+
+	D. G. Hadfield, Esq	Annual Subscription
+	146 Queens Road,	+
+	Cheadle Hulme,	£3.00 Minimum
+	Cheadle,	+
+	Cheshire SK8 5HY	£3.50 Family
+		+
+	Telephone 061-485 6371	+
+		+
+		+
+++++		



Brunswick
Hotel



Whinney
Moor
Hotel



Holmfield
House