

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND
TULIP SOCIETY

(Established 1896)



NEWSLETTER
No. 3
AUTUMN 1991

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND
TULIP SOCIETY

(Established 1836)

OFFICERS 1990 - 1991

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V. Roozen, Esq

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C. Marsh, R. Perraudin, W. D. Tear

Annual Subscriptions

Members are reminded that Annual Subscriptions for 1992/1993 are due on or before the date of the Annual Show, May/June 1992 and are for the sum of £3 per member or £4 for Family Membership.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since our last newsletter quite a few things have occurred, particularly the re-introduction of the Dutch Tulip Show, and the publicity from the T.V. programme.

As the older members will remember the Dutch Tulip show used to be held at Altofts or Horbury a week before our Old English Tulip Show. This was held to provide finance for the latter show, which is now no longer necessary. The Dutch Tulip show has been re-introduced to create more interest in our Society and has been a great success on both occasions as regards the number of exhibitors and the quality of blooms.

The Society is indebted to Billy Tear who generously gave solid gold medals to be awarded at the first three Dutch Shows. Thank you Bill! The only thing that has been lacking at these shows is the low attendance by our members, please think about it for 1992 when the date is 9th May.

The result of the Gardeners World programme was really amazing with well over 500 letters received (and answered) by our Secretary. This has resulted in over 200 new members so far. To these new members I say 'Hello', thank you very much for your interest and membership of our very old Society.

For our new members I would like to outline the activities of the Society. We are not a hyperactive group, and incline to hibernate after the shows for quite some time. The two main events are the Dutch Tulip Show held in Wrenthorpe Village Hall and the English Florist Tulip Show held at Holmfield in Thornes Park, Wakefield. Several meetings are held during the year of which the A.G.M is the most important. This is held at our Dutch show venue in Wrenthorpe, Wakefield this year's date being Saturday 5th October 1991. The meeting is held on Saturday afternoon, with the usual A.G.M business concluded well before tea at 4 p.m., after which we have a slide show of the tulips and other flowers and other slides from our archives. Please try to attend this meeting if at all possible, you will be made very welcome.

To our old members I would like to thank you all for your assistance given at our annual shows. Many of you travel great distances to attend. Good show!

A word of thanks to our Secretary for the way she has handled the flood of letters after the T.V. programme. Well done Wendy. Also thanks to our former Secretary Keith Eyre who has sent bulbs to the BBC which will be featured in the Victorian Flower Garden Series in the Autumn. Keith received a handsome cheque which he has passed on to the Society.

So to all our members, thank you for your interest and help and I hope to see many of you at the A.G.M. in October. Good luck to you all.

John G. Hardman

EDITORIAL

It is now over two years since I began the preparation of this newsletter, and so I must apologise to those members who have waited so patiently for this third issue. As many will know I have spent most of that time working in Germany which has severely restricted any time I have had to spend on hobbies. Even planting my tulips was a great challenge which was only completed during the snows of early December, and which confirmed in the minds of my fellow allotment holders that most gardeners are mad but growers of the English Florist Tulip are the maddest of them all.

When I started with the preparation I never imagined the change which has taken place in the Society during the past year. Although the Society has been in existence for over 150 years it has never had a large active membership. Looking back through the minuta books dating back to 1908 there are numerous occasions when the secretary and only two others were present at meetings. It was often not possible to pay out prizemoney in full, and at some annual shows there were as few as half a dozen exhibitors. Despite all this the Society survived and the Florist Tulip continued to delight members and visitors who came to our shows. The Society has never been short of publicity, attracting articles in many National magazines in recent years, appearances on local television and radio, and featured in Geoffrey Smith's programme on the Tulip. Despite all this, the number of showing members has never exceeded twenty with total membership hovering around the one hundred mark.

When the Society was approached by Gardeners World early this year to take part in a programme to be filmed at the garden of one of our members, Timothy Clark, we provided the BBC as requested with information about the history of the Florist Tulip. At the last minute it fell to Keith Eyre, our just retired secretary, and daughter Jan to represent the officials of the Society, not knowing what form the programme would take. The rest is history. Even now almost four months later we are still getting enquiries to add to the five hundred to which we have already replied. The new members stand at over 200 to whom we hope, mainly through the generosity of Timothy Clark, to be able to give three or more bulbs for planting this autumn, but more of this later.

Because of this great influx of new members the content of this newsletter has been changed accordingly with repeats of articles, on growing tulips and raising from seed, which appeared in the two previous newsletters because they are felt to be appropriate to the new situation.

May I take this opportunity of asking for members to contribute articles for next year's issue on any related subject. Alternatively even if you don't feel able to communicate we would still like you to let us know what you think of the newsletter with any suggestions for articles you may have. I thought hard and long about the possibility of including some coloured photographs of tulips with this issue. With modern colour copying

technology I am sure that it is feasible, however at current costs it would have added another 70p to the cost of each copy or around £250 in total. Wearing my other hat, as Hon. Treasurer, and remembering my Yorkshire birth (a Scotsman is a generous Yorkshireman) I ruled it out on this occasion. We are however looking at ways of making coloured slides and prints available to members sooner rather than later.

Finally just a few notes about our contributors in no particular order.

Ruth Duthie - An expert on florist flowers and author of the book '*Florists' Flowers and Societies*' which everyone should read.

Bill Tear - A member for over fifty years and son of Albert Tear a great stalwart of the Society before the last World War. The one to beat at the Dutch Show.

Trevor Mills - From Walsall in the Midlands, keen grower and historian. Attends all the shows unless the car breaks down.

Victor Roozen - A patron from Holland, professional grower and exporter of 'Dutch' tulips for over fifty years but who loves the English Florist Tulip.

Maurice Evans - A superb photographer of flowers who has undertaken the job of photographing all the existing varieties of tulips.

John Ollerenshaw - Not just interested in tulips, but also an expert on Auriculas and Gold Laced Polyanthus.

Hubert Calvert - Done as much as anyone this century to keep the Florist Tulip and the Society alive. The most successful raiser of seedlings since the war.

Scott G. Kunst- Landscape History and Preservation
Ann Arbor, Michigan USA

I hope those members who found difficulty in reading the small print in the previous newsletters find that this issue is a little better. Unfortunately this is now the best that I can achieve with my present word processor and the copying equipment I use. There is no truth in the vicious rumour that the ones who had greatest difficulty were our show judges.

THE ENGLISH FLORIST TULIP

So many articles have been written on this subject that it would be difficult for me to write anything new. However as so many of our new members had probably never heard of the florist tulip until the Gardeners World programme in May I feel that I must at least make some attempt to explain, in fairly simple terms, what it is all about and at the same time recommend the writings of others so that the especially keen can start on a course of reading which will occupy the long winter evenings. One word of warning, however much I or other writers extol the virtues of this wonderful flower, until you actually see a superb bloom in the flesh you cannot appreciate its beauty.

Ruth Duthie in "*Florists' Flowers and Societies*" explains the difference between the current use of the word florist and its original meaning where it was applied to *'a person who grew plants for the sake of their decorative flowers rather than for any useful property the plant may have. Later it came to refer to one who grew only certain kinds of flowering plants and these to a very high standard, their excellence being tested at competitions held with fellow florists'*. The tulip along with the carnation, anemone, and ranunculus were the four flowers which by the middle of the Seventeenth Century had become recognised as "*florists' flowers*". The first half of the 19th Century saw the peak of the interest in the Florist tulip and it was during this period that the standards of what represented a good flower were laid down, standards which we still try to maintain today. From then on the number of tulip shows declined until, in 1936, the demise of the Royal National Tulip Society left the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society as the only show for the Florist tulip.

The English Florist Tulip therefore represents the result of three hundred years of hybridisation and selection to meet standards of perfection, long established and which have resulted in the beautiful flowers we have today.

In 1897 at Lectures on the English Tulip delivered at the Great Tulip Conference in Regents Park, J. W. Bentley said *' I will state briefly what constitutes excellence in a tulip. It must have a stem strong enough to support the flower upright, the flower must have six petals all equal in size and shape, and the flower when expanded should resemble the half of a hollow ball. The petals should be rounded at the top and not pointed, and they should fit closely together to make a semi-circular cup. The ground colour should be either clear yellow or clear white, the anthers bold and black, and the base - as that portion inside the flower immediately surrounding the ovary(sic) is called - should be a stainless circle of pure white or yellow.'* Here then are defined the main requirements of the English Florist Tulip which set them aside from other tulips, firstly the shape of the flower itself and secondly the requirement for the base colour of the flower, whether white or yellow, to be pure and free from any staining which occurs in most other tulips. Even the filaments which hold the anthers ideally must be free of any staining. These of course are the ideals and of course no tulip exists which meets all the requirements and so hybridisers still have goals to aim for.

Tulips are divided into three classes by the base colour. If a yellow base, then the tulip is a '*Bizarre*', irrespective of the petal colour. Tulips with a white base are split into two categories, '*Rose*' if the petal colour is rose, scarlet, crimson, or red, or '*Bybloemen*' if some shade of lilac, purple or black.

When unaffected by the virus the tulip is described as a '*breeder*' and the petal colour is essentially a single colour although quite often there is a lighter coloured line up the centre of the petal. The texture of the petals and the purity of their colour set off by the shape of the flower makes these flowers, in the eye of an enthusiast, so much better than any other form of hybrid tulip. However it is the result of the virus attack which has attracted the attention of enthusiast and casual observer alike over the centuries.

When the breeder is affected by the virus is is said to have '*broken*' or '*rectified*'. The result in 999 out of a 1000 breaks is a randomly marked flower which although pleasing to the eye is useless for exhibition purposes. However in the single case among a 1000 a well marked flower results which is classified as either a '*feather*' or a '*flame*'. In an ideal feathered flower the result of the breaking is a narrow unbroken line of marking around the edge of the petals. The colour of this marking is always a darker shade of the original petal colour. The remainder of the petal colour is displaced by the base colour, either yellow or white. In an ideal flamed flower then in addition to the continuous line of marking around the petal there is a central beam of colour up the centre of the petal which is joined to the feather markings by flames of similar colour separated by the yellow or white base colour. The skill of creating a good exhibition collection is in continuously selecting the best marked flowers and growing on the offsets from these flowers, however small, because these will eventually produce flowers marked almost identically to the larger bulb from which they came.

The breeder tulip is becoming a very rare flower in recent years, hence the comments in later articles. This is because the virus is spread by aphids which have had a field day in the recent very warm summers. George Hayward has disappeared in this form in the last ten years and there are probably less than half a dozen flowering size breeders in existence of several others. There is a possibility of restoring some of the older varieties to breeders by the use of meristem culture but as yet none of the attempts has got beyond one years growth.

Of the broken tulips, despite being affected by virus, most increase very well. However the quality of the markings of some of the broken varieties is not good and if the breeder has disappeared then there is no chance of getting a better marked flower. In the past growers often kept good breaks to themselves and did not distribute them among fellow exhibitors and so natural disasters such as mice, tulip fire or perhaps the death of the grower meant that the stock of a good flower disappeared for ever. Fortunately the spirit of competition is not as great today and there is a good inter-transfer of bulbs within members of the Society. let us hope that it always remains so. A bibliography of relevant articles and books appears later.

THE 156th ANNUAL SHOW.Held - 18th May 1991 - Holmfild House Wakefield

After two years when the show had been fixed too late for the majority of exhibitors it was nice to see so many flowers and exhibitors at this year's show. Although the quality of many of the flowers particularly the breeders was only average the large number of visitors attracted by the previous evening's T.V. had plenty to look at and a great deal of interest was created.

Jane Eyre was an easy winner of the engraved glassware for most points in the Open Classes. Peter Royles narrowly took the Novice Cup in a close competition with T. Nicholls and Sarah Wainwright the engraved glassware in the Extra Open Classes. Bill Tear won the glassware in the Vase Classes.

VASE CLASSES

Class 1 - Vase of 12 Tulips o/t English Florist

1st - W. Tear (Altofts) 2nd - Mrs A. Smales (Dodworth)
3rd - Mrs W. Akers

Class 2 - Vase of 6 Tulips o/t English Florist

1st J. Hardman (Whitley Bridge) 2nd - W. Tear
3rd - A. Hayward (Altofts)

Class 3 - Vase of 3 Tulips o/t English Florist

1st - W. Tear 2nd - W. Tear 3rd - Mrs A. Smales

Class 4 - Vase of 12 English Florist

1st - R. Smales (Dodworth) 2nd J. Wemyss-Cooke (Atherton)
3rd - K. Eyre (South Cave)

Class 5 - Vase of 9 English Florist

1st - Mrs S. Wainwright (Huddersfield) 2nd Mrs A. Smales
3rd - K. Eyre

OPEN CLASSES

Class 6 - Stand of 12 Breeders

No entries

Class 7 - Needham Memorial Cup and S. Knowles Trophy - Stand of 12 Rectified

	Feather	Feather	Flame	Flame
1st J. Akers	Rose-Julia Farnese	Wakefield	Akers Flame	Mabel
(Wrenthorpe)	Biz -James Wild	Lord F. Cavendish	Lord Stanley	Dr. Hardy
	Byb -Adonis	Habit de Noce	Columbine	Bessie

Class 8 - Local Silver Challenge Cup - Stand of 9 Dissimilar

	Breeder	Feather	Flame
1st - Miss J. Eyre	Rose Jessie	Wakefield	Flame Mabel
(Staffs)	Byb Jane Eyre	Habit de Noce	Columbine
	Biz Lord Stanley	James Wild	Dr. Hardy
2nd - J. Akers	Rose Hubert Calvert	Wakefield	Wakefield
	Byb Talisman	Adonis	Bessie
	Biz Goldfinder	Lord F. Cavendish	Lord Stanley
3rd - R. Smales	Rose Juliet	Julia Farnese	Wakefield
	Byb Music	Adonis	Bessie
	Biz Sam Barlow	Sam Barlow	Lord Stanley

Class 9 - Silver Challenge Cup - Stand of 6 Rectified

1st - Miss J. Eyre	Rose	Feather	Flame
	Byb	Mabel	Jessie
	Biz	Agbrigg	Music
		James Wild	Sir J. Paxton
2nd - K. Eyre	Rose	Wakefield	Wakefield
	Byb	Habit de Noce	Columbine
	Biz	James Wild	Lord Stanley
3rd - Mrs S. Wainwright	Rose	Wakefield	Wakefield
	Byb	Columbine	Columbine
	Biz	Lord F. Cavendish	Lord F. Cavendish

Class 10 - The G S Hunter Memorial Cup - Stand of 6 Breeders

1st - Miss J. Eyre	Rose	Jessie	Juliet
	Byb	Jane Eyre	Columbine
	Biz	James Wild	Lord Stanley

Class 11 - Stages Cup - 1 Breeder 1 Flamed 1 Feathered

	Breeder	Feather	Flame
1st - R. Smales	James Wild	James Wild	James Wild
2nd - K. Eyre	James Wild	Royal Sovereign	Sir J. Paxton
3rd - Miss J. Eyre	James Wild	Royal Sovereign	Sam Barlow

Class 12 - Silver Plate - 3 Breeders

	Rose	Byb	Biz
1st - M. Hainsworth (York)	Juliet	Music	Lord Stanley
2nd - R. Smales	Helen Josephine	Bessie	Goldfinder
3rd - Miss J. Eyre	Juliet	Jane Eyre	Lord Stanley

Class 13 - Pair of Flamed

1st - J. Akers	Mabel (Rose)	James Wild (Biz)
2nd - Mrs S. Wainwright	Columbine (Byb)	Lord F. Cavendish (Biz)
3rd - K. Eyre	Mabel (Rose)	Sir J. Paxton (Biz)

Class 14 - Pair of Feathered

1st - J. Akers	Wakefield (Rose)	James Wild (Biz)
2nd - K. Eyre	Wakefield (Rose)	Agbrigg (Byb)
3rd - Miss J. Eyre	Adonis (Byb)	Royal Sovereign (Biz)

Class 15 - 1 Breeder

1st - R. Smales	Goldfinder (Biz)
2nd - R. Perraudin (Wakefield)	James Wild (Biz)
3rd - M. Hainsworth	Columbine (byb)

Class 16 - 1 Flamed

1st - Miss J. Eyre	Sir J. Paxton (Biz)
2nd - K. Eyre	Sir J. Paxton (Biz)
3rd - J. Hardman	Lord Stanley (Biz)

Class 17 - 1 Feathered

1st - M. Hainsworth	Wakefield (Rose)
2nd - K. Eyre	Agbrigg (Byb)
3rd - Miss J. Eyre	James Wild (Biz)

Class 18 - 1 Seedling Breeder

1st - H. Calvert (Wakefield)	James Wild X Sir J. Paxton (Biz)
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NOVICE CLASSES

Class 19 - Pan of three stages

	Breeder	Feather	Flame
1st - T. Nicholls (Chesterfield)	James Wild	Columbine	James Wild
2nd - P. Royles (Clwyd)	Helen Josephine	James Wild	Akers Flame

Class 20 - 1 Breeder

3rd - T. Nicholls

Class 21 - 1 Flame

1st - P. Royles	Bessie (Byb)
2nd - Dr K. Swift (Bridgnorth)	Wakefield (Rose)
3rd - T. Nicholls	Columbine (Byb)

Class 22 - 1 Feathered

1st - Dr. K. Swift	Habit de Noce (Byb)
2nd - P. Royles	Columbine (Byb)
3rd - T. Nicholls	Wakefield (Rose)

Class 23 - Gina Roozen Cup - 3 Breeders

No entries

EXTRA OPEN CLASSES

Class 24 - 1 Breeder

1st - M. Hainsworth Juliet (Rose)

Class 25 - 1 Flamed

1st - Mrs. S. Wainwright	Sir J. Paxton (Biz)
2nd - M. Hainsworth	Lord Stanley (Biz)
3rd - A. Robinson	Wakefield (Rose)

Class 26 - 1 Feathered

1st - Mrs. S. Wainwright	Sir J. Paxton (Biz)
2nd - T. Nicholls	Adonis (Byb)
3rd - M. Hainsworth	Adonis (Byb)

Class 27 - Pan of three stages

1st - Mr. J. Wemyss-Cooke All Goldfinder

PREMIER BLOOMS

Best Breeder and Best Bloom in Show	R. Smales - Goldfinder
Best Feathered	Miss J. Eyre - Agbrigg
Best Flamed	K. Eyre - Sir J. Paxton
Best in Novice Classes	Dr. K. Swift - Habit de Noce (Fe)
Best in Extra Open Classes	Mrs. S. Wainwright - Sir J. Paxton (Fe)

The Dutch Tulip ShowHeld - 11th May 1991 - Village Hall Wrenthorpe

The Dutch show produced entries in both quality and quantity as good as anyone could remember for this small show, our Chairman John Hardman winning the Gold Medal after 35 years of trying, and Don Brears the Mary Tear Memorial Trophy for most points in the show. Unfortunately attendance from the general public was almost non-existent which was a pity, because the two long lines of tabling were filled with the most beautiful selection of flowers

- Class 1 The Perkin Trophy and Gold Medal
 1st - J. Hardman (Whitley Bridge)
 2nd - D. Brears (Worsborough Bridge)
 3rd - Mrs A. Smales (Dodworth)
 4th - D. Brears
- Class 2
 1st - Mrs A. Smales 2nd - D. Brears 3rd - J. Hardman
- Class 3
 1st - Mrs A. Smales 2nd - D. Brears 3rd - J. Hardman
- Class 4
 1st - W. Tear (Altofts) 2nd - A. Robinson (Enfield) 3rd - D. Brears
- Class 5
 1st - W. Tear 2nd - Mrs A. Smales 3rd - D. Brears
- Class 6
 1st - D. Brears 2nd - A. Robinson 3rd - W. Tear
- Class 7
 1st - A. Hayward (Altofts) 2nd - W. Tear 3rd - D. Brears
- Class 8
 1st - Mrs A. Smales 2nd - W. Tear 3rd - D. Brears
- Class 9
 1st. Mrs P. Uttley (Barnsley) 2nd W. Tear 3rd - Mrs W. Akers (Wakefield)
- Class 10 - 1 Breeder
 1st M. Hainsworth (York)
- Class 11 - Pair of Flamed
 1st - J. Akers (Wakefield)
- Class 12 - Pair of Feathered
 1st - J. Akers
- Class 13 - 1 Breeder 1 Flamed 1 Feathered
 1st - J. Akers

Mary Tear Memorial Trophy for most points in classes 1 - 8 to D. Brears

The A G M 1990

This was held on the 6th October 1990 at the Village Hall, Wrenthorpe, (opening at 1.30 p.m.) with a good attendance of members and their guests. who were warmly welcomed by Mr John Hardman the chairman.

Several had travelled a considerable distance, the Robinsons from London, Dr Katherine Swift from Shropshire, Peter and Beryl Royles from Clwyd and Miss Harrington and Mr Dupson from Trowbridge in Wiltshire.

The Acting Secretary, Mrs Wendy Akers said that she had enjoyed doing the job which had come to her by default. Keith Eyre the previous secretary had taken his well earned retirement and flown off to a tropical island, the treasurer James Akers was working in Germany and the two annual shows were imminent, and she had stepped into the breach. The society was the only one in the country dealing with tulips and consequently a great many enquiries were received, many channelled through the RHS. She had found a great deal of interesting material while looking through the old correspondence which had come with the job.

The treasurer James Akers tabled his balance sheet and financial report which is printed inside the back cover. Overall he found that the society's finances were in good order. We are not primarily interested in accumulating money but in preserving the tulip and having a good show each year.

Election of officers : Mrs Wendy Akers was elected as secretary, proposed by C. Marsh, seconded by M. Hainsworth carried unanimously.

The rest of the officers to continue, these being Treasurer Mr J.L. Akers and committee Messrs : W. Tear, R. Perraudin, C. Marsh, M. Hainsworth and A. Hayward. M. Hainsworth proposed and M. Cotton seconded that K. N. Eyre be added to the committee who would benefit from his long experience, this was carried. No new vice presidents were added.

A long general discussion followed on the subject of preservation the breeders. To begin the discussion a letter from Mr Victor Roozen was read (see page 17) and Mr Akers described Mr Roozen for those present who didn't know him. He is a Dutch tulip wholesaler who has supported the society for many years. He had ensured that a representative selection of breeders is grown in the Hortus Bulborum which is a living museum of the tulip in Holland. An interesting discussion followed with many ideas put forward. These will be collated and discussed at a future meeting, the consensus was that the discussion had been a valuable exercise.

The slide show of tulips grown by Albert Tear in the 1960s caused members to gasp at the large beds of individual varieties, the quality of the blooms simply emphasised the problems we have in the 1990s.

After a delicious tea and a raffle which raised the sum of £22 from prizes donated by M. Hainsworth, C. Bone and J. Akers the bulb distribution took place.

We ended the day with slides from the 1990 show taken by Maurice Evans, these included several interesting new breeders. Then we saw a selection of the rare and interesting flowers grown by Maurice this year, which were quite outstanding.

The meeting ended at 5.45 pm.

LORD STANLEY 1799 - 1869

By Trevor Mills

In 1820 as soon as the law allowed him to do so Edward Stanley followed the precedent of his father and grandfather (of horse race fame) and entered the House of Commons. His constituency was Stockbridge in Hampshire, in which every male rate-payer had the vote.

Lord Derby had recently bought Stockbridge, this being the fashion, by wooing the electors expansively and expensively. Thus his grandson could bolster the Whig cause, although he did not make his maiden speech until March 1824. In 1826 he abandoned Stockbridge and was returned M.P. for Preston.

Early in 1827, along with a handful of other Whigs, he willingly crossed the floor of the House to join George Canning's moderate Tory government. He became Lord of the Treasury and then Under-Secretary for the Colonies, but in 1830 the first Whig minister for half a century invited him back to become Chief Secretary of Ireland. May 1834 saw him resigning his post to a seat below the gangway. He was nominally still a Whig, but in reality was an independent member attached to neither party.

From 1834 to 1837 Lord Stanley (as he became on his grandfather's death) together with his handful of supporters in the Commons - the 'Stanleyites' - maintained this independence.

It was during these years in opposition that Lord Stanley was first immobilized by gout. He lost his boyish looks and from 1840 they steadily gave way to a strained appearance. Nevertheless as host he maintained a reputation for lively and entertaining conversation.

At the time of his father's death in 1851 the new 14th Earl was fifty-two years of age. During the previous twenty years he had been a prominent politician. Consequently, throughout Britain, 'Lord Stanley' became a name more widely known than Lord Derby. He became Prime Minister on three occasions - 1852, 1858-1859 and 1866-1868.

Stanley at home was different from the political leader and orator known in London. He was a lively, rattling sportsman, apparently devoted to racing and rabbit-shooting: gay, boisterous, almost rustic in his manners, he was without refinement, and if one did not know his powers and position one would find it impossible to believe that Stanley of Knowsley could be the Stanley of the House of Commons. But Stanley never "played" politics. To help to govern the country was to him a duty which his birth had imposed upon him and however casually he might appear to live his life, Lord Stanley never shirked a duty.

During the 1860's to the end of 1866 he found his gout disabled him more than ever; through the Christmas festivities he had to be carried downstairs.

He even sold his race-horses and Newmarket stables because he could no longer go racing. His family thought he would never recover from the severe attack he suffered in 1864.

Lord Stanley died at Knowsley on 23rd October 1869 in his seventy-first year. He was buried in the village church which his father had built a few yards outside the boundary wall at Knowsley Park.

Lord Stanley - The Flower

Of the many Florist Tulips raised by Tom Storer of Derby in the second half of the 19th Century just three remain today,, Dr. Hardy, Sam Barlow and Lord Stanley. Interestingly, all three are bizarre tulips and each produces a good flamed flower.

Lord Stanley is very easy to recognise among a bed of tulips because although it is among the first to flower it has such excellent stamina that it is almost the last to die and in very cold flowering seasons will remain in full bloom for three to four weeks. Because of its long flowering season it also grows taller than most of its companions on the bed.

Although raised about 1860 the breeder still exists and this produces a quite small flower, mahogany brown with a good clear yellow base although the filaments sometimes appear stained. When broken Lord Stanley produces both flamed and feathered flowers.

The flamed flowers which we grow today do not have the quality of Sir Joseph Paxton or a good Sam Barlow but because of being available at both early and late shows will always be represented in most entries in the 12, 9 or 6 rectified classes as was the case in this year's show.

As a feathered flower the breaks we have are a little short of being first prize-winners in the single bloom classes because of the excess of random marking within the petals instead of the marking being confined to the edges of the petals.

The markings in the broken flowers are mahogany-red and as is normal in broken tulips, much darker than the breeder colour. The colour does not run even in the hottest sun despite the very long period of flowering.

Surprisingly & r Daniel Hall in his book, 'The Tulip' of 1929, does not mention Lord Stanley and I suspect that this was because it was not among his favourite bizarre flowers. However in his lecture delivered May 20th 1902 which is published in the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society although he did not give it the status of a bizarre variety to be discussed at any length he does say "*Other Bizarres that may be recommended are 'Lord Stanley,' which though rather small, is excellent both in shape and marking, either as a feathered or a flamed flower;*". In addition he used photographs of both flamed and feathered Lord Stanley to accompany the article, the feather being a much better and finely marked flower than any we have seen in recent years.

Because of it's existence in all three forms Lord Stanley can be shown to advantage in the Stages Class where preference is given to three blooms of the same name but invariably the feather will let it down. Because the breeder still exists we can only hope for a future feathered break of the quality seen in that photograph of 90 years ago.

TULIP - BREAKING VIRUS

By Maurice Evans

The Royal Horticultural Society's Daffodil and Tulip Year Book for 1970 contains an article 'Virus Diseases in Tulips' by D.H.M. Van Slogteren and C. J. Asjos of the Laboratorium Von Bloembollenderzoek, the Flower Bulb Research Centre, Lisse, Netherlands.

The tulips used in their research and to which their article refers were not English Florists' Tulips. However in the Daffodil and Tulip Year Book for 1960, the late Prof. Dr. E. Van Slogteren in an article about broken tulips states '*The symptoms of breaking have been known since the introduction of tulips from Asia Minor and Persia about 1550*'. It seems extremely unlikely therefore that English Florists' Tulips are infected by viruses different from those in the above article.

The following points about tulip breaking virus (TBV) are derived from that article:-

1.1 TBV is mainly transmitted by aphids. As the virus is stylet-borne (carried by slender pointed instrument), winged aphids by probing on infected plants for a few seconds are immediately able to transmit the virus to the next healthy plant. Spraying with insecticides has only limited effect. Fumigation can only be recommended in greenhouses and in bulk stores of dry bulbs to prevent infestation with aphids and bulb mites. Broken tulips are most frequently found in the later flowering tulips because of the greater number of aphids around at their time of growing and flowering. Cultivation of broken tulips should be at a distance of not less than 25 metres (80 feet) from other tulips.

1.2 The virus can also be transmitted artificially by sap inoculation (rubbed with firm sand into the leaf, stem or bulb) and by grafting. Decapitation of the flowers, which is done as a precaution against 'tulip fire' (*botrytis tulipae*), if done with a contaminated knife, may be responsible for transmission to a limited extent. The chance of infection is much enhanced by cutting the flowers low on the stalk.

1.3 TBV can be present in species of lily, sometimes without causing visible symptoms, therefore these should not be grown near to breeder tulips.

2.1 TBV consists of two different strains, a virulent strain known as severe tulip - breaking virus (SVTB) and a mild strain (MVTB).

2.2 Infection with TBV interferes in the cycle of anthocyanin (red or blue pigment in cell sap) formation in petal in pink, red and purple varieties, resulting in a colour break. White and yellow flowering tulip varieties (selfs) are incapable of breaking by their lack of anthocyanins in the epidermis (the true skin below the cuticle).

2.3 In varieties possessing anthocyanins, three main types of breaking can be distinguished.

- Full Break (FB) in which formation of anthocyanins is inhibited in areas of the petals where as a result, the colour of the mesophyll tissue (inner tissue of the petals - either white or yellow) is exposed.

- Self Break (SB) in which the colour is intensified into darker streaks and stripes on the petals where anthocyanins are formed in excess.

- Average Break (AB) in which FB and SB occurs simultaneously in the same petals, implying that in some areas the mesophyll colour is exposed, in others the original colour is unchanged and in still others it is intensified.

3.1 In a large group of tulip varieties the type of breaking depends on the infecting virus strain. In these varieties STBV incites full break, MTBV incites self break and infection by both results in average break.

3.2 Another group of tulip varieties are known to be incapable of full breaking. They will always develop self break when infected with either STBV or MTBV or a mixture of both. A proportion of the flowers produced by the laterals (offsets) in the next season will show tiny streaks of full break, possibly by mutation of MTBV into STBV.

3.3 If plants of a pink variety are infected in the greenhouse at a young stage, when the sprouts are about three centimetres in length, the flowers developing four weeks later will show a deviating type of breaking. These current season symptoms consist of a full break restricted to the basal part of the petals and a very intensive self-break in the upper part. In the next season these laterals will produce flowers showing the more irregular pattern of average break. In moderate climatic zones infection occurs too late in the year for flowers with current season symptoms to be produced.

3.4 In addition to flower symptoms, a more or less pronounced mottling or striping in the leaves can be observed in some virus infected varieties; in others leaf symptoms may be indistinct or completely lacking. As a rule plants infected with MTBV only, do not show symptoms in the leaves. Later in the season it may become helpful to examine leaves of suspected plants against the light, as by disappearance of chlorophyll, transparent areas become distinguishable.

4. Reading about the Tulip - Breaking Virus, the following questions come to mind:-

4.1 Are the prize winning strains of English Florists' Tulips infected with either STBV or MTBV or some combination of both?

4.2 Does the existence of STBV and MTBV and apparently any combination of the two explain why a 'breeder' sometimes breaks well (in Florists' terms) or sometimes breaks badly?

- 4.3 Could a 'badly' broken tulip be improved by inoculation with the sap of a 'well' broken one?
- 4.4 Should breaking always be left to chance or should an offset bulb of a new breeder be inoculated with the sap of a 'well' broken one?
- 4.5 Some 'breeders' never break well. Is this because in their ancestry there is a strain of tulips under paragraph 3.2?
- 4.6 If the answer to 4.5 is yes and the purpose of breeding is to produce good 'flames' and 'feathers' then should such breeders no longer be used in breeding programmes?
- 4.7 The photographs accompanying the article in the Year Book show fairly clearly full-break, self-break and average-break. Can similar breaks among EFT's be identified and photographed?
- 4.8 Having identified PB, SB and AB bulbs among EFT's, can cross inoculation of sap be carried out on offsets to see the effects, if any?
- 4.9 The article shows that scientific examination (analysis) can determine which strain or combination of TBV's affects a tulip, presumably using electron microscopy. Is this an expensive procedure? If some of the better breaks were examined would it give a lead towards breeding more 'good breeders' or towards inoculating more or some as in 4.4? Could some University Botany department or some researcher(s) be persuaded to have a go?
- 4.10 Further thought would be sure to give rise to other questions but perhaps members prefer to leave it all to chance. Why not ask them?

Reflections after the 1989 Show

By Victor Roozen

The 1989 Show is said to have been the Show of the Breeders. The relatively great number of Breeders in this years Show was a surprise and joy for me.

They once more showed what a special type of Tulip the English Florist Tulip is. They all were there, The Roses, The Bizarres, and the Bybloemen, the latter's name-pronunciation always sound in my continental ears like 'Bibblemen'.

But though, the joy of seeing all these Breeders again was a bit tempered by looking at the name-labels: too many times the same exhibitors, and that means there are only very few members actively cultivating breeders. I got the feeling : do members really realise adequately what treasures they still do have?

An almost extinct typically British strain of Tulips, having been developed and selected during almost 200 years, tailored to the typical British taste for the flowershape, the flower-pureness, the flowering time.

Though, no one knows how and what these tulips exactly are, no scientific data are known.

By consequence, these tulips could, theoretically, disappear without anyone having known about their eventual - not sure - qualities, value and potential for further tulip breeding in the future.

In a way the growing of these fine and special Tulips only by a small group of enthusiastic private persons - and their work cannot be praised enough - can turn out to be a certain risk too. Moreover, the best private grower, specially nowadays, cannot compete with a professional one.

For instance: the relatively small flowers seen in the Show, obviously derived from small bulbs, these small flowers do immediately become importantly larger as soon as the bulbs are professionally cultivated to professional first size bulbs of 12cm. upwards.

Having got that size (12cm. upwards), some of these breeders show to, have favourably shaped bulbs, with a good skin and good abilities for mechanical handling.

Simple facts, seen with the unbiased judging eyes of a wholesaler who has professionally worked with tulips for half a century.

On the other hand it may not be kept quiet - and I do realise that I do hurt some people and therefore I apologize - that no Scientific Institute ever will start research and/or experiments with material which is not sufficiently available in virus-free condition.

To make a long story short : in my opinion the survival of the English Florist Tulip depends on the question : Can the Breeders be brought back into professional cultivation?

On a small scale would already be enough.

The breeding of new cultivars is of course only to be encouraged, but for the time being it cannot be of much help for the continuity of the strain.

Continental practice is that it takes up to 10 years from sowing seed until bulbs of a size big enough to see what may be expected.

It takes another 10 years to grow a quantity large enough to judge seriously.

And the results?

Out of 100 seedlings bred from seriously selected parent plants there will be no more than one specimen which may be better than the parents. Two out of a hundred is a great exception.

Miracles do occur, but far, far less than the grower/breeder has hoped for. Not to say how difficult it is to see the faults and defects of their own 'kids'.

Back to professional cultivation, how could that be effectuated?

I believe that if a small group of Members could decide to grow in cooperation, separately but together, a small number of the still available Breeders during the next 5 to 6 years, that doing so, together small stocks of those Breeders could be rebuilt.

The Society meanwhile should try to contact a good bulb-grower/retailer in this country, with the proposal to take over in due time these small stocks for further cultivation.

Of course it even then will take at least a dozen years of 'intensive care' and stringent selection but then these English Breeders could perhaps make their re-entry in the retailer's catalogue.

With the help, and maybe even financial support, of the Society more information could be given in that catalogue, not to forget photographs.

In Britain it is possible that small, but highly specialised, daffodil growers can exist by selling their expensive novelties only.

Why should it then be impossible for a good British grower/retailer to find customers for these historical British tulips?

HISTORICAL BRITISH TULIPS, almost lost, but rescued, revitalised and brought back to the British Public by the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society.

That great organisation **ENGLISH HERITAGE**, says proudly and correctly; *'we ensure the treasures of the past are maintained for future generations.....'*

That is valid for the Wakefield Society too, English Florist Tulips are an English Heritage as well.

For Commercial reasons and enabled by his stock, the retailer will bring these tulips to Shows to Shows up to now unreachable for the Society by lack of stock and probably by lack of manpower too.

The interest lies on both sides: the business for the retailer, the contacts with the public for the Society.

All the same what one has to offer, good relations with the public.

New members could be won.....

New people could have the opportunity to learn - by joining the Society - all the finesses and raffinesses of ... Broken Tulips.

Because as long as there will fly aphids around in Britain, they will see as their task to make also those new Members happy with what we all like so much : fine broken English Florist Tulips.

Perhaps there even will be in the future new feathered Biblemen.

May this thought be a liniment on the wounds made by the above Satanic Tulip Verses.

THE DECLINE OF THE BREEDER TULIP

By Bill Tear

Assisting with the judging of the main show in 1991 was my return to the English Florist Tulip scene and I was shocked to see the decline of the Breeder tulip over the last 10 years, in the lack of size and vigour and in the scarcity of blooms on the showbench.

This leads me to believe that the Breeders are not getting the correct growing treatment.

Breeders need a rich growing soil, this will give vigour and resistance to breaking, plus making more and stronger offsets. I remember the tonnes of muck given to our Dahlia and Potato beds, which were followed by the Breeder tulips.

We used Mushroom Compost, Chicken Manure and Landmark Fertilizer.

The Mushroom Compost provided the fibre and helped to lighten the soil with the Gypsum and Lime Chips but had very little food value.

The Chicken Manure had been stacked outside for approximately 12 to 18 months and was real stuff, full of small red worms. These worked wonders on the land.

Landmark was from Birds of Duxford, Cambs. and was waste from the knackers yards, steam sterilized, but not for the squeamish, it contained everything! (Now unobtainable)

All the Breeders grew to approximately 24" tall and very few broke, the few that did were dug out in flower and transferred to the mixed tulip bed.

In 1968 I exhibited 11 vases of 12 blooms at the Chelsea Flower Show. These Breeders were examined with great interest by Mr Herbert Barr who was the last surviving member of the nurserymen of King Street, Covent Garden, London. He admired the length of stem and size of bloom.

In 1868 Charles Darwin wrote in his book Variation of Animals and Plants : "In the propagation of Tulip seedlings raised (some) are called Selfs or Breeders which consist of one plain colour on a white or yellow base.

If these are cultivated on a dry or poor soil (they) become broken or variegated and produce new varieties."

He goes on to say : "A tulip however which has already Broken if treated with a strong manure is likely to flush or loose by a second act of reversion its variegated colours."

My dad was doing this with the variety Dr. Hardy. He had removed most of the variegation out of the petals so that it was almost a Breeder.

He said that broken blooms could break more than once, that was why he never sorted out bad breaks, he just took out the broken blooms from the breeder beds.

He used to sell his bulbs as grown, no sorting out, £1 per 100 including the named breeders. The success of his customers can be seen by reading the names of the winners of the Novice Cup from 1965 to about 1974.

Do not worry about Breeders and Broken being grown near together, it never made any difference at Altofts, we grew them in adjoining beds.

A good rich soil is the answer to the breaking problems. Dig in plenty of Fish, Blood and Bonemeal in the spring before the autumn planting.

JOTTINGS

Collected by W. D. Tear

From The Gardeners Magazine 1828

"The North British Professional Gardeners Society held a meeting June 13th 1827 at Edingbrough and prizes were awarded for TULIPS, PEACHES, POTATOES, CAULIFLOWERS, RHUBARB, RANUNCULUS, GERANIUMS and DOUBLE BALSAMS."

"A real mixture" - Bill

From Thomas Hogg - nurseryman, Paddington, London 1828

"The new idea for Breaking Seedling or Breeder Tulips I cannot, in justice to those who have subscribed to the proposal I made, disclose publicly at present. I am sorry it has subjected you to so much animadversion;

I certainly do not hold myself altogether free from censure, by having offered only hearsay evidence, instead of having waited to give direct and positive proof; however, if I live till next May I shall be prepared to do so.

Why should your Perthshire correspondent show "Sa muckle wrath" for who ever heard of a Scotchman catching TULIPIMANIA?

Does he consider this new idea a mere "ignis fatuus", a will-o-the-wisp, broached merely to hoax "the cullers of simples"?

I hope I shall be enabled to convince him as well as others, that the scheme is rational and the success certain.

T. HOGG July 25th

From Gerards Herball, 1636

THE TEMPERATURE AND VERTUES OF TULIPA

There hath not been any thing set downe of the antient or later writers, as touching the Nature or Vertures of the Tulipa, but they are esteemed specially for the beauty of their floures.

The roots preserved with sugar, or otherwise dressed, may be eaten, and are no unpleasant nor any way offensive meat, but rather good and nourishing.

From the Editor

Wakefield Herald - 1882 'Tulipomania'

But we have a word to say in regard to the men who raise these flowers. Their great virtue is that of indomitable patience. Some of them have been at their work for forty and even fifty years. The bulbs are as dear to them as children. They love them with an intensity of love which those outside cannot understand. turn out of the square of Wrengate and inspect their little plots of beauty. Can anyone doubt that the influence of this beauty enters into their hearts, and helps to make them better men.

JOHN SLATER, Florist of Cheetham Hill, Manchester, 1798 1883

By Ruth Duthie

Slater is now known only to florists interested in the history of the edged auricula; for he wrote, re-wrote and was endlessly quoted on the topic of the origin of the edged flower; he named 'Rule Arbitrator', a green-edge, and 'Hortaine', a white edge, the first of their kind, which were already in production in 1757. However, his own speciality was the English florist tulip, of which he raised a number, including 'Julia Farnese', a rose, still in cultivation.

He was born in Manchester though he only moved to Cheetham Hill sometime in the 1840s and his father was a grower of auriculas. I know nothing of his early days but by 1841 he was advertising his plants, auriculas, polyanthus and tulips in the Gardener's Chronicle in its first year of issue. In 1843 he wrote a book, A Descriptive Catalogue of Tulips, which provides a valuable account of the early stages in the development of the English florist tulip. This in fact began, not in the Industrial North or Midlands, but around London (his account is too long to give here but since it is of interest and his book is scarce, I am sending a photocopy of the pages concerned to the Editor). Slater tells of how he had visited Haarlem and Amsterdam in 1840, and how he found the Dutch concerned with 'mere matters of trade'; he wrote, 'At the present period the Dutch are a century behind the English as raisers of tulips and pay little attention to seedlings'. According to him, from early days most of the finest tulips were raised in monasteries of Lille, Ghent and Valenciennes, though as at present most of the tulips retailed came from Holland. This suggestion that the raising of new kinds was mainly an amateur activity echoes what we know of auricula growing in the 1730s, for this was mostly done by amateurs in what we now know as Belgium, often in abbeys and monasteries. From the time that Tulipomania ended in 1637, florist activity in the Dutch Republic was almost exclusively commercial.

Slater's book provided a long list of the florists' tulips of the period, giving a short description and often the raiser's name. Though he did not give the retail price it is clear the cost was high for good new varieties; for instance, 'Mr. Davy of Kings-road, Chelsea, broke a Tulip named La Jolie de Davy, for which he was offered £157.10, and declined taking it' while Davy had bought 'Fanny Kemble' for £100. This tulip and 'Polyphemus' raised by a Mr Clarke, were the most famous of these early varieties, much used as parents of new varieties and successful at shows for a good part of the nineteenth century. Slater had raised a good many of the listed tulips but so far as I could judge no variety in his catalogue is still in cultivation today. Slater seems to have been most successful with roses, and one which is mentioned from the 1850s called 'Kate Connor' was particularly successful. I have not traced the date of 'Julia Farnese' but it must have been one of his later productions.

No second edition of his tulip book appeared but he continued to write articles about the plant for floricultural journals and in 1852 he edited the Floricultural Review. In 1860 he wrote the useful short book the Amateur Florist's Guide. He continued to judge at shows and like so many of the nineteenth century keen florists got into arguments with other florists on the nicety of certain features. There was much discussion on the desirable proportions of the ideal flower, whether a hemisphere or slightly less and there were also differences of opinion between northern and southern growers on other properties required in the show flower.

It seems strange that no obituary to this noted florist should be found in any of the horticultural journals and the explanation seems to be that Slater had a disabling accident in 1857. The information about this comes from some entries in the Midland Florist of 1857 and '58, which are in some unbound numbers of the journal. Here the outer pages, with advertisements, which are normally discarded when the monthly issues are bound into the annual volume, are still present. He announced that after this accident he could no longer care for his nursery and first he was selling off his carnations and picotees. Later he sought to sell his collection of 15,000 to 20,000 tulip bulbs (recently augmented when he bought the collection of the late Henry Groom) as one lot (August) and then, in September, when he had failed to do so, he offered them in separate lots. Presumably in the years after he had given up his nursery he had more or less disappeared from the florist scene.

Happily the Manchester Guardian of 18 October 1883 did print an obituary in which there were some more accounts of his horticultural activities, including his having been one of the founders of the Manchester Botanical Garden. It was also stated that he was a skilled and sought-after violinist. It seems he had no children. [*Ed. I am informed by Jack Wemyss-Cooke that the aforementioned Julia Farnese was named after his daughter who had married an Italian gentleman.*]

In looking through notes made from various journals I found one which confirms the date of the establishment of the Wakefield Tulip Society, for in the Florist and Pomologist of 1883 there is a report of the Society's show: it stated it had continued 'for the long period of 48 years'.

Notes on the cultivation of English Florist Tulips
Hubert V. Calvert April 1980

The reason for these notes is that we are very concerned about the large number of English Florist 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 English Florist tulips is described by Charles 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 in 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 Florist's tulips were grown in the same bed year after year, the six 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. Charles 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 it with a spade and I always use a garden fork. The sub-soil is clay, but as it is on the slope and stony 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 the incorporation of humus forming materials and general fertilizers, the weeds grew taller which indicated that fertility was being improved.

When I started growing English Florist 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 so long as a garden fork and allows the rows to be nearer together. When covering up I walk 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 is 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 almost touching. When planting flamed and feathered sorts, offsets are best planted with the parent bulbs and 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 so that 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 following planting. 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 up 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 other migrates 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 break 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 to 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 available from the Secretary. 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 will always break 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 sometime breaks very badly and should then be discarded. It will, however also break into a superb flamed bloom and should then be carefully preserved together with all its offsets. Mabel is in the same category and when right often receives the best flamed award. Bessie, Columbine and Lord Stanley break both flamed and feathered and it is worthwhile persevering with any doubtful ones before discarding them. Juliet 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.

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.

Ed. As this article was originally distributed ten years ago the chemicals mentioned may have been replaced by more effective ones.

Previous Shows

Once again thanks to the facilities at Balne Lane Library, Wakefield I have been able to obtain details about previous shows. Unfortunately because the report of 150 years ago, 1841, in the Wakefield Journal & West Riding Herald is held in microfilm form only as white on black it has not been possible to reproduce it here in an acceptable form so you will have to rely on my having produced an accurate copy. The Show Schedule was almost identical with that held in 1839 (see 1989 Newsletter), with six prizewinners in each class. Breeders were shown in addition to Selfs and the names of varieties are also given, although none unfortunately still exist today, and note the frequency of French varieties (see article by Ruth Duthie - p21)

The 1891 show was reported in both The Wakefield Journal & West Riding Herald (Left) and The Wakefield Express (Right) of 13th June 1891. Unfortunately only the premier blooms are given by the former with 'Sir Joseph Paxton' as the best flame as it was at this years show 100 years later. 'Lord F. Cavendish' is still widely grown but 'Alice Grey' has long disappeared. G. Gill was the grandson of John Gill who was showing in 1841.

150 Years Ago 1841

TULIP SHOW.

The Wakefield Amateur Florist's Society, held their annual Tulip Show at the house of Mrs. Heald, the Royal Oak Inn, when the prizes were awarded as follow:-

FEATHERED BIZARDS. -1. Duc de Savoy, Isaac Parker; 2,4. Briffets Yellow and Gigantum, Mark Blackburn; 3. La Cantique, William Fox; 5. Arch Duke, John Gill, sen.; 6. Gold Beares, Messrs. Thornes and Whittaker.

FEATHERED BYBLOMENS.-1,3. Light Ragot and Rein de Egypt, Isaac Parker; 2,4,5. Washington, Bein fait Extra, and Main Partout. Thornes and Whittaker; 6. Neat and Clean, Chas Dews.

FEATHERED ROSES.-1, 2, and 6. Triumphe Royal, La Duncan, and Lord Hill, Messrs. Thornes and Whittaker; Duc de Bronte, Mark Blackburn; 4. Do-little, William Fox; 5. Schofields Rose, John Gill.

FLAMED BIZARDS.-1,2. Surpass La Cantique and Gold Beaurre, Messrs. Thornes and Whittaker; 3, 6. Sir Sydney Smith and Magnifique, Mark Blackburn; La Cantique, Joseph Steel; 5. Garricolme, John Gill.

FLAMED BYBLOMEN.-1. Light Bagot, Thomas Parker; 2. Bein Fait, Messrs. Thornes and Whittaker; 3, 4, and 6. Francia Primus, Violet le Bing, and Dustan, Mark Blackburn; Woad's King, Isaac Parker.

FLAMED ROSES.-1. Marilla de Europe, Messrs. Thornes and Whittaker; 2,3, and 4. Rose Quarto, Duc de Bronte, and Lord Hill, Mark Blackburn; 5. Unknown, Isaac Parker; 6. Earl Brilliant, John Gill.

SELFS. -1, 6. Mme de Or and White Flag, Joseph Steel; 2, 3. Golden Hero and Desdemona, Messrs. Thornes and Whittaker; 4, 5. Queen of Sultana and Mountain of Snow, Mark Blackburn.

BREEDERS.-1, 2, and 6. Seedling, Woad's King, and Seedling, Mark Blackburn; 3, 4, and 5. Seedling, Walworth, and Seedling, John Gill.

PANZIES.-1,2. Seedlings and Ditto, John Parker.

JUDGES NAMES.- Mr. James Drake, Wakefield, Mr. George Pearson, do., and Mr. Samuel Hartley, Stanley.

WAKEFIELD TULIP SHOW.

There was again an interesting display of tulips in the large show-room at the Brunswick Hotel on Monday and Tuesday afternoon, on the occasion of the fifty-sixth annual exhibition. A table the length of the room had been erected, and the cut blooms were grouped in rows in their various sections. The admission being free to the public, many persons availed themselves of the opportunity of inspecting the exhibition during the time the show was open. Though the income arising manifested in the early ages for the cultivation of the tulip has somewhat subsided, there are those in the sixteenth century, here and there, who still passionately adhere to the "uncertain bulk," as it is colloquially known, and allocate to it a large share of their time and attention. So uncertain are gardens as to the kinds of bloom—feathered, flamed, or otherwise—which may spring from the bulbs that the Dutchmen in older times used to gamble earnestly upon the chance of the tulip. From a Scotch's point of view all the various classes of tulips were represented at the show on Monday and Tuesday, and, considering the late few months, the display in its excellence came fully up to the satisfaction of growers. A few ferns in pots were also shown, and these were placed down the centre of the table. Mr. R. Schofield, florist, Leeds, exhibited upon the tulips, and Mr. T. Garnett, gardener to Miss Mackie, St. John's, Wakefield, noted in a similar capacity with regard to the ferns. We would not omit to mention that Messrs. J. and B. Oakes, of Heath Nurseries, exhibited (not for competition) two stands of their magnificent panes of various shades and hose, which were greatly admired. The duties of secretary to the show were, initially and courteously discharged by Mr. Jesse Hardwick. The awards were as follows:—

Stand of six variegated flowers—1, William Mellor, Kirkgate; 2, Edwin Lister, Zetland Street; 3, George Gill, Eastmoor; 4, Alfred Moorhouse, Westgate; 5, Henry Brown, Wronthorpe; 6, Jesse Hardwick, Stanley Road; and 7, William Calvert, Pottery.

Six breeders—1, Wm. Mellor; 2, A. Moorhouse; 3, G. Gill; 4, E. Lister; 5, W. Calvert; 6, H. Brown; and 7, J. Hardwick.

Pan of three breeders—1, W. Mellor; 2, A. Moorhouse; 3, E. Lister; 4, G. Gill; 5, J. Hardwick; 6, W. Calvert; and 7, H. Brown.

Flamed bisarras—1 and 6, A. Moorhouse; 2 and 5, W. Calvert; 3 and 4, G. Gill; 7, W. Mellor; and 8, J. Hardwick.

Flamed bye-blooms—1 and 3, G. Gill; 2 and 4, A. Moorhouse; 5, W. Mellor; 6 and 7, H. Brown; and 8, W. Calvert.

Flamed roses—1 and 2, A. Moorhouse; 3 and 4, E. Lister; 5 and 7, G. Gill; and 6 and 8, H. Brown.

Feathered bisarras—1, G. Gill; 2 and 5, W. Mellor; 3 and 8, A. Moorhouse; 4, E. Lister; 6, J. Hardwick; and 7, W. Calvert.

Feathered bye-blooms—1 and 2, G. Gill; 3 and 5, E. Lister; 4 and 7, W. Calvert; and 6 and 8, A. Moorhouse.

Feathered roses—1 and 2, G. Gill; 3, W. Mellor; 4 and 7, E. Lister; 5 and 6, W. Calvert; and 8, A. Moorhouse.

Bisarras breeders—1 and 3, G. Gill; 2 and 4, W. Mellor; 5, H. Brown; 6 and 7, A. Moorhouse; and 8, J. Hardwick.

Bye-bloom breeders—1 and 7, G. Gill; 2 and 4, A. Moorhouse; 3 and 5, W. Mellor; 6, E. Lister; and 8, W. Calvert.

Rose breeders—1 and 3, G. Gill; 2 and 3, W. Mellor; 4, A. Moorhouse; 5 and 8, E. Lister; and 7, W. Calvert.

For the best blooms in the show "premium" prizes were given as follows—Flamed bisarra, W. Mellor, with "Sir Joseph Paxton"; feathered, W. Mellor, with "Lord Frederick Cavendish"; and breaster, A. Moorhouse, with "Alice Grey."

Three ferns—1, George Gill; 2, J. Hardwick. Single ferns—1, G. Gill; 2, J. Hardwick.

Twice more.—The Wakefield Tulip Show was held at the Brunswick Hotel, Bow Market, on Monday and Tuesday. There were about 1,000 blooms, but the flower-were not so good as in some previous years, the season being unfavourable for the growing of tulips. There were seven exhibitors, and about 57 was given in prizes. Mr Edwin Schofield, of Leeds, judged the tulips, whilst Mr T. Garnett (gardener to Miss Edith O. Mackie, St. John's), judged a number of British ferns. The prize winners were as follows:—Mr W. Mellor took first prize for variegated, six breeders, three breeders, for best bloom in show in flamed blooms and for best feathered flowers, second for feathered bisarras, second and fourth for bisarra breeders, third and fifth for by-bloom breeders, and second and third for rose breeders. Mr A. Moorhouse carried off brasses for flamed bisarras and best breaster in exhibition, first and second for flamed roses, seconds for flamed bye-blooms and hybrid breeders, and third for feathered bisarras. Mr W. Gill took the first prizes for flamed by-blooms, feathered bisarras, feathered bye-blooms, feathered roses, bisarra breeders, by-bloom breeders, breaster, best three ferns, and single ferns; seconds for feathered by-blooms and feathered roses, thirds for variegated flowers, flamed bisarras, flamed by-blooms and bisarra breeders. Mr E. Lister took second and best breaster prizes for three breeders, flamed roses, and feathered bye-blooms. Mr Jesse Hardwick, the honorary secretary, took second for best three ferns and single ferns, and Mr W. Calvert second for flamed bisarra.

50 years ago 1941

Despite there being a war on the report of the 1941 show appeared on the front page of the June 7th 1941 Wakefield Express. No flowers are named (Nor in the minute book). Norman Eyre our oldest surviving member won the Novices Cup.

WAKEFIELD AND NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY

1941 ANNUAL SHOW.

The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society, which was founded in the year 1891, has gone West, but only in the geographical sense. In the days of King William IV, and the earlier part of the reign of Queen Victoria, Eastmore was a stronghold in regard to cultivation of the English florist tulip, but in the course of the generations which followed, conditions gradually changed, and the tide went westward, with the result that for some years past the shows have been staged at the Whinsey Moor Hotel at Lappet, and Horbury, tulip fanciers figure very prominently in the list of prize-winners. Though the Society exists primarily for the cultivation of the English florist tulip, in recent years the shows have included some classes for other kinds of tulips.

The 1941 annual show had been planned to take place a fortnight ago, with the Mayor of Wakefield (Ald. Mrs. F. W. Stott, J.F.) as banner, but unfavourable weather had kept most of the tulips in a backward state, and, therefore, the event was postponed to last Saturday. As the Mayor was unable to come that day, Mr. E. Hunter (Horbury) opened the show under the chairmanship of Mr. W. G. Robertson (Superintendent of Wakefield Public Parks). Though as indicated, the season had been unfavourable, there was a splendid display of exhibits. The blooms numbered about 1,300, an increase over the figures for the previous show. This increase was accounted for by the English florist tulips, the other varieties showing a decrease. Messrs. R. Robinson, sen. (Horbury), W. Seddow (Altofts), and W. H. Midgley (Halifax), added the English florist tulips, and Mr. W. G. Robertson adjudicated in the case of the other varieties. The secretarial duties were carried out by Mr. E. H. Robinson, sen. (Horbury), the hon. secretary. The receipts were for the benefit of the Clayton Hospital, including the money raised by the sale of the exhibits at the end of the show, and they totalled £14.

In the course of his remarks as Chairman at the opening, Mr. Robertson said the English florist tulip was a very fascinating subject, and one that our forefathers took up with great enthusiasm, and he suggested that the poet and satirist, Alexander Pope (born 1688—died 1744) must have been a tulip enthusiast, in view of certain lines he wrote as to the remarkable way in which this flower changed its colour, and the uncertainty of the change.

The uncertainty of the English florist tulip "breaking," added to the pleasure of growing it, and all credit was due to those fanciers who throughout the years had stuck to their guns, and still kept up the culture of this flower. Speaking in regard to flowers generally, Mr. Robertson remarked that he had been twitted by various people about "wasting time" in growing flowers in the Wakefield Parks, but, he said, flowers served a useful purpose for refreshing the eyes and mind of those who saw them; and it would be his endeavour, whatever extra hours had to be put in, to give as much colour as possible. When all was said and done the picturehouses were open to give one form of recreation, and why should not the Parks give recreation to the public, through their flowers? In addition, he would point out that the man who could grow flowers, could generally grow vegetables as well.

Mr. Hunter observed that the last time he had been at one of these shows was on the occasion of the centenary, which he presided and had the pleasure of introducing the Mayor of Wakefield. On this occasion he had had a similar pleasure, as the Mayor was unable to come, and he was acting as a substitute. Proceeding, Mr. Hunter spoke of the magnificent array of exhibits, and of the energy and skill their growers had put in, when they had come home from their day's work. After reference to the worthy object to which the financial proceeds were to be devoted, he declared the show open.

Mr. Hunter then distributed the various trophies to the winners.

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hunter were accorded on the proposition of Mr. Birmingham (Sheffield), seconded by Mr. Seddow,

THE PRIZE LIST.

Prizes for "premier" exhibits in the open classes were won as follows—Feathered, Mr. Reg. Robinson (Horbury); named, Mr. E. Walker (Altrincham); breeder, Mr. E. Walker (Altrincham). Similar awards in the local classes were: Feathered, Mr. G. Hunt (Horbury); named, Mr. A. Banks (Wakefield); breeder, Mr. G. Hunt.

OPEN CLASSES.

Vase of 12 tulips (decorations allowed), any variety other than English florist; 1, G. Hunt (Horbury); 2 and 3, E. H. Robinson (Horbury).
Vase of 9 tulips (decorations allowed), any variety other than English florist; 1, N. Eyre (Horbury); 2 and 3, G. Hunt.
Vase of 9 English florist tulips, only own foliage allowed for decoration; 1, Ellis Walker (Altrincham); 2, A. Tear (Altofts); 3, N. Eyre.

Vase of 25 English florist tulips, only own foliage allowed for decoration; 1, A. Tear; 2, E. Walker; 3, W. Robinson (Horbury).

Silver Challenge Cup for stand of nine tulips, consisting of three bismars, three byblomms and three roses, each trio comprising one breeder, one feathered and one named; 1, Reg. Robinson (Horbury); 2, E. Walker; 3, A. Abers (Altofts).

Six varieties (dissimilar); 1, E. Walker; 2, Reg. Robinson; 3, A. Tear.

Six breeders (dissimilar); 1, E. H. Robinson; 2, Reg. Robinson; 3, E. Walker.

Two named (dissimilar); 1, A. Abers; 2, E. Walker; 3, W. Robinson.

One named (dissimilar); 1, G. Hunt; 2, E. Walker; 3, A. Tear.

Headman Memorial Cup for three bismars, three byblomms, three roses, each trio consisting of one breeder, one feathered, one named; 1, E. Walker; 2, E. H. Robinson; 3, E. H. Robinson.

LOCAL CLASSES.

Silver Challenge Cup for stand of nine tulips, comprising three bismars, three byblomms and three roses, each trio composed of one breeder, one feathered, one named; 1, G. Hunt; 2, E. H. Robinson; 3, W. Seddow.

Six varieties (dissimilar); 1, A. Banks; 2, G. Hunt; 3, E. H. Robinson.

Three breeders (dissimilar); 1, E. H. Robinson; 2, G. Hunt; 3, A. Tear.

Silver Cup, stage class, comprising one breeder, one feathered, one named, to be of one colour (this is to say, other all bismars, all byblomms or all roses, preference given to blooms of the same name); 1, A. Banks; 2, A. Abers; 3, E. H. Robinson.

Bismar breeder; 1, C. Bamsteads (Horbury); 2, A. Tear; 3, A. Abers.

Bismar feathered; 1, G. Hunt; 2, E. H. Robinson; 3, E. H. Robinson.

Byblomma named; 1, A. Banks; 2, Reg. Robinson; 3, A. Abers.

Byblomma feathered; 1, A. Abers; 2, A. Tear; 3, A. Banks.

Rose named; 1, G. Hunt; 2, A. Tear; 3, Reg. Robinson.

Rose feathered; 1, A. T. Meads; 2, Reg. Robinson; 3, A. Tear.

NOVICES CLASSES.

One breeder, one feathered, one named; 1, N. Eyre; 2, W. Bottomley (Horbury); 3, Downing (Horsman).

One breeder; 1, W. Eyre; 2, A. Robinson (Alverthorpe); 3, C. Bamsteads (Horbury).

Feathered; 1, A. Robinson; 2, N. Eyre; 3, A. Abers.

Named; 1, A. Robinson; 2, N. Eyre; 3, C. Bamsteads.

In the novices classes the winner of most entries becomes the holder of the Brook Silver Cup.

Named three English florist tulips, any variety; 1, G. Bamsteads; 2, W. Bottomley; 3, E. H. Robinson.

Amateur Seedling Raising.

By John Ollerenshaw

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

Flower size bulbs of breeders (as and when a few can be spared) are planted up at the usual 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 does not pass on the virus infection.

When the bulbs come into bloom this is the time to commence a rather strict regime. Even before a bulb 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.

At this stage the crosses are 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 is dusted with 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 can 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 the 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 could kill all the seedlings if they entered the boxes. 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 fully unfurled.

Place the box 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 thus be left warm and dry until July.

Remove the bulblets carefully from the compost, dust them with green flowers of sulphur and store 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 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.

Correspondence

At the end of 1990 we managed to get a collection of broken tulips to two of our overseas members, Ken Atkin in British Columbia, Canada and Scott G. Kunst in Michigan USA. Both were delighted with the results and the following is an extract from the latter's letter.

Receiving that package was an enormous thrill, and totally unexpected. I felt like I had won a million-dollar lottery. But I also felt I had been handed a great responsibility. I kept telling my wife, "I may be the only person in North America growing these bulbs." It blew my mind, as we used to say.

At first I was going to send some of the bulbs on to a couple of colleagues who are also very committed to the preservation of historic plants (including John Fitzpatrick at Monticello's Center for Historic Plants), but my greed got the better of me (and my fear of bungling ebbed). I dug two small new beds, screened the sandy-loam soil, and added lots of peat moss and a little fertilizer. I dug two beds because I had read that breeders should be grown separately from broken varieties, and the labeling on the bags didn't always say feather or flame, so I thought they might be breeders. As it turned out, they were all broken forms, which was fine. One bulb was completely dried out when I went to plant it --'Habit de Noce', unfortunately-- but the rest were great.

Our winter was pretty normal, not too cold (only a scattering of 0 Fahrenheit days) and not too dry. In the spring I eagerly watched for the first signs of growth. All the bulbs grew well; only one was blind and one blud blasted before it opened.

The others were PHENOMENAL! I wasn't prepared for how beautiful they were. Though I had seen old illustrations and modern photographs--which were enough to make my mouth water--the flowers in real life were even more wonderful. I kept describing them to people as 'jewels' (and inviting them to come to see them), and that's how they seemed to me. The colors were so rich and the patterns and shapes so different and interesting. Each was worthy of close up, daily inspection and savoring. I think I understood for the first time what the florist's flowers were all about, how one bloom could be so satisfying.

My favorites were probably 'Columbine' for its colors and 'Adonis' for its flat cup shape, but each as it bloomed was a new pleasure. I took lots of slides and have included a couple in my public lectures. When I dug the bulbs, I found there had been decent increase; they all seemed larger, most had small bulblets, and 'Lady C. Gordon', 'Mabel' (flame), 'Juliette' (flame) and 'Akers' flame had all produced a second or even third blooming-size bulb, which I plan to share with my colleagues (if I can bear to part with them). The bulbs spent the summer in our dehumidified basement in individual, open-topped paper bags where they are waiting now for replanting in about a month.

So thank you, thank you, thank you. I can never thank you enough for the bulbs you have entrusted to me. They are truly one of the momentous events of my gardening life, and I assure you I will take good care of them and share them both by passing on bulbs and by writing and lecturing about them. I will certainly continue enjoying them too.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following is a list of just some of the books and articles written about or including details of the English Florist Tulip. With the exception of the first two titles the rest are out of print but you may be able to find copies in your local library or in second hand book shops. The most comprehensive book is The Tulip by Sir Daniel Hall which has been bought this year at various sums between £22 and £40. One of our new members Robert Hale has recently started a small business in tracing out of print books on gardening and may be contacted direct at:-
Gardensearch Books 39 Greenmeadow Road Birmingham B29 4DD

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|--|------|--------------------------------|
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| The English Tulip and its History | | |
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| Some of the chief Properties of the Tulip | | by G. W. Hardy |
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| Printed for John Harding | 1822 | |
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| | 1820 | by Thomas Hogg |

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND
TULIP SOCIETY

(Established 1836)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th September 1990

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>	
Subscription and Donations	246.95	Postage	47.12
Sale of Booklets	4.50	Insurance	52.84
		Glassware	58.80
		Stationery	31.67
		Loss on Dutch Show	11.75
		Loss on Main Show	51.00
		Deficit if Income/Expenditure	- 1.73
Total	251.45	Total	251.45

Balance Sheet

Cash in Bank 30.09.89	938.35	Cash in Bank 30.09.90	1016.00
Cash in Hand 30.09.89	-64.80	Cash in Hand 30.09.90	-74.09
Interest received	70.09		
Deficit of income/expenditure	-1.73		
Total	941.91	Total	941.91

Show Accounts 1990

Dutch Show

Raffle	18.00	Prize Money (Nett)	15.75
Door Money	7.50	Room Hire	28.00
Sale of Blooms	6.50		
Loss on Show	11.75		
Total	43.75	Total	43.75

Main Show

Raffle	26.00	Room Hire	87.00
Door Money	2.00		
Sale of Blooms	8.00		
Loss on Show	51.00		
Total	87.00	Total	87.00

J. L. Akers

Hon. Treasurer

LORD STANLEY

