

WAKEFIELD  
&  
NORTH OF ENGLAND  
TULIP SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED 1836



NEWSLETTER

No 5

AUTUMN 1993

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY  
(Established 1836)

O F F I C E R S 1 9 9 3 - 1 9 9 4

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Annual Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1994/1995 become due on the date of the Annual Show May 1994 and are for the sum of £4 per member or £5 for Family Membership.

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## The Chairmans Message -1993

Mr. J. Hardman

It does not seem to be a year since our last newsletter. A lot has happened since then. We had an excellent AGM for 1992 followed, up to now, with a successful 1993.

The two shows held at Wrenthorpe and Normanton were both a great success. We had more exhibitors and most gratifyingly more people than ever came to look at our flowers. The Dutch flowers had a double function, exhibited at Wrenthorpe, then the following week at the home of Lord Lichfield, Shugborough Hall. Thanks to Trevor Mills and his ladies who arranged the flowers.

We had a great increase in exhibits at the Normanton show, a new show venue which was successful beyond all expectations.

The society owes a great debt to our Dutch friend and patron for the bulbs he sent to bolster up our flagging Breeder section. His contribution was very much in evidence on the show bench; thank you very much Victor Roozen for your generosity.

The third event of 1993 was the visit to Shropshire in June. Many thanks to David Bromley and his mother for making a memorable visit to his wonderful garden. Then on to Dudmaston Hall to see the Hall and gardens. Thanks to Sir George and Lady Labouchere for allowing us to visit. We then visited Morville Hall to see the work of Dr. Kate Swift restoring the old world gardens. Also we must thank Dr. Swift for arranging these visits.

We regret the pending departure from our area of Bill Tear. Bill, a pillar of strength in our tulip world, is moving to Suffolk in the autumn. He will be sadly missed for his knowledge and generosity. I think I am in order in wishing Bill, on behalf of the Society, a happy future in his new environment - good luck, Bill.

Finally I personally thank all officers and members for their help and dedication, carry on with the good work. If we missed seeing you all at the AGM in October in Wrenthorpe then try to make the two shows in 1994.

## Editor's Remarks

James Akers

Firstly my apologies for the delay in producing this our fifth newsletter. I only hope that you find it worth waiting for (and the type easier to read).

As you will see by the Contents page there has been a wonderful response to my request for material and the number of contributors and also the variety of subjects covered is very encouraging indeed. However this isn't the time to rest on our laurels so please keep the articles coming.

I have always had good support from Jack Wemyss-Cooke, John Ollerenshaw and Audrey Robinson in researching the many articles written about tulips over the centuries. Unfortunately as many of you may know Audrey was killed as a result of a car accident earlier this year and will be sorely missed. On the plus side however we now have the help of two newer members who have contributed articles regarding the history of tulip growing.

David Hastings is a member of the Paisley Florist Society which was founded in 1782 and unlike our society whose official records only go back to the first years of this century, those for Paisley exist for a much longer period and therefore we look forward to more information. Perhaps one of our American members can find out what happened to the bulbs.

Peter Turner from Derby has access to the Midland Florist as well as newspapers from that area and has already provided me with articles for future issues. With members in all parts of the country perhaps I could encourage others to visit the local library and let me know what they can find about shows in their area in 1844 and/or 1894.

To all the other contributors many thanks. Also many thanks to youngest daughter Charlotte for much of the typing and Wendy for the proof reading (and many cups of coffee).

I have also been very impressed by the many ways which members have used their skill and talents. A wonderful cushion of tulips from The Temple of Flora, box wood engraving, and watercolours, all of tulips, featured in the raffle prizes at the A.G.M. Perhaps we could have an exhibition next October.

The front cover was designed by David Tarver ARCA. incorporating a seedpod from a slide by John Wainwright.

I chose to feature that because of the importance of breeding new varieties.

## THE ANNUAL SHOW - 15th MAY 1993

for only the second time in its 158 years history the Society held its Annual Show outside the City of Wakefield, and again it was Normanton which acted as host.

## VASE CLASSES

Class 1. Vase of 12 Tulips (any variety or varieties not English Florist)

- 1st. Mr. F. Keys (Barnsley)                      Menton  
 2nd. Mrs. W. M. Akers (Wrenthorpe) Garden Party  
 3rd. Mrs. S. Wainwright (Shafton) Yellow Maja

Class 2. Vase of 6 Tulips (any variety or varieties not English Florist)

- 1st. Mrs. S Wainwright Clare Butt  
 2nd. Mr. F Keys                      Unknown  
 3rd. Mrs W. M Akers                  Marilyn

Class 3. Vase of 3 Tulips (any variety or varieties not English Florist)

- 1st. Mrs. W. M. Akers Garden Party  
 2nd. Mrs. S. Wainwright  
 3rd. Mr. F. Jackson (Horbury)

Class 4. Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips

- 1st. Mrs. S. Wainwright

Class 5. Vase of 9 English Florist Tulips

- 1st. Mrs. S. Wainwright

Class 6. Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips

- 1st. Mrs. S. Wainwright  
 2nd. Mrs. S. Wainwright  
 3rd. Mrs. S. Wainwright

## OPEN CLASSES

Class 7. Stand of 12 breeders - 12 Different varieties (4 Biz 4 Rose 4 Byb)  
No entries

Class 8. Needham Memorial Cup - 12 Rectified English Tulips (1 entry)

1st. Mr. J. L. Akers (Wenthorpe)

Biz Fl Gleam	Rose Fl Wakefield	Byb Fl Columbine
Biz Fl James Wild	Rose Fl Akers Flame	Byb Fl Rory McEwan
Biz Fe Sir J. Paxton	Rose Fe Mabel	Byb Fe Columbine
Biz Fe Sam Barlow	Rose Fe Wakefield	Byb Fe Rory McEwan

Class 9. Local Silver Challenge Cup - 9 English Florist Tulips  
Breeder, Flame and Feather from each colour) (2 entries)

1st. Mr. J.L. Akers

Biz Br Gleam	Biz Fl Sir D. Hall	Biz Fe James Wild
Rose Br Juliet	Rose Fl Mabel	Rose Fe Wakefield
Byb Br H110	Byb Fl Columbine	Byb Fe Habit de Noce

2nd. Mrs. S. Wainwright

Biz Br Goldfinder	Biz Fl Columbine	Biz Fe Lord F. Cavendish
Rose Br Mabel	Rose Fl Akers Flame	Rose Fe Wakefield
Byb Br Talisman	Byb Fl Lord Stanley	Byb Fe Habit de Noce

Class 10. Silver Challenge Cup - 6 Rectified English Florist Tulips  
(Flame and Feather from each colour) (2 entries)

1st. Mr. J. L. Akers

Biz Fl Lord Stanley	Biz Fe James Wild
Rose Fl Wakefield	Rose Fe Mabel
Byb Fl Bessie	Byb Fe Columbine

2nd. Mrs. S. Wainwright

Biz Fl Sir J. Paxton	Biz Fe James Wild
Rose Fl Akers Flame	Rose Fe Wakefield
Byb Fl Bessie	Byb Fe Columbine

## Class 11. The G. S. Hunter Memorial Cup (Stand of 6 Breeders) (2 entries)

1st. Mr. J. L. Akers

Biz Goldfinder Rose Sarah Akers Byb Bessie

Biz Lord Stanley Rose Hubert Calvert Byb H110

2nd. Mr. K. N. Eyre (South Cave)

Biz Goldfinder Rose Juliet Byb Music

Biz Lord Stanley Rose Mabel Byb Columbine

## Class 12. Stages Cup (Breeder, Flame and Feather - One Colour) (4 entries)

1st. Ms. J. Eyre (S. Cave) Br H117 Fl Sir J. Paxton Fe Royal Sovereign

2nd. Mr. J. L. Akers Br Hubert Calvert Fl Akers Flame Fe Wakefield

3rd. Mrs. S. Wainwright Br Columbine Fl Columbine Fe Columbine

## Class 13. Silver Plate (3 Breeders) (6 entries)

1st. Mrs. S. Wainwright Biz Sam Barlow Rose Juliet Byb Music

2nd. Mr. J. Hardman (Whitley) Biz Gleam Rose Mabel Byb Music

3rd. Mr. A. Hayward (Altofts) Biz James Wild Rose Mabel Byb Bessie

## Class 14. Pair of Flamed (19 entries)

1st. Mrs. S. Wainwright Columbine James Wild

2nd. Mr. J. L. Akers Wakefield James Wild

3rd. Mr. J. Ollerenshaw (Hyde) Adonis James Wild

## Class 15. Pair of Feathered (6 entries)

1st. Mr. J. L. Akers Wakefield James Wild

2nd. Mrs. S. Wainwright Columbine Sir J. Paxton

3rd. Ms. J. Eyre Gloria Agbrigg

## Class 16. One Breeder (11 entries)

1st. Mr. J. L. Akers Goldfinder

2nd. Mrs. S. Wainwright James Wild

3rd. Ms. J. Eyre Columbine



Class 17. One Flamed (18 entries)

1st. Mr. M. Hainsworth (York) Sir J. Paxton

2nd. Mrs. S. Wainwright Dr. Hardy

3rd. Mr. R. Smales (Dodworth) Seedling

Class 18. One Feathered (9 entries)

1st. Mr. J. L. Akers Wakefield

2nd. Mr. M. Hainsworth James Wild

3rd. Mr. R. Smales Seedling

Class 19. Seedling Cup (One Seedling Breeder raised by the exhibitor) (2 entries)

No award

#### NOVICE CLASSES

Class 20. Pan of 3 Stages (1 Breeder, 1 Flamed and 1 Feather) (1 entry)

1st. Mr. F. Keys Br James Wild Fl Wakefield Fe James Wild

Class 21. One Breeder (6 entries)

1st. Mr. F. Keys Mabel

2nd. Mrs. C. Bone (Barnsley) Juliet

3rd. Mr. F. R. Jackson Mabel

Class 22. One Flamed (14 entries)

1st. Mrs. B. Royles (Clwyd) Columbine

2nd. Mr. F. R. Jackson Lord F. Cavendish

3rd. Mr. F. Keys Bessie

Class 23. One Feathered (9 entries)

1st. Mrs. C. Bone James Wild

2nd. Mr. F. Keys James Wild

3rd. Mr. J. P. Ranson (Skegness) Royal Sovereign

Class 24. The GINA ROOZEN Cup (3 Breeders) (1 entry)

1st. Mr. F. Keys Biz Goldfinder Rose Mabel By Columbine

## EXTRA OPEN CLASSES

Class 25. One Breeder (1 entry)

1st. Mr. F. Keys Music

Class 26. One Flamed (13 entries)

1st. Mrs. B. Royles

Bessie

2nd. Dr. K. Swift (Bridgnorth)

James Wild

3rd. Mr. J. Gray (Houghton Le Spring)

Lord Stanley

Class 27. One Feathered (4 entries)

No award

Class 28. Pan of 3 Stages (1 Breeder, 1 Flamed and 1 Feather)

No entries

Best Bloom in Show and Best Flame Mrs. B. Royles Bessie

Best Breeder Mrs. S. Wainwright Sam Barlow

Best Feathered Mr. J. L. Akers Mabel

Best Bloom in Novice Classes Mr. F. Keys Mabel Breeder

### Tulip Fire Disease

John Wainwright

The tulip grower and exhibitor faces a variety of challenges each year before he gets his blooms to the show bench in good condition. Tulip fire is one challenge, and has been a major problem in the last two years for some growers because it prefers warm, wet Springs.

### Recognising Tulip Fire Disease.

To prevent any misconceptions, Tulip Fire does not refer to the desirable "flamed" colour markings, but is instead a serious fungal disease, *Botrytis Tulipae*. It is common in all parts of Britain in wet seasons and if not controlled can badly

damage blooms and reduce bulb yield. Infected soil or bulbs carry the disease on to the next season.

Affected tulip plants which come up stunted, twisted in a tight roll after others leaves have unfurled, or which are mouldy or discoloured (brown or red) are called *primary infectors* and spread the disease to neighbouring plants. Spores from infected plants cause spotting on leaves and flowers, worst after light rain or misty weather. A whole bed may become spotted overnight. In damp weather *lesions* may develop on the leaves. These damp-edged grey patches may also release spores. The spores rise like smoke when the plant is touched, which is why the disease is called "fire". Spotting by the fungus disease may be mistaken for hail or spray damage but is characteristically evenly spread. The plants affected by spotting may be in a cluster around a primary infector. An affected plant will not usually set seed because fire attacks the flower and seed pod.

When an affected bulb is dug up, resting bodies of the fungus (called *sclerotia*) may be found under the skin of the bulb, especially at the base of the old flower stem. The *sclerotia* look like flat shiny discs about one millimetre across. Larger depressions in the surface of the bulb may also be caused by the fire disease, but could be due to poor storage conditions or bad handling. A badly affected bulb may rot completely before replanting time, or may survive to become a primary infector. The disease can survive in the soil as affected material or *sclerotia* for at least two years. The disease is inactive at temperatures below freezing, which is why earlier flowering tulip varieties are less badly affected.

#### Treatment.

*Botrytis tulipae* is best controlled by a combination of good growing methods and chemical treatments. Rotating the bulbs onto fresh ground every year can prevent the disease building up (one reason why the traditional grower grew his bulbs on the ground from which he had just harvested his potatoes). Cleaning the bulbs to remove soil and loose skin can also remove *sclerotia*. Debris from storage bags should be destroyed for the same reason.

Primary infectors *must* be rogued out and burned as soon as they can be identified. Commercial growers are advised to visually check over their plants several times early in the season. Affected foliage can be removed if a lesion has developed and badly spotted blooms should be removed along with any petals which have dropped. Dipping the bulbs after lifting or shortly before replanting in a preparation

containing a dithiocarbamate compound can prevent the disease from taking hold. Carbendazim is such a compound and has a systemic action (eg. pbi "Supercarb" and others). Spraying the plants, once they come up, at fortnightly intervals can help control but not eradicate the disease. We have had best results from spraying using pbi Supercarb mixed with Dithane 945 (containing marcozeb) and Fillip ( a foliar feed) as pbi recommend. No spray should be allowed to drift onto buds or flowers. Benomyl is less useful against Tulip Fire, although it controls similar diseases in daffodils well.

### Conclusion

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have published a very useful advisory leaflet (Number 536: Tulip Fire) available from HMSO bookshops. This stresses that the single most effective measure is the roguing out of primary infectors, but that slightly affected bulbs can produce a healthy plant if grown well. I believe that dipping bulbs before planting together with routine roguing can prevent Tulip Fire becoming a serious problem for members of this Society.

### BATH PRESERVATION TRUST

#### Extract from a letter from the Chairman Gardens Committee

The Garden Committee of the Bath Preservation Trust played an important part in the development of the unique 18th century garden discovered at no 4 Circus, Bath, about which much has been written in the press.

We have also recently completed work on an 18th century garden which is part of the house where William Herschel, the astronomer, discovered the planet Uranus and this is part of the Herschel Museum. We have also done a great deal of work over several years to restore the gardens of the Holburne Museum.

Naturally, we have done our best to plant these gardens with the trees, shrubs, plants and bulbs which were known in the 18th century except that we have no striped tulips.

It is for this reason that I am writing to ask if it is possible to obtain some striped tulips to plant in our 18th century gardens in Bath.

[ Some are now on the way - Ed. ]

My First Season  
Anne Matthews - 13-07-93

Who has sent me some wedding cake? As I began opening the tiny parcel it occurred to me maybe it was Christening cake....

On a first Friday in December, propitiously a remarkable sunny and mild morning, I chuckled with delight to myself as I gently unwrapped the tissues to discover the baby bulbs.

The planting was an anxious exercise. The newsletter provided expert advice and I selected an area of the vegetable patch next to the herb plot closely overlooked from my kitchen window.

The real worry was whether to risk the little bulblets to the open soil or play more cautiously with planting in pots, sunk in the bed, to avoid 'losing' the little ones. Potted they were, marker tagged, and then it frosted solid for a week. Oh dear, how I worried for them into the New Year and into another freeze and then through a soggy February.

Oh what blessed relief when the daily inspection saw a nose-cone peeping up! Oh the joys when all gradually speared their way up and were rewarded with a pellet confetti of slug protection! I'd rather not use slug baits at all, but this was too serious a responsibility to risk the bulbs.

All produced leaf and I had hoped that the largest bulb might have budded, but I must suppose it is not yet mature and will bloom in another season.

By end of June all leaf had withered and I lifted the bulbs to dry and store. All had enlarged; three have sprouted offspring. What an exciting beginning it has been. I'll keep you posted on how they grow up.

## 1852 Tulip Ramble

Peter Turner

In May of 1852 a few days before the National Tulip Show held in Birmingham on the 27th May, as was the custom a Tulip Ramble was carried out visiting various premises to see the tulips grown in the area and to pass various comments.

The following premises were visited in the Derby area.

Mr. Parkins, Mr. Parkinson, Messrs Lakins and Mr. Marsden all of Derby.

A drive was then taken to Chellaston and a visit to Mr. Gibbons carried out. A long bed was seen and Mr. Gibbons said it contained 3000 Princess Royal Breeders, if this was correct there appeared to be some confusion for other blooms were observed. The ramblers then moved on to the village and Mr. Godfreys and Mr. Formans were visited, proceeding on through the property of Lord Harrington of Elvaston. Mr. Charles Spencer of Thulstone was then visited.

Another move was made through Amberstone Ford, a passage across the River Derwent, to visit Mr. Allestree of Draycott. The water was low and the carriage passed through safely, though at this spot a few years previous a team of very valuable Greys belonging to Mr. Fletcher of Cavendish Brewery were lost when swept away by the impetuosity of the current.

The last visit was to Mr. Adams of Quarndon, a description of the village was "one of the prettiest and most healthy in Derbyshire. The houses are of stone on each side of a very long hill most of them ornamented with creepers. On the right of the ascent is a very picturesque little church with its diminutive Tower and Spire covered with Ivy. from the summit of the hill a most beautiful view of the surrounding country was obtained and here Mr. Adams grew his flowers".

Descriptions were made of 58 different named varieties all unfortunately no longer available. The following however are of interest:-

Lady Stanley - Flamed (Lord Stanley is still with us as breeder, flamed and feathered)

Pilot - Well feathered (A parent of the most beautiful flower grown today, Sir Joseph Paxton)

Chellaston Beaty - Grand one of the best (a coloured illustration appears in the Floricultural Cabinet)

## The North - South Divide

Peter Turner

E. Y. Ours (A pseudonym) - The Cottage Gardener 12th June 1851

"The Great Northern Tulip Show (Derby 1851) went off much to the satisfaction of the great northern growers, and was especially pleasing to a class of dealers who cannot throw away foul tulips. Having secured three patrons of smudge-bottomed varieties for judges, and Mr. Henry Goldham, from London, as a fourth, to give countenance to their proceedings, they did as they pleased. They would not disqualify foul-bottomed sorts, and the tulips which had prizes were a disgrace to the fancy. Mr. Henry Goldham could not have carried his point against the lovers of foul flowers, but he could have retired, and upheld the dignity and taste of the South, which rejects as unworthy of notice, all varieties with dirty bases. He could have said, *'Gentlemen - As I am no use against three of you, and never will sanction a prize to a foul flower, I beg to retire, and leave you to the indulgence of a taste which I hope will always be confined to the North.'* Mr. Turner of Slough, the best professional, and Mr. Edwards of Holloway, a spirited amateur, had to sit down quietly under the disgrace of being beaten with tulips that the poorest grower in the metropolis would not disgrace his stand with.

John Macefield - Hoxton 10th November 1851

"Having been one of the London exhibitors at the great tulip show, held at Derby, this year, I feel it a duty I owe to the fancy, and more particularly the London portion thereof, to express my regret at seeing a stand taking the sixth [what would he have said if it had come first? Ed] position which would have been thrown out at any metropolitan show for the following reasons :-

Firstly, Polyphemus and Hamlet, being of the same family, would not, by any London judge, be allowed to pass in the same stand.

Secondly, Triomphe Royale and heroine, being identically the same of course could not go together ; all our rules requiring distinct flowers.

Thirdly the rules stipulate for an equal proportion of bizarres, bybloemens, and roses, while in your report of prizes, you say that Mr. Turner, of Slough, the

exhibiter of the stand in question had

Hamlet                   \*}  
Polyphemus               \*} Bizarres

Triomphe Royale        }  
Heroine                 } Roses  
Primo Bien Du Noir #}

Queen of the North } Bybloemen

The flower shown as Primo Bien du Noir (which every tyro knows to be a bad strain of Rose Camuse ) was neither more or less than the good old bybloemen, Triomphe de Lisle.

The Editor then commented :-

\* If Polyphemus is a perfect feather, Polyphemus flamed may be shown in the same stand, in the Midland counties at least. The same with Heroine and Triomphe Royale, the one being perfect feather and the other perfect flame. [This principle we also apply today in the class for 12 rectified though preference is given for 12 different varieties - Ed.]

# If colour went for anything, Primo Bien du Noir, as shown, was bybloemen. If a flower is of that description that will show occasionally in each class, we do not think that judges ought to be called to question ; they, like a jury, give a verdict according to evidence adduced. Judges cannot, or ought not, to suppose anything ; they must trust their eyes- and their eyes only. If the flower were wrongly named that is another question. We candidly acknowledge we had never seen it before. [Such flowers called Rosy Bybs are not to be encouraged- Ed.]

[Peter has provided me with lots of research he has carried out into tulip growing around Derby, to be used for many years to come. I extracted the above because it illustrates clearly the passion that tulip growing once aroused. - Ed.]



## The Annual General Meeting - 1993

Wendy Akers

Again an excellent turn out of seventy five members met at Wrenthorpe Village Hall for what turned out to be a lively business meeting. We lost two committee members and one officer. James Akers the Society's treasurer for the past eighteen years asked to stand down. His work commitments in Europe severely limited his activities at present and he wanted to be able to spend what little spare time he had on the Newsletter. Mr. Bill Tear, Patron, committee member for five years and lifelong member of the society was moving to Suffolk but would continue to maintain close links with the society. Mr. Arthur Hayward, also committee member for five years felt that he should make way for a younger man. They have all given their full support to the society and contributed to its growth over the past years, Bill was virtually born into the society and has been showing tulips since he was thirteen. Lately he has become well known through his tulip successes at the Royal Horticultural Society Tulip Competition. It proved quite difficult to replace the treasurer but eventually a courageous volunteer from Barnsley, Mrs. Carol Gude agreed to have a go.

The 1994 Show dates were put to the meeting and agreed as:-

7th May 1994 - Dutch Show

14th May 1994 - The 159th Annual Show

A further possibility for 1994 was a tulip display at Dudmaston on the Sunday following the Annual Show, the 15th May. This was still being discussed but looked likely to be a lovely celebration of the tulip and an opportunity for members further south to see the flowers. At the 1991 A.G.M we had set out and discussed the aims of the society. It was felt that good progress had been made towards their achievement.

After tea, slides of Shugborough, our day of garden visits, and Maurice Evans' slides taken of 1993 tulips (including one of Beryl Royles' wonderful Bessie flamed, best bloom in show) were shown by Trevor Mills, Bill Tear and James Akers respectively. We had some enthusiastic help in preparing for the meeting and serving teas for which I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed. So ended another very enjoyable tulip day.

## In Appreciation

RUTH DUTHIE

1907-1993

Jack Wemyss-Cooke

Ruth Duthie died peacefully on the 20th February at Godshill, Fordingbridge, the home of her daughter.

Born in Ireland, early intellectual promise was soon to translate her to Trinity College, Dublin, taking a degree in biology. Subsequently she was appointed to the faculty to lecture in Zoology. After Ruth's marriage to a medical scientist the couple moved to England where she raised a family, eventually returning to teaching when her daughters went to school.

On retirement Ruth developed a passion for garden history having been influenced initially by the writing and ethos of the 19th century Jekyll-Robinson movement. Eventually research into the history and evolution of British gardening led her to a study in depth of the origins and raison d'etre of the florist movement, which she faithfully recorded for various learned and specialist publications. Editors always valued Ruth's work and sought regular contributions. It always seemed significant to me that Ruth shared the same alma mater as that doyen and diarist of 19th century florists, the Rev. Francis Daltry Horner, MA. VMH.

My own personal experience and affectionate regard for Ruth was initiated during my period as editor of the National Auricula Society yearbook. During my five year term of duty I had cause to be grateful to Ruth, who soon impressed as a diminutive but tireless lady of mighty intellect, whose contributions to our journal were the icing on the literary cake, as it were. Our friendship flourished and continued long after I had cast off such responsibilities. I sorely miss the delightful and regular despatches with the Oxford postmark that invariably spurred on my own flagging literary efforts.

Much of the research done by Ruth has helped dispel some of the romantic and often erroneous clutter that proliferated in the work of some post-war garden writers. Even the writing of the fashionable 19th century horticultural grandees

were scrutinised and analysed by Ruth; her conclusions did not always comply with the accepted and time-honoured interpretation of earlier research or commentators. Nevertheless, Ruth's literary integrity, in my opinion, was almost unassailable. Annually, at either auricula or florist tulip shows, Ruth attracted a circle of friends who delighted in her discourse and company. During our society visit to the home and garden of Sir George and Lady Labouchere at Dudmaston Hall in 1991, clearly Ruth was unwell and a number of her friends present so remarked. However Lady Labouchere's collection of Dutch flower paintings seemed almost to have a magical effect on Ruth, dispelling her fatigue and pain temporarily as we luxuriated in contemplation and beauty, enjoying the benign ambience of that lovely English house and garden which surely encapsulated all that Ruth so dearly loved about our land and customs.

Members of our ancient and honourable society have been proud to acknowledge dear Ruth as a valued and affectionately regarded member of our florist fellowship. Her contribution will be sorely missed and our heartfelt condolences go to her family. Gardners and florists will, I am sure join in acknowledging the contribution Ruth made to furthering and enriching our florist horizons, giving thanks for the privilege of her friendship and the bounty of her knowledge and erudition.

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Shortly before her death, Ruth Duthie sent the Society fourteen slides of tulips and associated subjects, from the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Lindley Library, the National Museum in Venice and the Royal Library at Windsor. They were accompanied by some brief notes on their background and suggestions on further research which might be carried out. We will show these at the Annual General Meeting at some future date.

Ruth was the author of the book *Florist Flowers and Societies* which is essential reading for all who are interested in the history of florist flowers. It would also be very appropriate when a suitable un-named seedling flower becomes available for it to be named in her memory.

## 150 YEARS AGO



Friday, June 2, 1843.

**WAKEFIELD FLOWER SOCIETY.** The members of this excellent society held their annual tea and show on Tuesday, at the house of Mr. Richard Hould, the Royal Oak Inn, Wakefield. Considering the late unfavourable weather, the show of flowers was unusually fine. The judges were Messrs. Park, Morgan, and Frothingham. The successful competitors were Messrs. John Gill, John Farningham, Wm. Whitaker, Joseph Steel, and the sons of John Gill. The members dined sumptuously in honour of the event, and spent a pleasant day and evening.

## 100 YEARS AGO

**WAKEFIELD TULIP SOCIETY'S 58TH ANNUAL SHOW.**—The fifty-eighth annual exhibition of tulips and British ferns, under the auspices of the Wakefield Tulip Society, was opened in the club-room at Mr Jacques's, the Brunswick Hotel, Borough Market, on Monday afternoon. About 1,000 tulip blooms of various kinds were staged by nine local growers of these gay, old-fashioned, florists' flowers, and a row of choice, healthy, British ferns formed a most effective background. Mr E. Schofield, of Lower Wortley, Leeds, and Mr J. G. Brown, of Hatfield Hall Gardens, officiated as judges and awarded the prizes. Mr W. Mellor, of Wakefield, who, we believe, cultivates his bulbs at Kirkthorpe, showed some grand blooms, both in regard to size, form, colour, and markings, and succeeded in carrying off the premier prizes for flamed and feathered blooms. Mr W. Calvert, of Potovens, recurring a like honour for the best bloom in the brouwer class. For the best stand of half a dozen variegated blooms Mr Mellor was first; 2, Mr E. Lister, of Zetland-street (the Chairman); 3, Mr G. Gill, Eastmoor; 4, Mr Alfred Moorhouse, Westgate (treasurer); 5, W. Calvert; 6, H. Brown, Potovens; 7, J. Hardwick, Eastmoor; 8, T. Maddock, Louthouse. Best 6 breeders—A. Moorhouse; 2, W. Calvert; 3, W. Mellor; 4, G. Gill; 5, J. Hardwick; 6, R. Lister; 7, H. Brown; 8, T. Maddock. Best 3 breeders—W. Mellor; 2, A. Moorhouse; 3, W. Calvert; 4, G. Gill; 5, E. Lister; 6, T. Maddock; 7, J. Hardwick; 8, H. Brown. Best and second flamed bizarres—W. Mellor; 3 and 4, E. Lister; 5, H. Brown; 6, T. Maddock; 7, J. Hardwick; 8, G. Gill. Best feathered bizarres—A. Moorhouse; 2, E. Lister; 3, G. Gill; 4, A. Moorhouse; 5 and 6, W. Calvert; 7, T. Maddock; 8, J. Hardwick. Best flamed hybridous—T. Maddock; 2, W. Mellor; 3, A. Moorhouse; 4, T. Maddock; 5, G. Gill; 6, E. Lister; 7 and 8, H. Brown. Best feathered hybridous—A. Moorhouse; 2 and 3, W. Mellor; 4, W. Calvert; 5, G. Gill; 6, T. Maddock; 7, H. Brown; 8, T. Maddock. Best flamed ruses—A. Moorhouse; 2 and 3, G. Gill; 4, A. Moorhouse; 5, W. Mellor; 6, T. Maddock; 7 and 8, W. Calvert. Best feathered ruses—W. Mellor; 2, T. Maddock; 3, W. Mellor; 4 and 5, E. Lister; 6 and 7, A. Moorhouse; 8, G. Gill. Best and second ruse breeders—G. Gill; 3, W. Mellor; 4 and 5, A. Moorhouse; 6, W. Mellor; 7 and 8, W. Calvert. Best hybridous breeders—G. Gill; 2, A. Moorhouse; 3, J. Hardwick; 4 and 5, W. Calvert; 6, T. Maddock; 7, J. Hardwick; 8, T. Maddock. Best bizarre breeders—A. Moorhouse; 2 and 3, W. Mellor; 4 and 5, T. Maddock; 6, A. Moorhouse; 7 and 8, W. Calvert. Best 3 British ferns—G. Gill; 2, J. Hardwick; 3, W. Calvert. The duties of hon. secretary were most efficiently discharged by Mr James Hardwick.

## 50 YEARS AGO

## TULIP SHOW

## WAKEFIELD AND NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY

The 107th annual show of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society was opened at the Whinney Moor Hotel, Lupton, last Saturday. The Society was formed in order to promote the culture of the old English florist tulip, and though that remains its primary aim, in recent years provision has been made for the inclusion of several classes for other varieties of the tulip. Last year over 1,200 blooms were exhibited, but on the present occasion that number was exceeded, the increase being mainly in regard to the "other varieties." Three premier awards are offered, one for the best breeder in show, one for the best feathered and one for the best flamed. Mr L. Walker (Altrincham) won the premier for feathered and flamed, and Mr R. Robinson (Horbury) the premier for breeder. As was the case last year, the proceeds of the show, including the sale of flowers, were in aid of the funds of the Clayton Hospital. Mr G. Hunt (Horbury) is the Society's Secretary. The judges were Messrs W. Biddows (Altofts), R. Robinson (Horbury), and W. Midgley (Halifax), and they were assisted by Messrs A. Robshaw (Alverthorpe), N. Eyre (Horbury) and J. Akers (Altofts).

The opener was the Mayor of Wakefield (Ald. J. W. Milner), who was accompanied by the Mayoress, and by the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress (Cr J. E. M. Hirst and Mrs Hirst). At the outset of the proceedings, Mr F. K. Hunter (Horbury), who is President of the Society, referred to the death of the late President, Sir Daniel Hall, K.C.B., M.A., F.R.S., LL.D., London, author of "The Book of the Tulip." As a mark of respect to the memory of the late President, the company rose and stood in silence for a few moments.

Mr Hunter, in his opening remarks, called attention to the fact that that was the earliest date in living memory that the show had been held. He was informed that the only time when the opening was anywhere near the present date was about forty-five years ago.

The Mayor remarked that though this was the 107th show, the members had displayed a very

youthful energy in staging such a magnificent show, and he congratulated them on that energy. That show was an eye-opener to him. Before declaring the show open, he expressed his pleasure that they were combining business with pleasure, inasmuch as the proceeds of the show were for the Clayton Hospital.

On the proposition of Mr W. G. Robertson, seconded by Mr W. Biddows, the Mayor and his party were thanked.

The Chairman announced that the Committee, at their last meeting, had a whip round for the Mayoress' "Triplets Fund," and collected £17s., which he now had the pleasure of presenting to the Mayoress.

The Mayoress, in receiving this contribution to the Fund, expressed her thanks.

Bouquets were handed to the Mayoress and Deputy Mayoress by a girl, Miss Doris Hunt.

The prize list was as under:

Open Classes—Vase of 18 tulips, any variety other than English forest (gold medal): 1, E. H. Robinson (Horbury); 2, W. Biddows (Altofts); 3, Mrs E. Walker (Altrincham).—Vase of 9 tulips, any variety other than English florist: 1, Master Tear (Altofts); 2 and 3, A. Robshaw (Peacock Farm Estate, Wakefield).—Vase of 25 English florist tulips: 1 and 2, Mrs E. Walker; 3, W. Robinson (Horbury).—Vase of 9 English florist tulips: 1 and 2, Mrs E. Walker; 3, J. Preat (Horbury).—

Silver Challenge Cup for stand of 12 rectified tulips, namely, four bizarres, four biblomen and four roses, each four consisting of two feathered and two flamed: 1, E. H. Robinson; 2, E. Walker (Altrincham); 3, J. Akers (Altofts).—Needham Memorial Cup for stand of 9 tulips (honorary), namely, three bizarres, three biblomen and three roses, each trio consisting of one breeder, one feathered, one flamed: 1, M. Downing (Normanton).—Six rectified, dissimilar: 1, M. Downing; 2, E. Walker; 3, J. Akers.—Six breeders, dissimilar: 1, W. Biddows; 2, J. Akers; 3, R. Robinson (Horbury).—Three rectified, or Stages Class, namely one breeder, one feathered, one flamed, all of the same colour. (Silver cup): 1, R. Robinson; 2, N. Eyre (Horbury); 3, C. Baxendale (Horbury).—Three breeders, dissimilar. (Silver plate): 1, N. Eyre; 2, J. Akers; 3, R. Robinson.—Pair of flamed, dissimilar: 1, C. Baxendale; 2, J. Akers; 3, G. Hunt (Horbury).—Pair of feathered, dissimilar: 1, M. Downing; 2, N. Eyre; 3, G. Hunt.

Local Classes.—Silver challenge cup for stand of 9 English florist tulips, dissimilar, namely, three bizarres, three biblomen and three roses, each trio consisting of one breeder, one feathered, one flamed: 1, G. Hunt; 2, R. Robinson; 3, M. Downing.—There were nine classes for single blooms. Bizarres, biblomen and roses each had three classes, one for breeder, one for feathered and one for flamed. No competitor was allowed to take more than one prize in each class. N. Eyre won four 1sts and two 3rds; W. Biddows a 1st, 2nd and 3rd; J. Hunt, a 1st, 2nd and 3rd; A. Meens (Lupton) a 1st and a 2nd; A. Robshaw a 1st and 3rd; W. Robinson one 1st; Robinson two 2nds and two 3rds; E. H. Robinson two 2nds and a 3rd; J. Akers, a 2nd and 3rd; and M. Downing, a 2nd.

Novice Classes.—Three tulips (one breeder, one feathered and one flamed): 1, M. Downing; 2, J. Akers; 3, J. Butterworth (Ossett).

Breeder: 1, J. Mouter (Horbury); 2, Master Tear; 3, N. Smith (Horbury).—Feathered: 1, J. Preat; 2, C. Hampshire (Horbury); 3, Master Tear.—Flamed: 1, J. Akers; 2, J. Mouter; 3, C. Hampshire.—Three English florist tulips: 1, J. Mouter.—The Brook Silver Challenge Cup was offered for the winner of most points in the first four of the novice classes.

The Show 150 years ago was held on 29th May 1843 at the Royal Oak Inn Wrengate.  
The 8th Annual Show. Report from The Wakefield Journal of 2nd June 1843.

The Show 100 years ago was held on 22/23rd May 1893 at the Brunswick Hotel.  
The 58th Annual Show. Report from the Wakefield Express of 27th May 1893.

The Show 50 years ago was held on 8th May 1943 at the Whinney Moor Hotel, Lupset.  
The 108th Annual Show (Reported as 107th because of the counting error which had occurred many years previously.)  
Report from The Wakefield Express 15th May 1943.

Note the aforementioned Billy Tear in the Novice Classes.

### A Garden Day Out in Shropshire Anne Smales

This was a very special "garden day out". A memorable amalgam of people, plants, and places. We even got lost - an essential ingredient for the perfect outing.

The party mustered at 10.00 am. at The Moortown, near Wellington to see David Bromley's plantsman's garden. Once we were past the Giant Hogweed there was a surprise around every corner - perfumes, - colours, - textures. The yellow book is near the mark with "*controlled confusion*". The one acre garden is a series of beds containing a mixture of perennials and shrubs, divided by paths running in a roughly North - South direction. The old roses were probably at their best and the spectacle of a bed of terrestrial orchids standing 2 1/2 feet high, will remain forever.

David had a Mandrake with fruit - curious green golf balls borne at ground level - an enormous Mistletoe growing at head height on its host, - and a Cytisus with yellow flowers, its scent earns it the name pineapple tree. At a lower level were the hardy geraniums and old fashioned pinks. With the friendly figurines and the shady pergola they created a garden that remained full of interest while maintaining a relaxing atmosphere.

Thank you David for allowing us to be your guests and to your mum for the welcome cup of tea.

By now it was lunch time - "Follow My Leader" is the name of the game and "our leader" was determined to see as much of the Wrekin as possible.

Thank you Malcolm for the mystery tour and for finding the best pub lunch in Shropshire.

Next stop Dudmaston Hall, the home of Rachel Lady Labouchere and Sir George. They were celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary and entertaining the local people in a marquee, but they still found time to greet our party, open up the house and gardens just for us, and give us a cream tea in the Stables Tea Rooms.

The house conveys a sense of history, while retaining that "lived-in" feeling. Of major interest to our group, among the artefacts old and new, are the 18th Century Dutch flower pictures. Most feature tulips (broken of course) along with roses, peonies, auriculas etc. Auriculas feature again in a set of sixteen prints on the South Gallery landing. They are the work of Rory McEwen, who also produced our Society emblem.

The grounds from the Hall roll down to the lake, broken only by majestic cedars. To the left are the old roses and magnolias and at the water's edge Gunnera and water lilies - a magnificent view. While we were enjoying this a van came across the lawn and delivered an anniversary present from the National Trust; a seat from which Sir George and Lady Labouchere can relax and enjoy the view. We trust they will spend many happy hours doing just this. We thank them again for receiving us so graciously and send our heartfelt congratulations on their Golden Anniversary.

[The Society have sent 50 bulbs of a golden tulip - Sweet Harmony - to be planted at the hall. Ed]

After David's garden and Dudmaston Hall Dr. Katherine Swift's garden would need to be something special - and indeed it was. Katharine and her husband live in the Dower House adjoining Morville Hall. Like Dudmaston it belongs to the

National Trust. To the rear is a one and a half acre paddock and for the last four years Katherine has devoted herself to converting it into a living garden museum.

She has created a series of formal gardens representing styles from the 12th Century to Victorian times contrasted with informal wild areas. On the latter the Nuttery and Orchard areas will give the opportunity for under planting with small and large bulbs.

In the formal vegetable garden the tasteful combination of vegetable beds, flower borders, specimen plants and herbs was sweet and refreshing. She will certainly know how to get the best from her English Florist Tulips. It was a privilege to be able to share with Katherine her progress to date and wish her good gardening in the future. We're all looking forward to seeing the end product.

As an added bonus we were invited to look at the garden of Morville Hall itself. Recently renovated, magnificent views, the vineyard, the stewpond, by this time we were going onto automatic pilot, we had seen so much in one day.

Then the crowning glory came when the lady of the house, Mrs. Norbury, invited us in to look round - at leisure. What a kind gesture. A wonderful day closed with everyone squeezing into Katherine's home for a welcome cup of tea, we really appreciated her hospitality.

Everyone who joined our day out agreed they had thoroughly enjoyed it. Many thanks to Wendy and all concerned in the organisation.

To those of you who couldn't make it - you missed a treat!!!

#### PRESENTING THE TULIP TO THE SHOW BENCH

Ms. J. Eyre

At the beginning of May, hearts start to lift as the buds of the tulips creep out of the mid green leaves. The show date draws near and the buds colour and markings form. The optimism of all the growers, experienced and novice alike, is raised



the hope that this year there will be a prize-winning bloom on the tulip bed. Even if you are a new member and only have one flowering bloom the excitement of the annual show can be shared by all.

A few days before the show you should be checking your show schedule for the time of staging of the blooms. Depending on the weather and how many tulips you have to pick you should start to cut the flowers. I usually start to cut on Thursday night and again on Friday night, then have a last look for anything that might have opened at the last minute on Saturday morning before the show.

Once the blooms have been cut, put them in a deep container with plenty of water, so they can have a good drink. Then place them somewhere cool and dark. For a few days in May we have the prettiest coal shed in the district. This year, because of the very hot weather, blooms were cut up to a week prior to the show and placed in fridges throughout the country, hoping that they would last; luckily some did.

When cutting, the length of the stem does not have to be too great as most of the English classes are shown in half pint beer bottles.

The most important thing to remember when preparing for the show is that even if you think your blooms are not prize-winners, bring them along anyway, you might be quite surprised how well you do and how much fun you can have. Don't worry if you don't know the varieties and which classes you should enter as there are always experienced members ready and willing to help and guide you with plenty of advice.

On the morning of the show pack your blooms and carry them carefully to the show. Once you have arrived collect some beer bottles and start to place your tulips in them. Each bottle must have an exhibitor's number and the bloom must be named. Once you have sorted out your bottles collect your exhibitor's number and plain labels to name the blooms. If you are unsure of the names all you have to do is ask. It is quite usual to see even the experienced members wandering about the room with two or more tulips in hand, comparing them with other members' blooms, to clarify the varieties. The next stage is to decide which classes you can enter.

Firstly sort out your feathered from your flamed and if you are really lucky, any breeders you may have. Select the classes your bloom can enter and check that all

your flowers only have six petals. For a bloom to be in good showing order it should have a clean base, free from pollen, water and greenfly. To achieve this is quite simple, using a fine artist's paint brush. Carefully dust all the debris out. If your blooms are quite old it is not always wise to do this as the flowers can and do shatter very easily. So by blowing gently into the base, then turning it upside down, most of the pollen etc can be dislodged and caused to fall out.

When all your blooms are cleaned, numbered and named all you have to do is stage them. This is done by the class number being called out and each exhibitor placing their bottles on the tables.

The more exhibitors, the better the show, so even if you have never showed before give it a go and see the tulip and the Society at their best.

#### The Paisley Florist Society

David Hastings

My bulbs were potted in J.I. No. 2, one bulb to a 7" pot, overwintered in the cold greenhouse the pots sunk halfway in the ground outside early in the spring. About half flowered and were much admired by family and friends.

Seed pods formed on Adonis (74 seeds), Wakefield (47 seeds) and Lord Stanley (36 seeds). All were "bee" pollinated and therefore a bit of a long shot. If nothing else they will give me some experience of raising tulip seed. Bulb production was good, no losses on the original bulbs and plus offsets gave about 45 for planting this year. Each original bulb with its offsets near to it potted as before.

This coming season I intend to flower them in the cold greenhouse and try a bit of serious controlled pollination. Articles in the newsletters have been most helpful. All being well, I should soon be able to start returning bulbs to the Society.

Now to the main reason for the delay in replying. I spent some hours looking at the old minute books of the Paisley Florist Society and enclose some extracts. Two

of these will be of real interest, the rest will give you a flavour of the "Paisley Society" remembering that they were growing all the florist flowers and much more besides. They, as Ruth Duthie has written in her book, chose the flower of the competition in advance and the extract dated 1796 shows 4 weeks of tulip competition under the heading "Competition for the named flower".

The extracts starting 9th July 1853 regarding Mathew Perry's (a past member) request for 100 tulip "roots" etc. to my knowledge has never been printed or published in any form. Surely this is proof of florist tulips being sent to America from Paisley - (Pinks were also sent to America from Paisley.)

At the beginning of the Society members met in the house of another member and there is on record that they would have to find another house to meet in as the member whose house the Florists were currently using was going to America and he was wished a safe return. This was not Mathew Perry. The Mr Waterston referred to is the well-documented ranunculus grower - some of his raising being illustrated in Sweet's Florists Guide

The entry dated 4th June 1853. At last we have some names of the tulips shown. Walworth and Polyphemus I have read about. The rest I don't think I've heard of. Although Hamden and Professor Neilson may be local cultivars. In 1852 the John Neilson Institution was founded in the town and this tulip may have been named in his honour.

Extracts from the Minute Books of the Paisley Florist Society  
(Inst. 1782)

Entry - 12th May 1803

Robert Carswell, D. Smith and Thomas Robertson are appointed surveyors to inspect the gardens of all those members which design to compete with Tulips - and to question their (response/records)\* with respect to the (lon...)\* of the Tulip bloom and to determine to the day appointed for the genus at competition but if they can not with certainty given in their decision upon next Thursday night they shall be allowed some more time to do it.

May 19th 1803

The surveyors having inspected the flowers according to their appointment bring in their verdict according to their opinion that Friday the 3rd of June is the best time to fix the medium so as to make it agreeable to all parties both for late and early flowers.

1796 Competition for the named flower

May 12	John Findlay	Best tulip
May 19	John Brock	Best tulip
May 26	John Findlay	Best tulip
June 2	John Brock	Best tulip

23rd Oct. 1817

This night it was determined that a competition will take place next year and the flower fixt upon is the tulip. Twelve different sorts are to be brought in but it is understood that 3 of those are to be yellow grounds.

9th July 1853

A letter was read from Mathew Perry, America requesting to purchase a hundred tulip roots, Renunculus and other seeds - when a committee of three was appointed to answer the same. To meet here on Monday first at 9 o'clock.

11th July 1853

Agreeable with last minute a committee consisting of John Waterston, John Robertson and William McAlpine met to answer Mathew Perry's letter. It was proposed out of respect to Mr. Perry, he being lately a member of this club, we send him a hundred tulip roots of different sorts free of any charge along with the other seeds mentioned in his letter with exception of the Renunculus seed there being scarcely any bloom this season and consequently little seed. Mr. Waterston is instructed to write a letter to this effect and show it to the club the first meeting night for their approval.

16th. July 1853

Mr. Waterston read the letter to Mr. Perry which was unanimously approved of.

4th June 1853

The Tulip competition took place. First for the best nine flowers - John Wylie.

Bybloemens	La Bella Narriene	Roses Triumph Royal Bizarres	Polyphemus
	Cupida	Walworth	Hamden
	Gadsby's Magnificent	Montona	Professor Neilson

Best Bybloemen - John Nisbit. La Bella Narriene

Best Rose - David Black. Lady Crewe.

Best Bizarre - Wm. Jamieson. Polyphemus.

\* Illegible.

Friends of Petersfield Physic Garden  
Extract from a letter

Last year we saw the television garden programme which featured the Florist's striped tulips grown by your Society. We care for a garden devoted to plants of the 17th century and are hoping to acquire some striped tulips of the kind favoured in the 17th century for the beds of the Florist's section.

Do you sell striped tulips to a Society like ours?

If you do, have you a catalogue of bulbs available and could you please send one?

[ Again some on the way - Ed. ]

## Early Flowering of English Florist Tulips

Rae Beckwith - 07-07-92

Some notes on my attempts to encourage English Florist Tulips to flower earlier than the date normally expected. The reason for this was to try to stage florist tulips at the Gateshead Show held on the 11th and 12th of April, a tall order there being some six weeks between the dates.

To begin with the bulbs were planted on October 8th in a soil based compost that was free draining and of a higher sand content than that which is normally used. John Innes base was added sparingly, and the bulbs planted one bulb to a 3 ltr. pot. The pots were then placed outside in an area as frost free as possible. In my part of the world that is not easy!

Ten weeks before the required flowering date the pots were lifted into the cold greenhouse. After giving the bulbs a few days to settle the pots were given a watering of Maxi-crop and top growth was under way. Regular watering and a weekly watering of Maxi-crop was carried out. The bulbs were caned and the first colour was noted on 1st May. This date was later than I had hoped but I am hopeful that next season with some date adjustments and the addition of gentle heat my objective may be achieved.

All was not lost however as the bulbs in their pots were displayed at the next Auricula meeting. Great interest was created and at least one new member for the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society obtained.

### Florists Tulips in Hertfordshire (chapter 2)

by Allan Hawkes

First of all, the sackcloth and ashes department. When I knocked up the screed which was published in Newsletter No. 4, my bulbs were in the ground. Consequently when I wished to quote their usual size ( I think I said 7 - 8 cm.) I could only make a shape with thumb and forefinger and guess its circumference. On lifting the bulbs a couple of weeks ago, I checked my guess and found that a good many of them were at least 12 cm. Mind you, the smaller ones do flower. One

thing I didn't say: when I lift my bulbs religiously on July 22nd. (my wife's birthday) and let them dry off for a few days, they are then immersed in a strong solution of Benlate and then left to soak for a few hours. They are then left to dry, still in the small plastic pots which have been their home since lifting and after a few days when thoroughly dry they are stored away in large envelopes. The Benlate bath is repeated just before they are planted in November on Remembrance Sunday. I always keep to this date. The object of the fungicide treatment is to combat Tulip Fire - it seems fairly successful.

I was pleased with my tulips' flowering this May (1992 *Ed.*) but disappointed that the very hot weather curtailed it so abruptly. The bulbs have multiplied well, though, and I have been able, believe it or not, to send a small parcel to Wakefield for distribution. I hope they perform well for their new owners.

On 1st point: I think our Hon. Secretary deserves a medal ... nay, a statue.

### PASSPORT TO GRANDEUR

Trevor Mills

It was on the 16th October 1992. I had confirmation from Shugborough Hall, Stafford, the home of Lord Lichfield, requesting a floral display of tulips to be staged the weekend of our main show 15th - 16th May 1993.

Always prepared to accept a challenge I said "yes", not knowing what lay ahead.

Having two sponsors at Spalding, Lincolnshire I felt safe in the knowledge that I would have plenty of tulips to satisfy the Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrely flower club in their arrangements. Then the inevitable happened. Both sponsors phoned to say that they would not be able to cater for my needs, due to an early season and there were no tulips available!

Thanks to the Society, at the Dutch Show at Wrenthorpe a week before Mr John Hardman requested that any tulips not wanted after the show would be gratefully accepted by yours truly for Shugborough and I shall never forget how every tulip

was left on the tables for my use.

Back home down the M1 to the Midlands straight into water where Chrysal powder had been added and with cool and dark conditions until the Sunday before display.

With 400 blooms of competition standard panic still remained. Bill Tear, a long-standing member of the Society, had given me various addresses of people who sold cut blooms and it was on the Monday before the show that I contacted by phone an auctioneer firm in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, to bid for me in respect of 2500 blooms. Luckily I succeeded and transported them back on the Tuesday but where could I keep them? There was only one place, it is a good job that our bath is a good bit long. Long-suffering Margaret, my wife, always states that she does not know what she has married; previously she has had turkeys in her front room and now tulips in the bath - what next?

Secretary from the flower club came to check tulips on the Thursday and complained that there were no blue colours to match the wallpaper of a certain room, but on explaining that the nearest you can get to that colour in a tulip is a lilac, the explanation seemed to satisfy. Friday began nice and fresh, I know, I saw it happen. I was up with the dawn chorus to make two journeys from home in the van to place on the steps and under the portico of Shugborough Hall tulips from Wakefield. I felt they were meant to be there, it was the right setting. Flower ladies together with teacher arrived at nine o'clock to work through to four, worn out, but enjoying and savouring every moment as remarked, where could we have got such enormous and fine blooms, so fitting to the Mansion House and to make it complete Bill Tear arriving with further blooms to finish off. Not one single word of distaste, only compliments, people coming from miles away, even on the television they had not seen anything like this in the West Midlands.

Even Lord Lichfield came and admired them this being very rare for him to be seen in the house: praise indeed.

May I thank you all for all the kindness shown for this project, it was a one-off, but it will be a long time before Shugborough forgets the tulips from Wakefield, and their brilliance for a second time around.



## PHOTOGRAPHS OF ENGLISH TULIPS

Maurice Evans

In May 1987 I joined the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society and, with the permission and co-operation of the Society's Officials and Exhibitors, began to photograph some of the English Tulips after their exhibition at the Annual Main Show. The close-up format of those photographs, when shown as slides at the 1987 Annual General Meeting, was found to be acceptable to Members.

After photographing more English Tulips in May 1988 I offered, with the continuing co-operation of Officials and Exhibitors, to try to create, at my own expense a photographic record on slides and negatives (for prints) of as many as possible of the varieties in cultivation and to update the record for new varieties as they were introduced. Up to and including May 1993 the record contains some 257 slides (49 varieties) and 154 negatives (39 varieties).

This record is not by any means complete or fully satisfactory. All the photography has to be done in the four or five days immediately following the show, while ever the flowers remain in reasonable condition and irrespective of the weather during that time. Close examination shows that not all is well with some of the photographs and it is hoped to replace those as and when the varieties again become available.

The record is comprised of two photographs of each flower. The first taken of the inside of the flower to try to show the colour, the markings or venation and the overall shape of the best petal, the purity of the base colour (white or yellow); the shape and colour of the stigma and stamens. At the shows tulips are judged mainly on the inside of the flower. The second is taken of the outside of the flower to try and show the overall flower shape, the petal shapes, markings or venation and colour and the base colour, with for 'Breeders' some indication of its pattern or outline. These are the aims of perfection which are not always wholly achieved, partly because some flowers refuse to be persuaded to pose or to open or close as required, and partly because my photographic technique is not always up to scratch.

Broken (rectified or virused) tulips do not produce precisely the same pattern and colour of markings year after year. Each photograph is, therefore, unique and irreplaceable. For this reason the slides must be protected and are, and will continue to be, used only for projection at the A.G.M. Prints from the negatives are displayed in albums at the A.G.M. and at both shows.

At the 1992 A.G.M. Members asked me to consider selling prints to them. This entails some risk of damage to or destruction of the negatives from which the back up copy cannot be separated. That risk can be minimised if the prints are sold in selected batches so that the negatives are in the hands of the printers on one occasion only. As an experiment it is proposed to offer this year 6ins.x 4ins. prints of the nine photographs listed on the order form. If this offer is shown to be acceptable to members batches of different photographs will be offered in future years. This selection of varieties has been made to represent Bibloemens, Bizarres and Roses and includes some old varieties. Constructive comments and suggestions on this offer and the future selections will be welcomed either in writing or at the A.G.M.

The price of the prints, as shown on the order form, includes an element above the actual cost to me of the copy prints. Of this amount half will be retained by the Society and the other half will help to fund a new award at the Main Show, sponsored by my wife and myself, to help to encourage the breeding, growing and showing of new varieties.

Full details of the award will be published when approved by the Society's Committee. Members whose exhibited flowers have been photographed may have prints of them at cost.

One final point; I hold the copyright to all these photographs, slides, negatives and prints. The copyright, the slides and the negatives will probably be transferred eventually to the Society. The prints must not be copied, used in any publication or in any other way which infringes that copyright.

## SEED PRODUCTION - OUTDOORS

Mr. J. Ollerenshaw

Quite regularly when I meet other Members I am told of the failure to get the sown seed to germinate. This, to me, seems impossible because tulip seed normally germinates as easily as grass seed. The fault, I am sure, lies not in the care bestowed upon the seed from sowing in September to germination in January or February, but is entirely due to the effect of harmful bacteria killing off the growing seed in the pod. This is not often apparent; the pod continues to grow and swell and the seed ripens within - albeit sterile seed. This is the most soul-destroying result of infection.

In the greenhouse with the tulips seeding in large pots, the situation can be controlled from the moment of fertilization to the end result of pods full of ripe fertile seeds. As most seed raisers seem to operate with their tulips on the bed, I decided this year to do the same but not in the usual way.

## Modus operandi

(see sketch on back of outside cover)

On the beds, select as many tulips as are required. This is where the "useless" flowers come into their own. In selecting, choose good strong well-leaved tulips because they will have to continue to grow well beyond normal lifting time. Whilst waiting for the tulips to flower, put the whole household on drinking copious amounts of coca-cola, lemonade etc. from 2-litre plastic bottles.

One empty bottle is required for each tulip selected for seeding. Cut the bottom part of the bottles off some six inches long giving plastic domes. Have an equal number of moderately thin bamboo canes (3 feet long should be alright). In line with one of the six moulded points of the bottle bottom and about one inch up from the cut edge, pierce a small hole.

Place the bottle bottom over the end of the cane and tap a good drawing pin through the pierced hole and into the cane. It is important to keep the cane in line with the moulded point and the securing hole.

All is now ready. As soon as a chosen flower has been pollinated (don't forget to do this on a dry sunny day), insert the cane near to the flower stem, but clear of the bulb, and push it into the bed until the entire bloom is half-way up inside the dome. It may be necessary to shorten the cane to get the dome the correct height above the bed. Next day, ease up the dome clear of the bloom and inspect the stigma to see if the pollen has "taken" (it becomes stained purple or brown). If so, generously dust the stigmatic surfaces with green flowers of sulphur powder. Place a thin piece of cotton wool over the stigma and re-position the dome.

When the petals fall off, lift up the dome again and re-powder with the sulphur. This time place a larger piece of cotton wool over the stigma and pull it down the side of the immature pod to form a kind of sheath. Secure this sheath with a piece of soft twine and a half granny knot. Reposition the dome over the pod so that it stands clear of the sides and about half-way up from the bottom edge. About once a week inspect the swelling seed pod and keep the sheath in place until complete ripeness.

From day one of this process it is essential to keep the seeded bulbs growing in order that the strain of seed bearing can be achieved without loss of substance (particularly so if a Breeder or good quality "break" has been used). Regular watering and feeding should be carried out as well as spraying the leaves and stems with fungicide.

When the pods are fully ripened, cut them off with a good length of stem and stand them in a dry container indoors until the seed is extracted.

A few points to remember:-

Before sowing soak the seeds in water for two days. Place the seeds flat on the compost surface in a single layer and each touching the other. Cover seed about half an inch deep. Stand the seed boxes, covered with glass, outside until December. Keep compost moist. Ensure that worms cannot enter the boxes. In choosing seed compost use only those without grit. Sand allows tiny bulblets to be "found" easily.

In December move the boxes into the greenhouse or garden frame to await early January germination.

THE UNSEEN ENEMY  
Mr. J. Ollerenshaw

The controversy about how to prevent our tulips from the T.B.V. seems to be constantly on the back boiler. How far apart Breeders from T.B.V. infected bulbs? Upwind or downwind one from the other? Growing Breeders miles from anywhere? etc.

Let us look at what is said about T.B.V. Our Bill Tear says and also shows that he and his father grew Breeders alongside "broken" and yet over that time very little "breaking" took place.

Others on donating a Breeder bulb often say that it bloomed this year as a Breeder but? Some years we have very few aphids about yet members have high numbers of Breeders "breaking" in such years.

All the above takes place out in the garden during the growing and blooming phases of the tulip. But what about the time when our tulips are out of the ground?

Four kind of aphid occur on the tulip viz:-

<i>Anuraphis tulipae</i>	}	
<i>Rhopalosiphonius tulipella</i>	}	IN STORAGE
<i>Myzus persicae</i>	}	
<i>Macrosiphum gei</i>	}	IN GROWTH

The first two primarily exist on stored tulips; the second two on growing tulips.

Surely, then, as we can easily control the infection by aphids during the growth periods, we should be able to keep our bulbs completely free from infection during storage. Perhaps if more care was taken of the stored bulbs the incidence of "breaking" could be reduced to a yearly odd few. From a horticultural publication some years after T.B.V. had been found

"In nature it (T.B.V.) is partially spread by aphids feeding on the bulbs in store. If bulbs are allowed to become infected in storage then next season a large percentage of "broken" blooms will appear.

"There are two types of "breaking", the "self break" or "Red break" in which the ground colour is intensified in the streaks, and the "clear break" or "White break" in which the ground colour is absent. "'Broken' varieties never recover although they may produce a few healthy offsets.\*If aphids are kept down in store there is no danger of the breaking spreading."

This last sentence seems to infer that aphids on the tulips during growth and bloom do not spread the virus. Any ideas?

\*This may be the explanation of Bill Tear's saying that he and his father had produced some almost breeders from "broken" bulbs.

#### ENVELOPES

Jean Lewis

Like a lot of people I joined the Society after the now famous Gardeners' World programme. But gardening isn't my only interest. I knit, read, photograph, walk and make my Christmas cakes during the Blackburn "Wakes Weeks" which is the last two weeks in July. One of my favourite pastimes is to take my camera for a walk when and if we get some snow!!

However I do have a serious side and I try to help one or two charities. One way I do this is to save used postage stamps. Wendy very kindly saves these for me and at the A.G.M. last October I collected a big bag of envelopes. As I removed stamp from envelope - which is then recycled - I made a few observations, which follow.

How wonderful to find people who can write a readable hand and also those whose handwriting is worse than mine. Envelopes appeared from just about everywhere but the ones who used the postcode came from, USA, Italy, Holland and Eire.

One letter came from Orpington in Kent - the town I was born and raised in and lived there until I migrated to Lancashire in 1974. One was simply addressed as "The Tulip Society of Rare Bulbs", Wakefield, and it arrived! My favourite was "Windy Acres", leading me to picture a house set in a bleak moor setting. Luckily I know better.

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND  
TULIP SOCIETY

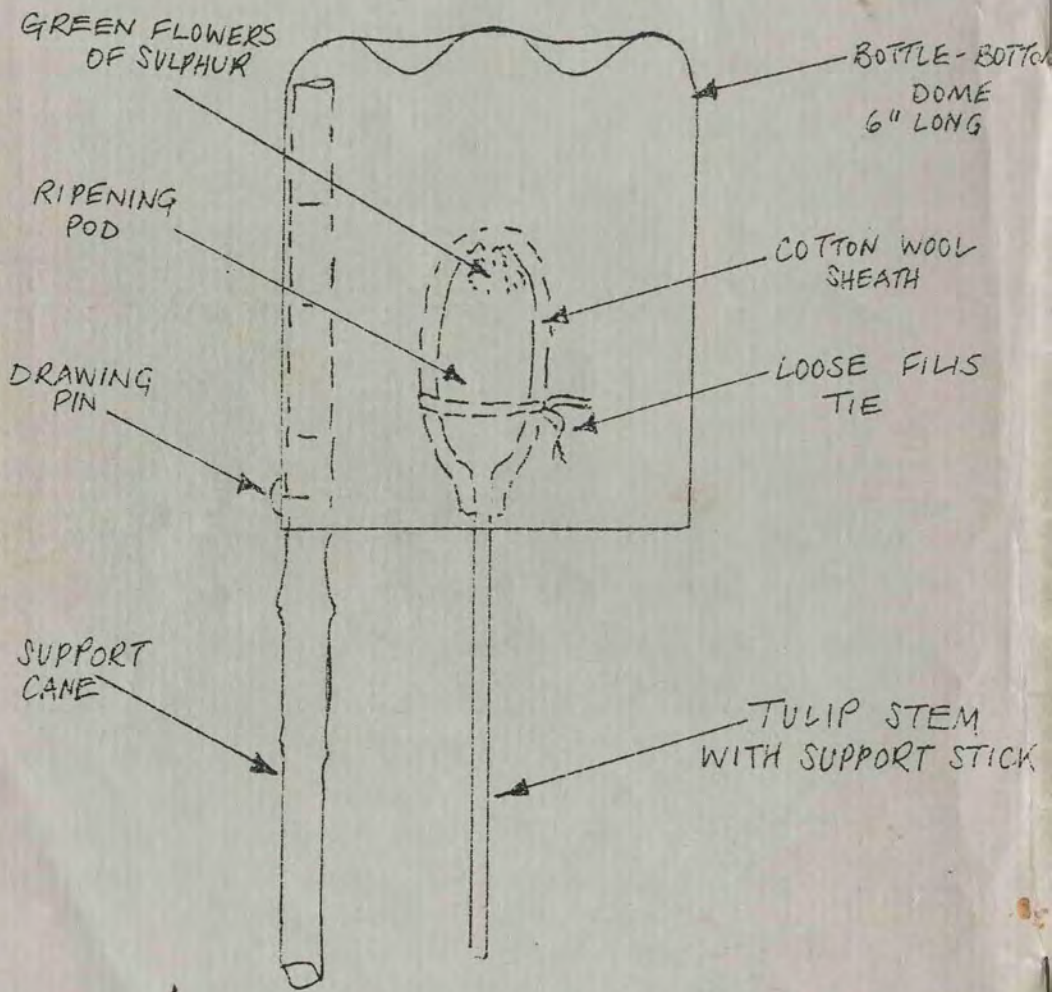
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1993

RECEIPTS	1993	1992	PAYMENTS	1993	1992
Subscriptions/Donations	718.50	765.00	Postage	303.29	117.56
Sale of Booklets	24.00	21.00	Insurance	88.88	66.63
Profit/Loss on Main Show	-	-		76.17	111.45
Profit/Loss on Dutch Show	-	-		65.60	115.24
Donation from Shugborough	50.00		Hall Hire	6.00	24.00
Nett Profit at A.G.M	69.30	-3.43	Bulb Dist. (post/pack)	22.74	61.34
			Stationery	122.12	73.92
			Printing	33.11	22.85
			Cost of Newsletter	-	217.08
			Engraving	-	24.50
			Plastic Show Class Holders	37.05	-
			Books	45.00	-
			Excess of Income/Exp.	61.84	-52.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>861.80</b>	<b>782.57</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>861.80</b>	<b>782.57</b>

BALANCE SHEET	1993	1992		1993	1992
Cash in Bank 30.09.92	1512.75	1260.45	Cash in Bank 30.09.93	1653.70	1512.75
Cash in Hand 30.09.92	4.55	9.00	Cash in Hand 30.09.93	40.00	4.55
Owed for Parkers Bulbs	95.46	274.91	Owed for Parkers Bulbs	127.81	95.46
Outstanding Debts	-79.64		Outstanding Debts	-201.22	-79.64
Interest Received	25.34	40.76			
Excess of Income/ Expenditure	61.84	-52.00			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1620.30</b>	<b>1533.12</b>		<b>1620.30</b>	<b>1533.12</b>

Balance Comparison 1988 - 1993

Year	Balance	Profit/Loss	Interest
1988	853.58	16.76	42.89
1989	873.55	-22.98	42.95
1990	941.91	-1.73	70.09
1991	1544.36	518.49	83.96
1992	1533.12	-52.00	40.76
1993	1620.30	61.84	25.34



SKETCH OF APPARATUS