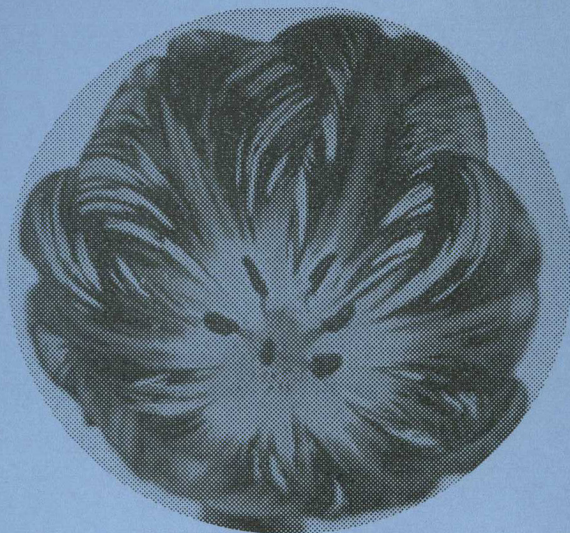


WAKEFIELD
&
NORTH OF ENGLAND

TULIP SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED 1836



NEWSLETTER

No 10

AUTUMN 1998

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY
(Established 1836)

OFFICERS 1997-1998

PRESIDENT	The Marquess of Hartington
PATRONS	V Roozen Esq
VICE PRESIDENTS	Miss D B Snape, P Emmett, S Knowles, K N Eyre, T Mills, J L Akers, C Marsh, A Hayward, T Clark, J Ollerenshaw, Dr A K Swift, D Hopkins, Mrs J. Green
CHAIRMAN	K N Eyre
HON SECRETARY	Mrs W M Akers 70 Wrenthorpe Lane, Wrenthorpe, Wakefield, WF2 0PT Telephone 01924 375843
HON TREASURER	Mrs C Gude Barnsley, Telephone 01924 375843
COMMITTEE	J L Akers, Mrs W M Akers, K N Eyre, Mrs J Green, Mrs C Gude, M Hainsworth, T Mills, T Mitchell, P Turner, J Wainwright, Mrs B Pickering
EDITOR	J L Akers

Annual Subscriptions - Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1999 become due on the date of the Annual Show May 1999 and are for the sum of £5 per member or £6 for Family Membership.

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The Chairman's Report

Time seems to have passed very quickly this year - it doesn't feel like twelve months ago that I was sitting down to write my report for the 1997 newsletter. This year we have continued to visit new venues. In April, the Society had a stand at the Gateshead Show on a very cold weekend. We again attended the Harrogate Spring Show with an excellent show of blooms which were even better than last year. There were many more entries and of good quality. Suggestions have been made that we may concentrate on this show with members showing their Dutch blooms in future years, and dispense with the small Dutch show normally held two weeks before the Annual Show - which I feel would be a good idea. Margaret and Trevor Mills also made their second visit to the Malvern Show to provide a stand on the Society for which I would like to thank them and all others who helped on that occasion.

Our two shows were well supported. The Dutch show which had to be held on the Sunday due to double booking of the hall (we lost) was well supported by exhibitors, but visitors were few. The 163rd Annual Show was again about a week too late for many of our members best blooms, but this gave the opportunity for other members from different parts of the country to shine. I was pleased to see so many breeders back on the show bench, the increase in numbers was due in part to the bulbs received from the Hortus Bulborum. Also Trevor Mills sold some of his stock of breeders, the monies raised from the sale being used to promote the English tulip. More members showed in more classes this year, which gave the Judges a difficult task. Many thanks to Jack Taylor for judging the Dutch Show and the English classes at the Annual Show and to Jack Burton for helping with the latter. Also Jane Green for judging the Dutch classes at the Annual Show. As usual, the Society made the trip to Dudmaston on the next day, and I'm informed that the show of blooms was again well received with some hundred plus visitors.

There were two garden visits arranged this year, and although I was unable to join either of these, I understand they were very enjoyable. Congratulations to Sarah and John Wainwright on the birth of their first daughter Rosie in September 1997, and also to Jane and Alistair Green on the birth of their first daughter Isabel in July of this year. We have two new members of our committee, Barbara Pickering and John Gibson and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and existing members and officers of the Society for their contribution throughout the year. I would like to end with a special thank you to James Akers, our Editor, for the enormous amount of work he put in to the production of our new booklet on the English Florist Tulip. He, I know, spent untold hours collating information, collecting work from members and editing, arranging plates for the printers and much more. We now have an excellent informative and helpful booklet. I look forward to our members support through the coming year and would like to thank you all for attending and supporting us over the past year. I look forward to seeing many of you at our A G M.

Best Wishes

Keith Eyre

Editorial

JAMES AKERS

This is the tenth Newsletter which the Society has produced in its booklet form and was intended to be my last as editor. However no one has yet stepped forward to fill the breach so I may have to shoulder on. This year the Society has produced its new booklet *The English Florist's Tulip* which I believe is a credit to the Society and has been much admired by readers from outside the tulip fraternity. Several people have asked why no authors names have appeared in the booklet. This was done to stress that this was a Society effort with several contributors and was in fact a snapshot in time within the long history of the Society which has had the support of so many hard-working members over the years.

This newsletter is shorter than of recent years because of the new booklet and also because of lack of time despite my "retirement". I have already worked for several weeks in Poland, Hungary and Germany. I hope however that you find it interesting and I feel that there is quite a good balance in the articles between old and new. We could still find plenty of space for new contributors. Several years ago I appealed for members to go to their local libraries and spend a little time in looking through old newspapers to find about the history of the Florist Tulip in their area. Peter Turner responded and now in this issue we have a wonderful article from Margaret Maddison about Tulip shows in North east England. I hope that this will stimulate others to do likewise.

As a result of preparing pictures for the new booklet we now have a CD Disk with 50 slides on it. I hope to obtain further photographs in 1999 particularly of those varieties which we have not photographed before. When 100 are on the CD Disk then I hope to be able to make this available to members of the Society at a reasonable price. Anyone with a computer will find the quality of the pictures is very good indeed.

Keith mentions the continuing success of the Harrogate Spring Flower Show where the Society has arranged a Dutch Show for two years. We will be staging this coming year 1999 the National Tulip Championship for three vases of nine Dutch Tulips each vase containing a different variety. I suspect that this might create a certain amount of interest in the Gardening press so please plant a few more bulbs with this in mind.

Next year we most likely will not take the flowers to Dudmaston as in recent years, but will arrange a visit to members gardens to see the English Florist's Tulip flowers in bloom and also may attempt to have a judges training session on the day after the show.

May I thank you all for your support during the past ten years and once again make a plea for any articles that you can provide.

Society Business

Condensed Minutes of the AGM 1997

The meeting was held at Wrenthorpe Village Hall and commenced at 1:30pm

Present were the Chairman Mr K Eyre, Secretary Mrs W M Akers and Treasurer Mrs C Gude and more than 50 members.

The Chairman welcomed all in attendance and asked the secretary to give the apologies which had been received from 19 members. He hoped that we could get the business part of the meeting over as soon as possible. During the past year we had lost a number of members through death including Hubert Calvert our notable retired secretary, Colin Harrison a former chairman, Frank Smith who had judged the Dutch tulips at our shows for thirty or more years, and the shock passing, because she was so young, of our Patron Victor Roozen's beloved daughter Gina Roozen. Those present stood in silence in memory of those who had passed away.

Minutes. It was proposed by James Akers that minutes from the 1996 AGM which were printed in summarised form in the newsletter should be taken as read. This was carried unanimously. There were no matters arising except that the Chairman then read a statement regarding Mr W (Billy) Tear a patron of the Society who was deemed to have resigned from the Society.

Secretary's Report. The secretary reported that the society was going from strength to strength in terms of the interest shown by members and in general. The Royal Horticultural Society now diverted all enquiries regarding tulips to Wakefield and a large amount of correspondence was received during the year. The Society's first minute book which began in 1907 had been rebound, free of charge, by Nancy Bell who is the head conservator of the Oxford Colleges Conservation Consortium and a keen gardener.

Treasurer's Report. The report was published in the Newsletter. In addition Carole felt strongly that we should try to fund the basic running of the Society from the subscriptions and therefore she proposed an increase of £1 to £5 annual membership, £6 family membership. A question was raised from the floor as to whether £1 was sufficient. Carole said that it was and was likely to be sufficient for the next two or three years. Steve Thompson said that it was very good value as other societies charged three times as much. Carole then asked Jonathon Mitchell to model a sweat shirt with the Society's logo. These were available at £14 each through Carole.

Election of Officers. The following officers were re-elected.

President - The Marquess of Hartington

Patron - Victor Roozen

Vice Presidents - Miss D B Snape, P Emmett, S Knowles, K N Eyre, T Mills, J L Akers, C Marsh, A Hayward, T Clark, J Ollerenshaw, Dr A K Swift, D Hopkins, Mrs J Green

Chairman - K N Eyre

Secretary - Mrs W M Akers

Treasurer - Mrs C Gude

Editor - J L Akers
Auditor A Hayward

The editor intimated that he wished to stand down soon, and hoped that someone would come forward who could assist in the production of the 1998 newsletter before taking over for 1999. There were no immediate volunteers.

Committee. Beryl and Ron Crabtree stood down from the committee because Beryl's health did not allow her to do justice to the job. Sarah Wainwright also stood down as she needed to devote more time to her "other duties" as a mother. The Chairman thanked them for the effort they had put in and made a "plea from the heart" for members to join the committee.

John Gibson and Barbara Pickering were nominated and agreed to stand and were duly elected for three years. This left one vacancy but the committee have powers to co-opt if anyone subsequently wishes to stand.

The members of the committee were therefore the officers of the Society plus:-

Malcolm Hainsworth, John Wainwright, James Akers - retiring 1998.

Terry Mitchell, Trevor Mills, Peter Turner - retiring 1999.

Barbara Pickering, John Gibson and one vacancy - retiring 2000.

Any other business. James Akers explained the work which had been going on among the Committee to produce the new Society booklet to replace the existing one which dated from 1973. This in turn had replaced the original Barr's book which dated from 1897. He had hoped to have a facsimile available for the AGM but this had not been possible. However it was well on its way and would include 20 to 30 coloured photographs together with completely rewritten text by members of the Committee. Keith had spent a great deal of time at the show and at flowering time in general in describing all the currently grown varieties. Subject to approval of the costs by the Committee it was expected to send the completed book to the printers in about six weeks.

Robbie Robertson expressed his thanks to the organisers of the Garden visits which had been most enjoyable.

Dates of Shows. The members were notified about the Society's involvement in Gateshead, Harrogate and Malvern Shows and the proposed dates for the Society's Shows were put to the vote and agreed.

Dutch Show	2 May 1998
Annual Show	16 May 1998
AGM	3 October 1998

The meeting was then closed.

The members were then enthralled by a talk with slides by Anna Pavord on species tulips and her visits to see them growing in the wild. Anna's book on tulips is due to be released early in 1999 and we look forward to reading it.

Treasurer's Report

CAROLE GUDE

An expensive year! General running costs and insurance have run much as usual and for the second year we have paid a realistic sum to have the newsletters printed. Happily the profit on the 1997 AGM covered the costs of the shows once again. The higher loss on the English show is part explained by the cost of an extra goblet not always awarded in the past for the class for twelve breeders. Engraving is now up to date on the trophies, and you will see the cost of a good quality silver cup which was purchased to replace the Albert Tear Memorial Trophy when Billy Tear asked for the return of all the trophies which he had presented to the Society. Unusually the bulb distribution has shown a profit due to members generosity in paying for their breeder bulbs from the Hortus Bulborum. The donations from Gateshead and Malvern shows are very welcome, though not a reflection of the enormous effort put in by those members who attended and manned our stands. Our major expense this year, and largely the reason for the operating loss is the publication of our new society booklet. As you will see we have sold a substantial number number of copies and I shall now ensure that money from sales is paid back into our Building Society account as quickly as possible.

Special mention must be made of the £500 donation from a member Mr Steve Thompson, which has been made to enable us to pay for the restoration of "Sir Joseph Paxton" to a breeder. This is described in the article by Trevor Mills.

As you will see on the balance sheet, we have for the first time included a valuation, at cost, of the stock on the sales table and the new book which more than cover the operating loss. I have also included the shares which we were fortunate to receive from the Abbey National.

Overall, we seem to have finished the year in good heart, with no debts and substantial assets of about £4000 in total.

Once again, our thanks go to everyone who provided help in any way - the Society could not function at all without you.

The Garden Visits

WENDY AKERS

When planning anything such as a delightful day out sauntering round three beautiful gardens, one seldom takes into account a major plumbing emergency. Opening a cupboard in the kitchen to get out the coffee and finding a mini flood definitely gets the day off on the wrong foot. Happily, our friend and neighbour is a plumber so the time lost was kept to a minimum. Thus we arrived part way round Castle Bromwich Hall Garden. Jonathan Cooke the Head Gardener (just returned from a trek round India) was outlining the history of the

gardens from their original beginning in 1599 and the rediscovery and bringing back to beauty which began in 1984. The group were approaching the Maze and Batty Langley vegetable garden as we pitched up with them and we admired the quality of the vegetables, planted in radiating beds. There were herbs of course, I was amazed to find that the safflower, *Carthamus tinctoria* went back to Egypt 1551, there was the strong apple smell of *Artemisia* and *Hepatica* which according to Culpeper in 1653 “fortifies the liver and makes it impregnable”, handy if you are given to too many G & T’s. Sadly, he was only going by the leaf shape which is three lobed and therefore liver shaped so I suspect it isn’t terribly effective. The bed of celeriac was admirable, they were growing two kinds, ‘Monarch’ and ‘Balder’ and will have been eating them for some weeks as I write. The hall is the offices of Bovis the builder and was built in 1600 with oak foundations. It seems so strange to enter the gardens after the hurly burly of the roads around Birmingham, almost a culture shock. There was a little lost corner with a partly ruined little spiral of steps rising up, perhaps to a viewing height. Jonathan had a friend who joined the tour and someone said admiringly “she knows all the names”. When I discovered that *she* is Sue Dickinson who is the gardener for the Rothschild family I thought we were fortunate to have her company. The garden is a delight and we had to tear ourselves away. David Bromley was waiting to welcome us to his little paradise, as usual full of interest.

David’s garden seems to absorb everybody, you can walk around hearing muffled conversations and not actually see where anyone has gone. I love the covered scented tunnel down the middle, easy to imagine Beatrice and Benedict appearing. David had a stand of handsome *oenothera odorata* which I had never seen before and I admired its crimson stems and cornets of creamy yellow. A packet of the seed arrived in the post this week, David’s thoughtfulness. David’s mother had very kindly baked a selection of gorgeous cakes and made tea to go with them which was very much appreciated. After this cossetting we travelled on to Kate Swift’s Dower House garden near Bridgnorth which is a series of gardens beginning with a turf maze and medieval cloister garden and progressing to a Victorian rose border. There is always so much to see and it is so densely planted in places it is difficult to describe it all, it looked absolutely beautiful, my favourite is the fruit and vegetable garden where the soft fruits hung heavily in tempting bunches. The new canal garden looked very handsome. I had stayed with Kate in May and opened my eyes at the absolute crack of dawn to hear a strange noise. Not so strange, in fact it was the mower, being whizzed around the garden by Kate because she had to spend the day at Chelsea. This is an illustration of her dedication to the garden, most of us would have skipped it She had just taken a large party round the garden but indefatigably started again when we arrived. We ended up with more tea in the kitchen before setting off home, I reflecting on how fortunate we are to have such hospitable members willing to share their gardens with us.

Les Parapluies at Les Palmiers

JEFFREY PICKERING

A new addition to the Society's calendar saw an evening expedition on 30 July 1998 by a hardy band to the intimate Mediterranean quarter of Barnsley; in reality 106 Vaughan Road, a traditional red brick semi with a conventional front garden which belies the exotica we were to discover at the rear. Headlines such as 'Tropic of Barnsley' (Daily Mail) and 'One corner of Barnsley that's very Nice' (Daily Telegraph) have been used to describe the garden but as the skies threatened as we assembled at the front gate - 'Raincoat d'Azur' might have been more appropriate!

After a warm welcome by owner Richard Darlow we were led through a narrow white doorway at the side of the house. Once inside we were stopped in our tracks by the immense tapering blue spires of the spectacular *Echium pininiana* - looking very much at home, though far from its Canary Island roots. This seemed to set the scene for what lay beyond in the back garden proper. A visual feast of lush vegetation unfolded before our eyes and everything cheek by jowl in a plot just 60ft by 25ft. Richard gave an entertaining resumé of the garden's development. Plants from every continent are represented here; 15 varieties of *Yucca* punctuate the planting alongside *agaves*, *cordylines* and an impressive *Chusan Palm* which has survived several winters (without the protective overcoat which is apparently given to a similar specimen in nearby Sheffield Botanical Gardens). It is hard to believe that Richard and his partner Christine Darlow started this garden only eight years ago, indulging their love of the Mediterranean through recreating the sights, sounds and smells of the region in their own suburban Yorkshire plot. The permanent planting of these exotics is interwoven by gravel paths; a discrete seating area beckons under a Monterey Pine and the trickle of the water feature calms the spirits. Plantaholics in the party gave close inspection to *Magnolia delavayi* (flowers just faded unfortunately) and a new planting of the black bamboo, *Phyllostachys nigra*. There were three different *Eucalyptus* to admire including the stunning bark of *Eucalyptus dairympleana*. All this alongside a 10ft Italian Cypress which perhaps as much as anything gave that genuine Mediterranean feel.

As the dark clouds, reminiscent of a Mediterranean storm, rolled in the downpour began with your author narrowly avoiding serious injury in the stampede towards the conservatory and a welcome, and dry, tea interval. The silver lining in this cloud proved to be the chance to browse through the rave reviews deservedly earned by the owners from the national and international press. All this carefully catalogued in albums alongside photographs of the making of this remarkable garden. A signed photograph of the late Geoff Hamilton sitting under the Monterey Pine taken during filming for *Gardeners World* in 1993 is a poignant reminder of his visit and a fitting tribute to a garden which must surely be an inspiration to all who visit it to be a little more daring in trying some of these drought tolerant and supposedly less hardy plants in their own gardens.



Singing in the Rain

Shows 1998

The 163rd Annual Show

John N Gibson

After the miserable weather of the previous week it was a pleasure driving to Normanton. The bright sunshine being reflected from the fields of oilseed-rape and the fresh dark green of the Nitrogen enriched gras, confirmed that Summer would soon be with us, but before that we had one of the pleasant Spring happenings to attend, the 163rd Tulip Show.

On arrival at the hall there were the usual familiar faces and a few new ones, every one was extremely busy. The exhibitors were cleaning their blooms and arranging them in vases and bottles. The ladies in the kitchen were doing their usual efficient and important job and our resident experts were helping the newer and less experienced Florists.

When the classes had been called and the benches filled the Judges got to work, Jane Green judged the Dutch classes and awarded the first prize in the John Hardman Memorial class to Don Brears for a nice vase of Menton which was well deserved even though the Judge had discovered an extra petal on one of the blooms. The other competitors in this class both had extra stamens. The twelve bloom class was won by Tom Depledge with Burgundy Lace. Bob Bingham took over the six bloom class collecting all three prize cards, his first prize went to the almost wax like Red Shank, his Maureen was second and third was the aptly named Elegant Lady. Bob also took both first and second prizes in class four, again using Red Shank and Maureen, this class was the best supported in the Dutch section with 18 exhibits. Bob Bingham's efforts were rewarded with both the F R Hunter Cup and The Peter Emmett Trophy. Malcolm Hainsworth had the only entry in class seven which was a vase of extra large Columbine.

The Open classes were judged by Jack Burton and Jack Taylor. The Norman Eyre Memorial Goblet was awarded to Mrs Beryl Royles, her exhibit contained some promising seedlings as well as some of the older varieties notably Juliet, Mabel, Talisman and Goldfinder. James Akers collected The Needham Memorial Cup with an excellent exhibit which included a fine Lord Stanley (flamed) which won the Premier flamed award. The Local Challenge Cup was awarded to Sarah Wainwright for a nice selection of dissimilar tulips which included Hubert Calvert (breeder) Wakefield (feather) Mabel (flamed) Bessie (feather) Columbine (flamed) Talisman (breeder) Lord Stanley (feather) Sir Joseph Paxton (flamed) and a new one Deryn Roberts (breeder) which was raised by Peter Royles. James Akers won his second trophy of the day, the Silver Challenge Cup with a stand of six rectified tulips, they were Mabel (flamed) Wakefield (feather) Columbine (flamed) Lord Stanley (feathered) Dr Hardy (flamed) Hub 92.11 (feathered) which is a seedling raised by our late Secretary Hubert Calvert. Mrs Royles added the G S Hunter Memorial Cup to her trophy cupboard as a result of the quality of her seedlings. Mrs J Baker's Talisman was a worthy winner of The Cochrane of Cults Vase. The best feather in the show was judged to be Malcolm Hainsworth's Agbrigg.

The seedling classes added to Mrs Royles successes and her seedling 5.19.1 shown in class 20 is one to watch out for in the future. Class 21 also fell to Mrs Royles, it is rumoured that we are having prizecards printed with her name to save time at the show.

The novice section was dominated by Terry Mitchell's superb Goldfinder which won Best bloom in the novice section, Best breeder in show and Best bloom in the show. The Mitchell Clan's success was completed by eleven year old Jonathon Mitchell winning the best bloom in the extra open classes with Juliet (breeder).

The success of the show was achieved despite the weather which is never right for Florists. The literature printed over the years by the various florist societies is full of references to the unfavourable weather conditions prevailing at the time. Perhaps we could start a sideline as weather historians.

RESULTS

The number of entries is shown in brackets

VASE CLASSES

1 **The John Hardman Memorial Class** Vase of 18 Tulips (One variety not English Florist) (3) 1. D Brears: Menton 2. F R Jackson: Garden Party 3. A Hayward: Greenland
2 Vase of 12 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (6) 1. T Depledge: Burgundy Lace 2. T Depledge: Orange Parrot 3. Mrs W Akers: White Triumphator
3 Vase of 6 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (13) 1. B Bingham: Red Shine 2. B Bingham: Elegant Way 3. B Bingham: Maureen

4 Vase of 3 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (18) 1. B Bingham: Red Shine 2. B Bingham: Maureen 3. R Smales: Greenland

The F R Hunter Cup for the most points in Classes 2 - 4 Bob Bingham

The Peter Emmett Trophy for the best exhibit in Classes 2 -4 Bob Bingham

5 Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips (No entries)

6 Vase of 9 English Florist Tulips (No entries)

7 Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips (1) 1. M Hainsworth: Columbine

OPEN CLASSES

8. **NORMAN EYRE MEMORIAL GOBLET** Stand of 12 Breeders (different varieties) Four Bizarres - Four Bybloemens - Four Roses (2) 1. Mrs B Royles: 5.12.3, 5.18.4, 5.2.1, 4.20.1. 4.6.4, 5.17.11, 4.4.3, Juliet, Mabel, Talisman, Goldfinder 2. J Wainwright: W:92.3, 13B.92.1, 14.93.4, S.92.3, Q.92.5, Q92, G.92.5, G.92.1, G.92.7

9 **NEEDHAM MEMORIAL CUP** Stand of 12 rectified English Tulips (all dissimilar) Two Flamed and Two Feathered, Bizarre, Rose, Bybloemen (1) J Akers: Biz Lord Stanley Fl Dr Hardy Fl Royal Sovereign Fe Lord F Cavendish Fe Byb Bessie Fl Columbine Fl H103 Fe Adonis Fe Rose 95/2R Fl Wakefield Fl Wakefield Fe Mabel Fe

10. **LOCAL SILVER CHALLENGE CUP** Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar) One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered Bizarre, Rose, Bybloemen (1) Mrs S Wainwright: Rose Hubert Calvert Br Wakefield Fl Mabel Fe Byb Talisman Br Columbine Fl Bessie Fe Biz Deryn Roberts Br Sir J Paxton Fl Lord Stanley Fe

11. **SILVER CHALLENGE CUP** Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips One Flamed and One Feathered, Bizarre, Rose, Bybloemen (1) 1. J Akers: Mabel Fl Wakefield Fe Columbine Fl Hub92/1 Fe De Hardy Fl Lord Stanley Fe
12. **THE G.S.HUNTER MEMORIAL CUP** Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties) Two Bizarres - Two Bybloemens - Two Roses (2) 1. Mrs B Royles: Columbine Talisman James Wild 5.10.5 (Biz) 4.4.4 (Rose) 5.30.2 (Rose) 2. J Wainwright: R92 9.92.6 17.93.2 B92 12.92.4 Q92.5
13. **STAGES CUP** Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (2) 1. J Akers: Hubert Calvert Br Mabel Fl Mabel Fe 2. M Hainsworth: Columbine Br Columbine Fl Agbrigg Br
14. **SILVER PLATE** For a pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose (3) 1. J Wainwright 9.92.5 Q.92.2 A.93.1 2. Mrs J Baker: Juliet, Talisman, James Wild 3. Mrs B Royles: 6.2.1 Talisman 6.10.5
15. Pair of Flamed (8) 1. Mrs J Baker: Lord F Cavendish Agbrigg 2. M Hainsworth: Lord F Cavendish Columbine 3. J Akers: Mabel Lord Stanley
16. Pair of Feathered (4) 1. J Akers: Wakefield Sir Joseph Paxton 2. Mrs Wainwright: Sir J Paxton Columbine 3. A Green Habit de Noce James Wild
17. One Breeder (14) 1. Mrs J Baker: Talisman 2. Mrs B Royles: 4.4.6 (byb) 3. J Wainwright: W.92.2 (biz)
18. One Flamed (10) 1. R Smaels: Wakefield 2. Mrs B Royles: Bessie 3. M Hainsworth: Lord Stanley
19. One Feathered (7) 1. M Hainsworth: Agbrigg 2. D Kydd: Columbine 3. Mrs S Wainwright: Lord F Cavendish
- THE JIM AKERS MEMORIAL GOBLET** awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in Classes 8 - 19. James Akers

SEEDLING CLASSES

20. **SEEDLING CUP** One Seedling Breeder or Rectified raised by the exhibitor (3) 1. Mrs B Royles: 5.19.1 (biz) 2. J Wainwright: A.93.1 (biz)
21. Three Seedling Breeders (one from each colour class) (2) 1. Mrs B Royles: 5.23.6 4.14.6 5.11.8 2. J Wainwright: A.93.3 S.92.2 G.92.2
- NOVICE CLASSES** - Open only to members who have not won the Novice Cup
22. Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (6) 1. R Crabtree: Talisman Br Agbrigg Fl Agbrigg Fe 2. T Mitchell: Goldfinder Br Bessie Fl Wakefield Fe 3. J Mitchell: Mabel Br Akers Flame James Wild Fe
23. One Breeder (15) 1. T Mitchell: Columbine 2. J Snocken: Music 3. B Bingham: Gleam
24. One Flamed (15) 1. Dr A K Swift: Wakefield 2. D Kydd: James Wild 3. B Bingham: Unknown
25. One Feathered (9) 1. C Wood: Agbrigg 2. Dr A K Swift: Wakefield 3. S Thompson: James Wild
26. **THE GINA ROOZEN CUP** 3 Breeders - One Bizarre, One Bybloemen, One Rose (2) 1. R Crabtree: Music Mabel Lord Stanley 2. H Leighton: Juliet James Wild Columbine

THE BROOK SILVER CHALLENGE CUP and a glass goblet awarded to the novice with most points in classes 22 - 26. Ron Crabtree

THE DUDMASTON PLATE for the Premier Bloom in the Novice Classes. Terry Mitchell

EXTRA OPEN CLASSES - Open only to members who have not won more than one first prize in the equivalent of classes 8 - 19 over the last two years, or gained the most points in the Extra Open Classes in the previous year.

27. One Breeder (14) 1. J Mitchell Juliet 2. H Leighton: Goldfinder 3. Mrs J Baker: Hubert Calvert

28. One Flamed (8) 1. D Kydd: James Wild 2. Dr A K Swift: Wakefield 3. B Bingham: Akers Flame

29. One Feathered (4) 1. Dr A K Swift: Wakefield 2. D Kydd: Agbrigg 3. J Mitchell: Akers Flame

30. Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (No entries)

The S. KNOWLES CUP for best bloom in classes 27 - 30 Jonathon Mitchell
A glass goblet for the most points in classes 27 - 30 D Kydd

Premier Blooms **Best Breeder** Terry Mitchell Goldfinder

Best Flamed James Akers Lord Stanley

Best Feathered Malcolm Hainsworth Agbrigg

THE ALBERT TEAR MEMORIAL TROPHY for overall Premier Bloom.

Terry Mitchell Goldfinder

The Elizabeth Smith Silver medal awarded to the youngest exhibitor under the age of 18 years on the day of the show. Jonathon Mitchell

Years Ago

JAMES AKERS

150 years ago

Although no report of the show for 1848 appears in the local newspaper the *Wakefield Journal and West Riding Herald*, the edition of Friday 19 May 1848 carried an advertisement for the show at the top of the second column. As was discussed in our recently published booklet *The English Florists' Tulip* the use of "first" was often ambiguous, referring perhaps to other shows being held later in the year. Certainly the Central Florist Society held a show two years previously in 1846. Incidentally at a show held in 1848 at the Botanical Gardens in Manchester, and reported in the *Manchester Guardian*, among the flowers shown was 'Royal Sovereign' a flowers still grown today.

WAKEFIELD
CENTRAL FLORAL SOCIETY.

The Members of the above Society will hold their FIRST PUBLIC SHOW on Wednesday next, the 24th day of May, in the Music Saloon, Wood Street for the Exhibition of Tulips, Pansies, and Greenhouse Plants

The public will be admitted to the Show at two o'clock. Non-membership 1s each.

ABRAHAM HOLMES

Secretary.

100 years ago

In the *Wakefield Express* of the 4 June 1898 is a report of the Annual Show held the previous Saturday. Several flowers still grown today were among the prizewinners including 'Sir Joseph Paxton', 'Annie McGregor', 'Mabel', 'Adonis', 'Lord Frederick Cavendish', 'Sulphur', 'Talisman', 'Bessie' (Bessy) and 'Dr Hardy'. Several of these were still shown in breeder form whereas today we only have broken flowers. Interestingly also, 'George Hardwick' a flower presumably named after the raiser of 'Lord Frederick Cavendish' was also shown. We have never been able to trace who George Hardwick was and where he lived.

50 years ago

As became the pattern in later years the names of the flowers were not reported in 1948. Another young member who seemed to be very successful at the show but not mentioned except in the results was one Master Akers then aged ten.

WAKEFIELD AMATEUR TULIP SHOW.

On Saturday this annual show was opened at the Brunswick Hotel and it remained open during the early part of this week. All the members form the committee of management. The society remains in much the condition it has been in for several years, being limited to a few amateurs mainly who devote special attention to this interesting flower. The show was not a good one owing to the late cold winds, and the nearest approach to the present exhibition was that of 1876. After the blooms had been in the show room several days many of them had not properly opened. The judges were Messrs B Simonite, Sheffield and Edward Schofield, Wortley, Leeds. Mr Edward Lister was chairman of the committee and Mr Jesse Hardwick secretary. The following is the prize list :-

STANDS OF SIX RECTIFIED:-- 1st, Mr A Moorhouse with Sir J Paxton, Sir J Paxton, King of the Universe, Bessy, Annie McGregor and Heroine; 2. E Lister with Sir J Paxton, Sir J Paxton, Quenn of May, Parker's King, Mabel and Seedling; 3. Mr W Mellor with Sir J Paxton, Lord F Cavendish, King of the Universe, Adonis, Annie McGregor, and Lizzie; 4. Mr W Calvert with Sir J Paxton, Masterpiece, Queen of May, Adonis, Mabel and Mabel; 5. Mr H Gill with Richard Yates, Sir J Paxton, George Edward, Bessy, Mabel and Modesty; 6. Mr George Gill with Brunswick, Sir J Paxton, Mrs Gill, Hepworth's, Mabel and Modesty; 7. Mr J Hardwick with Sir J Paxton, Masterpiece, Bessie, Hepworth's, Annie McGregor and Andromedea; 8. Mr Geo Freeman with Dr Hardy, Masterpiece, Hepworth's, Hepworth's, Aglaia and Industry.

STAND OF 6 BREEDERS:-- 1st Mr H Gill with Pilot, Richard Yates, Bridesmaid, Hepworth's, Miss Burdett Coutts and Annie McGregor; 2. Mr A Moorhouse with Store's No 17, Sir J Paxton, Bridesmaid, Mrs Whitaker, Industry, and Annie McGregor; 3. Mr W Calvert with William's King, Unknown, Alice Gray, Hepworth's, Annie Mc Gregor and Industry; 4. Mr W Mellor with Sir J Paxton, Sulphur, Talisman, Silvester, Annie McGregor and Mabel. 5. Mr Geo Gill with Pilot, George Ramsden, Ethel, Hepworth's, Madame St Armand and Industry; 6. E Lister with Lord F Cavendish, James Goodair, Seedling, Unknown, Annie McGregor and Seedling; 7. Mr Geo Freeman with William's King, Lord F Cavendish, George Hardwick, Unknown, Annie McGregor and Annie McGregor (sic); 8. Mr J Hardwick with Sulphur, William Wilson, Silvester, Hepworth's, Annie McGregor and Mrs Barlow.

STAND OF 3 BREEDERS:-- 1st Mr W Mellor with John Brook, Rose Hill and Talisman; 2. Mr A Moorhouse with Sir J Paxton, Queen of May, and Industry; 3. Mr W Calvert with Mr Wilson, Unknown and Annie McGregor; 4. Mr J Hardwick with William Wilson, Bridesmaid and Annie McGregor; 5. Mr H Gill

with James Smith, Mabel and Annie McGregor; 6. Mr Geo Gill with Lord F Cavendish, Hepworth's and Industry; 7. Mr E Lister with Lord F Cavendish, Alice Grey and Annie McGregor, 8. Mr Geo Freeman Lord F Cavendish, Unknown and Annie McGregor.

SINGLE BLOOMS:-- Flamed Bizarres:-- 1. A Moorhouse. Dr Hardy; 2. A Moorhouse. Sir J Paxton; 3. W Calvert. Sir J Paxton; 4. G Freeman. Sir J Paxton; 5. W Calvert Duke of Hamilton; 6. E Lister. John Brook; 7. Geo Freeman. John Brook; 8. Harry Gill. Richard Yates.

Feathered Bizarres:--1. A Moorhouse. Field Marshall; 2. A Moorhouse. Masterpiece; 3. Geo Gill Cavendish; 4. G Freeman Charles X; 5. H Gill. Cavendish; 6. E Lister. Cavendish; 7. W Mellor. Cavendish; 8. J Hardwick. Richard Yates; Flamed Bybloemens:--1. W Mellor. Adonis; 2. H Gill. Geo Hardwick; 3. W Mellor Talisman; 4. A Moorhouse. Talisman; 5. W Calvert. Lord Denman; 6. J Hardwick. Mrs Gill; 7. J Hardwick. Lord Denman; 8. H Gill. Talisman. Feathered Bybloemens:--1. A Moorhouse. Trip to Stockport; 2. A Moorhouse. Trip to Stockport; 3. J Hardwick. Geo Hardwick; 4. W Mwlor. Elizabeth Pegg. 5. Geo Gill. Sylvester; 6. H Gill. Unknown; 7. Geo Gill. Mrs Gill; 8. W. Mellor. John Henry. Flamed Roses:--1. A Moorhouse. Aglaia; 2. W Calvert. Annie McGregor; 3. Geo Freeman. Mabel; 4. H Gill. Mabel; 5. W Calvert. Annie McGregor; 6. J Hardwick. Triumph Royale; 7. J Hardwick. Triumph Royale; 8. E Lister. Annie McGoror. Feathered Roses:--1. A Moorhouse. Modesty; 2. Geo Gill. Modesty; 3. A Moorhouse. Modesty; 4. E Lister. Lizzie; 5. E Lister. Lizzie; 6. W Mellor. Industry; 7. W Mellor. Mabel; 8. W Calvert. Catherine.

Bizarre Breeders:--1. W Mellor. Sir J Paxton; 2. A Moorhouse. Sir J Paxton; 3. A Moorhouse. Sir J Paxton; 4. W Calvert. William Wilson; 5. J Hardwick. John Brook; 6. J Hardwick. John Brook; 7. H Gill. Cavendish; 8. Geo Gill. William Wilson. Bybloemen Breeders:--1. J Hardwick. Hepworth's; 2. E Lister. Seedling; 3. A Moorhouse. Adonis; 4. W Calvert. Hepworth's; 5. A Moorhouse. Talisman; 6. J Hardwick. Unknown; 7. W Mellor. Maid of the Mill; 8. W Calvert. Hepworth's. Rose Breeders:--1. A Moorhouse. Mabel; 2. W Mellor. Industry; 3. W Mellor. Industry; 4. Geo Gill. Mabel; 5. H Gill. Industry; 6. H Gill. Annie McGregor. 7. W Calvert. Industry; 8. W Calvert. Catherine.

Premier Flamed:-- A Moorhouse. Sir J Paxton. Premier Feathered:-- A Moorhouse. Heroine. Premier Breeder:-- H Gill. Miss Burdett Coutts.

FERNS--Collections of 3:--1. Mr Geo Gill; 2. Mr J Hardwick. Single Specimens:-- Mr W Mellor; 2. Mr J hardwick; 3. Mr Geo Gill.

TULIP SHOW

WAKEFIELD AND NORTH OF ENGLAND SOCIETY

The 112th annual show of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society was held at the Council of Social Services House on Saturday and although owing to the recent sunny weather many local growers had few tulips for exhibition, as blooms had faded away, yet over 2000 blooms were staged. There were all kinds of colour, and the scene was a charming one. For many years the Old English Florist tulip has been the chief feature, but at the last show Mr G W Robertson (Wakefield Parks Superintendent) made an appeal for more entries for the Darwin varieties, and there was an excellent response. Had the show been held a fortnight earlier it is safe to say the entry for this class of tulip would have been much larger.

Another feature was the interest taken by the younger members and Master Prest of Horbury won the gold medal. Another exhibitor who had several awards was Master Tear of Altofts. In the Novices section Mr A Bulmer of Horbury had a good day, winning the cup. Mr Bulmer has taken up the growing of tulips in recent years only, but he has made much headway.

The attendance at the opening ceremony, performed by the Mayor of Wakefield (Cr W J Luford) was very good, being much larger than in previous years. The President of the Society (Mr F R Hunter of Horbury), in introducing the Mayor, pointed out that although this was their 112th annual show (actually 113th Ed), from old records in the "Wakefield and Halifax Journal", there was a show in the Woodman Inn in 1829. In 1845 there was a show at the Royal Oak, Wrenthorpe (Wrengate Ed) while on June 11 1855, the "Wakefield Express" reported a show at the Fox and Grapes, Eastmoor. For many years the show had its home at the Brunswick Hotel, but in recent years they had travelled to Lupset. Now they had come into the city, and for the first time charged for admission.

The Mayor, in opening the show, spoke of the interest taken in the cultivation of the tulip, and congratulated the committee on the exhibits on show that evening. He did not claim to be an expert in gardening, but he did like to see flowers in the garden. He spoke of the fine show of tulips in Holland, where every corner of the gardens were filled with tulips and other bulbs. More people were interested in flowers in these days, and at the present time children in the schools were instructed in the cultivation of flowers.

In moving a vote of thanks to the Mayor, Mr W G Robertson said that while the show was mainly for the Old English Florist Tulips, he was pleased to see more interest taken in the Darwin Classes. Mr Beddows seconded, and made an appeal for more members to join the Society. They already

had quite a number of young competitors, but there was room for more. It had been a difficult year for the growing of tulips.

THE AWARDS

Darwin Open Classes. Vase of tulips one variety-1 K Robinson (Osset), 2 Master J Akers (Altofts), 3 L Prest (Horbury). Five breeder-1 L Prest, 2 Master Akers. Five red-F R Hunter (Horbury), 2 Master Akers, 3 Master W Tear (Altofts). Five Pink-1 Master Akers, 2 and 3 L Prest. Five Yellow-1 Master Akers, 2 and 3 F R Hunter. Five White-1 L Prest, 2 and 3 Master Master Tear. Five bronze-1 and 2 L Prest, 3 K Robinson. Five Parrot (any variety)-1 A Robshaw (Alvethorpe), 2 L Prest, 3 W Beddows (Altofts).

Old English open classes: Vase of 25-1 J W Midgley (Salterhebble), 2 N Eyre (Horbury), 3 W Beddows. Vase of nine-R Robinson (Horbury), 2 N Eyre. Silver Challenge Cup for 12 rectified (English)-1 W Beddows, 2 J W Midgley. Needham Memorial Cup for nine (English)-1 J W Midgley, 2 W Beddows. Pan of six rectified (dissimilar)-1 W Beddows, 2 J Akers, 3 J W Midgley. Six breeders (dissimilar)-1 A Tear, 2 W Beddows, 3 J Akers. Pan of three rectified or stages class, one breeder, one feathered, one flamed-1 J W Midgley, 2 A Robshaw, 3 R Robinson. Pan of three breeders, one bibloemen, one bizarre, one rose-1 N Eyre, 2 W Beddows, 3 A Tear. Pair of flamed (dissimilar)-1 R Robinson, 2 N Eyre, 3 W Beddows. Pair of feathered (dissimilar)-1 A Robshaw, 2 J W Midgley, 3 W Beddows. Three vases of five (each vase dissimilar)-1 and 2 L Prest, 3 Master Akers.

Local Classes: Old English Florist Tulips: Silver Challenge Cup for best stand of nine (dissimilar)-1 K Robinson, 2 J W Midgley, 3 J Akers. Classes 12 to 20, single blooms, nine in number (no exhibitor to take more than one prize in each class)-1 A T Means (Lupset), 2 J W Midgley 3 W Beddows. Class 13-1 J W Midgley, 2 W Beddows, 3 J Akers. Class 14-1 R Robinson, 2 A T Means, 3 K Robinson. Class 15-1 A Tear, 2 W Beddows 3 N Eyre. Class 16-1 W Beddows, 2 N Eyre, 3 J W Midgley. Class 17-1 W Beddows, 2 K Robinson, 3 A Tear. Class 18-1 A Tear, 2 N Eyre, 3 R Robinson. Class 19-1 W Beddows, 2 A Robshaw, 3 N Eyre. Class 20-1 J Akers, 2 K Robinson, 3 W Beddows.

Novice classes: Pan of three breeders- 1 A Bulmer (Horbury), 2 L Prest, 3 Master W Tear. Best breeder-1 A Bulmer, 2 Master W Tear, 3 J Moulter. Best flamed-1 A Bulmer, 2 J Moulter, 3 L Prest. Best feathered-1 L Prest, 2 Master Tear 3 A Bulmer.

Premier breeder bloom - W Beddows. Premier feathered A Bulmer. Premier flamed. J W Midgley.

Special Prizes: Silver Cup-W Beddows: Needham Memorial Cup-J W Midgley: Gold Medal-Master Prest: Local Cup-K Robinson: Stages Cup-J W Midgley: Silver Plate-N Eyre: Novices-A Bulmer: most points in the English classes-W Beddows.

Arrangements were made by the committee, Mr G Hunt being secretary and Mr J Prest treasurer.

Report of the 1948 Show from the Wakefield Express

Eighteenth Century Tulip Shows in North-East England

MARGARET MADDISON

Ruth Duthie in her book *Florists' Flowers and Societies* described how tulip shows were held in Suffolk as early as 1740, but, so far as was then known were held only in Suffolk.¹ However, it is now clear that florists' societies showing carnations were established in the North-East by at least the 1720s, with tulip shows being held by the 1740s and probably earlier.

The earliest tulip show known so far in the North-East was staged by the Society of Florists in 1744 at Newcastle upon Tyne, although there is no indication that this was the first time the show was held. The source of most information about florists in the region is the Newcastle newspapers. Records of flower shows are scarce before this (confined to notices of forthcoming shows), since at that date the newspapers themselves were very brief publications. They become more regular and sometimes more informative in the years following, though not by any means complete. Isaac Thompson, the editor and publisher of the *Newcastle Courant* in the middle of the century, may well have been a florist himself as he was a friend of several florists and published details of their shows at some length. Thompson was also a Quaker, and Quakers were particularly active as florists, as their customs precluded their taking part in various other social activities.

Other florists' societies existed in the region from an early date (Northallerton in 1735, Yarm and Richmond in 1736, Bishop Auckland in 1739, and Monkwearmouth in 1750, all showed carnations, while Bishop Wearmouth in 1748 and Sunderland in 1749 showed auriculas). Outside Newcastle, the earliest specific tulip shows were recorded in 1748 at Bishop Wearmouth and 1749 at Sunderland. By the end of the century there were nearly 30 florists' societies in existence in the region. The varieties of flowers shown had also increased to include, besides the carnation and auricula, the pink, ranunculus, hyacinth, and towards the end of the century, the marigold. There may even have been a resurgence of interest in tulips at the end of the century, as new tulip shows were held in areas such as South Shields, Durham, Sunderland, and Gateshead which apparently had previously only shown other flowers.

The newspaper reports in some cases list the names of prize-winning blooms. In 1748 *Le Crisp*, *Grand Pastoral*, as well as unnamed bizarres were winners at Newcastle. While at Bishop Wearmouth in the same year Mr John Coxon, a florist who also won prizes for his auriculas and carnations, showed 110 tulips of different kinds and won the first prize of a ring with *The Stadtbolder*. Other early named tulips include *Sir Emblington*, *Swartival*, and *The Agate*. There is a gap in named flowers until 1788 when *Arch Duc*, *Triumphe Blaidina*, *Reine de France* were winners at Newcastle. In the following years new names appear which reflect the international nature of the tulip trade, as well as compliments to local worthies which

probably represent the results of local breeding. Examples of the first group are *Glory of Holland*, *Montferrat*, *Prince of Orange*, *Le Grand Saleur*, *Rose de Grand Valeur*, *L' Aube de Jour*, *Chevalier Norier*, *Pucelle Constante*, while *Sir M W Ridley* (MP for Newcastle), *Lady Ridley*, and *Lord Barnard* (a local landowner), represent the second group. Royalist feeling at the time of the French Revolution may be reflected in *King George III* which first appears as a winner in 1793, and *Queen Charlotte* in 1796.

Where prizes were mentioned a gold ring seems to have been most usual. But in 1797 a challenge tulip show was held between the florists of Newcastle and Durham for the prize of a silver cup, which was won by the gentlemen of Newcastle. There are records of two local eighteenth century silver florists' cups. One of these, whose current whereabouts is unknown, was made in 1749 by Robert Makepeace, a Newcastle silversmith. It was a bell-shaped cup on a foot, decorated with florists' flowers including the tulip, and bore the names of the Newcastle Society of Florists' Stewards and Secretary. This was illustrated in the local antiquaries' journal in 1899.² The second was acquired in 1987 by the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle.³ It is of almost identical shape and design, but was made by another Newcastle silversmith, James Kirkup, who died in 1753, although it is undated, and bears no inscription. Newcastle is fortunate in having what is probably one of the earliest surviving flower show cups.

References

- 1 Duthie, R. *Florists' Flowers and Societies*. (Princes Risborough, Shire, 1988.)
- 2 'Exhibition of silver plate of Newcastle manufacture, in the Blackgate Museum, Newcastle, on the 19th, 20th, 21st days of May, 1897', *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 21 (1899), 57 and Plate X.
- 3 Ross, C. 'Garlanded trophy', *Country Life*, 183, no. 18 (May 4th 1989), 156-157.



The 1749 florists' silver cup from Newcastle upon Tyne

Chasing Shadows - Florist's

Vade Mecum

JOHN SNOCKEN

I know that there are others such as myself who feel compelled to indulge in the full chaos. Not merely content to grow and show our blooms we have to immerse ourselves in the literature. My eyes greedily scan dusty bookseller's shelves for any glimpse of a volume that might contain any hint of floristry; my own bookshelves a testament to this rarified bibliomania.

Once in a while a "treasure" comes my way by other means. After giving a talk on old fashioned flowers to a local WI a lady pressed a small volume into my hand with "I think this might interest you". A shabby book, bare boards, loose hinges and the back strip gone. Inside the page declares "Florist's Vade Mecum" a third and enlarged edition printed in 1702 (first edition 1682). The author Rev Samuel Gilbert, Vicar of Quatt, a Shropshire Village across the Severn from my own, but doubtless known to those who travel to Dudmaston Hall each year. So there in my hands is one of the early works on florist's flowers; what lay inside?

Somehow, not what I expected. The title page proclaims it "a choice compendium of whatever worthy notice has been extant" of the "rarest flowers and plants that our climate and skill will persuade to live with us" finally "in a more particular than ever yet published". No false modesty here!

The main body of the work follows each month and deals with the flowers then blooming. On tulips he writes that John Rea of kinlet (his father in law) had the finest collection in the land. He mentions as being among the best; Pluto, a sooty orange, Gildenblooms, pale red striped gold, Golden Fleece and Golden Grove. Paragon Blackburn of light carnation with deep red markings and Camusetta, of carnation, gredeline and white. Gredeline was a light grey. He has however little time for "the trifles adored amongst countrywomen but of no esteem to a Florist who is taken up with things of more value", and states that he leaves out "many obsolete and overdated flowers"

He continues through the months but I found the most enjoyable parts were those seemingly added to make up the volume. There is little attention paid to grammar or punctuation and sudden pieces of doggerel surprise the reader. Instructions on pest control include "To Catch Moles, Lay a Head of Garlick or Onion before their Holes and they'll immediately come forth: Weesels, Rue laid about your Hens Nest drives them from the Eggs".

The chapter on soils and manures is interesting, with sawdust and rotted straw in favour, but the greatest esteem reserved for Willow earth; that is decayed willow wood.

Gilbert, I found to be in his finest form when taking the moral high ground. There is a warning against "Mercenary Flower Catchers about Londonfathering new Names

on old Flowers to enhance their price, and if a plant of value, and a Rarity, though you pay dear for it, unless you receive it in flower, you shall to your cost and disappointment experience their Unfaithfulness”.

Best of all I think is the exhortation that Gardening is not visited by “evil effects as Hunting, Hawking, Bowling, Drinking, Drabbing, Dicing etc”. Some of which may be indisputable.

Should a copy cross your path I would advise you to take it up and open for surely here is ..”a book where men may read strange matters to beguile the time”.

Put to the Test

TREVOR MILLS

I am sure anyone growing broken English Florists’ tulups for a length of time will have had wondered whether if the virus was taken away the flower would revert to the original breeder colour.

This thought had been with me for a number of years and in order to satisfy my curiosity I decided something had to be done to resolve the matter.

Firstly I attended a course at the local horticultural college on micro-propogation which was not a complete failure as the Hostas in my garden prove; however my attempts at getting tulips to grow were dismal. Even the lecturer stated that to get the best results and to obtain a high percentage of ‘take’ it was necessary to have the correct equipment, together with highly sterlised conditions.

Following this I purchased through a gardening magazine a kit complete with test tubes and filled with agar gell for immediate use. This caused quite a lot of amusement at home due to my being dressed in face-mask, head covered, dissecting with knife and tweezers following carefully the instructions provided. Green shoots did appear from buds taken, but on showing them to Jim Akers senior, he dismissed them as being a waste of time which proved to be correct as nothing else happened and they went to the place where all tulips go in the late summer months.

My attention was aroused again on visiting Chelsea Flower Show where Derby University had a stand declaring they did virus cleaning, but as luck would have it, due to their moving laboratories I had time to ponder over the amount of money it would cost to use their service. The going-rate for this procedure was in the region of £600. It was at this point that I realised that I could get the Society involved, by selling my extra breeder bulbs. This turned out in various ways a blessing in disguise, raising £410 towards the amount of money needed.

It was at the AGM in 1997 that I was approached by Steven Thompson of Nottingham who told me that he had made enquiries to Polden Plant Cultures in Somerset who carried out this work by twin scaling. At this point I was prepared to argue with him a I had quartered bulbs before, keeping them in a peat and sand mixture at a temperature of 70^oF, only

to find that they produced minute bulbs which I considered a wasted effort.

Imagine my surprise when I received a letter a few days later from Steven informing me that he had made a generous donation to the Society for the work to be carried out, thus taking the pressure off my shoulders. After discussion with the Chairman and Editor it was decided that I should send bulbs of Sir Joseph Paxton and three bulbs duly went on their way.

I have been to Polden Plant Cultures since and have seen the results in twelve test tubes, sprouting and dividing themselves. Every five weeks they are put into a new medium which contains the anti-viral agent. I expected the company to be on an industrial estate, however I found five chemists working in the proprietors home and the adjoining garage. I was obliged to don overshoes and gown before I was able to join the five chemists working shoulder to shoulder surrounded by thousands of plants. I was assured by the proprietor that he has ten years experience of this work and that the resulting bulblets will be tested by an independent company to confirm that they are in fact virus free.

When this has been achieved then one year old bulblets will be available at a reasonable cost to all members of the Society, and hopefully once again Sir Joseph Paxton breeder will be seen on the show-bench.

Ten Years On

BERYL AND PETER ROYLES

Ten years ago, at a daffodil meeting in Birmingham, Wendy and James Akers asked Peter if he would consider growing and possibly breeding Old English Florist Tulips. He was given some blooms to take home to show Beryl. We were invited to the AGM in October and were given the customary four bulbs and so began our involvement with the Society. We decided at an early stage that Beryl would do the showing and I would attempt to produce seed. Only once has there been a clash of interests, I wanted to pollinate what I thought was a badly broken bloom, she wanted to show it. Reluctantly I gave way and Bessie flamed went on to become the best bloom in the show, the first of Beryl's major successes.

She has slowly risen through the novice ranks, eventually winning the Novice Cup two years ago, when also the first batch of our seedlings flowered. Each year we had been receiving additional bulbs to build up our collection but with constant pollination they did not multiply. When we visited Australian friends and were away from home for ten weeks we lost most of our collection due to a fungal infection which started in just one bulb and spread quickly to the remainder. Fortunately the seedling bulbs were in a separate container. We now only have ten Bessie flamed and ten Habit de Noce worth retaining and a single Wakefield feathered.

All our initial hybridizing was done using broken flowers but from now on we will be using only breeders, either named varieties or our seedlings. Sam Barlow × James Wild was one of our first attempts in breeding, a cross which was very prolific in producing seed but

so frustrating in not producing flowering sized bulbs. Each year it has put down droppers producing large numbers of small bulbs, none of which have yet reached flowering size. Three other crosses were made that year and bloomed in 1996, and one flower was Best Breeder in show and was named Deryn Roberts after Beryl's grandson. The following three years, several crosses were made but no seed was obtained. This was due to a combination of inexperience and poor weather conditions. It was a different story in 1995 when 15 crosses were made all of which were successful and we harvested about 2500 plump seed and seemingly all germinated. We had a rest in 1997 and only made two crosses but both were very rewarding. We now have about 4500 seedlings in various states of development, with 2000 planted out in the autumn of 1997 and the balance potted up.

Our garden is of average size and is divided into "His" and "Hers". "Hers" contains lawns and borders while "His" is divided into seven beds, each 30ft long and 4ft wide. Vegetables, daffodils and tulips are grown in this area. The soil is a light loam with a gravel subsoil and is very free draining.

Up to date, we have been very lucky in our choice of seed parents. We **think** we have several tulips worth showing and possibly naming, but raisers look at their offspring through rose-tinted spectacles. The problem we now face, is what to do with the best of our seedlings. There are several options. Do we retain them for our own personal use? That is the dog-in-the manger attitude. Do we go professional and issue a list offering them for sale?

We have enjoyed our membership of the Society. We have made many friends at the shows and at the AGMs. We have decided that all our seedlings that are of sufficient merit to be named will be donated to the Society. We suggest that bulbs should be given to Sarah and John Wainwright to be grown in parallel with their seedlings so that the senior members of the Society may assess them to ensure that they meet the high standards required and are worthy of being named. Only then will they be distributed among the members. [*At this point each new breeder will be photographed so that a permanent record may be kept within the Society and thus avoid, hopefully, the problems that judges have had over the centuries with new varieties Ed*]. This will reduce the risk of newly named varieties being lost very quickly as has happened in the past through breaking because they will be grown in a number of different locations. We sincerely hope that our plan will be well received by the members and our first named variety Deryn Roberts is already going through this process.

In ten very short years Beryl and I have achieved far greater success than we dared hope for, thanks to the advice, encouragement and help we have received from so many members. We have just one ambition left, for one of our new cultivars to be best in show, but grown by you. Visitors are welcome to see our seedling beds, but by appointment only. Our telephone number is 01244 533316

English Florist Tulips -

Flowers of the past or flowers for the future

JOHN WAINWRIGHT

This must be one of the strangest tulip growing years that I can remember. The year began with no significant ground frosts or prolonged cold spells, which now seem more a thing of the past. My new seed germinated thinly, as the normal period of cold which acts as the germination trigger, did not occur. I also seem to have spent most of the growing season picking squadrons of tulip munching snails from the bulb beds. Until a couple of years ago I do not even remember seeing snails as far north as Wakefield! If this wasn't the last straw, my tulip seedlings flowered two weeks after the main show, and I was only able to enter blooms from the odd bulb which had been left in the ground by mistake from the previous year, and had fortunately flowered earlier.

But despite all these difficulties I notice new and strange things about the tulips every year which continue to amaze me and to make me realise how extraordinary the English Florist Tulips really are. While spending time trying to develop my own seedlings over the past few years, my thoughts have often been on how different the new varieties may turn out to be. This was the first year that a Mabel x Mabel cross flowered out, and with quite unexpected results. Rather than being a group of flowers all different and with slight variations, this particular cross produced offspring which fell into two very distinct groups. The first group were similar to Mabel and had clear bases and with a lilac colour to the main body of the flower. The second group were very deep intense red and had the thickest velvet like petals I have ever seen in a tulip, and quite different from any of the rose tulips which we grow today. Unfortunately most of the second group also had a dirty discoloured base, as if the genes for the main body colour were linked to the genes for the colour in the base. Because this was a Mabel x Mabel cross, the gene stock must have been passed down solely from Mabel's parentage. Could these two distinct groups of flowers represent similar qualities to the two parents of Mabel which the tulip grower was looking at over 150 years ago when Mabel was produced? A strange thought to realise that the gene stock for many extinct varieties could be locked away in the few varieties that we grow today, all waiting to come out as new varieties produced and selected.

Of course the new varieties will never be identical to those flowers of the past, and many of the qualities may not be desirable, but in developing new varieties one realises that you are also looking at reflections of the past.

Statement Of Accounts For Year Ending 31st July 1998

RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
	1998	1997		1998	1997
Subs/Donations	680.50	492.70	Insurance	102.00	98.00
Income - New Book	710.00		Cost of New Book	1508.74	
Old Booklets	10.00	40.00	Postage	243.75	225.60
			Newsletter	155.00	140.40
Bulb Distribution	21.72		Printing/Stationery	106.99	58.64
Sales Table Receipts	486.60	149.26	Bulb Distribution		20.40
Profit AGM	107.73	121.98	Sales Table Purchases	270.70	
			Loss Dutch Show	59.85	16.10
Garden Visit	114.00	125.00	Loss Main Show	52.17	12.40
Malvern/Gateshead	75.00		Garden Visit	114.00	120.00
Donation	500.00		Engraving Trophies	55.00	128.00
			Polden Plant Cultures	470.00	
			Cost of new cup	174.00	
			In memoriam		30.00
			Purchase of Vase		20.00
			Purchase of book		10.90
			Data protection		75.00
			Medal Mounting		8.50
			Display Boards		189.38
Operating Loss	606.65	224.38			
TOTAL	3312.20	1153.32	TOTAL	3312.20	1153.32

Balance Sheet

Current acc @ 1.8.97	247.02	586.39	Current acc@ 4.8.98	874.95	247.02
Savings acc	485.39	480.51	Savings acc	240.24	485.39
Interest	4.85	4.88			
Building Soc	1613.08	1575.31	Building Soc	695.89	1613.08
Interest	40.06	37.77	32.66		
Abbey National	778.75		Abbey Nat Shares	991.46	778.75
Dividends	27.33	23.24			
Outstanding debts		-138.23			
Change in share value	212.71	778.75			
Operating Loss	-606.65	-224.38			
Stock Change in value			Stock valuation at cost		
Sales Table	148.00		Sales Table	148.00	*
Society Booklet	957.58		Society Booklet	957.58	
			254@3.77		
TOTAL	3908.12	3124.24	TOTAL	3908.12	3124.24

* The valuation of the stock of items for the sales table was not included in the previous year's balance sheet.

AGM 4 October 1997

	1997	1996		1997	1996
Raffle	70.00	63.00	Hall Hire	22.50	23.75
Refreshments	78.00	94.63	Food Costs	25.00	36.38
Plant Sales	17.00	36.00	Crockery Hire	12.00	11.52
Bulb competition	2.23		Profit	107.73	121.98
TOTAL	167.23	193.63	TOTAL	167.23	193.63

DUTCH SHOW 3 May 1998

	1998	1997		1998	1997
Raffle	30.00	41.50	Hall Hire	42.40	40.00
Prize Money donated		10.00	Prize Money	34.75	45.15
Teas	8.50	12.55	Crystal Goblet	29.70	26.00
Sale of Bloom		8.50			
Plant Sales	8.50	22.50			
Loss	59.85	16.10			
TOTAL	106.85	111.15	TOTAL	106.85	111.15

ENGLISH SHOW 16 May 1998

	1998	1997		1998	1997
Raffle	66.00	63.00	Hall Hire	119.00	104.00
Donations		3.35	Goblets	118.80	78.00
Plant Sales	36.60	61.00			
Sale of Bloom	21.00		Gratuities	10.00	10.00
Sale of Food	97.03	59.29	Cost of Food	25.00	7.04
Loss	52.17	12.40			
TOTAL	272.80	199.04		272.80	199.04